

Postcolonial Asian Cities (2013)

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Goals and Purpose:

This project aims to create an interdisciplinary network of scholars researching the topic of postcolonial Asian cities. Specifically we are interested in exploring the ways in which colonial and imperial pasts are used to justify or challenge urban development schemes, heritage politics, and issues of urban identity in the growing urban centers of Asia. Globalization and the city in Asia is fast becoming an established scholarly sub field, and we would be interested in refining this scholarship by examining the extent to which a city's colonial past aids or hampers its global aspirations. At the heart of such inquiry is a more nuanced picture of the complex relationship between global forces, nation-states, and local society in an era of rapid urbanization.

One of the most exciting aspects of this subfield is its interdisciplinary potential. Real opportunity exists for meaningful intellectual dialog between historians, sociologists, anthropologists, geographers and urban studies specialists. The project will contribute to this growing interdisciplinary scholarship by including participants from various fields and working at institutions in Japan, China, US, UK and Australia. The initial activity will focus largely on Chinese cities (including Hong Kong) with the aim of



bringing in more comparative cases from Japan, Taiwan, Singapore and the Philippines in subsequent years.

Research, Publications and Conference Participation

Christian A. Hess, "Living the socialist high life? Colonial legacies and the making of urban socialism in Dalian, 1945-1955" Paper presented at the conference "New Perspectives on the Chinese 1950s" at the University of York (UK), July 19-21, 2013.

Christian A. Hess, "Habitability and the socialist city." Paper presented at the international conference "The Habitable City: Chinese Urban History in a Global Context" held at the University of Leicester, April 12-14, 2013

Christian A. Hess, 从殖民港口到社会主义大都市：帝国和新大的崛起 (From Colonial Port to Socialist Metropolis: Imperialism and the Making of New Dalian) 城市史研究 Urban History Research 29 (September 2013): 271-292.

Christian A. Hess, "Revolutionary Real Estate: Envisioning Space in Communist Dalian" in J. Cook, J. Goldstein, and S. Schmalzer, eds., Visualizing China: Image, History and Memory in China, 1750-Present (Lexington, forthcoming, May 2014).

Events and Activities in 2013

Workshop (Closed to public) / Oct. 30, 2013

This was an opportunity for members of the project to meet and discuss current and future plans with a key North American partner, Jeffrey Wasserstrom. Project members briefly introduce their planned contributions for a conference volume. In addition, the workshop had two major organizational goals. We worked together to identify scholars working in Japan, China, North America and the UK whose work we feel would contribute to our collective research. We also discussed an action plan for the next several years in terms of collective funding strategies for a large international conference and publication.

Public Lecture / Oct. 31, 2013

Angry Ghosts: 1900's Boxer Crisis as Global History by Dr. Jeff Wasserstrom

This talk is online.

Watch it HERE: <http://ocw.cc.sophia.ac.jp/131031comparativeculture/>

Sophia University Institute of Comparative Culture Lecture Series 2013 organized by ICC Research Unit on Post Colonial Asian Cities

Angry Ghosts: 1900's Boxer Crisis as Global History

Dr. Jeff Wasserstrom

17:30-19:00, Oct. 31, 2013 Room 10-301, Sophia University

This illustrated talk, given by Jeffrey Wasserstrom, Chancellor's Professor of History at UC Irvine and editor of the Journal of Asian Studies, will focus on the international and comparative dimensions of the Boxer Crisis of 1900, which began with a brutal rising by anti-Christian Chinese insurgents and ended with a brutal invasion of China by troops linked to six European powers, the United States and Japan. Among the themes to be addressed are the ways that different catastrophic aspects of the events of 1900 have been emphasized

and downplayed in Chinese and foreign presentations of the Boxer Crisis in textbooks, journalism, and various forms of popular media, from films and novels to performances by Buffalo Bill's troupe and an episode of the Buffy the Vampire Slayer television show. Also to be explored are the ways that memories of and stories about the Boxers have affected Chinese relations with other powers up to the present.

Public Lecture / Dec. 12, 2013

Urbanizing China in War and Peace: Wuxi County, 1911-1945 by Dr. Toby Lincoln

This talk is online.

Watch it HERE: <http://ocw.cc.sophia.ac.jp/131212comparativeculture/>

Sophia University Institute of Comparative Culture Lecture Series 2013 Organized by ICC Research Unit on "Postcolonial Asian Cities"

Urbanizing China in War and Peace: Wuxi County, 1911-1945

Toby Lincoln, Centre for Urban History, University of Leicester

17:30-19:00, (Thu) Dec. 12, 2013

Sophia University Yotsuya Campus, Building 10, 3F Room 301

In the first half of the twentieth century, the city of Wuxi, one hundred kilometers to the West of Shanghai, was transformed from a small trading center into the largest industrial city in China outside treaty ports. This paper describes how commercial elites and Republican officials shaped the rural and urban built environment and argues that by 1937 urbanization had affected the lives of everyone living in the Lower Yangtze Delta. Despite the destruction of the Japanese invasion in 1937, Wuxi City and the surrounding countryside recovered. In telling this story, I investigate the limits of the Japanese occupation and argue that to truly understand the history of urbanization in China it must be considered in the context of both war and peace.

Toby Lincoln is lecturer in Modern Chinese Urban History at the Centre for Urban History at the University of Leicester. After graduating from the University of Oxford with a D.Phil in 2009, he spent a year as a postdoctoral associate at the Council on East Asian Studies, Yale University. His first book project focuses on the urbanization of the Lower Yangtze delta region in the first half of the twentieth century. Other work addresses the relationship between urban development and war, and the history of urban planning in China. His most recently published article was "From Riots to Relief: Rice, Local Government and Charities in Occupied Central China." in *Food and War in Mid-Twentieth-Century East Asia*, edited by Katarzyna J. Cwiertka, Ashgate, 2013, 11-28.