



# The 7<sup>th</sup> East Asian Regional Conference in Alternative Geography (EARCAG)

**“The Right to Inhabit; the Asian Challenges”**

## **Conference Proceeding**

Conference: **Osaka, Japan**, 23-25 July 2014

Retreat: **Tohoku Area**, 26-28 July 2014

Co-organized with Association for Urban Creativity (AUC)  
Co-hosted by Osaka City University, Urban Research Plaza (URP) and  
Department of Geography

## **SESSION “Geopolitics”**

### **“Geopolitical Economy in East Asia”**

#### **AB1 (geopolitics)**

**Xiaobin Simon Zhao & Darek Wójcik**

#### **Spatial Study of Financial Region and Sub-Centers of the International Financial Centers and its Implications to Hong Kong**

We have conducted a spatial study of financial regions and sub-centers of New York and London's International Financial Center (IFC) and its implication for Hong Kong. The key findings suggest that New York and London as the leading IFCs in the world are supported by well-developed financial regions and a clear division of work and complementarity in respect to the financial sub-centers at national/regional and metropolitan/local levels. Hong Kong should embrace its opportunity by actively involving and engaging in the financial development of Qianhai and Hengqin and treat them as a part of Hong Kong's IFC to extend Hong Kong's financial arms into China.

#### **AB2 (geopolitics)**

**Ling-I Chu**

#### **The Division System in Rescaling: a Historical Study on the Local Development in Southeast Coast of China**

This study aims to explore the concept of “division system” through reviewing the development of Haixi district in China's southeast coast, especially studying how the state's local dynamics have been influenced by the geopolitical and geo-economic contexts.

Recent China studies tend to focus on the role of the state in development, based on the widely recognized *Guo Jin Min Tui* phenomenon. Some of these are devoted to find out the evidences of state re-scaling, re-bordering or re-territorializing in China. Nevertheless, it is still a challenging task to construct a more systematic framework to analyze the evolving state forms. In the literature, the development trajectory of Haixi, commonly referred as the “Wenzhou” or “Jinjiang model”, is paved mainly by private firms. In comparison with the statist-oriented ways that emphasize incremental reform, this model is not only radical but also unique. To explain the uniqueness, existing studies attribute the significant roles of overseas Chinese residents and intense social networks. However, one should note that the utilization of FDIs or Guanxi capital does not seem unusual in accounting for the local development in China. Neither global connections nor local institutions in Haixi were recognized for being outstanding. This paper argues that it is the evolving confrontations across the Taiwan Strait that frame the interplay between state projects and accumulation strategies, therefore shaping Haixi's specific development trajectories.

During the early-stage military confrontation in the Cold War era, the implementation of the anti-development projects by the Chinese state on Haixi, transformed Haixi from a trading port to a fortified frontier. In this context, the Haixi people had no other option but to turn themselves into speculators engaging in underground offshore trades. Through such businesses, they were able to develop trading channels and production networks, allowing them to become pioneer movers on when China opened its borders. Thirty years later, with China's rapid growth and its closer