WEBINAR: THE CASE OF OSAKA’S INNER CITY - 8th April - 5 pm (Kuala Lumpur time, UTC +08:00)

Discussion published by Sabine Chaouche on Wednesday, March 16, 2022

WEBINAR: FRIDAY, 8 APRIL 2022, 5.00PM-5.45PM (KUALA LUMPUR TIME, UTC +08:00)
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A webinar jointly hosted by the Asia Pacific Centre for Hospitality Research (APCHR) and the ElastiCities Research Cluster, Sunway University

Neighbourhood Change and the Heritage of Developmentalism: THE CASE OF OSAKA’S INNER CITY
by Assoc Prof Johannes Kiener
Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences Saitama University

Outline:

This presentation aims to advance an approach to understand neighbourhood change in the context of the developmentalist inner city. Since the 2000s, in several neighbourhoods of Osaka’s inner city renovation of old buildings together with an influx of new populations can be observed. This phenomenon is a novelty in Japan, where “scrap and build” used to be the common approach to urban rejuvenation. By analysing the role of these buildings and their social functions in the process of neighbourhood change, the particular circumstances under which the inner city housing stock was formed in Japan’s developmental period, in which economic progress was the prime political goal, are highlighted. The presentation concludes by reflecting the findings from Osaka’s inner city through the concept of gentrification and its application in the global East. It argues for a conceptional open discussion to critically interpret neighbourhood change and contribute to the academic body of knowledge about East Asian cities.

Johannes Kiener is focusing in his work on housing issues associated with inner city areas and has done extensive research about homeless people, welfare-housing, guest houses, artists, and urban entrepreneurs in Japan. He has received a PhD from Osaka City University in the field of human geography in 2018 and has worked there as specially appointed assistant professor. In 2019 he assumed his current position at Saitama University, where he is teaching courses in the fields of human geography and Japanese studies.