

2026 年 10 月 15 日

立教大学国際学術研究交流制度
2026 年度「派遣研究員」報告書

1. 派遣概要

所属・職	Global Liberal Arts Program ・ 特任准教授
氏名	Mihye Cho
派遣機関名	Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences, National University of Singapore 所在国：シンガポール
研究テーマ	Smart-Slow Cities in Asia
派遣期間	2026 年 8 月 10 日～2026 年 8 月 28 日（19 日間）
研究経費	487,000 円

2. 派遣期間中の活動

年月日	活動内容
2026.08.10	Arrival in Singapore
2026.08.13	Data collection and interviews (algorithmic transformation)
2026.08.14	Meeting with Prof. Chong at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts to discuss research collaboration on place-caring Meeting with Prof. Tang at the National University of Singapore to consult on economic trends
2026.08.15-19	Writing on algorithmic transformation
2026.08.20	Presentation in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at NUS Meeting with Prof. Ho in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at NUS to consult on urban policy Meeting with Prof. Kelvin Low and Noorman Abdullah in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at NUS to consult on immigration
2026.08.21	Writing on algorithmic transformation Meeting with Prof. Kwok at the University of the Arts in Singapore to network
2026.08.22-25	Fieldwork at civic centers to observe life-long education programs Data collection on algorithmic transformation
2026.08.26	Meeting with Senior Fellow Dr. Neo at the Singapore University of Technology and Design to discuss collaboration on smart cities
2026.08.27	Fieldwork in business district areas (smart city)
2026.08.28	Departure to Tokyo

3. 研究・交流状況および成果

[1] Research on Smart-Slow Cities in Asia

I conducted expert interviews and carried out fieldwork investigating technology literacy education, immigration trends and social cohesion in relation to smart city policy implementation. Preliminary research indicates observable restructuring processes in various domains, such as the workforce, the higher education curriculum, immigration and the housing market. Further research is needed to explore the correlation between algorithmic transformation (a systemic shift in which social relations and norms are reconfigured by machine logic, such as optimization) and the formation of affective atmospheres, such as aspirations, vigilance, and anxiety. Further research will examine algorithms as a constituent of emotional reality and their significance in forming a sense of belonging and agency in smart cities.

[2] Expert Interviews and Consultations

To update the recent policy trends in workforce, social and urban domains, I met with experts in anthropology, sociology, economics, architecture, geography, and urban planning. Although they specialize in different areas, they all expressed concerns about the gap between experiential aspects of quality of life, such as affordability, belonging, and social cohesion, and economic and technological advancement. I will further research this topic under the umbrella of algorithmic development and social acceleration.

[3] Fieldwork

I conducted fieldwork in civic centers and higher educational institutions that offer lifelong education opportunities to examine technology literacy education, particularly AI literacy. Initially, I had hoped to participate in one of the programs, but scheduling issues prevented me from doing so. For future fieldwork, I plan to collaborate more closely with local partners to ensure the effective operation of my research.

[4] Presentation of Research

I presented my research paper, "What World Is This? Students' Urban Ethnography of Seoul and Tokyo," at the Sociology and Anthropology Seminar Series in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at the National University of Singapore.



Department of Sociology
and Anthropology
Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences

Sociology & Anthropology Seminar Series

What world is this?
Students' Urban Ethnography of Seoul & Tokyo

Associate Mihye Cho
Global Liberal Arts Program - Rikkyo University, Japan

Drawing on my experience teaching urban sociology courses in Seoul and Tokyo, this presentation examines the potential of teaching urban ethnography as a means of accessing marginalized ways of knowing cities. The presentation conceptualizes the classroom as a site for the co-production of urban knowledge. In this framework, students' lived experiences function as ethnographic resources because Seoul and Tokyo are already embedded in their everyday lives through sensory encounters, memories, emotions, and spatial practices. Students enroll in urban studies courses to acquire analytical tools; however, they also bring forms of situated knowledge that are underrepresented in dominant academic discourses and formal urban policy. Many of these students—whether young local citizens or foreign newcomers—are excluded from decision-making processes. Yet, they actively participate in producing and observing urban spaces as part-time workers, civil group members, consumers, and flâneurs. Their perspectives reveal dimensions of Seoul and Tokyo that are often overlooked in academic research and institutional representations. Specifically, the presentation will examine ethnographic assignments produced by undergraduate students in Seoul from 2022 to 2023 and in Tokyo in 2028. The students were asked to conduct mini fieldwork in their neighborhoods or places of personal significance and produce ethnographic reports incorporating field notes, sketches, maps, and photographs. Since the onset of the pandemic, it has become evident that spending time outdoors is therapeutic for these students, providing an opportunity for them to reflect on their sense of belonging or lack thereof in the city, both spatially and socially. This presentation will examine these student-generated analyses, paying particular attention to the observed sense of un-grievability and fear. It will also discuss how pedagogical ethnography can reveal emotions and alternative urban knowledge.

20 August 2026 -3pm
Venue: Sociology Seminar Room
AS1 #02-12



Register via the QR code
or via
<https://tiny.cc/7f9acv>

