

Workshop Two

Livable Cities in Pacific Asia: Research Methods for Policy Analysis

In the decades ahead, a substantial share of global population growth will take place in the cities and towns of Pacific (East and Southeast) Asia. Every year, an average of 22 million people in the region are born in, move to, or have their homes incorporated into cities. By 2030, the total urban population of Pacific Asia will reach 1.5 billion. In that year, a projected 62 percent of the region's population will live in cities, up from 43 percent in 2003. In contrast to the nearly 600 million new urbanites, the rural population of the region will shrink, with an overall loss of nearly 300 million by 2030.

This urban transition of Pacific Asian societies is an uneven process. Most urbanization in the region is focused on a few "mega-urban regions" that are rapidly expanding into rural hinterlands. Extending far beyond the "mega-cities" defined by administrative boundaries, these giant urban agglomerations have already reached sizes of more than 10 million people. Some—such as Tokyo, Jakarta, and Manila—have surpassed 20 million. These urban regions also account for larger and larger shares of national populations. Seoul, for example, is now home to nearly one-half of the total population of the Republic of Korea. For Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and other indicators of power and prosperity, the urban share is even greater.

Such national trends are linked with processes of globalization. Revolutions in information and transportation technologies allow the articulation of the global economy through an emerging network of cities, and some of the fastest-growing of these cities are in Pacific Asia. Both assembly-line operations and the higher-order services needed to manage global corporate systems are moving from the North to these mega-urban regions. Increases in wealth are accompanied by the expansion of an urban middle class with rising levels of consumption, as manifested in the spread of shopping malls and gated suburban housing.

All of these processes of growth and change have restructured both the urban landscape and daily life in cities. While mega-urban regions are the focus of great advances in economy and human capital, evidence suggests that many aspects of life in these cities need closer attention. Pacific Asia has some of the most environmentally degraded cities in the world, with the quality of air, water, and land in serious jeopardy. In addition, poverty and slum formation remain pronounced, traffic congestion is a major issue, and public and open spaces for civic engagement and daily social encounters are under duress.

Given the number of people who will be living in these mega-urban regions, enhancing the quality of life in cities has become a pressing policy concern. This workshop focuses on research methods for policy analysis to improve life in the mega-urban regions of Pacific Asia. It will bring together the human-welfare dimensions of population studies and urban policy. Perspectives from related fields, such as environmental management, development studies, and the social and political dynamics of governance, will offer insights into key urban policy and planning issues. Globalization processes, including international migration and foreign investment, will also be assessed in terms of urban impacts and policies.

The workshop builds on the complementary knowledge and experience of Population and Health Studies at the East-West Center and the Globalization Research Center at the University of Hawaii.

■ Workshop Objectives

Participants in the workshop will divide their time between individual projects for presentation to the workshop and a common program of reading and intensive discussion around key issues. These include:

- Environment and environmental services at the urban scale
- Poverty and the environment, with a focus on urban slums
- "Lifeworlds," or manifestations of culture in public/civic spaces, and urban design
- Factors bearing on personal well-being including health, education, poverty, and income distribution
- Economic resilience (the maintenance of viable economies for the long term)
- Governance and urban management (with a focus on issues of democratization, accountability, transparency, and corruption)

Sessions will also explore various quantitative and qualitative methods of analysis, including:

- Data systems to support mega-urban planning and governance: geographic information systems (GIS) and other innovative approaches that use population censuses and other sources of quantitative data
- Methods of data analysis, including methods of long standing such as principal-components analysis and emerging methods such as multilevel modeling
- Action-oriented research such as participatory appraisal

Workshop participants will be encouraged to examine the City of Honolulu as a case study, illustrating the goal of enhanced livability but under budgetary and other constraints.

■ Who Should Attend?

Participants in the workshop will be researchers and policy analysts in and outside of government as well as advanced graduate students concerned with any of the crucial dimensions of the management of mega-urban regions. Individuals who anticipate having a continuing role in either research or policy are particularly encouraged to apply.

■ Coordinators

Michael Douglass (Ph.D. University of California at Los Angeles) is Director of the Globalization Research Center and a Professor and former Chair of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. He previously taught at the Institute of Social Studies in The Hague and at the School of Development Studies, University of East Anglia, U.K. He has also been a Visiting Professor at Stanford University, the University of California at Los Angeles, and Thammasat University in Thailand.

A specialist in planning in Asia, Dr. Douglass has contributed to numerous research and planning projects and has been a consultant for international development agencies and national and local governments in Asia. He has advised university programs in education planning in Indonesia, Australia, China, and the United States.

Dr. Douglass's current research includes the urban transition and spaces of democracy, world cities and

the dynamics of mega-urban regions, international migration and global householding, and livable cities.

Peter Xenos (Ph.D. University of Chicago) is a Senior Fellow at the East-West Center. He is a sociologist and demographer whose most recent research has examined youth issues and policies in Asia, the long-term social transformations of Asian youth, configurations of the transition to adulthood across Asia, and the methodologies underlying survey assessments of Asian youth.

Dr. Xenos has been involved in youth research projects in Hong Kong, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam. He has written on the youth bulge in Asian societies and has conducted research on the demography of youth in Asian cities.

■ Resource Persons

James Spencer (Ph.D. University of California at Los Angeles) is Assistant Professor in Urban Planning and Political Science at the University of Hawai'i. His contribution to the workshop will focus on quantitative methods and GIS.

Liling Huang (Ph.D. National Taiwan University) is Assistant Professor in urban design at Ming Chuan University, Taiwan. She will lead workshop sessions on participatory urban design and civic and public space.

Tharee Kamuang (M.Sc. Mahidol University) is a Project Manager at the Thailand Environment Institute (TEI). She coordinates a national "most livable city" competition that involves many of Thailand's urban governments and implements at a practical level many of the key ideas on livability that will be considered in the workshop.