

JSPS-British Academy Collaborative Symposium: Growing Cities, Divided Cities? January 27th 2016

On 27th January 2016, a symposium jointly organized by JSPS London and also hosted by the British Academy was held, with over 60 attendees from institutions all over Japan and the UK. The event was structured around the three broad themes of the economy of cities and regions, cities and social cohesion and exploring the possibilities of making cities more sustainable, with a view to establishing policy challenges and encourage debate about concrete policy-oriented solutions. The presentations focused on the experience of the UK and/or Japan and also touched on other countries dealing with similar urbanization related challenges.

The symposium began with welcoming remarks from the Director of JSPS London, Professor Kunio Takeyasu and Professor Peter Kornicki, Fellow of the British Academy and Chair of the British Academy's East and Southeast Asia Area Panel. The keynote speech was delivered by Professor Danny Dorling, School of Geography and the Environment, Oxford University. Using summary statistics, he discussed the key themes of the seminar, exploring the differing nature of the economy of cities and regions in Japan and the UK and the different outcomes that result as well as looking at the social cohesion and the higher level of trust in Japan and how we make cities more sustainable in general. This was followed by the first session of presentations on the economy of cities and regions. Professor Paul Cheshire, Department of Geography and the Environment, London School of Economics and Political Science, gave the first presentation of this session. He examined current research on agglomeration economies and its impact on urban policy. Developing on this theme, the second presentation was given by Dr. Kentaro Nakajima, Graduate School of Economics, Tohoku University, who discussed ways cities improve their productivity through knowledge spillovers, as the theoretical background for cluster policy which has been adopted in Japan. The final presentation of this session was delivered by Dr. Nicola Headlam, Heseltine Institute for Public Policy and Practice, University of Liverpool, who is also working on the Foresight future of cities programme run by BIS. Her presentation covered the 2015 indices of urban change and transformation, the distinction between urban policy and spatial consequences of other interventions as well as highlighting the efforts across UK government and university policy making institutes to coordinate urban research and establish a shared future agenda for cities. A discussion panel was then held with questions from the audience to expand on the points made in these presentations.

The theme of the second session was cities and social cohesion. The first presentation was given by Dr. Mayumi Hayashi, Institute of Gerontology, King's College London, who examined why and how Japan's cities are harnessing social cohesion as a building block for dementia-friendly communities and the achievements and remaining challenges. Following this Dr. Noriko Cable, International Centre for Lifecourse Studies in Society and Health, University College London, delivered her presentation on the determinants that facilitate or deter individual level societal integration in the UK or Japan from a life course perspective. The final presentation was given by Dr. David Murakami Wood, Department of Sociology, Queen's University Canada. He presented his study on public safety in Tokyo and a growing reliance on surveillance in the face of social change. A panel discussion followed to allow the audience to

question more deeply the findings of the research given in these presentations and the points from which other societies can share and learn.

In the final session a further two presentations were made on the theme of making cities more sustainable. The first presenter was Professor Shunsuke Managi, Department of Urban and Environmental Engineering, Kyushu University, Japan. He analyzed the city evaluation scheme for “Sustainable Infrastructure” and the complex balance of economic development, ecosystem health and sustainability in urban planning necessary in this approach. The second speaker was Professor Eckart Lange, Department of Landscape, University of Sheffield, who examined how the human factor is impacting on continual change of rural and urban landscapes and the modelling and visualization methods that are essential in deciding landscape futures. The final presentation examining a holistic approach to sustainable infrastructure was scheduled to be given by Professor Brian Collins, International Centre for Infrastructure Futures, University College London, who was unfortunately unable to attend at the last minute. The panel discussion of this session was chaired by a previous speaker, Professor Paul Cheshire, who encouraged the audience to think about all of the themes covered during the seminar and comment on concrete policy-oriented solutions. The event finished with a reception to allow for networking and the opportunity for greater knowledge exchange among participants and to facilitate new research links and identify areas for future research related to urbanization challenges faced by the UK and Japan.



Symposium Speakers and Organisers