

2024

4.24 (wed.) 12:10
12:50

12:10-12:15

◆ Introduction

12:15-12:40

◆ Seminar
(Presentation)

12:40-12:50

◆ Q&A

Online
(Zoom)Scan here for
Registration ▶▶https://temdec-med-kyushu-u-ac-jp.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_dZLLqYsPSM6jeJ7sY5oYIA

Supported by Kyushu University, Q-AOS & TEMDEC

Revisiting the "Utopian Manchuria:"

New Perspectives and Discoveries on Urban Changchun (1899-1932)

Chair: Assoc. Prof. Fumihiko YOKOTA (Research Promotion Coordinator of Q-AOS)



Key Words

Colonial Manchuria

Colonial Space

Colonial Society

Changchun

Historical Maps

Lecturer **Yang Yu**

Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Humanities, Kyushu University

Yang is an art and architectural historian of modern Japan. Her research focuses on architecture and urbanism in modern Japan, particularly on the exchange of people, materials, and ideas within the Japanese empire during the first half of the twentieth century. Yang was born in Northeast China, went to Peking University as a Film Studies major, and then went abroad U.S. for Ph.D with full scholarship. Initially majoring in Contemporary Chinese Art, Yang decided to change to Japanese art history, and received her Ph.D. in Modern Japanese Art and Architecture from Columbia University in New York. During her Ph.D. studies, Yang conducted dissertation writing/research at Kyoto Institute of Technology, the University of Tokyo, and Tobunken. She came to Kyushu University in 2018 and joined IMAP/IDOC (Master/Doctoral Program of International Japanese Studies) in 2020. Her current book project develops upon her dissertation, applying a new perspective of "regional society" to examines Japanese architectural practice and urban culture in colonial Manchuria, primarily the period before 1932, illustrating a dynamic and fluid urban landscape shaped and developed by dialectic negotiations and interrelations of various imperial powers and local regimes. Yang publishes articles on and teaches modern Japanese art and architecture and the spatial configuration of modern East Asia in English, Japanese and Chinese languages. Yang and her colleague Professor Anton Schweizer received a prestigious research grant from the Getty's Connecting Art Histories program for their project: "Shared Coasts, Divided Historiographies" (2023-2025) which aims to forge a network of junior art historians conducting frontier research on art histories of East Asia.

<https://www.imapkyudai.net/yu-yang>;<https://www.imapsharedcoasts.com/people>

Studies of the architecture and urban spaces of Colonial Manchuria have focused on the public architecture and urban planning of Manchukuo (1932-1945), emphasizing that the Japanese have constructed a metropolis with technological experiments and utopian urban features. This mainstream viewpoint has long not been challenged, regardless recent historical studies have revealed more complicated, turbulent local geopolitics.

This presentation reviews the current state of the field, pointing out the temporal and spatial limitations that have led to the utopian, idealized views. Moreover, the presentation uses one case study, the city of Changchun (later the "new capital" of the colonial Manchukuo state) and focuses on the period before 1932, the establishment of Manchukuo. Analyzing newly discovered historical maps, this presentation reveals crucial phases in the urban formation and development of Changchun, shedding new light on the understanding of colonial society and local space.