

UrbanScope

e-Journal of the Urban-Culture Research Center, OCU

Editorial

Aims and scope of *UrbanScope*

It is our great pleasure to announce the launching of *UrbanScope*, a new, online, open access journal published by the Urban-Culture Research Center (UCRC) at Osaka City University (OCU), Japan. UCRC was founded in the Graduate School of Literature and Human Sciences in 2003 as a core institute of the Center of Excellence Project. UCRC's research emphases have since been placed on historical, social, cultural, and international development of various issues in urban settings. While UCRC and its research fellows have published a great number of books and articles, one of the challenges facing UCRC has been how to attract international attention to such academic achievements.

Thus, the journal aims not only at carrying out UCRC's research objectives, but also extending them further to promote the publication of outstanding studies not yet made public to the world. The strategies we have employed to pursue such aims are to utilize the Internet for prompt and effective publication and to translate selected excellent studies on Japan into English. We also expect the journal to grow into an academic forum in which not only senior but also junior researchers can publish their works and in which new research frontiers can emerge from inter-generational and inter-disciplinary interactions. Based on UCRC's research objectives and the journal's aims mentioned above, the scope of the journal includes, but is not limited to:

- Translations of selected humanistic studies focusing on Japan
- Cutting-edge urban studies with international values
- Theoretical and applied studies on problems in globalizing cities
- Interdisciplinary area studies on Asian cultures and creativity

The journal is published once a year in the online version. All articles are of free access and downloadable. The current volume conveys two translations of the previously-published studies on Japanese history and literature by distinguished professors at OCU. These translated articles have undergone repeated academic scrutiny by authors, translators, editorial board members, and external scholars. This is our very first attempt to make them public to international readers. In subsequent volumes, we plan to publish selected translations and original articles refereed by international peer reviewers. Thus, the regular contents of the journal will consist of "Translations," "Articles," and other categories.

For those purposes, we will extend the editorial board members to include international scholars. "Notes for Contributors" will soon be posted in this website. We will do our best to improve and maintain the quality of the journal so that international readers find it useful and informative as a research gateway to Japanese urban and humanistic studies. We would greatly appreciate your attention, support, and contributions to the journal.

Editorial Board of *UrbanScope*

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