

SNUAC Visiting Scholars Brown Bag Seminar Series, Fall 2015

China meets Korea: the Asian Games, Entrepreneurial Local States and Debt-driven Development

Hyun Bang Shin

This talk examines the experience of Guangzhou, China and Incheon, South Korea in hosting the 2010 and 2014 Asian Games respectively. The two Asian Games were embedded in political economic contexts that showed both similarities and differences. Notable differences arose given the domination of the Party State in mainland China, on the one hand, and the mutations of the South Korean developmental state on the other hand. Yet, the experiences of hosting the Asian Games by Guangzhou and Incheon also testified to the importance of local states proactively pursuing economic development through an active mobilization of resources to make productive investments. By juxtaposing the experiences of Guangzhou and Incheon in their preparation for the Asian Games, this chapter aims to show how both cities attempted, sometimes successfully and at other times unsuccessfully, to make use of the Asian Games to realise their developmental aspirations by investing heavily in the built environment. These attempts included fast-tracking the development process by launching ambitious mega-projects as part of channeling capital into the secondary circuit of the built environment. As the chapter shows, these efforts were unfortunately speculative and debt-driven, placing a heavy burden on each city's future developmental prospects.

Hyun Bang Shin is Associate Professor of Geography and Urban Studies, and has been in the Department of Geography and Environment since 2008. His research includes the critical analysis of the political economic dynamics of urban development, with particular attention to Asian cities. The main themes of his recent writings include urban development politics, gentrification and displacement, the right to the city, state entrepreneurialism, and cities of spectacle and mega-events. He is part of an international collaborative project on *Crisis and Transformation of East Asian Cities in the Age of Globalisation* (2014-2017), funded by the National Research Foundation of Korea. He has co-authored *Planetary Gentrification* (in press, Polity Press), co-edited *Global Gentrifications: Uneven Development and Displacement* (2015, Policy Press), and is co-editing *Contesting Urban Space in East Asia* (forthcoming in 2016, Palgrave Macmillan). He is currently guest-editing two journal special issues on gentrification with Loretta Lees and Ernesto López-Morales for journals *Urban Studies* and *Urban Geography*, and another special issue on mega-events in emerging economies with Andy Thornley for the journal *Urban Geography*. His book *Making China Urban* is to be published in 2016 from Routledge. Hyun received his PhD (2006) and MSc (2000) from the LSE, and BSc (1994) from Seoul National University. [e-mail] h.b.shin@lse.ac.uk

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