



Worlding Cities: Asian Experiments and the Art of Being Global

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Worlding Cities is the first serious examination of Asian urbanism to highlight the connections between different Asian models and practices of urbanization. It includes important contributions from a respected group of scholars across a range of generations, disciplines, and sites of study.

- Describes the new theoretical framework of ‘worlding’
- Substantially expands and updates the themes of capital and culture
- Includes a unique collection of authors across generations, disciplines, and sites of study
- Demonstrates how references to Asian power, success, and hegemony make possible urban development and limit urban politics

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Editorial Review

Review

"I am hopeful that this collection, along with others of its kind, will inspire new lines of research and theorisation that will help arrest the actual realities of cities in an era of planetary urbanisation." (*Urban Studies*, 1 February 2015)

Review

"Urban studies is marked by an ingrained tendency to consider cities in Western Europe and North America as the leading edge of global urban change. This important book draws attention to ways in which cities in Asia are experimenting with ways of being global which do not necessarily refer back to antecedents in the North Atlantic world. The book should be read not only by Asianists but by anyone who is interested in the dynamics of urban change globally."

—**Tim Bunnell**, National University of Singapore

"The contributors to *Worlding Cities* bring new ethnographic attention to urban sites of innovation, cultural connections, and potentially transformative aspirations. They connect what is happening in cities to the ways changing relations among cities are remaking connections across national boundaries. And in the process they help to remake social science with new connections among anthropologists, geographers, and urban planners. Focused mainly on Asia, this is work that matters globally."

—**Craig Calhoun**, President, Social Science Research Council

"A refreshing and wide-ranging volume that makes a timely contribution to debates in urban studies, geography, and planning. Rather than attempt to identify the features of a 'global' city or trace the reproduction of 'Western' forms in Asian cities, this collection examines how projects of 'worlding' are actively assembled and urban futures envisaged. It uncovers diverse routes through which cities inter-reference one another and are produced as distinctive spaces of experimentation and aspiration in contexts of uncertainty and inequality."

—**Colin McFarlane**, Durham University, UK

From the Back Cover

From Dubai to Delhi and from Singapore to Shanghai, cities across Asia are sites of intense experiments with different ways of being global. This book intervenes in urban theory focused on established global cities, and instead argues that the urban globality is something that is continually being imagined, assembled, and contested. Greater Asia is a region of vibrant innovations in urban design, built forms, governance, aesthetics, and politics. *Worlding Cities* draws attention to diverse projects of 'worlding' and 'reworlding' that draw upon local and transnational relationships. Alternative ways of being global are instantiated through practices of mobility, modeling, and speculation that inter-reference other Asian sites. As many of the essays in this book illustrate, different Asian futures are being shaped in cities, from green governmentality to eco-city, from corporate speculations to political contestations over urban development, from "world-class" city branding to demands for "world-class" services, and from sky-high hopes to dashed dreams on the ground for city-dwellers and migrants. This inter-generation and interdisciplinary group of

authors offers the first serious examination of diverse actors, energies, and conditions at play in defining new worlds of inter-Asian urbanism.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Ismael Roop:

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