

***Creating Cities: Culture, Space, and Sustainability:
The City, Culture, and Society (CCS) Conference***

– jointly organized by Japan Center, Institute for Cultural and Social Anthropology and Institute for European Ethnology, and Seminar of Economic History of Ludwig Maximilians University Munich, and Urban Research Plaza of Osaka City University –

February 25–27, 2010

Conference venue

IBZ (International Center for Science and the Humanities)
Amalienstrasse 38, 80799 Munich
<http://www.ibz-muenchen.de/>

Abstract:

The conference *Creating Cities: Culture, Space and Sustainability* investigates the forces that shape the conditions of urban development and the creation of cities in comparative and interdisciplinary perspective. In recent years, the notion of the „creative city“ has become a guiding framework for thinking about the present and future state of cities and their capability of coping with the impact and challenges of globalization. Cities are regarded as engines of regional, national and global economic growth because they are the key centres for cultural production and consumption and target areas for mobility and migration. They are also contested sites because of increasing cultural and social diversity. Simultaneously, cities use cultural diversity and even counter-cultures to display appealing images and representations of creativity and innovation. Many citizens aspire to live and work in the cosmopolitan global environments that only metropolitan centres seem to be able to provide, but cities also provide vital space for the challenged, homeless, and other socially disadvantaged groups. The resolution of social disparities is consequently becoming an urgent policy task. Environmental and social sustainability, urban revitalization and amenity are major keywords of our time.

The writings of Richard Florida and Charles Landry have laid the basis for a new urban agenda that focuses on innovation, cultural revitalization and the built environment, attaching great importance to the contribution of the arts and the cultural sector to the economy. To be creative, cities thus must offer a vibrant environment, cultural amenities and career choices for both men and women sufficient to attract groups with talent to build creative industries. In prominent examples of creative cities such as Berlin the marketing policy mainly focuses on the creative industry sector including tourism. But in fact, a multitude of prerequisites and preconditions is necessary for the creation of cities at all, thus laying the basis for any kind of urban development.

In this context, this conference focuses on the interactions among *culture*, *sustainability*, and *space*. We would like to emphasise inquiry into the dynamics of cultural creativity, industries and production, the risks and benefits of both cultural diversity and social inclusion or exclusion, the sustainability of efforts to plan and redesign the urban built environment to promote creativity, and the identity politics of representations of the city and creativity in the popular imagination as well as spaces of heritage and tourism. We recognise that there are many different groups and focal points related to *creating cities*, so one major purpose of this conference is to create a framework in which both practitioners and researchers of different disciplines can interact and share ideas about how urban environments are being transformed.

Introductory Session:

Creating Cities & Creative Cities

As global market forces penetrate hitherto closed rural areas wherever market liberalization occurs, urbanization, too, is progressing rapidly. Even though regional differences obviously do exist the

global ratio of urban population has now crossed the 50-percent line. While mega cities may be one of the most conspicuous phenomena of the present urbanization the term *urban* must be understood in a much broader sense. The fact that the majority of *urban* dwellers still lives in smaller and medium-sized settlements is frequently overlooked. Only through a combined effort of local supplier development, national institutional support, and foreign investment can there be any real benefits from for example creative cluster development and economies of scale and scope. Two prominent regions of Southeast Asia, namely the Greater Mekong Region and Singapore, will serve as examples as this session will investigate the relationship between the process of *creating cities* and the making of *creative cities*.

Session 1:

Creative Diversity, Socioscapes, and Cultural Politics

This session critically reviews current notions and implications of cultural diversity in cities by bringing together broadly three strands: representation, socioscapes and cultural politics. Urban representations of harmonious multiculturalism and plurality are often part of a political vision advocating tolerance and portraying a city as attractive and cosmopolitan. Creative celebrations of cultural identities and diversity which find expression in performances, re-invented rituals and other colourful representations like public parades or ethnic festivals help to profile the urban imaginary and reputation. However, these cultural politics used for city marketing are always intertwined with and impact on city dwellers' lifeworlds shaping particular urban ethno- and socioscapes. These politics of presenting harmonious pictures of diversity as cultural capital of the city often cover up deprivation, gender and racial discrimination, discourses on cultural pollution and other forms of social exclusion. And, what is more, the cultural politics may not always result in social integration and gender equality but rather may produce conflicts and segregation. We wish to shed light on these processes by examining the interplay between creating particular urban images and the urban condition of particular socioscapes, ranging from transnational precarian and less empowered groups to elite diasporas be they proudly included in these official urban identity politics or be they used to hide sociocultural problems in several urban districts.

Comparative and reflective anthropological research contributes to the understanding and analysing of these essential urban challenges. Papers addressing these aspects in contemporary societies are welcome.

Session 2:

Networks

Global cities rely upon networks with other cities, and the institutions, infrastructure, character, extent and effects of such inter-city networking are the subject for this session. Measures of the intensity and extent of global cities' trans-national flows and asset stocks are well established, and as the global cities and globalization idea have gained momentum, enterprises, NGOs, governments and individuals have been working creatively to generate new network linkages, and to assess the risks and benefits of heightened inter-city connectivity. When transnational corporations reorganize their operations there are impacts on inter-city communications and personnel mobility, as well as on the urban labour market and built environment. City governments have developed relationships with other cities to share best practice and to bolster their own status in policy arenas. National governments have been reorganizing their own trans-national networks and the sites they use for national representation in foreign countries. Personal network activity has also been changing as opportunities for travel and communication develop. This session investigates networking between cities to identify the possibilities and constraints on such network development.

Session 3:

Mobility and Built Environment

Mobility is a crucial aspect of globalization and the development of more efficient mobility systems on a grand scale is a significant locus for planning activity in global cities. As governments plan and redesign the urban built environment to promote creativity, develop sustainability, facilitate commuting, and reduce energy use and emissions they face difficult investment decisions and work to

accommodate competing plan priorities. Leading enterprises are producing new kinds of vehicles and smart transport systems, and co-ordinating mobility systems over extended regions. This session will compare and contrast corporate and planning approaches to mobility issues in several global cities. It seeks to identify the ways these cities are organizing alternative strategies and technologies, the nature and scale of the problems they face, and the constraints on their capacity to find creative solutions.

Session 4:

City Marketing

Cities are increasingly undertaking marketing activities to support their local economy. The most prominent fields targeted by city marketing are tourism and new business investments. To be effective, marketing activities need to raise awareness and to create a convincing image of „uniqueness“. At the same time, they must take into account that the local economy is supported by a variety of stakeholder groups with differing identities, interests and demands. Thus, the image envisioned by and created through the process of marketing communication must be multi-faceted without being contradictory. Marketing communication also needs to be responsive to changes in the socio-economic environment without sacrificing coherence and consistency. By way of example, the presentations in this section will look at how city marketing may cope with the challenges described above in terms of communication content, tools or media, and with regard to underlying organisational structures and processes.

Draft Program

(as of February 22, 2010)

Thursday, February 25, 2010

16:00–17:00 Registration

17:00–17:30 Welcome and Introduction

Klaus VOLLMER (Dean, Faculty of Cultural Studies, LMU Munich)

Evelyn SCHULZ (Japan Center, LMU Munich)

Hiroshi OKANO (Urban Research Plaza, Osaka City University)

Kôji UEDA (Japan Foundation, Cologne)

Introductory Session: *Creating Cities & Creative Cities*

Chairs: Evelyn SCHULZ and Hiroshi OKANO

17:30–18:30

Henry YEUNG (National University Singapore)

Globalizing Singapore: One Global City, Global Production Networks, and the Developmental State

18:30–19:30

H. Detlef KAMMEIER (Bangkok)

Rural-Urban-Global Linkages and the Creation of Small and Medium-Sized Cities Under Conditions of Dynamic Change: The Greater Mekong Region

19:30–21:30 Uhr

Reception

Friday, February 26, 2010

Session 1: *Creative diversity, socioscaples, and cultural politics*

Chair: Eveline DÜRR (Institute for Cultural and Social Anthropology, LMU Munich)

9:00–9:45

Mari KOBAYASHI (Graduate School of Humanities and Sociology, Tokyo University)

Have the Local Authorities Created the Creative City? Cultural Policy of Local Authorities in Japan and Germany since the 1970s

9:45–10:30

Lidewij TUMMERS (TU Delft, The Netherlands)

Creative Citizens Meet Creative City Policies: The Case of Rotterdam (NL)

10:30–11:00

COFFEE BREAK

11:00–11:45

Evelyn SCHULZ (Japan Center, LMU Munich)

Revitalizing Tokyo's Back Alleys as Areas of Cultural Sustainability and Decelerated Lifestyle

11:45–12:30

Ana ROSAS MANTECÓN (Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana, México)

Projects of Creativity and Inclusion: The Challenges of Cultural Development in Mexico City

LUNCH BREAK

Session 2: *Networks*

Chair: Franz WALDENBERGER (Japan Center, LMU Munich)

14:00–14:45

Masayuki SASAKI (Urban Research Plaza, Osaka City University)

Networking and Cultural Diversity of Creative Cities

14:45–15:30

Gordon WINDER (Seminar of Economic History, LMU Munich)

Mediating a Global Network in Crisis: The New York Times Maps the Moral Geography of Global Finance

15:30–16:00

COFFEE BREAK

16:00–16:45

Ute LEHRER (York University, Toronto)

The Condominium Tower: A Vertical Networked Suburb?

16:45–17:30

Paul WALEY (School of Geography, University of Leeds, UK)

Picking a Path Through Networks of Urban Theories Towards Theories of Urban Networks: Japanese and Chinese Cities Within an East Asian Regional Urbanism

19:00–21:00 p.m.

Reception at the Japanese Consulate General, Munich

(invited guest only)

Saturday, February 27, 2010

Session 3: *Mobility and Built Environment*

Chair: Gordon WINDER (Seminar of Economic History, LMU Munich)

9:00–9:45

Glen NORCLIFFE (York University, Toronto)

Neoliberal Mobility and its Discontents

9:45–10:30

Manabu NODA (Meiji University, Tokyo)

Seen from a Distance: Shibuya, Tokyo, as a Bubble Downtown

COFFEE BREAK

11:00–11:45

Sonja BEECK (Bauhaus Dessau, Germany)

Paradigm Shift: From Growth to Quality

11:45–12:30

Roger KEIL (York University, Toronto)

Mobility in the In-Between City: Getting Stuck Between the Local and the Global

LUNCH BREAK

Session 4: *City Marketing*

Chair: Irene GÖTZ (Institute for European Ethnology, LMU Munich)

14:00–14:45

Hiroshi OKANO (Urban Research Plaza, Osaka City University)

City Marketing and Performance Evaluation for Creative Cities: Cosmopolitanism, Syncretism & Culture

14:45–15:30

Brett CHRISTOPHERS (Department of Social and Economic Geography, University of Uppsala)

Geographical Knowledges and Neoliberal Contradictions: Compulsory Land Purchase in a Contemporary Urban Context

COFFEE BREAK

16:00–16:45

Nicolas LEWIS (Wine Industry Research Institute, The University of Auckland)

Branding Auckland: Creating Creativity and Suspending Disbelief

16:45–17:30

Klaus R. KUNZMANN (Potsdam, Germany)

The Creative City Fever

17:45–18:30

Closing Discussion: Global Perspectives on Creating Cities

19:00

Dinner

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