

Abstracts Waste in Asia Conference

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Shaping the Responsible Consumer: Food Education and Food Waste in Japan

Stephanie Assmann

Abstract:

In response to the rise of lifestyle-related conditions and a high dependency on food imports, the government of Japan enacted the *Basic Fundamental Law of Food Education (Shokuiku Kihon-hō)* in 2005. The main objectives of this law are to improve the nation's dietary health and to help to raise Japan's low food self-sufficiency rate of only 39 per cent. More recently and as part of the *shokuiku* campaign, in 2013, the Japanese government initiated the No-Foodloss-Project, which is jointly conducted across six ministries and aims to reduce food waste at all stages of the food supply chain. An estimated 3 to 4 million tonnes of food, which can still be considered to be edible, are annually discarded by food producers, wholesalers, and food distributors such as food retail stores, and restaurants. In private households, 2 to 4 million tonnes of food are wasted yearly due to excessive grocery shopping, limited consciousness of consume-by-dates, and food not being eaten. In accordance with the *shokuiku* campaign, the No-Foodloss-Project encourages the sensible planning of grocery shopping, the purchase of smaller portions of food, and the prevention of food waste during food preparation and eating. This paper discusses how the stakeholders involved in the No-Foodloss-Project link efforts to reduce food waste to very specific national concerns such as raising the food self-sufficiency rate, and seek to transform consumers into self-reliant citizens who manage their dietary health and food purchases and preparation in a responsible manner.

Bio:

Stephanie Assmann is specially appointed professor in the Research Faculty of Media and Communication, Hokkaido University, Sapporo, Japan. She received a Ph.D. in Sociology of Japan from the University of Hamburg in 2003. Her recent publications include the edited volume *Sustainability in Contemporary Rural Japan. Challenges and Opportunities* (Routledge 2015). She further co-edited *Japanese Foodways, Past and Present* with Eric C. Rath (University of Illinois Press 2010). Her research interests include the study of consumer behavior with an emphasis on food and nutrition. She can be reached at assmann@imc.hokudai.ac.jp.

Recycling Waste: A Cultural Dimension of Waste Management in India

Anju Helen Bara

Abstract:

India is one of the highest waste producing country. The common land in cities and countryside are dumped with garbage's. All kinds of wastes, including biomedical and toxic wastes are dumped in the dumping yards or flushed in the drains and rivers. Cities are stinking and it is becoming filthier and dangerous to stay in cities due to the burgeoning of diseases. This paper presents a critical analysis of the role of scavengers in the waste management system in India. I focus on the cultural dimension of waste management in India, wherein I look into the cases of dalits and mahadalits. Municipal

Corporation is a government body to manage and monitor collection and disposal of the waste. The collection of waste is done by primary collectors who are mostly contractual or temporary employee of Municipal Corporation. There are informal waste collectors who are known as scavengers. They belong to dalits and mahadalit community. Indian society has a rigid hierarchical structure which is governed by the caste principle and in this structure the lowest position is being given to shudras who are also known as dalits and mahadalits. Caste hierarchy functions on the notion of purity and pollution and the dalits are being considered as polluted ones. Hence, they are the ones who are collecting all the waste (including human waste) from each house. The central argument of this paper is that in India caste system have discriminated and excluded scavengers (dalits) from mainstream development and now they are being used in the solid waste management by Municipal Corporation, yet they are not being provided with basic facilities. I argue that the cultural burden of caste is carried forward and along with modernity this ancient practice has taken new shape and affiliation as waste pickers for municipal corporation with strong preservation of old traditional affliction.

Keywords: scavengers, dalits, caste, culture, waste management, Municipal Corporation

Bio:

I am working as Assistant Professor in Centre for Development Studies, Central University of South Bihar. I did my masters in political science from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi and M.Phil and P.hD from Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay. I was Split-Site Commonwealth Scholar in School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. Though my interest area is public ecology and political economy, in recent years I am working in the area of public policy. I have done research work in the eastern part of India in the states of Jharkhand, Odisha and Bihar.

At the End of the Waste Chain: The Recycling of Solid Waste in Surabaya, Indonesia Freek Colombijn

Abstract:

Indonesia is a new emerging economy with a rapidly growing middle-class, which aspires to high levels of consumption. Consequently more and more garbage is being produced and the composition of the waste veers towards non-organic waste. Most Indonesian cities handle solid waste from households in a public-private partnership, in which neighbourhoods are responsible for organizing the collection of waste, and the municipality is responsible for transporting waste to a landfill and the management of the landfill. It is well-known (although still understudied) that informal waste-pickers sort out the waste along the chain from household to landfill and pick out much of the recyclables. In almost every street and any hour of the day somebody is sorting out waste.

What is yet practically unknown is the way the informal waste-pickers reconnect to the formal sector again and sell recyclables to factories processing plastic, glass, paper and cardboard. In this paper I hope to give an overview how these industries operate. What is the business logic of these industries, what organizational culture prevails, from where do they get their resources, how do these industries see the work of the informal waste pickers, how is the materiality of the resources changed in the production process, what kind of products to they produce and to whom do they sell their products.

Bio:

Freek Colombijn (PhD Leiden University 1994) is associate professor at the Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology of Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. He is specialised in urban anthropology and environmental history. He has published about urban development, environmental history, violence, pre-colonial state formation, the social consequences of decolonization, football and other topics; most of his publications deal with Indonesia. His current research focuses on the nexus between social inequality, pro-environmental behaviour, and consumption.

With Garbage: The Aesthetics of Hong Kong Waste

Anneke Coppoolse

Abstract:

In Hong Kong, where urban density provides for its equivalent in trash, the government works – like in any big city – towards a rendering invisible of unwanted matter. This corresponds with what Gay Hawkins (2007) calls the imaginary of the tidy city where the moving out of sight of trash is vital to the maintenance of distinctly ‘modern ways of being’. No city, however, can entirely hide ‘the excesses of consumption’ (Hawkins 2007). Trash keeps reappearing and, particularly in Hong Kong, often in the streets. Such persistence of trash attributes, further, to certain (underrepresented) segments of social life, which – in light of this inquiry into the aesthetics of Hong Kong waste – present highly specific stories about urban life in Hong Kong. Indeed, I take trash – its material and particularly visual persistence in the streets, and its social qualities – as a point of departure, not to scrutinise its environmental implications or economic (dis)advantages, but to reconsider the tidy city; to “review” the place in which trash eventuates. Emphasising the significance of the visibility of trash, I combine traditional forms of ethnographic writing with curatorial practices as I elaborate variant perspectives of trash in the form of a discursive approach to art and ethnography which contributes to new understandings of the modern city and its “aesthetics of control”.

Bio:

Anneke Coppoolse is a PhD candidate in Cultural Studies at Lingnan University, Hong Kong. Her interdisciplinary research engages in an ethnographic and curatorial exploration of the meaning of waste in urban Hong Kong. She obtained her BA and MA in Media and Culture at the University of Amsterdam.

A Study on the Social Generation of Waste In Sri Lanka

W.M. Dhanapala

Abstract:

The issues of waste are generally explained in terms of industrialization and urbanization in developing countries. But solutions based on such explanations seemed to have not properly addressed them due to underestimation of the social generation of waste. It is assumed that the social generation of waste derives from assigning a meaning of waste to anything in the material culture and sharing it with others. This assumption was studied in a research conducted in Sri Lanka. The main objective was to identify the major factors leading to developing a meaning of waste with reference to things people dispose as

waste. A sample of 100 families (460 members) was randomly selected and interviewed about things they had had disposed on the previous day alone. They were interviewed to learn about the exact meaning in terms of which they had taken the decision of waste. There were 3285 waste materials and the meanings assigned to them had been derived from 12 factors. They were (1) the perception of perfect consumption, (2) exclusive use for religious purposes (3) Cultural barriers, (4) health and medical factors, (5) Consciousness of social status, (6) Legal factors, (7) Industrial factors, (8) Commercial requirements, (9) Lack of respect for the social values of generosity, hospitality and sharing, (10) New concepts of Japanese "Five S" , (11) Issues of space management and (12) Changing perception of "new and old". Accordingly, it is concluded that the types and volume of waste are generated by multiple factors that assign the meaning of waste in terms of their requirements. The implication is that Sri Lanka can reduce the types and volume of waste by a systematic approach of controlling the social generation of waste.

Key Words: Waste Management, Social Generation of Waste, and Meanings of Waste

Bio:

W.M. Dhanapala (Born in 1963) is a senior lecturer of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka. He has been serving there for over 25 years. He secured his first degree in sociology and anthropology from the University of Sri Jayewardenepura in 1986 and M.Phil in Criminology in 1995. He has studied Russian language at the A.C. Pushkin Institute in Moscow. In 1997 he was awarded the Monbusho scholarship to master his Japanese language skills, social research skills, secure M.A. in Social Sciences and read for Ph.D at the Hltotsubashi University in Japan. He shows a special interest in criminology, sociology and social problems. A joint research conducted in Japan and Sri Lanka was published in Japan in 2014. A paper on that research was presented at an international conference in Washington DC. In 2015. He has more than fifty academic publications. He disseminates his knowledge in Sinhalese, Tamil, English, and Russian and Japanese languages.

Luxurious Locks: Following the Global Indian Waste-Hair Industry

Assa Doron, ANU

Abstract:

This paper traces the journey of a banal bundle of hair from India, as it is rescued from annihilation and drawn into a multibillion-dollar global hair industry. Such is the suction power of capitalism that every potential place for recovering value is tapped for its yield. From the temple grounds in South India to the gutters of North India, hair is raked up, mopped up and pulled up the commodity chain. Yet the meteoric rise in the hair's value is at odds with the stagnant conditions of those who handle it.

The paper argues that the journey of hair illustrates a wider global economy of discarded materials, which are recovered and transformed in a complex process of establishing value. Importantly, however, the case of hair also reveals the way we might re-think waste, typically seen as discarded and valueless materials, which we expel in order to maintain social order. In tracing the Indian waste-hair trail, it explores the tensions between waste and dirt, gift and commodities, the construction of personhood and the creation of value.

Bio:

Assa Doron is an Associate Professor in the School of Culture, History and Language at the Australian National University. He is currently completing a manuscript on Waste in India, co-authored with Robin Jeffrey (Harvard University Press).

Doron's recent publications include '[The Cultural Politics of Shit](#)' and [The Great Indian Phone Book](#) (Harvard).

Food Waste and Garbage Poetry, Seoul

Simon C. Estok

Abstract:

A great many reports in the first decade of the twenty-first century condemn "the re-use of left-over food in [Korean] restaurants" (<http://asiancorrespondent.com/2011/06/korean-restaurants-still-recycle-left-overs/>) without getting to the heart of the problem: food waste in South Korea, once an indicator of freedom from the austerity of colonial and wartime pasts, is bound up with matters of history, national identity, power, pride, resistance, and many other things. Food waste in Seoul obviously is not the same as in Washington, D.C. With recycling at a level of sophistication that makes North American recycling look woefully backward, Korea is in the middle of radically changing attitudes toward food waste. From within the Humanities, how can a genuinely activist oriented pedagogy such as ecocriticism participate in these ongoing changes? With an unblinking eye on the particularities of the place and time out of which they grow, my talk will begin with two very different literary texts that varyingly deal with waste—"Garbage" by American A. R. Ammons and "Below the Water, Above the Water" by Korean poet Choi Seongho. Moving between discussions about changes in recycling policies in Korea and in the United States, on the one hand, and detailed analyses of the images Ammons and Choi offer on the other, I will argue not only that we can address the question of John Felstiner's 2010 book—"can poetry save the world?"—but that (despite the morbidity associated with garbage) the optimism, celebratory cheer, and engagement with the real world of these two poems is encouraging. Out of their garbage grows visions of a bright future, and I will discuss these visions and the importance of media used to deliver them (among which CNN and BBC are singular both in their presentation of ecopoetry and in their capacity to reach a global audience).

Bio:

Dr. Simon C. Estok is the recipient of the Shanghai Metropolitan Government "Oriental Scholar" Award (2015-2017) and resident during that period at the Research Center for Comparative Literature and World Literatures at Shanghai Normal University. Estok is also a Senior Fellow and Full Professor at Sungkyunkwan University, where he teaches literary theory, ecocriticism, and Shakespearean literature. Estok's research interests include the relationships between theory and practice. His award-winning book *Ecocriticism and Shakespeare: Reading Ecophobia* appeared in 2011 (reprinted 2014), and he is co-editor of four other books: *International Perspectives in Feminist Ecocriticism* (Routledge, 2013), *East Asian Ecocriticisms* (Macmillan, 2013), *Landscape, Seascape, and the Eco-Spatial Imagination* (forthcoming Routledge, 2016) and *Chinese Ecocriticism* (Routledge 2017). Estok has published extensively in such journals as *PMLA*, *Mosaic*, *Configurations*, *English Studies in Canada*, *ISLE*, and others. His current project is a monograph entitled *The Ecophobia Hypothesis* (Vintage, contract pending, 2017).

How and Why Waste Matters in Asia: An Economic Point of View

Masanobu Ishikawa, Kenji Takeuchi, Anyong Yu and Shijie Yu
Graduate School of Economics, Kobe University

presenter: Masanobu Ishikawa

Waste matters everywhere in the world, but especially in Asia. World cities generate 1.3 billion tons of solid waste (MSW), and this figure is expected to rise to 2.2 billion tons by 2025 (World Bank 2012). Because of this rapid increase in MSW, waste management costs will increase from \$205.4 billion in 2012 to \$373.5 billion by 2025 (World Bank 2012). MSW generation in Asia comprises 38% of global waste generation, a share that will increase to 50% by 2025

Asia is characterized by a wide variety of climates, cultures, histories, economic developments, and types of governance. All these factors have an impact on waste generation and influence the management of the MSW generated.

In my opening address I will review the wide variety of Asian waste problems from an economic perspective by focusing on a household waste recycling project in Nanjing, China. This location was chosen because of the significance of China both in Asia and in the world in terms of MSW (China's share of waste generation in Asia is 38% today and will increase to 50% by 2025). In addition, the waste management problems in China reflect most of the problems which Asian countries are facing or will face in the near future.

To solve its waste and resource problems, the Chinese government laid out its goal of establishing a 'Circular Economy' in its eleventh 5-year plan (2006–2010). However the recycling of urban waste, in particular, is very behind schedule.

One of the difficulties in China is the non-cooperative behaviour of residents with regard to source separation. In Nanjing, a new approach was introduced in May 2014 which encourages people to separate kitchen waste and recyclables via means of economic incentives. We are monitoring this new approach by conducting quantitative and qualitative surveys. Our results have so far revealed, among other factors, that the dissemination of ideas about waste collection requires time, and that physical parameters affect household decisions regarding the separation of waste.

Bio:

Professor Ishikawa is a professor of environmental economics at the Graduate School of Economics, Kobe University, and sits as an expert on recycling on a number of councils and committees including the MOE, MAFF and METI. He has served as the president of the Society of Packaging Science and Technology, Japan (2004-2008) and as a council member of the Japan Containers and Packaging Recycling Association since its foundation in 1996. He was awarded the Best Paper Award in 1997 and the Society Award in 2002 from the Society of Packaging Science and Technology Japan. In 2006, he established an NPO, Gomi-jp, which aims to reduce waste through social re-design. Gomi-jp was awarded the Good Design Award in 2007, the Prime Minister's Prize at the 3Rs Promotion Merit Awards in 2014 and the Golden Prize of the Minister of the Environment in the 2015 Low Carbon Cup.

War Against Food Waste in Korea

Won-Chung Kim

Abstract:

Proper disposal of food waste has emerged as one of the most urgent social issues in Korea. Not only the government but also the general public have exerted many endeavors to reduce the amount of food waste. According to the government statistics, Koreans produce about 14, 000 tons of food waste every day and 70% of the waste comes from the houses and small restaurants. One seventh of the total food is thrown away as waste in Korea and the economic loss amounts to 20 billion US dollars. Korea's unique food culture lies at the heart of the problem. A typical Korean meal consists of steamed rice and many side dishes (sometimes as many as 30) and a soup. The main problem stems from the fact that the number of side dishes works as a barometer of the hearty meal and of the host's hospitality to guests. The left-over food is prohibited for re-use in restaurants by law and cannot but be thrown away. Under the campaign to reduce food waste by 20%, the Korean government and people are focusing on two areas. The first is to change the traditional food culture and how the food is presented on the table. Instead of spreading out all dishes on the table, a buffet style table setting is recommended. In addition to this, some restaurants has begun to provide menus with less copious items. The second is to recycle food waste more efficiently. The implementation of RFID (radio frequency identification) disposal system, the mandatory use of food waste garbage bag, and the government support for reprocessing food waste into fertilizers and animal feed are some examples. This presentation will explicate in more detail the food waste problem in Korea and how Koreans are waging a war to reduce it.

Bio:

Won-Chung Kim is a professor of English Literature at Sungkyunkwan University in Seoul, Korea, where he teaches contemporary American poetry, ecological literature, and translation. He earned his Ph.D. in English at the University of Iowa in 1993, and has published articles on American ecopoets and Korean environmental literature in journals such as *ISLE*, *Comparative American Studies*, *Foreign Literature Studies*, and *CLCweb*. *East Asian Ecocriticisms: A Critical Reader* which he co-edited with Simon Estok was published in 2013 at Palgrave Macmillan. He has translated twelve books of Korean poetry including Chiha Kim's *Heart's Agony*, *Because of Rain: Korean Zen Poems*, and *Cracking the Shell: Three Korean Ecopoets*. As a founding member of Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE-Korea), Kim has served as the organization's president and the organizer of the 2nd ASLE-Korea and ASLE-Japan Joint Conference in 2010.

'Willingness To Pay' (WTP) for Packaging and Content in Asian Countries

Risa Kojima

Abstract:

In Japan, packaging makes up roughly half of household waste by volume. In developed countries such as in the EU or Japan, reduction of packaging waste is an urgent issue in waste management, and EPR (Extended Producer Responsibility) policies have been

introduced for this purpose. Because EPR charges are based on the amount of packaging, producers have an incentive to choose lighter packaging. However, because the dominant motivation of producers is to supply goods that consumers want and packaging is an auxiliary factor in consumer wants, the effectiveness of EPR policies depends on consumer preference for packaging over contents. We evaluated WTP (Willingness To Pay) for packaging and contents separately in five Asian countries; Japan, Indonesia, Singapore, Taiwan, and China for packaging weight, content weight, and price by application of a hedonic price model. We chose chocolate as the subject. Samples were purchased at representative supermarkets in each country. The MRS (Marginal Rate of Substitution) of packaging for content was 3.4 in Japan, insignificant in Indonesia, 1.4 in Singapore, 8.6 in Taiwan and 2.1 in China. The WTP of packaging was 56% of the price in Taiwan and 45% in Japan, which was higher than the 4% in Singapore and 5% in China. These results reveal that relative demand for packaging to content differs among countries. Since among the five countries only Taiwan and Japan have implemented EPR policies for packaging, higher preference for packaging found in this study might be one of the causes that led to the establishment of EPR. The low MRS in Singapore suggests per capita income is not the determinant factor for MRS. It will be an interesting topic to identify factors that influence MRS to project whether China will shift towards the situation in Japan/Taiwan or Singapore in the future.

Bio:

Risa Kojima is a PhD candidate at the Graduate School of Economics, Kobe University majoring in Environmental Economics. Her research centers on recycling policy, especially packaging waste recycling and food recycling law. She joined the Graduate School of Economics, Kobe University in 2005. In 2006, she joined a non-profit organization Gomi Japan of which mission is the reduction of waste, as one of the founders and has served as secretary-general since then. She proposes a Public Marketing Approach that attempts to reduce packaging waste by inducing changes in demand toward products with less packaging. This approach has brought manufacturers, retail and consumers together in the "Herasou shopping" project, which has received many awards, such as 2012-13 Prime Minister's Person of Merit Award, 2014 Minister of Environment's Low Carbon Cup Award.

Waste as Opportunity?: Negotiating Stigma in Delhi's Household Waste Collection Economy

Dana Kornberg

Abstract:

What are the relationships that sustain informal household garbage collection and scrap recycling work? More specifically, at the base of the chain, what are the conditions that create opportunities for actors to take up refuse collection work in spite of its associated stigma? I present a case from Delhi, India, where I conducted 18 months of ethnographic fieldwork in 2013-15. The project extends out from a neighborhood where the municipality introduced corporate collection trucks into spaces that were served informally by door-to-door collector-recyclers. However, rather than displacing the existing system, my research finds that an arrangement emerged whereby the two organizations operate side-by-side, raising the question of how the informal system has managed to persist. Rather than a set of "traditional" occupations, I find that actors in Delhi's informal garbage collection and scrap recycling economy maintain ties through a

combination of historical village-based ties and more recently forged inter-caste and religious urban relations. In this paper, I focus specifically on the structural position at the bottom of the collection chain, where “untouchable” or Dalit Balmikis, who have been occupied with waste work in Delhi since the nineteenth century, have been succeeded by Muslim Bengalis, who have not been historically employed in waste work. As a result, Bengalis have been forced to negotiate a new source of stigma, while Balmikis have become informal contractors no longer dealing directly with the polluting waste material. The paper argues that despite the stigma associated with waste work, the lure of increased earnings offers a strong motive for actors to re-configure their narratives of self and community in order to take on the economic opportunity provided by dirty work. In turn, the entry of new communities into waste collection and recycling work re-configures the urban social hierarchy by associating new groups with stigmatized livelihoods.

Bio:

Dana Kornberg is a Doctoral Candidate in Sociology at the University of Michigan. Trained in South Asian and urban studies, her dissertation project considers a particular case of contemporary urban change: an ethnographic examination of the informal economy of garbage and scrap collection in Delhi, India, where authorities have attempted to replace informal workers with corporate services. The project addresses the question of how informal economies are produced and sustained and identifies particular state, ethnic, and accounting practices that allow for the reproduction and persistence of this highly stigmatized market. Her broader research interests include the cultural politics of development and ecologies, urban informal economies, and the reproduction of ethno-racial systems.

Chinese Attitudes on Food Waste

Hingman Leung

Abstract:

As an emerging economy, food waste has become a hot topic in China within the last two years because of increasing appetites and shrinking landfills. Although there are an increasing number of studies on food waste in China, there is a lack of research into the social and cultural drivers that motivate food-waste creating behaviours. This research paper and short documentary is an ethnographic exploration of Chinese attitudes towards food and food waste, with the objective of uncovering some of the key values and beliefs that create food waste in China. This study is also a first step in addressing the literature gap on the topic. It was found that Chinese cultural values that motivated food waste creation were linked to a deep culinary history, Confucian teachings, and social and economic reform. In order to guarantee the success of pilot food waste reduction programs, education and public outreach are key to changing behaviour.

Bio:

Hingman Leung has built upon her Bachelor of Environmental Studies (University of Waterloo, 2008) with a career in the Canadian Ministry of the Environment, working on domestic and international waste policy, climate change, and Canada-China bilateral relations. Hingman has recently completed a Master of Arts in International and Intercultural Communications, complementing her science and policy background with human-based research methods. Her research interests aim to bridge the gap between

science-based policy development and cultural studies to support sustainable development.

Transnational Waste and Environmental Justice: An Ecological Approach to China's Dakou Generation

Chang Liu

Abstract:

Dakou refers to cut cassettes and CDs which were dumped by record companies from Western countries and exported to China as plastic waste. Dakou objects were supposed to be destroyed in China, however, they entered and circulated in China's music market and those who grew up with dakou products in the 1990s and 2000s were later known as China's dakou generation. In this paper I will reconsider the legacy of China's dakou generation through the lens of environmental justice ecocriticism.

Based on in-depth interviews with musicians, music retailers, record label executives and considering matters related to regional copyright restrictions and distribution regulations, I will attempt to illustrate how newly released records in Western countries can be both commodities for sale and valueless waste to be destroyed, and how this type of waste became commodities again and circulated in China's music market, though they entered China as plastic waste.

I then extend my focus to the cultural, social, and political implications of dakou products. By examining the narrative functions of dakou commodities in texts such as memoirs, proses, and essays written by renowned Chinese musicians and rock critics, I will argue that transnational waste, despite its negative connotations in environmental justice ecocriticism, can be used as a tool by the underprivileged Chinese to counteract the totalitarian political regime in China and achieve empowerment.

This paper will conclude by urging the necessity of bringing multiple perspectives into the conceptualization of waste in a transnational context and considering the limit of global environmental justice discourse which frequently runs the risk of denying agency to the underprivileged groups and forging new stereotypes.

Bio:

Chang Liu was born and raised in Manchuria and received his B.A. in English Studies there. Before he went on for his master studies, he moved to Beijing and worked in China's music industry for five years. He then relocated to Germany and received his M.A. in Intercultural Anglophone Studies from the University of Bayreuth, and further did Chinese studies and American studies at the University of Wuerzburg. His research interests include gender studies, ecocriticism, whiteness studies, and Chinese music. He is currently a guest researcher at the Institute of Chinese Studies of Jilin University in China and preparing for his doctoral project.

Performativity, Moral Personhood and the Power of Example among Waste Recyclers in Hong Kong

Loretta Ieng Tak Lou

Abstract:

Despite the public's increasing environmental awareness, the Environmental Protection Department in Hong Kong predicts that the city's 'mountains of trash' will hit capacity by 2019, making it necessary to expand the three existing landfills and build a state-of-the-art incinerator. Furious of the government's remedial proposal and their failure to prevent and reduce waste at source, the Greens in Hong Kong have invented a variety of 'greentechnics' to tackle Hong Kong's waste problem in the everyday.

This paper discusses 'greentechnics' in relation to the formation of 'green identity' and the production of a new kind of moral personhood in Hong Kong. Drawing on Butler's theory of performance and performativity, I show that a green subject is produced through the performance of recycling as well as the 'performatively constituted by the very "expressions" that are said to be its results' (Butler 2006:34). The highly reflexive and performative nature of 'greentechnics' socialises the individual body into a social and political body, giving great importance to setting a good example and practising what one preaches (*santai likhang*). The waste recyclers in Hong Kong insist that environmental education must be taught by examples and not by precepts. From eating strangers' leftovers in McDonald's to living a zero waste life, these seemingly trivial 'greentechnics' are no less significant than the high 'greentech' because these self-cultivations are powerful discipline techniques that produces not only a pro-environmental subject but also examples of a moral person in the public sphere.

Bio:

Loretta I. Lou is a final year PhD candidate in Anthropology at the University of Oxford. Her doctoral thesis "Healing Nature: Green Living and the Politics of Hope in Hong Kong" is an ethnographic study of the phenomenon of "green living" and its implications for self-nature understanding, social relations, ethico-aesthetics, and political mobilisation in post-colonial Hong Kong. Her research examines how green living has changed the ways people position themselves in relations to nature and society, and how such direct actions have come to represent a "politics of hope" that emphasizes the power of example and the active envisioning of living "otherwise".

Senior Garbage Scavengers in Hong Kong

Wingsze (Vincci) Mak

Abstract:

As a metropolitan city in Asia, Hong Kong's waste management system is supposed to be advanced to maintain a high hygiene standard. While the governmental waste management system covers the local refuse collection points in the neighbourhood to the waste dumping at sanitary landfills in the outskirts of the city, this rigid system somehow creates a loophole for informal garbage scavengers to engage and contribute to the waste collection process of Hong Kong, inspiring a new economy and social phenomenon in the waste collection business.

Hong Kong people's common practice when dumping domestic garbage is to leave it at the backstairs of the high rise apartment buildings, rather than dropping it off directly at the government assigned local refuse collection point. This gives opportunity for informal engagements of garbage scavengers to provide services to bridge this gap in the waste management cycle.

Considered as a low-skill job with no career prospect, garbage scavenging surprisingly attracts senior citizens from low income sector to join, hoping to earn some extra money to subsidize their retired life. While picking up and delivering domestic waste from apartment buildings and local refuse locations, these senior garbage scavengers also sort the garbage into paper, plastic, and metal. They do it not because they understand waste management concepts, instead they do so to maximize their income by selling the recyclable materials they sort out from domestic waste to recycling companies.

While it is a cultural norm in Hong Kong to see old grandmas and grandpas strolling garbage trolleys with recyclable materials ready for resale, this paper aims to analyze how such unique social phenomenon critiques the current waste management system and inspires alternative approaches. Through such analysis, this paper will explore how the senior garbage scavengers' phenomenon is reflecting on Hong Kong's overall attitude on waste.

Bio:

Wingsze (Vincci) Mak is an Assistant Professor at the Division of Landscape Architecture, Faculty of Architecture. Her experience in waste includes the teaching of a Master of Landscape Architecture Design Studio Course "Reclaiming Constructed Landscapes" in Spring 2010. The project explored the existing West New Territories Landfill in Hong Kong. Students were asked to generate a landfill afteruse that can cope with ecological, social, and economic aspects of the context. In Spring 2011, she continued teaching this design studio by adding the exploration of urban construction waste as a leading point towards the study of the West New Territories Landfill in Hong Kong.

Observing Municipal, Industrial, and Individual Ways in Japan through Art and Waste in Relation to the Individual 'Point of View' and 'Action' of Modern Japanese Citizens

Kotaro Nagira

As an artist, here I examine the concept structures of recycling and waste as a form of art. Recycling is based on the changing of "point of view" to the awareness that a product or an object no longer in need or use can be re-used, rather than considering it as a waste item. Art visualizes the state of modern Japanese society through its waste, which is another "point of view" of things through the artists' "point of view" on an aesthetic level. Both recycling and art show that things around us have diverse "point of view" and values.

The terms "ecology" and "recycle" have become popular nowadays in Japan.

It appears that reactions to those notions have succeeded in reducing damage to our environment and saving our resources to a certain extent. However, the single individual is most often preoccupied with daily life; earning and saving money. Therefore, few people take notice of the problems interlinked with inefficient mass production and logistics, mass consumption and its consequent waste accumulations. With these facts, I think that most Japanese people do not find meaning in the "action" of individuals against social issues. I think that the expansion of the income gap and the increase of the depopulation area are taking place for a similar cause. We can do better if we have diverse point of views for our lives; I believe art can play an important role for this.

Art can also serve as a lens through which to visualize waste issues and evoke processes of reflection in modern Japanese society. I will show the necessity of interacting contemporary art with waste issues by introducing examples of my activity and several contemporary artists', dealing with waste, exhibitions.

Bio:

Kotaro Nagira, age 32, is a liberal artist from Tokyo, Japan, who works with textiles to express his critical views of modern Japanese society. He also pursues an academic research interest in the context of Japan's mass consumer society and its relation to waste generation and management. He received his Master of Arts in Textile Art from Tokyo National University of the Arts in 2010, whereafter he served as Teaching Associate in Textile Art at Yokohama College of Art and Design until March 2015. Funded by a one-year grant as an Overseas Trainee in the Japanese Agency for Cultural Affairs' Program for Upcoming Artists, he has been working as Artist in Residence with SALIX Verein bildender Künstler e.V. in Kaarst, Germany, since September 2015, and is also formally associated with the Department of Japanese History, Faculty of East Asian Studies, Ruhr University Bochum, Germany.

Rubbish Dreams: Imperial Memory, Capitalist Waste and Hino Keizō's Tokyo

Mark Pendleton

Abstract:

As a response to then Tokyo governor Minobe Ryōkichi's 1971 declaration of a 'war on garbage', officials formalised the illegal rubbish dumping happening on a reclaimed island to create a series of landfill sites in Tokyo Bay. The most well known of these, an island known as *Yume no shima*, or Isle of Dreams, was originally identified in the 1930s as part of grand imperial plans for floating airports and the dominance of the ascendant empire over its natural surroundings. The island was built from rubbish and now houses a large park, sporting facilities, the memorial to the atomic fallout victims of the *Lucky Dragon Incident* and a waste treatment centre.

In this paper, I explore the cultural significance of the island of *Yume no shima* to the city of Tokyo. I do this primarily through the work of award-winning novelist and cultural critic Hino Keizō (1929-2002), whose novel *Yume no shima* was published in 1985 (and in English translation in 2010). The novel features nightmarish memories, de-humanised characters, dystopic urban landscapes and mountains of garbage. Hino's interest in waste and decay dates from much earlier, however, to a series of short essays he wrote in the 1950s on the topic of ruins and ruination and the wasted landscapes of Japan's war defeat.

In reading Hino's writings on waste and ruination alongside each other, I explore the ways in which imperial memory and the postwar wastelands of landfill sites interacted in late Shōwa-era Japan. In Hino's work, we see a particular vision emerging from these islands of garbage on Tokyo's periphery – part depressing dystopia of over-production, capitalist excess and mnemonic abandonment, but crucially also containing the seeds of potential regeneration.

Bio:

Dr Mark Pendleton is a cultural historian and lecturer in the School of East Asian Studies at the University of Sheffield (UK). He works broadly on the history of 20th Century Japan and Japan in a transnational context. His current research on ruins and ruination in 20th century Japan has been funded by the Arts & Humanities Research Council (UK) and the Japan Foundation Endowment Committee. He has published in a range of journals and edited collections, including recently in the collections *Historical Justice & Memory* (University of Wisconsin Press, 2015) and *Death Tourism: Disaster Sites as Recreational Landscape* (Seagull Press, 2014). He is also an editor of *History Workshop Journal*.

Informal Waste Pickers and their 'Right to Waste' in an Indian City

authors: V. Kalyan Shankar, Rohini Sahni

paper presenter: V. Kalyan Shankar

Abstract:

Across the multiple stake-holders in the management of urban solid waste in India, how does a 'right to waste' get carried forward? Waste belongs to households (producers) and then to the Municipal body once it enters their system of collection/disposal. What does this mean for large (predominantly female) populations of informal waste-pickers, operating in the inefficiencies of the State and carving their livelihoods by retrieving recyclables (paper, plastic, metals)? The lack of clarity on their 'right to waste' forms the basis of a continued vulnerability for them.

In 1995, informal waste-pickers in Pune (India) mobilized themselves to form a trade-union of their own, the Kagad Kach Patra Kashtakari Panchayat (KKPKP). The organization was instrumental in establishing their 'right to work' as waste pickers, helping them negotiate with municipal officials against harassment and graft. Coming to 2008, KKPKP floated SWaCH, India's first wholly owned co-operative of self-employed, waste pickers, which entered into a contract with Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) for door-to-door waste collection. This arrangement further legitimized the 'right to waste' for waste-pickers by allowing them to access waste directly from households instead of public bins/ landfills.

In this journey from KKPKP to SWaCH, how have the contours of a 'right to waste' evolved and what underlying challenges had to be overcome at different junctures? How has the SWaCH initiative altered the market dynamics of waste management, given the recent entry of larger private firms in waste-handling? These are some of the questions we address in this case-study through a methodology based on archival readings, fieldwork and personal interviews of key informants.

Bio:

V. Kalyan Shankar (vkalyanshankar@yahoo.co.in) is Fulbright-Nehru Visiting Fellow at India China Institute, The New School. He is a recipient of the IERA Annual Award (2014-15) from the Exim Bank of India for his doctoral work on value chains in manufactured goods in Southeast Asia. He co-edited the volume 'Prostitution and Beyond: An Analysis of Sex Work in India' published by SAGE (2008) and was a co-investigator for the First Pan India Survey of Sex Workers. His research has previously

appeared in journals including *Economic and Political Weekly*, *Higher Education* and *IDS Working Paper* series.

Caste Culture and Waste Circulation

Durgesh Solanki

Abstract:

Caste, which is based on a system of graded hierarchy, has been the defining feature of Indian society, intertwining itself with the processes of globalization and liberalization. This notion of hierarchy arises from the notion of purity and pollution based on an individual's occupation. Thus individuals that deal with waste, whether in the form of garbage, sewage, or dead bodies are marked and considered as untouchable. In the context of Mumbai, these untouchable bodies form an essential part of the city's sanitary system. Martin Melosi terms the sanitation system the "circulatory organ of the city" (2008: 1). Ananya Roy (2009) has characterized Indian cities as in a state of crisis, lacking adequate infrastructure and growth management coupled with extreme social divisions due to a lack of planning. In this paper I will explore how in spite of this apparent urban crisis, Mumbai deals with its waste. Specifically what is the role of the caste system in dealing with waste? What kinds of cultures, consciousnesses and spaces does this circulation of waste create within individuals and communities that deal with waste? I understand these questions by looking at the circulation and political economy of waste and the ways in which caste interacts with these processes. Through this paper, I argue that caste has played an essential role in the waste economy and that in order to resolve the crisis of waste we need to address the caste question. I will also analyze the recently launched *Swacch Bharat Abhyan* (Clean India Movement) as an example of an initiative that attempts to address the question of waste without addressing issues of caste.

Bio:

Durgesh Solanki is a Research Scholar at the Centre for Inclusive Development and Social Justice, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. His research areas include urbanization, spatial segregation, and the manifestation of caste and race in cities in the global south. He has worked as the project coordinator in Tata Institute of Social Sciences on a comparative research project exploring the socio-spatial transformation and the emerging forms of structural violence in three cities in the global south — Mumbai, Rio de Janeiro and Durban.

The Tale of the Crying Rice: The Role of Unpaid Foodwork and Learning in Food Waste Prevention and Reduction in Indonesian households.

Tammara Soma

Abstract:

There is an old tale wherein a farmer heard a sobbing sound coming from her field. She looked around the rice paddy only to find that the source of the sound was a handful of unharvested rice plants left behind during the harvest. Interviews conducted with women who are in charge of household food provisioning in Bogor, Indonesia, regarding their strategies on reducing food waste revealed that they often recount this story with their children. For many of the women interviewed, children were warned not to waste food in

their households by repeating the following *pepatah* (saying): “finish all your food or the rice will cry.” In Indonesia, home to a majority Muslim population, the concept of “mubazir,” or the acts of wasting and being excessive, are considered sinful. Indonesian parents often caution their children not to waste or over consume food by deploying the concept of mubazir. The Islamic concept of mubazir and the West-Java tale of the crying rice are examples of the unpaid foodwork that parents in Indonesia (mostly women) perform to instill moral values and the need to respect and value food. This paper will first explore the larger picture of unpaid foodwork and provide an overview of the phenomenon of food waste. Using a case study from the author’s fieldwork in the city of Bogor, Indonesia, it will then explore the discourses mobilized by households in preventing or reducing food waste. This paper argues that these types of gendered unpaid foodwork are an important pedagogical tool in reducing or preventing food waste and contribute to the development of a more sustainable food system.

Keywords: food waste, unpaid foodwork, gender, food provisioning, learning, food system, sustainable

Bio:

Tammara Soma is a Pierre Elliott Trudeau 2014 Scholar and a Doctoral candidate in urban planning at the University of Toronto. Her research investigates the factors that influence urban household food consumption and food wasting practices in Indonesia. As a planner, she hopes to address the issue of food waste by developing holistic and local-based solutions to address the waste crisis in Indonesia. The ultimate goal of her research is to make food system consideration (which includes food disposal and its associated management) an essential factor in urban planning in both the Global North and the Global South. In 2014, she co-founded the International Food Loss and Food Waste Studies group, the first network of global-based food waste scholars.

Dalit Labors and the Materiality of Power: Urban Waste and Untouchability in Bangalore, India

Shreyas Sreenath

Abstract:

This paper explores the reproduction of untouchability among waste workers in Bangalore, a city known for its Information Technology (IT) outsourcing, clean environs, and scientific institutes. Recent growth has made garbage a critical public issue in the city, forcing the municipality to take drastic steps in regulating municipal waste management. While these regulations promote civic engagement, they remain silent on the discrimination faced by Bangalore’s waste workers, drawn overwhelmingly from lower caste communities. Via an ethnography of waste processing neighborhoods marked by social segregation and the disavowal of skills required for waste work—this study asks: how are older forms of caste prejudice transformed into novel practices of untouchability in 21st century Indian cities? Engaging with scholarship on caste, waste, and governance, this research interrogates how historic practices of discrimination are reconfigured to facilitate the exigencies of modern urban life.

Bio:

I am a third-year graduate student in Anthropology at Emory University. My research interests include urban waste, South Asia, caste, late capitalism, state formation, and

labor. I have authored and co-authored articles in *American Ethnologist* (2015), *Dialectical Anthropology* (2015), and the *European Journal of Development Studies* (2015). Before joining the program, I spent extensive time in Bangladesh as a Fulbright research scholar working on issues of climate change, agrarian transformation, and rural political identity. During my undergraduate education in Economics (Emory University), I was part of studies in Uganda and Kenya that focused on issues of labor allocation among Kalenjin and Banyarwanda pastoralists.

Why Does 'Informal' Waste Collection and Recycling Thrive in Mainland China?

Benjamin Steuer

Abstract:

Resources matter! In light of the developments related to climate change and air pollution the question of resource scarcity comes again into focus among a wider public of the PRC. Has the Chinese state responded to these concerns? It quite certainly did so in terms of the legislative structure, which has gradually come into being since the early 1990s: Taking the field of waste management for example, the entire Chinese legislation has virtually been build up from scratch starting with side-notes in the 1989 Environmental Protection Law (art. 21 and art. 25) into a vast body comprising the Circular Economy Promotion Law (2008) and a three times amended Solid Waste Law (1995, rev. 2004, 2013, 2015). In terms of practical implementation, e.g. recovering recyclables from urban household waste, it is however not the state or formally registered private enterprises, who tackle the challenge. In fact non-registered, private and often called 'informal' entrepreneurs are working seven days a week to collect, pre-sort and transfer secondary resources form household wastes into manufacturing and recovery. Previous research (Li, 2002; Zhang and Wen, 2014; Linzner and Salhofer, 2014) has indicated that this system established by internal migrant workers in the 1980s has continuously grown over the decades.

This paper aims to explain the reasons behind the emergence and sustaining of this phenomenon. The analysis adopted for this purpose touches upon the following points of interest:

1. The bottom-up devised, institutional network created by informal waste collectors in major cities (Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Shenzhen)
2. Collection capacities (Kg/cap/day) and respective economic impacts achieved by individual actors
3. The interactive and evolving dynamic between formal and informal institutional realms in Chinese waste management

The findings presented in this paper are based on several research projects on waste management and individual field research in the PRC conducted between 2012 and 2015, in which the author has been involved.

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Linzner, R. and Salhofer, S. 2014. Municipal solid waste recycling and the significance of informal sector in urban China. *Waste Management & Research*: 32 (2014):896-907.

Bio:

Benjamin Steuer holds a BA and MA in Sinology (University of Vienna) and a MA in East Asian Economy and Society. He currently works as a research assistant at the Institute of Waste Management located at the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU), Vienna. Mr Steuer's PhD research deals with the Circular Economy in the People's Republic of China and together with a team of BOKU researchers he is currently conducting projects on Chinese waste management, such as on WEEE recycling, ship recycling and informal waste collection. In terms of theory his specific research interests revolve around the Old Institutional Economics and Evolutionary Institutional Economics and their application to the socio-economic and environmental dynamics in China.

Claiming a Space for Waste: Street Economies of Salvage in Hong Kong

Trang X. Ta

Abstract:

Hong Kong is a convergence site for commodities and people from across the globe. The culture of mass consumption and disposability of consumer goods epitomized in this cosmopolitan center fuels the second-hand street markets located in the interstices of the city. During the marginal hours of the late evening and early morning in one of the poorest districts of Hong Kong, Sham Shui Po in Kowloon, a mix of regular and itinerant vendors consisting of locals and immigrants sell salvaged, second-hand goods. The market attracts elderly local residents, foreign domestic workers, African merchants, scrap recyclers, collectors, bargain hunters, and various customers looking to buy for personal use, for resale elsewhere, for refurbishing, or for further recycling. The mutual work of rehabilitating and revalorizing the remnants of material life collected from recycling bins, dumpsters, and renovation sites characterizes this localized, but highly global streetscape. These informal spaces of exchange, however marginalized and even criminalized, make possible the redemption of things discarded and abandoned. Trading salvaged goods offers a means to make ends meet for the urban poor. Especially in an area where the poor suffer from cramped living conditions, the street offers an open communal space for residents to conduct the business of life. Hawkers and street merchants have long been a cornerstone of street life in Hong Kong, but this heterogeneity is diminishing as the government moves to sanitize the streets and regulate the use of public spaces. Under threat is the unique density of social life on the streets of Sham Shui Po as gentrification through urban renewal ushers in sanitized residential complexes and corporate shopping centers. The locals who participate in the second-hand markets are asserting a claim on public space and attempting to create entrepreneurial opportunities for themselves in a global economy that discounts their participation and an urban landscape that discourages their presence.

Bio:

Trang X. Ta is a Lecturer in Medical Anthropology in the School of Archaeology and Anthropology and the Convener of the Masters Program in Culture, Health, and Medicine at the Australian National University. She has worked on moral economies of charity and

urban life in contemporary China and her current project is on street economies of waste and salvage among the elderly working poor in Hong Kong. Her research is highly interdisciplinary and bridges anthropology, cultural studies, and China studies.

Hidden on the Surface: The Image of Waste in Films of Brillante Mendoza

Arthur Joseph Vito Cruz

Abstract:

Waste is not a common subject in fiction films. This does not suggest that waste is completely absent in this genre. Its presence is mostly seen in the physical backdrop of some scenes. There are films, though, that utilize waste in a much more significant way and this is often the case in films that highlight the theme of poverty. This is particularly evident in the films of recent Filipino filmmakers that are known in the international circuit.

The first decade of the new century saw the re-emergence of Philippine cinema in the international stage. Many Filipino films have been screened in different international film festivals with some making it to the prestigious events at Cannes, Venice and Berlin. A survey of these films reveal a common preoccupation with themes of poverty, corruption and social strife. Chief among them are the films of Brillante Mendoza.

Poverty films often rely on production design to convey the conditions of poverty. Waste, industrial, biological and human, serve as elements of set decoration and props to visually convey the squalid setting of the film. This paper examines the use of waste in two of Mendoza's films: the 2008 and 2009 Cannes competition films *Serbis* and *Kinatay*, respectively. It analyzes the cinematic use of waste in the films, i.e. how it is visually codified through the elements, and how it evolves from mere decoration and setting backdrop to a cinematic trope that contributes to an image of Philippine society.

Bio:

I am Arthur Joseph Vito Cruz, an instructor of arts and film appreciation at the College of Arts and Sciences of the University of Asia & the Pacific (UA&P), Philippines. My interests are in the fields of aesthetics, philosophy of art, film studies and liberal education. I am also currently serving as the department chair of the Department of Arts at the UA&P. Outside my university duties, I participate as member and serve as corporate secretary of the Philippine Center for Civic Education and Democracy, an NGO that advocates citizenship education. I hold a Master of Arts in Education and a Bachelor of Science in Architecture.

Time series analysis of food supply and dietary intake in Japan

Kohei Watanabe (Teikyo University)

Abstract:

One method of estimating the quantity of wasted food is to take the difference between the amount of food supply (how much food is made available) and the amount of dietary intake (how much food did people actually eat). In Japan the statistics for the former is made available through the Ministry of Agriculture, Fishery and Forestry. On the other

hand, the Ministry of Health and Welfare conducts annual surveys for the latter. Data on total calorific values, nutritional components, and on certain individual food items has been gathered for the period between 1946 and now, and changes over time will be shown. Not only the difference between supply and intake has increased, but also the time series data reflect changes in dietary habits. Increased protein and fat consumption (and waste) implies that the environmental impact involved is even greater, taking into account the amount of grain required to produce a unit amount of animal products.

Bio:

Kohei Watanabe is associate professor at Teikyo University (Tokyo, Japan) and a research associate at the Malaysian Commonwealth Studies Centre, University of Cambridge. He obtained his PhD (Geography, Cambridge) on the topic of household waste management. His current research topics include analysis of municipal waste statistics, food waste minimisation and waste management in Southeast Asia.

From Garbage Disposal to Garbage Healing: A New Ethics in Korean Literatures on Garbage

Chan-Je Wu

Abstract:

In solving the problem of the garbage the ethics of the people is as important as the political endeavors or technological innovations. If we can produce less garbage, rather than struggling how to dispose of or recycle the produced garbage, the economic and ecological benefits would be enormous. Among the many ways to approach the issue of the ethics of the people, the literary approach is culturally meaningful and has proved powerful in promoting ethical consciousness. In this paper, I'd like to discuss ethical ideas that some works of the Korean writers present to solve the problem of garbage in three aspects. First, Korean writers articulate the ethics of "life without waste" and the importance of controlling excessive desires. They criticize the surplus production and consumption of the capitalist society, which causes enormous amount of unnecessary garbage. They think we can reduce the garbage by controlling our desire, the very source of this "surplus" culture, which is in line with the ethics of traditional Buddhism. Secondly, they propose a new perspective that garbage is not an object to be disposed of but an object to be cured. This approach gives us a new insight by allowing us to see garbage from the point view of garbage. Thirdly, they present a new ecological attitude toward garbage based on the Korea's traditional idea of the unity of heaven-earth-humankind. If people practice this idea of symbiotic and circulatory life, garbage would be reduced dramatically. The ethics of "garbage healing" is a viable ethic for our "old future."

Bio:

Wu, Chan-Je is currently a Professor of Korean Literature at Sogang University in Seoul, Korea where he teaches rhetoric and literary criticism. He has received his Ph.D. in Korean literature at Sogang University. He served as the editor for such Korean Literary Journals as *Literature and Society*, *World Literature*, *Novels of Today*, *Age of Criticism*, *Poetica*, and *HITEL Literary Hall*. His publications include: *The Poetics of Desire* (1993), *Wound & Symbol* (1994), *Voices of Other: Temporality at the End of the Century & Literature of Otherness* (1996), *The Korean Modern Novel in the Era of Colonialization I: The Way of the Novel & Man* (1998), *The Korean Modern Novel in the*

Era of Colonialization II: The Wounded Age & Society (1998), *Living Alone Together* (2003), *The Rhetoric of the Text* (2005), *The Protean Flights* (2010) and *A Rhetoric of Anxiety* (2012). As a literary critic, he was awarded the Sochon Critique Award (2000), Kim Hwantaek Critique Award (2003) and Palbong Critique Award (2010). Professor Wu has served as the President of ASLE-Korea (Association for the Study of Literature & Environment-Korea).

How Governmental Officials and Local Citizens Value 'Waste' Differently

Qingqing Yang

Abstract:

Several quantitative studies have demonstrated that waste categorization is not well conducted in China and this is viewed as due to lack of practical awareness. Based on my participant observation in Beijing, I argue that Chinese citizens have a long tradition and high awareness of waste classification and recycling, both of which have been neglected by the government policy makers. There is a mismatch between the concept of "waste" held by the government and that of the citizen. In fact, the majority of waste separation work is done by citizens and street waste collectors spontaneously. Citizens simply mentally label the unwanted stuff as sellable and non-sellable. The non-sellable waste goes directly to the garbage bin. The sellable items will be classified as plastic, glasses, metal and paper and then be brought to the nearest recycling point which is run by private individuals and they will be compensated according to the weight of the waste they bring. In recent years, the recycling industry is taking advantage of Internet and online recycling as emerging industries strengthen the traditional methods of classification. But again, this is done by private companies and official government remains completely outside of the whole process. What the Environment Protection Bureau has done is to put two bins in each living community labeled kitchen waste and recyclable waste, which confuses the inhabitants. So the governmental departments need to be educated in order to better understand how citizens carry out waste classification and then find a way to integrate the national-level goal of waste classification to the micro-social level.

Bio:

Dr. Qingqing Yang is a lecturer at Minzu University of China. She graduated with a doctoral degree in social anthropology from the University of St Andrews, UK in 2012. Her research has led to both theoretical and practical advances in urban space, creolization and modernization. She has carried out fieldwork studies in Beijing since 2005. Her recently published book titled "Space Modernization and Social Interaction: a comparative study of living space in Beijing" is based on her long-term fieldwork experience in Beijing. During her Ph.D study at St Andrews, she won a rare Overseas Research Studentship from the British government in 2008. She also taught undergraduate students at the University of St Andrews during her Ph.D.

An Empirical Study on Food Waste in Beijing

Shuxi Yin

Abstract:

Across the world, a large portion of food is wasted and the consequences, such as waste of natural resources and damage to the environment, are very severe. In China, food waste is also a serious problem with very negative impacts. In this research, we use questionnaire to investigate the food wasted by urban residents in Beijing, explore the reasons behind, and propose solutions for the problem. Our sample covers 200 households in four neighborhoods and 200 students who eat in the dining hall in two universities in Beijing. We get the information about food waste to understand the situation and collect the detailed demographic information of the participants. Then we construct a model to analyze the variables that contribute to food waste quantitatively. We find that economic conditions are not a major factor behind food waste among residents in Beijing. However, factors such as education, media exposure, and the influence of traditional Chinese culture are highly significant. Based on our analysis, we propose a series of solutions, such as using public-interest advertisements to carry out campaign against food waste. Although Beijing, as a Chinese city, is special in many ways, the research helps us to gain a glimpse of food waste in China.

Bio:

Shuxi YIN is a professor of sociology at Hefei University in China, where he teaches both undergraduate and graduate students and does research and consultancy independently and in cooperation with other scholars and practitioners. He received his Bachelor degree from Peking University in China, Master degree from Harvard University in the USA, and PhD from the University of Tuebingen in Germany. He has been a visiting research fellow at various universities worldwide and an advisor to several organizations.

Waste as a Material for Innovative Production: the Case of Taiwan's Clothes Companies

Claudia Zanardi

The perception of waste has been changing fast in developed countries. Waste materials are not only a burden for societies and governments: rather, they are increasingly seen as having potential applications for production purposes. The experience of the Republic of China (Taiwan) is a clear example of this shift in waste perception. Taiwanese companies have been innovating to make use of waste materials to develop advanced products in the cloth industry. Hence, a niche has been created by Taiwanese clothes industry which leads the research and development (R&D) in new fibres, from waterproof to anti door.

This paper aims to analyse the specificity of the Taiwanese case study. Through field research run in Taipei, it argues that Taiwanese cutting edge clothes companies making innovative use of waste materials benefit from a societal advantage perceiving recycling as a societal commitment boosted by governmental policies. It also shows that the example of Taiwanese companies may provide inspiration for other countries and companies in different production fields.

Bio:

I am a PhD Candidate at King's College London (KCL) in the United Kingdom (UK) as well as a Taiwan Research Fellow for the current year at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of China (ROC, Taiwan). I work on China foreign policy, Sino-European Relations as well as Taiwanese issues and cross-straits relations. A former member of ECRAN, a five year project funded by the European Commission to provide advise to European officers on Chinese issues, I am going to complete my PhD by mid-2016.