

2007/11/11  
T O K Y O

Interdisciplinary Workshop

# WORKSHOP YANESEN

In the centre and on the margin:  
situating the local community between Low and High-rise:  
The case of YANAKA – NEZU – SENDAGI  
TOKYO

11th November 2007

Venue: University of Tokyo, Hongo Campus  
Building 14, Room 141

organized by:

Heide Jaeger, PhD Researcher, Manchester Metropolitan University, Research Fellow Hosei University, Tokyo

supported by:

Prof Jinnai, Hidenobu, Hosei University, Tokyo  
Prof. Radovic, Darko University of Tokyo

# CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

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## Background/ Synopsis

In cities in Asia we can observe that global geographies are being played out with profound spatial and social repercussions. In the case of Japan, which has undergone a rapid urbanization in the 20th century and faces recently new, complex urban challenge (as an aging society, rising social segregation, gentrification etc.) Responses to these changes are being reflected in the emergence of new social movements, diverse historical/ cultural revivals or the forging of unknown, hybrid realities. However, these changes all occur in public space and are basically about public space itself.

The workshop will focus on the contemporary role of public space in cities in Japan and argues that Tokyo's positioning as global city has caused many discussions, but seldom it is directly focused on the urban life at the bottom edge and inside the small scale, urban streets, which still make up the urban fabric of the city.

Taking the case of the inner-city neighbourhood like YANESEN (Yanaka, Nezu and Sendagi) and similar cases (Tsukudajima, Kagurazaka etc.), the workshop will draw on different perspectives asking how recent redevelopments has changed the local lifestyle and to which degree the everyday life pattern and access to these traditional public space are marginalized by the emergence and effects of the new High-Rise developments.

- In this sense, the workshop will firstly present different theoretical perspectives relating to research on the role of public space, forms of citizen participation and critical urbanism. These short theoretical presentations will allow a first conceptualization of the research topic through exploring a variety of theoretical approaches to public space, before drawing on the analysis of specific cases and activities by different actors (e.g. Urban Planning, Machizukuri/ Heritage Preservation, Individual Activities)  
- The aim the workshop is to bring together a number of examples of activities and research, which focus on the changing, spatial and social manifestation of public space in general, and small-scale urban communities like YANESEN or other "Shitamachi communities", (e.g. Tsukudajima, Kagurazaka) in Tokyo in more detail. The different ideas and cases should establish a discussion between locals, mediators and academics which reflects on the different scales and factors which affect the changing public space of local communities in Tokyo or other cities.

## Program

Session 1 "Approaching the Research topic"

09.30 Presentation 1 Jinnai, Hidenobu *Opening Address and Introduction to the Workshop*

10.00 Presentation 2 Radovic, Darko *"On self-sustaining urbanities"*

10.30 Presentation 3 Schulz, Evelyn *"Researching the roji through the eyes of the flâneur – Issues of materials and methods from the point of view of cultural history and literary studies"*

Short Break

11.15 Presentation 4 Sorensen, Andre

*"Place, Collective Memory and Identity: Considering the slow, small, shared urbanism of narrow streets"*

12.00–13.00 Lunch Break

Session 2 "Different Research Approaches and Case Studies"

13.00 Presentation 1 Nakamura, Hitoshi

*"The Incremental Improvement of the Area Densely Built-up with Old Wooden Houses in Tokyo"*

13.30 Presentation 2 Rahmann, Heike *"Small is Beautiful?: Exploring Tokyo's Public Open Spaces"*

14.00 Presentation 3 Issarathumnoon, Wimonrart

*"Cultural Heritage Places: the cases of Yanaka district in Tokyo and Banglamphu district in Bangkok"*

Short Break

14.45 Presentation 4 Jonas, Marieluise

*"A Study on the Hybrid Landscape of Tokyo's Informal Gardens – Case study Yanaka"*

15.15 Presentation 5 Jaeger, Heide *"Resonances of the roji: shifting public space and urban life in between Low and High-rise – The case of Yanaka and Nezu, Tokyo"*

Summary and Discussion

from 16.30 Walking Yanaka/ Dinner somewhere in Nezu/Yanaka

#Workshop Language: English, in some parts Japanese might be available

#Each presenter will have 20min for presenting the paper, followed by ca.10min discussion.