

Final Call for Abstracts (August 2019)

East Asian Regional Conference in Alternative Geography (EARCAG)

**The 4<sup>th</sup> Workshop on the Geopolitical Economy of East Asian Developmentalism**

Date: November 26 to 28, 2019

(Followed by a field trip to Okinawa from November 29 to December 1)

Venue: The University Media Center, Osaka City University, Japan

Website: <https://sites.google.com/view/earcag-gpe2019>

The Geopolitical Economies of East Asia Research Network in EARCAG (EARCAG-GPE) is pleased to announce that its 4<sup>th</sup> workshop will be held at Osaka City University, Japan in November 2019.

**Workshop themes**

Themes of the workshop include but are not limited to:

**Shifting state-territoriality and the reconstruction of  
the geopolitical economy in East Asia**

On-going de/reterritorialization and re-scaling under globalization and neoliberalism represent constant shift in state-territoriality that exercises differentiated control over various inter-state processes as a manifestation of spatial fix in the capitalist world economy. Such shift can be seen not only at the national level but also at the inter- and intra-national levels. This is mainly because various effects of the capitalist world economy have penetrated our daily life. The geopolitical economy thus (re)constructed in East Asia inevitably has multi-scalar effects on political, economic, social, and environmental affairs in the region which need to be explored from various geographical and comparative perspectives.

**De/Re(b)ordering processes for a post-Westphalian stage?**

The so-called New World Order, which was expected at the end of the Cold War, has not yet emerged. What we have seen instead is a series of geopolitical fluctuations, such as ethnic conflicts, nationalist resurgences, separatist movements, and fundamentalist violence. While globalizing forces facilitate de-territorializing/bordering processes, there has been an increasing demand for securing the existing socio-political (b)orders such as national identity, territorial sovereignty, and the inter-state system. This, however, does not at all mean that such (b)orders have been intact but that they have constantly been made and remade to cope with on-going structural changes in the geopolitical economy of the world. The question we can pose is whether or not such de/re(b)ordering processes

show any symptoms for a post-Westphalian stage.

#### **Inter-island liminality as a new aspect of trans-local/border interactions**

Unlike the original (anthropological or temporal) meaning of liminality, geographers apply the term to illustrating spaces which people pass through and/or stay in for transit such as borders, frontiers, no man's lands, and airports. In the case of East Asia, there are a number of chains of islands on the eastern fringe of the Eurasian Continent. These islands have both connected and separated different cultures and societies while being colonized by and decolonized from imperial powers. Such inter-island liminality has also become a cause of territorial dispute between neighboring states. However, trans-local/border interactions between the islands (and the continent) have also provided opportunities for socio-economic development such as border tourism, creating a new milieu for transnational connectivity.

#### **The reconceptualization and transformation of East Asia in the context of China's rise**

Since the end of the Cold War, East Asia has become one of the economic growth poles in the world whose bases were prepared by leading developmentalist states in the region. East Asia consists of both continental and maritime states with complex historical backgrounds and interactions. Geopolitical and geo-economic disparities within the region are also large so that security instability continues to be an essential component of its regional dynamism. While superpowers such as the U.S. and Russia have been undoubtedly influential, the role of China as well as those of Japan and Korea is becoming crucial in the region. As seen in China's Belt and Road Initiative, how East Asia is being discursively reconceptualized and materially transformed needs to be examined from geopolitical economic viewpoints.

#### **Keynote speakers (their abstracts are now available on the website)**

The following keynote speakers will be invited:

**Anssi Paasi** (Political Geography, University of Oulu, Finland)

**James D. Sidaway** (Political Geography, Singapore National University, Singapore)

**Wang Chih-Ming** (Cultural Studies, Academia Sinica, Taiwan)

We are also honored to have a special guest speaker:

**Ibrahim Amir** (Kurdish exile playwright, Austria)

#### **Registration & submission**

Those interested in the workshop are invited to submit their abstracts and papers according to the

following registration/submission guidelines. We also plan to propose a special issue on this workshop for an academic journal such as Taylor & Francis' *Geopolitics*.

#### Registration procedures

1. Register yourself and make payment at the workshop website.
2. Submit your abstract and paper at the workshop website as indicated below. Without payment, neither your abstract nor paper will be accepted.
3. Registration for the post-workshop field trip to Okinawa is detailed on the website.

#### Abstract format

1. LAST NAME (capitalized), first name middle name
2. Affiliation
3. CO-AUTHOR'S LAST NAME (capitalized), first name middle name
4. Affiliation
5. Title of paper
6. Main body of text (no more than 250 words)

Submission deadline: **August 31, 2019**

#### Paper format (in an MS Word or PDF file)

1. All session presenters are encouraged to submit their papers to facilitate discussion.
2. There is no standardized paper format but a brief (approximately 10-page) paper would be desirable.

Submission deadline: **November 15, 2019**

#### **Travel grant for young researchers**

The Local Organizer will offer limited funding (USD 500 per person) to assist postgraduate students and/or early career scientists (up to 35 years old) in attending this workshop. Applicants must first submit an abstract for participation in the workshop. To be eligible for a grant, the abstract must be reviewed and accepted by the EARCAG-GPE 2019 Scientific Committee. Applicants then need to submit a brief (approximately 10-page) paper to the workshop organizer ([earcag-gpe@lit.osaka-cu.ac.jp](mailto:earcag-gpe@lit.osaka-cu.ac.jp)) via email **within a week** after the official acceptance of their abstract or **by September 15 otherwise**. The results of the review will be notified by the last week of September. Grant winners will also be exempted from the workshop participation fee. Grants will be awarded in US dollar cash after the grantees' presentations at the workshop venue. Please note that due to financial limits, this grant will be given to one or two selected applicants.

#### **Contact**

If you have any questions about the workshop, please contact the workshop organizer at [earcag-gpe@lit.osaka-cu.ac.jp](mailto:earcag-gpe@lit.osaka-cu.ac.jp)