

Panel Proposal for the Third Congress for the Asian Association of World Historians (AAWH) at
Singapore 2015

Proposed Panel:

GIS for Historians: Case Studies in Asian Urban History at the Age of Globalization

Organizer and Chair:

Tsukasa Mizushima (The University of Tokyo)

Presenters and Titles of Papers:

Tsukasa Mizushima (The University of Tokyo)

“A GIS-based Study on the Emergence of Small and Medium Scale Towns in Pre-Independent South India”

Ryuto Shimada (The University of Tokyo)

“A Spatial Analysis of Ethnicity and Land-use of Batavia, 1619-1930”

Marco Stefan B. Lagman (University of the Philippines-Diliman)

“Assessing the Demographic and Spatial Characteristics of Migrant Workers in Selected Districts of Nineteenth Century Manila using Archival Census Records and Geographic Information Systems”

Toshiyuki Miyata (Tokyo University of Foreign Studies)

“A Study of Business Directory published in Hongkong”

Abstract of the Proposed Panel:

This proposed panel aims to provide case studies, which are conducted by employing GIS (Geographic Information System), and to offer a platform for historians to exchange the ideas regarding the GIS-based historical research and its future.

GIS is a powerful tool for historians in analyzing spatial features and in obtaining comprehensive pictures. It seems to be a very powerful tool in the fields not only of economic and social history but also for any other historical studies including political or cultural history. Recently GIS-based historical studies have become very popular methodology of the historical studies of the Western world. Yet, it is still very rare for Asia. Keeping this situation in Asia in mind, now is the time for Asian historians to have an opportunity to discuss the potentials and problems of GIS-based historical studies.

For this purpose, the four presenters will present GIS-based researches on urban histories in Asia since the seventeenth century onwards. The studied period is when the globalization emerged. The papers will focus respectively upon the urbanization in South India (Mizushima), the colonial urban history of Batavia (Shimada) and of Manila (Lagman), and the business network across Asian cities (Miyata). These papers will hopefully enable participants to discuss the usefulness and problems of the GIS based analysis in the session.

*Audiovisual requests: An overhead projector and a screen.

A GIS-based Study on the Emergence of Small and Medium Scale Towns in Pre-
Independent South India
Tsukasa MIZUSHIMA, the University of Tokyo

The ratio of urban population in India crossed 30 percent for the first time in 2011 Census. The tempo of urbanization in India is, however, much slower than most of Asian countries. India, on the other hand, has a number of populous towns having millions of population. Mega cities like Calcutta (Kolkata), Bombay (Mumbai), Madras (Chennai) and Delhi are typical cases. Such contrast between the huge mega cities and the other less developed towns can be explained as the result of exclusive growth of a few colonial towns at the cost of other indigenous towns during the colonial period. The Gulliver cities existing in India today are mostly the products of colonial formation.

The proposed paper will focus upon the demographic change and the growth of urban centres in Chingleput, a district surrounding Madras, during the period mainly between 1770s and 1941. Spatial distribution of urban centres in 2001 in the same area and whole India will be also presented to compare the feature of post-Independent urbanisation with the pre-Independent period. The reason of the focus upon this area simply lies in the fact that it has exceptionally good historical sources on population since the late 18th century. The tool to be utilized throughout is GIS or Geographical Information System, which seems to be most convenient tool for a study like the one attempted here. The main sources to be utilized are village-level local records and decennial Census. Information of village-level population covering more than 230 years is fairly exceptional and is hardly found in other Asian countries. By picking up Chingleput, the presenter expects to indicate potentials of historical demography to characterise the salient feature of urbanization in India and Asia.

The presentation first shows the spatial distribution of villages/towns whose population were above certain level in the respective periods. The location of top-ten percent of towns will be also exhibited and examined. This will be followed by another set of investigation into the population growth rate between respective periods. The spatial features of high-growth towns will be examined. The third will be an analysis of occupational composition of the top 10 percent towns. This is to clarify the background of urbanisation related to industry, religion and other factors. A look into the impact of transport system including railway and road will be also attempted. Lastly the findings will be summarized and some implication for similar studies in Asia will be presented.

Keywords: GIS, South India, Chingleput, urbanization, Pre-Independence

A Spatial Analysis of Ethnicity and Land-use of Batavia, 1619-1930

Ryuto Shimada, PhD
Associate Professor
The University of Tokyo

In 1619 the Dutch East India Company (VOC) fixed Batavia, present-day Jakarta, to be its headquarters in maritime Asia. Afterwards, this port city took an important role as a center for the global trade as well as for Dutch colonial rule in Asia until the mid-twentieth century.

Not only European and Asian employees of the VOC lived in Batavia, but also European and Asian free citizens and even Asian slaves. The population of Batavia increased during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. For example, in the 1673 her population was 27,000 and in the early nineteenth century it reached about 47,000. From the point of view of ethnicity, Europeans and Eurasians had political and economic power, but they were a minority group in this city. In fact, they occupied only 11 per cent in 1673 and 4 per cent in 1815. Besides from Europeans, there were several ethnic groups in the city, such as Chinese, Indian Muslims, Arabians, Malays, Javanese and so on.

The missions of the proposed paper, which is based upon the historical analysis of GIS (Geographic Information Systems), are as follows: The first is to examine ethnically divided districts in the urban area. It is often said that each ethnic group formed its own district. Based on a GIS-based analysis of population data, I will reexamine ethnic distributions of citizens in the city spatially. The population data was annually reported from the High Government of Batavia to the Netherlands. The spatial distribution will be inserted in the Dutch colonial maps.

The second mission is concerned with the development of suburban areas. The suburban areas were developed for plantation agriculture to produce sugarcane to export to the European and Asian markets since the seventeenth century. However, during the nineteenth century, the sugar plantation disappeared while the industry emerged in the northeast coast of the Island of Java. Meanwhile, the suburban areas of Batavia were transformed to rice fields to feed the inhabitants in Batavia. This is because the urban area of Batavia expanded greatly during the nineteenth century and the Dutch colonial authorities introduced cultivation system to Java in order to increase the exports of colonial agricultural products. In any case, my investigation will focus on changes in land-use in the suburban areas based on GIS-analysis.

Keywords: Batavia; Ethnicity; GIS; Land-use; Plantation; Population; Rice; Sugar

Assessing the Demographic and Spatial Characteristics of Migrant Workers in Selected Districts of
Nineteenth Century Manila using Archival
Census Records and Geographic Information Systems

Marco Stefan B. Lagman
Department of Geography
University of the Philippines-Diliman

Cities and urban areas throughout history have long attracted and benefitted from the arrival of migrants. Accounts of foreign visitors on Manila and its surrounding areas from the nineteenth to the early twentieth century took note of the said region's status as an in-migration area, and historians who have done research on Philippine history have likewise noted the arrival of foreign and local migrants in Manila, particularly during the Spanish period.

While Manila's status during the nineteenth century as a magnet for outsiders cannot be disputed, the nature of migration may be better understood if it is studied from the scale of migration of the respective districts. Such district-level analysis of Manila's migration history is made possible by the availability of village-based annual census records called the *General Padron de Vecindarios* kept at the National Archives of the Philippines (NAP). Moreover, a greater level of understanding and representation of such data can be attained through the adoption of such new research technologies as Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

Using selected *Vecindarios* records from several Manila districts such as Sampaloc, San Fernando de Dilao, Tondo and Binondo and combining these with GIS methods, this paper seeks to clarify tendencies in the characteristics of Filipinos migrating to these particular places. It also seeks to find out potential differences in the attractiveness of these districts by studying the number and type of migrants each attracted. Particular focus would be given in determining differences or similarities among these migrants with respect to: a) the towns and provinces where they came from, b) their ages, c) gender as well as their d) listed occupations. Through this research, it is hoped that more social scientists who are interested in Philippine history would be encouraged to not only capitalize on readily available demographic records at the NAP but also to employ technologies, such as GIS, in order to maximize the utilization and representation of these sources.

Keywords: nineteenth century Philippines, urbanization, migration, historical geography, geographic information systems

A Study of Business Directory published in Hongkong

Toshiyuki Miyata
Tokyo University of Foreign Studies

In spite of the World War I in the 1910s and the Great Depression in the late 1920s, "Intra-Asian" trade continued to develop during the first half of the twentieth century till the World War II. Little attention, however, has been given to the development of business from the view point of the companies engaged in "Intra-Asian" trade. Certainly it is not easy to investigate the whole activities of the companies in this large business arena including South Asia, Southeast Asia and East Asia, but, by using the classified business lists of the companies recorded in the Hongkong directory, it is possible to analyze some aspects of the location and the business activities of the companies in "Intra-Asian" Trade. Here the focus is given upon those in "The Far East". As a part of "Intra-Asian" trading area, "The Far East" seemed to function as a distinctive regional trading space in which business people conducted their business by strengthening networks.

This study studies the lists of the companies classified in “The Far East” compiled in *the Directory & Chronicles for China, Japan etc.* published in Hongkong. For example, the classified list of 1941 records 10,676 companies in 97 port cities including Shanghai, Manila, Hongkong, Kobe and the others, and then categorizes them into 82 industrial classifications. As the classified business lists are available from 1929 to 1941, the study will mainly focus upon those in the 1930s from the viewpoints of the change of location of the companies in the main ports, the change of the industrial classification, and the change of the companies’ branch networks.

Keywords: “Intra-Asian” trade, The Far East, Honkong Directory, Companies, 1930s