



# 上海论坛 2012 学术简报

## Academic Bulletin of Shanghai Forum 2012

### Asia's Urbanization and Urban Transition for 2011-2020 II

May 27, 2012

The panel of “Globalization and Asian Urbanism” kicked off with vibrant discussion in the afternoon of May 27, 2012. A panel of 5 scholars from Chinese Mainland, Singapore and Taiwan discussed how to find out Asian urbanization patterns and developed the characteristic of the cities under the wave of the globalization.

Prof. Tu Qiyu, the first speaker, stated briefly that, as a response to globalization, World City theory had born in 1990s and risen as the key paradigm of mainstream urban studies, which also attracted a large amount of believers in the practical world of urban management. However the defects of World City theory as well as distortions in practices had jointly surfaced due to the global economic crisis. He gave a multi-perspective re-evaluation of this theory and proposed the potentially upgraded version of city practices, the City 2.0.

The next speaker, Prof. Tim Bunnell, from National University of Singapore, argued that urban imaginations had long centered upon models based on the experiences of a small number of cities and metropolitan regions. However, there were also now increasingly cases where it was cities in Asia that were being held up as models or archetypes. Asian urbanisms will more and more exceed understandings, vocabularies and typologies derived from prior western experiences.

The next speaker, Prof. Nora Chiang, from National Taiwan University, reconstructed the lives of early Taiwanese-Chinese immigrants in three different cities in Canada, and in Guam. Using autobiographical interviews, she analyzed the reasons for and processes of migration, lived experiences, and self-identity. She said that the early Taiwanese-Chinese immigrants to Canada and Guam survived various hardships. Diligence, ingenuity and perseverance, as well as skills in entrepreneurship and social capital brought from Taiwan, served them well in their achievements in their new

经济全球化与亚洲的选择

ECONOMIC GLOBALIZATION AND THE CHOICE OF ASIA

未来十年的战略

STRATEGIES FOR 2011-2020

home countries in Canada and Guam. They developed significant language competency, social skills, and local knowledge in Canada and Guam, respectively.

The following speaker, Prof. Pan Tianshu, from Fudan University, explored Mcjob as a meaning-laden term by way of closely examining the innovative strategies for coping with and manipulating work environment based on ethnographic field research conducted at four McDonald's outlets in Shanghai's Jing'an and Huangpu Districts. He said, only careful and on-spot ethnography was the viable path toward a deeper understanding of not just "what really happens" but "what really matters" to those who inhabit segregated social and moral worlds in Shanghai's fast food outlets.

The next speaker, Prof. Misha Petrovic, from National University of Singapore, He said that we were presently in the midst of a massive process of global urban transformation. The nature of these differences is poorly understood, posing major challenges not only to urban theorizing, but also to the more practical attempts to plan and govern cities. He said the main argument will be that fairly general types of knowledge--historical and theoretical--rather than specific expert solutions, were likely to be the most effective in addressing urban governance problems.

Then Prof. Ning Yuemin gave a brilliant Commentary. He pointed out that, in the 1980s, as a background about the rise of study about the western cities, we were easy to be affected, but this did not mean that the future development were so promising. The United States and Britain gave priority to service industry, but manufacturing industry is so important to China's economy, so we can't follow the path of western development. In the following time, we had a heated discussion.

China's urbanization has its own particularity as well as certain comparability; we should know the diversity of urbanization of countries all over the world. That is, we should learn about the advanced experience of the western countries and other countries in Asia and develop our own path based on our history and unique characteristics. Only this it can be more rational to solve the problems in the process of urbanization and make the urbanization process more smoothly and harmonious.