

Immigrant city: mapping Haikou urban space, 1858-1939

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Dissertation Abstract

The aim of the study is to look at the process of Haikou city's construction in the period from 1858 to 1939, during which Haikou had gradually grown from an open port that appeared in the south of Hainan Fucheng bund to a modern city in the southeast of China. In that period, immigrant settlers gradually transformed the urban fabric and architectural forms in Haikou. Thus, this study is aiming to investigate the relationships among immigrant settlers (former immigrants and returned oversea Hainanese), the social and spatial segregation, and collaged urban space, especially to explore eight remarkable old residential areas, including Renhe Lane, Juren Lane, Huanhai Lane, etc.

Based on the researches on the immigrant settlers and their influences on cityscape and urban form, this study argues that Haikou city as an immigration city, which is not mainly a copy of port city model in Guangdong province, nor mainly influenced by Southeast Asia. Instead, it is a collaged urban space mapped by various layers/classes of immigration. The cityscape of Haikou was transformed by those immigrant settlers mentioned above with different characters. Furthermore, Haikou city, which has long been labeled as one of peripheral areas in China, was once an important trading city closely connected with mainland China and Southeast Asia.

Keywords: Immigration, Haikou City, Urban Morphology and Typology, Spatial Segregation, Transformation