Bodies and Structures 2.0: Deep-Mapping Modern East Asian History
by Kate McDonald and David Ambaras

Begin with “Main Menu”
Take a look:

bodiesandstructures.org

(Bodies and Structures 1.0, released 2019)

Sneak Peak!

https://scalar.chass.ncsu.edu/bodies-and-structures-2

(Bodies and Structures 2.0)
What is *Bodies and Structures*? (1)

*Bodies and Structures* is a digital platform for researching and teaching spatial histories of modern East Asia. It combines *individually-authored, media-rich content modules* with *collaboratively-produced conceptual maps and visualizations* to explore the multiple topologies of historical experience in modern East Asia.
What is *Bodies and Structures*? (2)

*Bodies and Structures* is a *conversation*. It invites readers to stand certain in the *essential situatedness* of knowledge and experience about space and place. It asks scholars to attend not to the question of “what” is space and place, but rather “*whose space*” and “*on what terms*?”

*Bodies and Structures* posits a *deep map* of modern East Asia that both spans the entire globe and renders such a universalized spatiality impossible.
Because what is “the map” really? (via Michel de Certeau and John Pickles)

- as historical artifact
- as elision of process, contingencies, conditions of its own production
- as marginalization/erasure of voices, events, places
- as stage for assertion of state power
- as representation of the “god’s-eye view”
Our questions

- How can we create a digital spatial history project without indexing our data via a cartographic map?
- How can we create a digital spatial history project that grants human experiences of space and place equal weight, regardless of scale?
Taking ownership of our maps

“The map is not a given. We map, and in doing so we produce knowledge. But we also produce fictions, and elisions. Ownership entails the responsibility to map in ways that align with the ethics of our scholarship” (Ambaras et al. 2019).
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Mapping and wayfinding in digital space

*Bodies and Structures* is built using **Scalar** (https://scalar.usc.edu), an open-source platform created and maintained by the Alliance for Networking Visual Culture.
Mapping and wayfinding in digital space

* Bodies and Structures 2.0 offers the visceral experience of multivocal mapping in digital space -- the ability to encounter and analyze historical experiences in multiple spatialities, with frameworks provided by our editorial collective and/or that readers supply via the site’s tools. The site’s collaborative design “fosters intersections in research” and “complicate[s] the stories we can tell.”

The site also encourages visitors to get lost, and through that sensation to produce new affective engagements with the historical materials to which they are exposed.
Wayfinding in Three Maps (1): List of Modules

1. Border Controls, Migrant Networks, and People out of Place between Japan and China
2. Mapping Invasion: Vietnamese Responses to Biological Warfare During the First Indochina War
3. Mitsukoshi: Consuming Places
4. One family's photographs (1941-66)
5. Imperial Japan up in the Air
6. Sacred Geographies of Urban Colonial Taiwan: Jilong's Geography in Transformation
7. Bodies, Society, and Smallpox Vaccinations in Echizen Province
8. Place Annihilation
9. Constructing a Water Town: The River, the Sea, and the Communities in Wenzhou
10. Trains in Late Qing Print Culture
11. Studying Art in Colonial Libraries
12. Borders and the Liminality of the Japanese Empire
13. Cai Peihuo's Inner Territory
14. The Coastal Opium Trade in 1830s Fujian
15. The Okinawa Memories Initiative
16. Xing An: A Contested Borderland
17. The Drugstore as Contact Zone
Wayfinding in Three Maps (2): Tag Map
Wayfinding in Three Maps (3): Examples of “Mapping”

The Trottoir Roulant

The Mountain Village Effect

Agricultural Science and Economics

By the end of the nineteenth century, Japan had fully turned away from the imperial Chinese example to embrace a Western-styled imperialism, with the science and technology of mapping and surveying as the foundational tools of empire. The Sino-Japanese War (1894-95) brought forth far stronger condemnations and recriminations against the stagnation of Chinese tradition. At the same time, Japan became the source of concerted geographical and agricultural texts, which flooded into turn-of-the-century China.

The Limits of Geolocating the Photographer

As with Gail’s other photos, those included here depict an Okinawa that is not under intense American militarization. The years of the Korean War (1950-1953) saw a massive buildup of U.S. military forces. After the war, the military went about expanding and building new bases throughout Okinawa. In the early 1950s, it appears that Gail purposely left the negatives of his photos, or perhaps simply discarded such photos, which may explain why in the people and places he encountered outside of the barbed-wire

Reported Incidents of Biological Warfare
Find Your Own Way (1):

Tag: "Native"

pulls in 17 pages from 8 modules

Lenses allow you to search and visualize the content of this project. Authors may create and publish lenses for everyone to use, and you can create your own privately. Learn more »
Lens: "Native"

Word Cloud: "Native" and the items it tags
"Even the Robbers Could Release the Hostages Who Were from the Same Home District"

The previous pages showcase the incidents of robbery and piracy around the Wenzhou water. Many pirates were based in Taizhou or the surrounding regions. They robbed, killed, and looted ordinary people along the coast. They stole boats and weapons, and kidnapped passengers and sailors. In the case of kidnapping, they usually requested ransom or even forced the owners of the boats to reach agreements. As the 1923 Shen Bao report suggests, the water police lacked sufficient boats and soldiers, and hence were unable to investigate these cases. Similarly, the navy cruisers also lacked sufficient quantities of coals for conducting coastal patrol. As a result, piracy

Journaling Asia

The Mitsukoshi journals of the late 1930s and early 1940s offered reporting that followed the empire's actual and anticipated expansion. The articles were pitched to give readers a sense of connection to these regions at the furthest edges of their Asian imaginary. Their tone reflected the official Pan-Asianist critique of

New Nomads of the Sky

Manchuria Aviation Company; Inner Mongolia; Demchugdorgrub; Nagabuchi Saburō; aerial expansion

Fuqing

Representations of Fuqing as place, early twentith century to early twenty-first century

The Okinawa Memories Initiative

Dustin Wright

More »

More »
Find Your Own Way (2):

Tag: “Sites of Conflict or Coercion” -- pulls in 34 pages from 11 modules

Lens: "Sites of Conflict or Coercion"

Sites of Conflict or Coercion
tags 34 items

Visit »
Find Your Own Way (3):

Lens: List all pages that contain “move”

Think about the types of (im)mobility, possible patterns, comparisons, perspectives
Find Your Own Way (4):

Reading across places:

What did gendered mobility, marginality, and liminality mean to women/men between Yaeyama and Taiwan, women/men between Japan and Fuqing, male students between Taiwan and Japan, or paramilitary Chinese settlers in Mongolia? How did their mobilities shape the space of modern East Asia, rather than simply be shaped by it?

Thinking with Crossings & Tags: What Vehicles, Environments, and Mediating Objects informed these Flows and Immobilities?
Find Your Own Way (5):

Reading across places:

In a historiography long shaped by predominantly continental imaginaries, how can we use the various modules to imagine/think about the making of modern East Asia from the sea?
“Visualization and spatial history are not about producing things that you have discovered. **It is a means of doing research**; it generates questions that might otherwise go unasked; it reveals historical relations that might otherwise go unnoticed; and it undermines, or substantiates, stories upon which we build our own versions of the past.”

Writing multivocal spatial history

To write multivocal spatial history means to grapple with the multiple, coeval spatial sensibilities that intersect in everyday interactions, generate conflict, and structure social time.
Recovering and writing history as acts of mapping

“The at times bewildering complexity of the content of Bodies and Structures can be a hindrance for non-specialist or novice users, but it is also the point of the project — that historical actors experienced space and place in ways that do not always read as straight-forward, as a typical textbook or monograph might lead us to believe. It suggests that we should consider what diving deeply into these fragments and our own travels through these moments can tell us.”

-- Paula Curtis, Review of Bodies and Structures, Reviews in Digital Humanities 1, no. 10 (2020).
Visit *Bodies and Structures 1.0* at

[bodiesandstructures.org](http://bodiesandstructures.org)

Follow us on Twitter at

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Look out for *Bodies and Structures 2.0* in September 2021!