

SNUAC Visiting Scholars Brown Bag Seminar Series, Spring 2015

***Economy of Scale, Division of Labour and
Deskilling in a Creative Industry: The
Transformation of Labour Process in Xianyou
Traditional Furniture Cluster, China***

Dr. Jung Won Son

This paper attempts to bring back an old labour process question within the new context of a creative industry cluster. From a labour process point of view, recent discourse on the creative class and creative clusters is, in many ways, a continuation of various new capitalism discourses. Most of these concepts assume a linear evolution of economy from that of alienated, deskilled labour to that of creative labour. Using the case study of the Xianyou traditional furniture cluster, we show that transitions between skilled labour and unskilled labour are not linear but contingent upon market structure.

Dr. Jung Won Sonn is Assistant Professor at Bartlett School of Planning, University College London. He received his Ph.D. degree in urban planning from the UCLA and his MSc. and BSc. degrees from Seoul National University. Dr. Sonn's research is focused on: 1) the urban and regional dimension of technological innovations in China and 2) political analysis of regional policy in South Korea. His papers appeared in prestigious journals such as *Regional Studies*, *Antipode* and *Urban Studies* among others. Some of his research projects were funded by North American Association of Regional Science, the Leverhulme Trust (UK), National Research Foundation of Korea, and European Commission's Research Executive Agency.

Date & Time: June 10 (Wednesday) 2015, 12:00-13:00

Location: SNUAC #406