

Abstract

This paper studies two former treaty ports, Kobe in Japan and Incheon (Chemulpo) in South Korea following the scholarship of Jennifer Robinson (2006) in building social scientific knowledge upon case studies of the so-called “ordinary cities”. Using a “bricolage” of sub-fields of social anthropology and research techniques, the study focuses on the built remnants from the colonial period in the two cities and their perceived image to further develop on ethnographies of *sensescapes* and post-colonialism.

The present study is an addition to the scholarship of urban anthropology through tracing out the formations of personal images of a city among their inhabitants, emic perceptions of “danger” and “oldness” in relation to built environments in Japan and South Korea and discussing the relevance of post-colonial sensibilities for place image creation.

Keywords: urban anthropology, socio-cultural anthropology, collective memory, city branding, city image, post-colonialism, settler urban heritage, Japan, South Korea