

## Urban Regeneration Movements in the Pacific Rim: Commemorative Conference for the 60th Anniversary of Rikkyo University's College of Sociology

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### *Programs for the 60th Anniversary Workshop of the College of Sociology*

We were pleased to report that the international workshop on 9th, 10th and 11th November 2018, organized by the College of Sociology, *Rikkyo University* with its co-organizer of the Rikkyo Institute for Global Urban Studies, held a most successful conference. This was part of the celebrations for the 60th anniversary for the foundation of the College of Sociology in 1958. The College has since grown to become one of the largest schools of sociology in Japan with eminent specialists in various fields of Sociology and other related areas.

The Rikkyo Institute for Global Urban Studies was established in 2007 as the university's response to the emerging needs of contemporary society. Its activities have since then developed to reflect ongoing social and cultural developments. We have annually organized collaborative international conferences with *The University of Seoul* from Korea, with *Tongji University* and *Fudan University* both from China. The inaugural international conference was held at Rikkyo University in 2010. Since then, we have maintained collaborative studies on urban public policy, regeneration activities, heritage conservation, and many other creative initiatives emerging from East-Asian cities. The Rikkyo Institute for Global Urban Studies has also become affiliated with *Monash University* and organized annual collaborative conferences since 2014, along with the above-mentioned jointly organized Conferences with Korean and Chinese Universities.

At this conference, in addition to eminent scholars from Korea and China, we invited experts from *Monash University*, Australia, together with *The National University of Singapore*, and *The Chinese University of Hong Kong*, all within the Pacific Rim. With *The National University of Singapore* there has been exchanges of open lectures between the two universities, i. e., Professor Kong Chong Ho was at Rikkyo University, and Professor Tetsuo Mizukami previously offered lecture at *The National University of Singapore*, and Professor Eric Fong from *the Chinese University of Hong Kong* offered an open seminar at Rikkyo University in 2017. All in all, our aim has been to continue and consolidate our urban

studies deliberations for the Pacific Rim.

The program of this conference consisted of three major events. The initial event on 9th November 2018 opened the program. It was a 'Workshop Reception' for invited scholars. This was hosted by the College of Sociology and the Rikkyo Institute for Global Urban Studies, with the welcome address by Professor Tetsuo Mizukami, Director for the Institute. The reception venue was The Reifsnider Hall on Rikkyo University Ikebukuro Campus, which was the house of the former Vice Chancellor and built in 1926.

*The International Conference "Urban Regeneration Movements in the Pacific Rim"*

The central event on the program, the International Conference, was held the next day (November 10th) from 10:00 to 17:30 at Tachikawa Memorial Hall on *Rikkyo University* Ikebukuro campus. This consisted of two sessions: the first session focused upon urban programs and policies relating to re-development, while the second was concerned with urban rejuvenation activities and movements, and this also included discussion of migration issues,

The conference commenced with welcoming remarks delivered by Professor Yasushi Matsumoto, Dean of College of Sociology, *Rikkyo University*, and by Professor Hong Hua Men, Dean of School of Political Science and International Relations, *Tongji University*. After this opening ceremony, Session I, "Re-development Policies and Programs: Preservation of Urban Cultures and Heritages," began with Professor Matsumoto as a moderator for first four papers in the session. These papers discussed various types of re-development and the movements that arise to re-vitalize urban areas. Our conference's concern with urban regeneration was with government policies and the strategies adopted by ourselves as universities along with other institutions and organizations in a metropolitan setting. Some of these programs relate to residential or spatial changes, others are concerned with gaining support for creative urban policies or programs and for the preservation of urban heritages. We had made an attempt to examine how exquisite cultural heritage sites and the construction of prominent landmarks had effects upon urban living. Some actual programs were discussed for our deliberation and evaluation. The followings are first four paper-presenters' abstracts:

Professor Kong Chong Ho from *The National University of Singapore*, presented a paper, "Contested Logics of Urban Heritage Regeneration."

*"My interest in this presentation is to conceptually situate urban heritage regeneration within an inter-organizational field comprising of actors engaged in the business of heritage. While*

*heritage development is often contested, a dominant logic (a bundle of key values, rules, beliefs and practices) prevail which defines a legitimate course of action. Such a logic is promoted and championed by a coalition (Fligstein, 2013: 45; Greenwood and Meyer, 2008: 261-262). The ensuing legitimacy enables resources for the vision to be enacted. At same time, this organizational field of urban regeneration and more specifically heritage development is particularly dynamic, open to challenges from other new players and institutional entrepreneurs (Thorton and Occasion, 2008: 113).*

*Three points are developed by using case studies of heritage development in Singapore (Kampong Glam), Mahakan (Bangkok) and Tangbu (Taipei).*

*Firstly, I show how a logic is developed and championed, the key actors involved and their strategies of engagement. In the case of Singapore, it was the state which was dominant in shaping the heritage discourse around the Kampong Glam precinct. The informal settlement of Mahakan relied on the power of NGOs to cobble together a narrative that challenged the dominant logic around the civic and cultural district of Rattanakosin old town. Tangbu represented a resident-led effort which resulted in a set of partnerships that include the city government and NGOs.*

*Secondly, the paper will show how this logic is played out in the organizational field of heritage development. The market/tourist driven model promoted by two powerful government agencies for Kampong Glam resulted in a stronger commercial environment.*

*The linking of heritage development to a consumer lifestyle and economic development gained popular support and this dominant logic overcame the weak resistance from the residents faced with resettlement. The failure of the NGO-led vision as a challenge to the dominant state vision in the Mahakan case resulted in a narrower vision centred on royal and religious heritage elements. In the case of Tangbu, the partnership which saw the government playing a responsive but limited role resulted a new community heritage museum, but the weaker state response after the completion of the project led to low visitor interests and threatens the sustainability of the project.*

*Thirdly, the comparative analysis of the three logics of heritage development show how dominant actors in heritage development projects first articulate a logic which is perceived to be a legitimate course of action that justify their intervention in the built environment. This logic is deployed to fend off challenges which appeal to alternative visions and practices. The nature of the dominant coalition also determines the resource commitment and the sustainability of such projects. The elements identified in the particular logics of the three cases thus shape the course of urban heritage development.”*

Professor Kee-Bom Nahm from *The University of Seoul* presented a paper, “The Urban Commons and Urban Regeneration in Seoul: Focused on Grassroot Art Movement.”

*Urban commons are an emerging concept focused on the social production and collaborations in a metropolitan setting as an alternative both for market and state in this neoliberal urbanism. This paper investigates the artist movements in Seoul, their characteristics, conflicts, appropriations, and the commoning processes. After discussing the urban commons-related concepts and synthesizing them as a system, it classifies artist community movement into strategic and tactic urban commons, and then examines the repercussions and implications of the oasis project, the artist squatting and Mullae art village, the spontaneous artist community practice movements in detail. Finally, it discusses the importance of urban commons especially in the age of cognitive-cultural capitalism.*

Professor Jin Chen from *Tongji University* presented a paper, “Anthropological Fragments of Architecture and Design: On the Renovation of a Historical Residence in Shanghai, China.”

*British anthropologist Tim Ingold points out that building and design are actually “two sides of a coin”: all activities involved in architecture refer to iterative processes of making in a way that the work of design should not be considered merely as the “project of mind” (Ingold 2013: 56). Starting from a critical dialogue on the renovation of a historical residence located on Changle Road in Shanghai, China, this paper aims to explore the significances of anthropological insights on the agency of buildings, different roles played by the architects in the development of history, the ideation of time in the processes of building and design, etc.*

Professor Dong-Kyun Im from *The University of Seoul* presented, “The Renewal of Gwanghwamun (光化門) Plaza in Seoul: Public Participation and its Discontents.”

*In April 2017, the Seoul Metropolitan Government proposed a plan to carry out a renewal of the Gwanghwamun Plaza in Seoul, the most significant public plaza in the country. What draws attention to this plan is that the city government announced that citizen participation would be officially involved in its execution. Since the proposal, 100 Seoul citizens have been selected based on a semi-random process and were invited to participate in a series of official discussions and hearings to design the renewal plan. This citizen participation-based approach used for the renewal of the plaza is part of the recent trend in Korea where participatory and deliberative democratic methods have been widely popular in government decision-making and restructuring the governance. Although this process has some clear merits, a number of criticisms have been also made to point out several critical problems of such an approach. This study seeks to introduce and critically review the critiques and discuss the*

*strength and limitations of participatory and deliberative democratic methods in urban renewal through the example of Gwanghwamun plaza in Korea.*



**Photo 1** Tachikawa Memorial Hall



**Photo 2** Tachikawa Memorial Hall

(Photographs were taken by Dr. Mitsuko Ono on 10 Nov. 2018)

After a break for a well-earned cup of tea for all participants, the second half began. We thank to Professor Wonho Jang from *The University of Seoul*, who took the moderator's chair for the last half of the session. Three more papers were delivered and discussed. Their abstracts as below:

Weijue Zhu from *Tongji University* presented, “Gentrification and the Restructuring of Urban Space.”

*In recent years, it has become a new hotspot of urban sociology to study the changes of social-spatial structure in downtown Shanghai from the perspective of gentrification. This case study takes Nanchang Road as an example. In the past one hundred years, Nanchang Road has undergone two major social and spatial reconstruction. Once, during the 1966-1968 of the cultural revolution, a large number of ordinary civilians were moved in driven by the policies at that time. The other was caused by the gentrification movement in the past 10 years. The purpose of this speech is to examine the relationship between social-spatial reconstruction and gentrification of Nanchang Road from a sociological perspective, and to explore the opportunities and dilemmas of gentrification as a way of urban renewal.*

Professor Shiho Nishiyama from *Rikkyo University* presented “Urban Governance and in Creative Cities and the Possibility of "Authenticity" From the Case of Nantes in France.”

*In post industrialized society, when cities try to think about "authenticity (the real city expe-*

rience)", creativity becomes very important factor to regenerate city economic-social activities. Especially art/culture become a steppingstone to improve the creativity of the city in all over the world. But not so many studies could make clear the reason why art/culture could produce city authenticity. The purpose of this presentation is to analyze following points. One is to clarify the reality of the creativity which produces city authenticity, and the other is to understand the formation process of the city governance between the city actors to promote urban regeneration by art/culture. To make clear this points, I will pick up the case study of Nantes France where was famous for ship trade but now changed to be a very famous for creative art city.

Professor Hai Yu from *Fudan University* presented "Social Governance and Community Renewal."

*The multiple participation in community micro-renewal in Pudong New Area can be defined as the second urban renovation of Shanghai. The initiative of community self-governance is an illustration of how the urban regeneration is shifting from capital driven space production to community empowerment. Large scale production of space has done most serious damage to community interaction in everyday life. The platform for social governance, by integrating various actors and resources into community construction, brings urban people back to a walking friendly world, creates a user-centric space, reinstates residents' power to shape and improve the space that they live in, reshapes relationship between human and land, rebuilds the bonding among community members, and injects kindness and trust to relations with one another in the community; so that ultimately it helps to reestablish a community of "we" and a community in which residents have a strong sense of belonging.*

The Second Session, "Urban Rejuvenation and Migration Issues," was held after the lunch break. There have been various activities and programs undertaken by local governments and other corporate actors that have led to the rejuvenation of inner-city areas. These have arisen after sustained negative experiences of inner-city decay, namely from the 1970s and 1980s. Most world cities have embraced ethnic populations in their inner areas and so overseas migration has been often related to the development of ethnic businesses with an increase in the population of those within work-age cohorts. But these movements have been both positively and negatively disputed. Some relevant theories and case studies were presented in the session. The session consisted of six papers, and the first half with three papers was chaired by Professor Tetsuo Mizukami, while the second half was overseen by Professor Kong Chong Ho who delivered stimulating and directed discussion from the floor.



The abstracts are as follows:

Professor Eric Fong from *The Chinese University of Hong Kong* presented “Immigration and Ethnic Businesses in Hong Kong.”

*Immigrants have settled in major cities of the world and many of them established their own businesses. Despite the fact that there have been a considerable number of studies on immigrant businesses in Australia, Europe, and North America, limited studies have explored immigrant businesses in Asia. The relative neglect is unfortunate as immigrant population has been growing in many Asian countries. In this presentation, we will take the first step toward understanding immigrant businesses in Hong Kong, one of the major global cities in East Asia. Using Hong Kong Census, we will explore the socio-demographic background of immigrant entrepreneurs and the locational and industrial distribution of their businesses. We will also contrast these entrepreneurs with other immigrant groups in Hong Kong. The findings of our study and their implications to the pattern of immigrant entrepreneurs and urban development in Canada and the US will be discussed.*

Professor Leng Leng Thang from *The National University of Singapore* presented “To Return or to Stay till the End? : Experiences of Japanese Later-Life Migrants in Western Australia.”

*Parallel to the other big cities in Australia, Perth as a metropolitan city in Western Australia has also seen an increase in ethnic migration in the recent decades, including migrants from Japan. This paper focuses on the experiences of a specific subset of Japanese migrants -the Japanese later-life migrants living in Perth and the vicinity in Western Australia. As sojourners seeking a better life overseas, later-life migrants tend to be perceived as temporary stayers and there has been little question on their sense of belonging.*

*However, in our study based on a decade of observation and follow up interviews with a small sample of Japanese retiree migrants in Western Australia, we observe that later-life migrants often debate on whether they should leave or stay in the host country after prolong years of staying. From their diverse eventual decisions, we identify four types of later-life migrants depending on their eventual decision to leave or to stay: ‘the returnee’, ‘on-going migrant’, ‘the potential settler’ and ‘the new citizen’. Through these case studies, we argue that for the later-life migrants, the process leading to their eventual decision is a dynamic one often negotiated through a sustained sense of belonging to their homeland, even in cases where they finally decided to settle permanently in the host country.*

Dr. Ernest Healy from *Monash University* presented “Religious Diversity, Social Class and Residential Location in Melbourne.”

*Australian society has continued to experience high rates of population growth over the past two decades, a trend that has accelerated since the global financial crisis. A high proportion of this growth has been absorbed in Australia's two largest capital cities, Sydney and Melbourne, which has, in turn, led to a significant increase in the overseas born as a proportion of the total populations of these metropolises. How to interpret the consequences of the settlement patterns associated with the increasing cultural diversity of these cities for social cohesion and, indeed, how to define social cohesion in context of the super diversity that now characterises these cities is now a major challenge.*

*The presentation undertakes a preliminary exploration of religious diversity within metropolitan Melbourne. As the proportion of Australians who identify as Christian has declined markedly, religious diversity has dramatically increased, as has the share of people who indicate 'no religion'. In particular, the presentation focuses on the inter-relationship between religious identification and social class in shaping the residential patterns of two religious minorities within Melbourne - Muslims and Hindus.*

Professor Makiko Ota from *Rikkyo University* presented “Transformation of the Foreign-Exchange Sector and its Impact on Manila: Women in Gentrification.”

*This presentation examines the influence that the transformation of the foreign-exchange sector in Metropolitan Manila has had on women's employment, residence, and gender norms in the city.*

*Overseas employment and remittances from Filipino migrants have substituted domestic employment in the Philippines since the government's introduction of the export of the labor force as part of its national development policy in the 1970s. The percentage of women among Filipino migrants began to rise in the late 1980s as demand for service workers in Asian countries grew. These remittances have had an impact on the urban spatial structure. Some studies have considered remittances to be an important cause of gentrification in Metropolitan Manila. Recent real estate developments, including the construction of condominiums in or near business districts, residential areas in suburbs, and posh shopping districts, are largely dependent on the earnings, consumption, and investments of migrants and their families*

*The country has recently witnessed the growth of business process outsourcing (BPO), however, which has risen to its present status as the second largest sector in terms of foreign-exchange earnings, followed by remittances from abroad, and has led to the creation of domestic job opportunities for college-level workers. The development of BPO industries, particularly*



*call center is relying on women labor force.*

*This newly emerged sector has brought about an increase in the employment rate of college-educated women and in one-woman households, along with the development of condominiums targeted at workers in the BPO industries and additional pressures on the scarce space for low-income residents.*

*Studies of cities in developed countries have related gentrification to changes in the gendered division of labor; however, recent studies on spatial reorganization and gentrification in Metropolitan Manila have not, to the best of my knowledge, adopted a gender-sensitive perspective in their analyses. The presenter, therefore, examines the approaches that can be taken to understand gentrification in Metropolitan Manila from the gender perspective.*

Professor Chao Zhang from *Tongji University* presented “Stylisation of Historic Space and Consumption Experience: Based on Data Analysis of Airbnb Hotels in Downtown Shanghai.”

*Over the past few years, period housing has been one important source of the airbnb properties located in Shanghai. These houses in downtown Shanghai, are renewed and remodelled by designers who also manage the airbnb, differentiated dramatically from the raw conditions and also the neighbouring houses which might still hold elderly local residents.*

*Using mixed methods of semi-structured interviews, case study and big data analysis, this paper aims to explore stylisation in remaking the historic residential space and how the properties are consumed. Process of stylisation goes in two clues. On the one hand, airbnb designers mobilise his/her creative autonomy and individual collections, to conceptualise the space by imagining certain figure as house host. Whilst on the other hand, popular elements, youth culture and established discourse about certain style are borrowed for interior design and marketing.*

*The aesthetic images of Airbnb Hotel spaces incorporate a romantic ethic of consumption which is featured by imagination and a break from routinised life. Analysis from customers' comment reveal a combination of functional assessment and feelings beyond. The latter is themed on design elements of the house, and largely uttered at the level of sensuous arousal, lacking deeper interpretations of styles and meanings. Referring to the nascent vision of sharing economy, Airbnb Hotel properties in Shanghai have been a rather competitive market domain, and consequently, subject to commodification of space, kitsch, and devaluation of style.*

Seongbin Hwang and Taeun Kim from *Rikkyo University* presented “The Birth of a New

Korea Town, Shin-Ōkubo: How Culture/ Politics Has Shaped and Reshaped an Ethnic Town in Tokyo?”

*This paper visits Shin-ōkubo in Tokyo. Shin-ōkubo has been known as Korean ethnic town or Hallyu (Korean Wave) town from around the time of the 2002 FIFA World Cup. It has benefited from the growing popularity of Korean culture in Japan since 2003 when the Korean Drama Winter Sonata was aired by NHK and made a great success in Japan.*

*However, it has also been influenced by the deterioration of relation of two nations: Japan and South Korea since around 2011. Ever since, it has been targeted by Zaitokukai, a right-wing extremist organization, literally meaning, Citizens against Special Privilege of Zainichi=Korean or Chinese residents in Japan, there have been frequent hate speech rallies in the Shin- ōkubo streets.*

*In this study, the following questions are to be explored: What is the meaning of Shin-ōkubo? How has it changed over time? How does it differ by different political positions in Japan? Does it have any relations with cultural politics, not only international but also domestic?*

*In order to answer these questions, we have used several qualitative research techniques: media discourse analysis, fieldwork, and interviewing.*

The closing addresses were offered by Professor Wonho Jang, Director of the Center for Glocal Culture and Social Empathy, *University of Seoul*, and Professor Tetsuo Mizukami, Director, Rikkyo Institute for Global Urban Studies.

### *Inner-City Tours*

Due to the participants’ informative and stimulative papers, the conference proved to be truly purposeful. We were so glad to host such an exciting conference, in which the presentations and discussion should contribute to further creative and insightful urban studies initiatives. After the Conference, all the participants enjoyed a farewell dinner near the Ikebukuro station. This station can be viewed as one of the urban symbols of inner Tokyo, as it has the third largest number of commuters in the world. The largest number was recorded at Shinjuku station, which had on average of approximate 3.64 million passengers per day in 2017 pass through the station. The Ikebukuro station was after Shinjuku and Shibuya, on average about 2.71 million passengers every day.

The next day (November 11th) was an Excursion to the Okubo District, a shopping mall in inner city Tokyo. This is located in the Shinjuku ward and the Shinjuku railway station is right next to its shopping precinct. The area has long been well-known as “Korean town”, but recently its urban character has become more and more multicultural. There are not only

Korean and Chinese shops, but also Halal businesses developed in this area. We were able to identify various kinds of ethnic restaurants and groceries. There is one place which people tend to call “Muslim Alley.”



**Photo 3** The Wall for Peace in Shin-okubo



**Photo 4** Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza

(Photographs were taken by Dr. Mitsuko Ono on 11 Nov. 2018)

The entire party was guided by Mr. Yukio Yoshimoto who lives in the area and used to teach Japanese language to newcomer children from overseas in Okubo primary school. He is now a director of the association that promotes Korea-Japan education. He offered a lecture to our group, explaining the current situation of foreign newcomers in the area. In effect, the role and responsibility of the Rikkyo Institute for Global Urban Studies has become greater as it has become a central symbol of an urban-styled University. In order to seek solutions for urban questions, we must attempt to give much needed support to highly relevant research projects.

The next conference will be held in Seoul.

