

Call for Paper

The 10th East Asian Regional Conference in Alternative Geography

NEW GEO-POLITICS IN EAST ASIA

EARCAG 2022, Taipei

Date: June 29 (Wed.)-July 1(Fri.), 2022

Venue: National Taiwan University, Taiwan (will adjust to hybrid form, in case the pandemic situation is still not good for cross-border travel in June 2022)

Organizer: Department of Geography, National Taiwan University

It is a critical moment in which we are heading towards a brave new world. New forms of differentiation and articulation are profoundly changing politics, economics and society as we know them. The pandemic will eventually leave, in some way, but the way we see the world and are seen by others may never be the same.

We call for a rethinking of the “geo” of politics on every thing. From the politics of knowledge, the politics of emotion, to the more-than-human politics, all are activated, encountered, and entangled in specific spatial relations, producing certain effects. Also, we need to reflect on the “geo” of East Asia, even though it seems to be an unquestionable geographical category. What is the specific spatial relatedness that makes the politics of everything exhibit a certain kind of East Asian quality and how these political processes are further forged into a particular space form called East Asia, remain questions worthy of our inquiry.

The EARCAG has provided a platform for critical geographers and other social scientists to debate social and spatial issues in East Asia for over 20 years. Given the increasing complexities, interdependence and inequalities in the development of capitalism around the world, we are concerned with how different territorial and scalar questions of community, city, nation-state, and geopolitics are entwined in East Asia, and how spatial and social justice should be reclaimed and realized in this context.

Potential **session topics** include, **but are not limited to**:

- **Post-Covid Geography: Inequality of Health, Mobility, and Security**

The global pandemic has made explicit what Bruno Latour once said, "We do not live on the same planet." Indeed, COVID-19 has exposed the inequality of our world which is geographically marked, conditioned by race, class, and gender, and exacerbated by geopolitical calculations. The new geopolitics of East Asia has to grapple with the inequality of health, mobility, and security that is ushered in by the pandemic and intensified by the new Cold War between the US and the PRC. This topic invites geographers and cultural critics to engage in the imagination and analysis of post-Covid geography by tackling the issues of inequality, as currently manifested in the global disparity of vaccine distribution, the reduced mobility due to public health concerns, and the breaches of security produced by the coupling of climate change, pandemic racism, and global geopolitical shifts, such as the withdrawal of U.S. military from Afghanistan. We believe it is imperative to the rethinking of geopolitics as a humanity-based project, rather than an inter-state dynamic. We invite scholars to consider:

- intensified global inequalities across geography, race, class, and gender in the pandemic
- impacts on the human rights for health, mobility, and survival in the context of geopolitical realignments

- **Hong Kong after the National Security Law**

In the two decades since the handover of Hong Kong to China in 1997, Hong

Kong has experienced a number of social movements. The outbreak of the anti-amendment movement in 2019 not only exacerbated the conflicts between Hong Kong and China and within Hong Kong society, but also affected cross-strait relations and China's diplomatic relations with other Western countries. The passage of the Hong Kong National Security Law in 2020 symbolizes the full institutionalization of Beijing's control over Hong Kong. The social changes in Hong Kong since the transfer of sovereignty show the influence of Hong Kong on global geopolitics in the process of its development from a colony, a global city to China's special administrative region. Against this context, this panel calls for papers address the changing geopolitical position of Hong Kong in the post-National Security Law era, focusing on the geopolitical relations between China and Hong Kong, the two sides of the Taiwan Strait, and China and the West.

- the national security law and its impact
- the changing geopolitical positions of Hong Kong
- Sino-Hong Kong relationship

▪ **Geographies of Smart-Led Regeneration: Perspectives from the Global South**

Regenerating city towards the smartised/sharing economy are promoted as the 'new' developing paradigm to many urban environmental and socio-economic problems in global south. Diverse policies, forms and trajectories of being smartised are idealised, assembled and normalised to regenerate regions, cities, neighbourhood and buildings in line with political, economic and civil agendas of further modernisation. Particularly in East Asia, such agendas have re-shaped state's urban regeneration schemes, or sugar-coat the old ideology of property-led development or developmental state. Nevertheless, we have less understanding and comparison of inter-dependence between concepts of smart-led development and urban regeneration within different non-western context, and the ways in which such concepts transfer between Global North and South, and shape the socio-political assemblages to generate the new urban objects and subjects of governance on the ground. We wish to "decolonize" the above phenomena by excavating and foregrounding the following issues:

- mechanisms and rationalities of smart-led urban regeneration
- intersections, circulations, and representations of smart-led urban policies
- new forms of inequalities and geographies produced by smart-led regeneration

▪ **Digital and Geo-Political Transformations of Cities**

East Asian cities have been immensely shaped by geopolitical and digital processes in the past decade. Geo-political dynamics in and beyond East Asia affects how the digitization of infrastructure, work, consumption, everyday life and social and political contestation unfolds. This process in turn creates further tension and unintended consequences to digital life in and around the city. We invite submissions that examine opportunities and challenges associated with new geo-politics in digitized East Asia, paying attention to the following issues:

- changing digital cultures, socialities or spatialities
- digital and data infrastructures for social, economic, environmental or political life
- governing digital city, region, state or supracity

▪ **Migration of "Somewhere in Between" in East Asia**

Most global migration is thought to occur between Global North and South, and hints at the respective success or failure of these expatriates. However, in East Asia, which is neither South nor North, but somewhere in between, there is a special phenomenon of population migration, which has transcended the North-South geographic framework and been influenced deeply by geopolitics. The “South-South” mobility of migrant workers, talents, students, etc. within the region portrays the characteristics of the current population migration in East Asian and fills the gaps in the Global North-South migration discourse. In this session, we hope to focus on several topics:

- migrant workers in East Asia
- female expatriates in East Asia

- talent flow and knowledge transfer in East Asia
- international students in East Asia
- returning migration in post-Covid19 in East Asia
- **Redefining “geo” in geopolitics**

The past few decades have witnessed geographers’ rising enthusiasm in redefining the term “geo.” Geographers literally interrogate animals, plants, fungi, soils, waters, rocks, and air, in the hope of unveiling their respective agency and therefore revealing more earthly, more-than-human and down-to-earth geopolitics. This conference seeks papers that replace East Asia in geopolitics as such. We are particularly interested in but not limited to the following topics:

- climate change and justice
- environmental conservation and its discontents
- environmental protests and emerging forms of environmentalism
- ontological politics
- affective politics of companion species
- relocating East Asia in Anthropocene

Keynote Speakers

- **Prof. Tsung-Yi Michelle Huang**, National Taiwan University
Tentative Topic: Good Mountain, Good Water and Good Life: Tourist Gaze and Lifestyle Imagination of Hong Kong Immigrants in Taiwan
- **Prof. Roger Keil**, York University
Tentative Topic: Beyond COVID-19: Repairing the planet after urban society’s first pandemic
- **Prof. Tania Li**, University of Toronto
Tentative Topic: Capitalist Transformations on Indonesia's Indigenous Frontiers

- **Prof. Timothy Oakes**, University of Colorado
Tentative Topic: Seeing like a Chinese city: rethinking the politics of infrastructure from the edges of urbanization
- **Prof. James Sidaway**, National University of Singapore
Tentative Topic: Dialogues in Decolonial Geography
- **Prof. Brenda Yeoh**, National University of Singapore
Tentative Topic: Transnational Migration and the Management of Diversity in (Post-)Pandemic Times

Submission of Abstracts

If you are interested in participating in this conference, please send an abstract, no more than 500 words, to earcag2022@gmail.com by March 31, 2022. The organizing committee will review the abstracts and contact you with the result by April 30, 2022.

Organised Sessions

If you are planning to organise a session, please send the title and description of the session to earcag2022@gmail.com by February 10, 2022.

Registration Fee

- Participants from the OECD member countries, Taiwan, Singapore and Hong Kong
 - Faculty: US\$ 150
 - Students: US\$ 70
- Participants elsewhere
 - Faculty: US\$ 70
 - Students: US\$ 35

- EARCAG to offer 5 travel grants for outstanding student papers. Details to be announced later on our website (<https://sites.google.com/view/earcag2022>).

Accommodation

To be announced

Post-meeting field trip

To be announced

Please direct any inquiries to Ling-I Chu or Brian Scanlon at earcag2022@gmail.com, or visit our website (<https://sites.google.com/view/earcag2022>).

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