



Sophia University Institute of Comparative Culture Lecture Series 2013

Organized by ICC Research Unit on "Postcolonial Asian Cities"

Urbanizing China in War and Peace:

Wuxi County, 1911–1945

Toby Lincoln

Centre for Urban History, University of Leicester

17.30–19.00, (Thu) Dec. 12, 2013

Sophia University Yotsuya Campus, Building 10, 3F Room 301

In the first half of the twentieth century, the city of Wuxi, one hundred kilometers to the West of Shanghai, was transformed from a small trading center into the largest industrial city in China outside treaty ports. This paper describes how commercial elites and Republican officials shaped the rural and urban built environment and argues that by 1937 urbanization had affected the lives of everyone living in the Lower Yangtze Delta. Despite the destruction of the Japanese invasion in 1937, Wuxi City and the surrounding countryside recovered. In telling this story, I investigate the limits of the Japanese occupation and argue that to truly understand the history of urbanization in China it must be considered in the context of both war and peace.

Toby Lincoln is lecturer in Modern Chinese Urban History at the Centre for Urban History at the University of Leicester. After graduating from the University of Oxford with a D.Phil in 2009, he spent a year as a postdoctoral associate at the Council on East Asian Studies, Yale University. His first book project focuses on the urbanization of the Lower Yangtze delta region in the first half of the twentieth century. Other work addresses the relationship between urban development and war, and the history of urban planning in China. His most recently published article was "From Riots to Relief. Rice, Local Government and Charities in Occupied Central China." in *Food and War in Mid-Twentieth-Century East Asia*, edited by Katarzyna J. Cwiertka, Ashgate, 2013, 11–28.

Lecture in English / No registration required

Sophia University Institute of Comparative Culture Office. 7-1 Kioicho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-8554

(TEL) +81-(0)3-3238-4082 / (FAX) +81-(0)3-3238-4081 / (Web) <http://icc fla.sophia.ac.jp/>

