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Wednesday, July 23th, 18:00h

Andrea Flores Urushima

SPEAKER

Planning for Everyday Life in Japan during the 1960s National Territory, Local Cities and the Case of Kyoto

The reconstruction of bombed cities and damaged land in the post-war period supported what some scholars describe as the second leap of modernization in Japan. In fact, in the 1960s an abrupt urban transition brought in unforeseen spatial transformations inside and outside cities. This coincided with the hundredth anniversary of the opening of the country at the beginning of Meiji (1868), celebrated by the national government with statements that elevated cities and city making as the greatest challenge in a century's time. The post-war urban expansion generated a large demand for specialists capable of advising on themes of urban and regional planning. In the context of disputes about suitable patterns of intervention an interest for the technologies and material culture of everyday life also came to the fore. These years witnessed an increment in the number of locally trained professionals, aware of the specific characteristics of existing cities, towns and villages, in parallel to grandiloquent plans originating from renewed international awareness. This talk will examine the ambiguous array of ideas on urban form and organization, presented in plans for national territory and for local cities. Special attention will be devoted to the case of Kyoto, a good example of the ambiguity that marked that period of economic growth, and to the idea, which emerged at the time, of making of this city "the Genève of the Orient."

Andrea Flores Urushima is currently a researcher at the Center for Integrated Area Studies of Kyoto University and at the Research Center for East Asian Civilizations of the CNRS in Paris. She did her graduate work at Kyoto University, where she earned a doctoral degree in Human and Environmental Studies in 2008. She also completed a program in architecture and urban planning at the University of Sao Paulo, and worked at the development of regional plans in Brazil thereafter. She has widely published in English, French and Portuguese, including a forthcoming book chapter on "Everyday Unavoidable Modernization and the Image of Hell: Visual Planning in the Writings of Nishiyama Uzō" in *Alternative Visions of Postwar Reconstruction: Creating the Modern Townscape*, edited by John Pendlebury, Erdem Erten, and Peter Larkham (London: Routledge). Since 2002 she has been researching the large spatial transformations of post-war Japan, winning international recognition with fellowships and grants, as well as prizes in design competitions and academic conferences.

This lecture will be held at the Institute for Research in Humanities (IRH), Kyoto University (seminar room 1, 1st floor).

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