

## **Globalization and the Asian City: An Inside-Out View**

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There is no lack of literature on globalization of Asian cities. Yet a large number of these studies focus on financial/business centers, while others draw our attention to poverty, the slum, the tradition, tourism, and pollution. As they adopt an outside-in view and use the modern, affluent, and transforming western city as the reference point, the discourse overlooks common and basic urban processes. As a result, the production of space, place, and identity by ordinary citizens and the new spatial configurations that emerge in Asian cities receives very little attention. Hence, the vast terrain of ordinary actors and spaces which are currently left out of the mainstream discourses should be reflected in academic debates and policy decisions and the local thinking-processes that constitute these spaces need to be acknowledged, enabled, and critiqued.

Displacing the mainstream discourses and switching the focus and vantage point to Asian cities and citizens the paper draws attention to how we might be able to retrieve/view Asian urban practices, identities, and spaces, produced as part of, resisting, responding, avoiding, and besides larger global processes. Instead of viewing Asian cities in opposition to the western city, using it as the measure, or constructing a superiority for Asian traditions, the paper opts to provincialize mainstream and traditional knowledge. The presentation will illustrate that “global” spaces are more (trans)local, the traditional environments are more modern, and Asian spaces are better defined than acknowledged. The intent is to develop room for understandings of Asian cities from Asian standpoints, especially acknowledging how the Asians observe, interpret, understand, and create space, and to encourage inside-out theorizations within a larger global context.

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