



# How Did They Live in the Period of the Innovative Local Government?:

Life Histories of Young Workers in Administrative Reforms of Local Government in the 1960s and 1970s in Japan

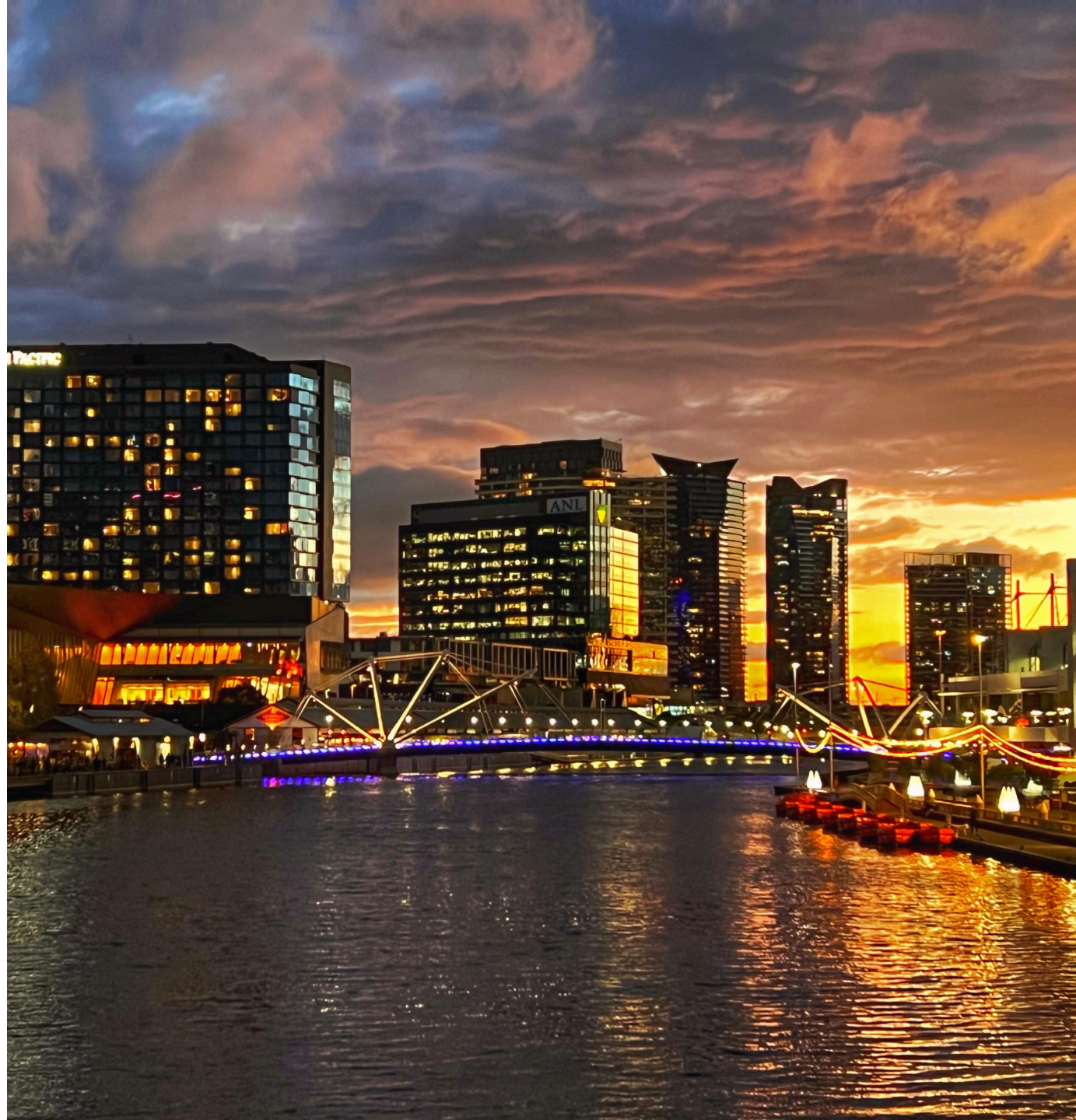
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# ISAメルボルン大会 の概要

- 2023年6月25日～7月1日まで  
オーストラリア・メルボルンの  
Melbourne Convention and  
Exhibition Centre (MCEC) に  
て開催された社会学の世界的学  
術大会
- ハイブリッド形式での開催
- 総勢4500人の参加者（3024人が  
対面参加）



# ISAメルボルン大会 の概要

- 青木の部会は6月27日の午前  
中最初（RC21）
- 部会のテーマはCivic Society,  
Public Institution and  
Governance
- 部会への参加者は30名前後
- 15分程度の個人報 + 質疑応答
- 最後に部会全体で30分程度の  
ディスカッション



# What is the Innovative Local Government?

- After the 1960s, many reformist leaders emerged in urban areas, encouraged by the residents' movements against urban problems.
- Environmentally friendly urban development, citizen participation and information disclosure were the main goals.

- Ichio Asukata(1915-1990) as mayor of the Yokohama city from 1963 to 1978.
- Focused on experimental citizens' assemblies for direct democracy and disclosure of information about city government.
- Promoting of Six Spine Projects(Rokudai-jigyo)
  - ↑
- It has been both evaluated and criticized mainly on the above points(Matsushita and Mori 1981; Yazawa 1985; Sindo 2004; Kunugi 2016; Endo 2017)
- **The mayor changed, but the administrative staff remained**



One of the Six Spine Projects: Minato Mirai district

# The Role of Urban Sociology in the Relationship between Administrative Reform and Urban Space

- Neoliberal urban spaces did not suddenly appear; someone must have "connected" urban policies.
  - i.e., Creative City Yokohama was based on "Urban Design Administration" (Aoki 2022)
- Ray Pahl's "Urban managerialism" reconsideration through life history as methodology...
  - Why do people work so hard? ...inspired by Pahl's notion of "ambiguity" (Pahl 1975).
  - Rethinking the role of urban managers (Forrest and Wissink 2017; Mayer 2017) as "coordinators (= municipal officials here) " of diverse stakeholders.

# What kind of research is being conducted?

- Collecting and analyzing life histories of the staff of the Planning and Coordination Office(PCO), headed by Akira Tamura
- Explore the staff's involvement in urban policy and the meaning of their work in PCO-led projects.
- Data: Qualitative data(Interview): aged 65-90 retired workers
  - Motivation to find a job as Yokohama city
  - How to live in change of political change
  - How to apply their experience at Asukata-led Innovative Municipalities to their own work

# From the narrative of Toshio Taguchi



*I thought that socially oriented urban planning... (not just architecture) should be tackled in the higher-level field of urban design.*

- Yokohama was considered an "innovative" municipalities at the time (not only in the political systemic sense) and attracted many young people.
- Akira Tamura, one of the leading brains behind the Asukata administration, was an icon of such innovation.

# How did Toshio live after Innovative Local Government?

- *The atmosphere of City Hall has changed because of the political changes...the Urban Design Office may be disbanded. I wondered what would happen to me.*
- *I walked up to the podium wearing Ray-Ban sunglasses and said, "This is a very unacceptable way of doing things."*
- *The subjectivity of government offices does not mean that local government officials should just deal with the central government...I thought I should find something else to make that happen.*





- The “formal” Urban Design Office remains
  - Preservation of historic buildings
  - Social experiments as prototypes for Creative City policies
- Core members’ career path after the Urban Design Office vary...
- Innovative local governments should not be discussed only in terms of political reforms, institutions, and organizations, but should focus more on the "individual”
- Laying this out, it is necessary to consider what kind of workplace municipalities can be when considering contemporary urban policy.



# Further research to be conducted...

To shed more light on the reality of innovative municipalities, other projects led by PCOs are under investigation.

- Further research on the Urban Design Office
- How did the experience of residential land development translate into waterfront development?
- Did the internal investigation department that was set up have any impact on the city government later on?

As this is still a budding research project, we would appreciate any advice on future directions:

- Are similar cases seen in other countries and regions?
- What impact can a life history study of urban managers have in urban research?
- What impact can a life history study of municipal employees have in urban research?



If you are interested in, it would be very happy to exchange further idea on research:  
Contact via [a.aoki1021@gmail.com](mailto:a.aoki1021@gmail.com) or visit our NPO page ...



## 総括・反省・展望

- 共通性よりも特殊性をいかに論じるか。
  - 田村明とはどんな人物か
  - 田村と共に都市をつくる人たちの Motivation の由来はなにか
  - 特殊な経験を照らし出すための理論的な整理
- NPOのアーカイブ機能の強化への要望
  - ユニークな経験の資料としての価値
  - 我々の研究活動の地道な配信がもつ意義

