

## **Redesigning the Actor Network in Fukushima | Atelier Bow-wow**

Spring 2017 Advanced Studio IV, Columbia GSAPP (A4106-14)

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Assistant Professor: Tamotsu Ito

Class time: Monday / Thursday: 1:30 pm - 6:30 pm, Friday: 3 pm – 5 pm

In the 20th century, the development of industries led by the value of optimum efficiency hugely changed the world's structure. It happened not only in cities but also in rural areas. Traditionally in rural areas, various layers of social common capitals, which have been established by people's management of collective resources such as forest, water, soils, ocean, etc., have nurtured and sustained the vibrant livelihood and landscape. Local people have worked to improve and maintain the qualities of such layers, which we can understand as one sustained shape of the Actor Network (B. Latour). However, the network and the people sustaining it were not always robust enough in this competitive global market. As the primary industry have been specialized and industrialized, 'unproductive' activities such as hunting, cropping wild plants, and managing forests, have declined. Moreover, Japan's economical growth from 60's has attracted many young people from rural areas to get a job in cities. Today, rural areas in Japan are confronting the shrinking and aging population, the lack of breadwinners working for the primary industry, and the deteriorated villages' landscape. These issues are threatening the existing Actor Network in rural areas.



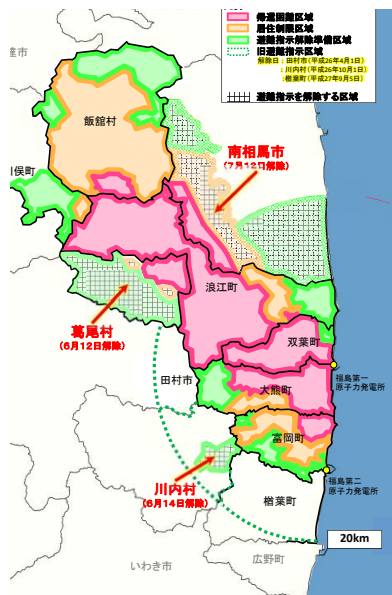
photo. Odaka, Minamisoma 2012.11

The area this studio focuses on, Odaka Ward in Fukushima, has had similar issues with other rural villages. Besides, the nuclear power plant accident in 2011 made its condition much more complex and difficult.

Students are asked to investigate the ecology of rural livelihood by applying the method of the Actor Network, and to map it with their graphic representations. Then, students are asked to propose an intervention into the Actor Network in order to open a better future of the area, as well as exploring the potential architectural language in such rural context.

(Atelier Bow-Wow)

Site: Odaka, Minamisoma City, Fukushima

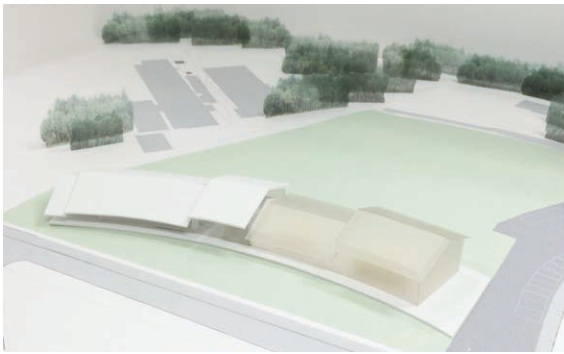


In 2011 the Great Eastern Earthquake and Tsunami attacked Japanese northeastern coast that has many fishery and agricultural villages with utilizing water resources from mountains. After 6 years we can see some recovery of them except Fukushima. In Fukushima there are several grades of the problem by Fukushima No.1 nuclear power plant accident. First grade is the radioactive contamination itself. Just after the accident, the contamination was not under control. Now it was monitored and inspected by the government. Second grade is the evacuation area for the accident. In 2011 April the government announced the 2 evacuation zone "emergency evacuation preparation zone" and "planned evacuation area"

according to the distance from the plant in 20 km. For the past 6 years, the zone was changed time by time in the condition and now there are 3 zone; "in preparation for the lifting of the evacuation order," "restricted residence area," and "difficult-to-return zone." Fundamentally the zone was defined by the condition of the contamination and it was not same zoning of the administrative ward. So in the discussion of the local government the decision making for the future planning is very hard. Third grade is the suffering from "Fuhyohigai" or Harmful Rumors. The ever-increasing economic damage from the Harmful Rumors hits a serious blow to the local area. Many farmers and fishermen were forced to abandon their businesses and evacuate in order to avoid being exposed to radiation. Fourth grade is the depopulation. The long evacuation turn has made the people to change their life including job and the school. The suffering of the

life after return 1/3 of the population decided not to return and 1/3 had returned and 1/3 is unable to make a decision. In this condition the demographic structure of this community would be changed into the aging population.

In this studio we focus on Odaka Ward in Minamisoma City, Fukushima. It had a beautiful natural landscape between the Pacific Ocean and Abukuma Mountains. There had been agriculture with rich water from Odaka river and fishery villages with mild weather. After 2011, Odaka Ward was under warning zone and in 2012 April, it was changed to "in preparation for the lifting of the evacuation order," "restricted residence area," and "difficult-to-return zone." In 2011 March the population in Minamisoma City was around 70 thousands and the one in Odaka was around 12.8 thousands. But today the population in Minamisoma City is around 56 thousands and the one in Odaka is around 1 thousand.



Odaka is, however, now in a new phase of its positive revitalization. In July 2016, the designation of "in preparation for the lifting of the evacuation order" and "restricted residence area," was canceled, and local people started to come back to their homes little by little. Taking this situation as

opportunities, there emerge new activities to create the life and business from inside and outside of Odaka. Since 2011, NPO *Tsunagappe Minamisoma* has been organizing salon events at the community centers at the temporary housing sites, in order to create the exchange population by accepting volunteer group from outside. Now they try to continue to support the life for the aging community. A young entrepreneur born in Odaka founded *Odaka Worker's Base Ltd.* in 2014 to support launching new local businesses such as a dining restaurant by housewife group and a supermarket in the town etc. Atelier Bow-wow supports a local group who proposed the city to make a museum for earthquake disaster. Now Atelier Bow-wow is designing houses for those who want to come back to Odaka in collaboration with local architects.

We travel and visit Odaka and meet local people to discuss the future vision.

## Semester Schedule (K – Kaijima T- Tsukamoto I – Ito )

\*Momoyo Kaijima meets students around once in two weeks. Yoshiharu Tsukamoto meets students in the first meeting, at the studio trip to Japan, and in the final review. Tamotsu Ito discusses regularly with students as well as helping necessary arrangements such as trip / review setting / etc.

Jan. 18.Wed.	Lottery Presentation (T + I)
①Jan. 19. Thu.	First meeting (T + I)
Jan. 23 Mon.	Meeting (I)
Jan. 26 Thu.	Desk Critic (I)
②Jan. 30. Mon.	Group research presentation (K + I)
Feb. 2. Thu.	Desk Critic (I)
③Feb. 6. Mon.	Actor's network scheme presentation + short critic (K + I)
Feb. 9 + 13 + 16.	Desk Critic (I)
④Feb.20.Mon	Mid Review, Actor's network scheme + proposal presentation (K + I)
Feb. 23. Thu.	Meeting per request (I)
Feb. 27. Mon.	Meeting + short critic (I)
Mar. 2. Thu.	No Meeting
<u>Mar. 4-12.</u>	<u>Japan Travel   Presentation @ Odaka and Tokyo, Japan (K+T+I)</u>
Mar. 13-17.	Spring Break - No Meeting
Mar. 20. Mon.	Meeting + Desk Critic (I)
Mar. 23 + 27.	Desk Critic (I)
⑤Mar. 30. Thu.	Presentation (K+I)
⑥Apr. 3. Mon.	Desk Critic (K+I) + Evening Lecture (K)
Apr. 6 + 10	Desk Critic (I)
⑦Apr. 13. Thu.	Desk Critic (K+I)
⑧Apr. 17. Mon.	Desk Critic + Meeting (K+I)
Apr. 20. Thu.	Desk Critic (I)
Apr. 23 + 27.	Desk Critic per request (I)
⑨ <u>May 1. Mon.</u>	<u>Final review (K+T+I)</u>

## Japan Research Travel

Mar 4 Sat.	Depart from NY
Mar 5 Sun	Arrive at Tokyo / Orientation / Stay @ Tokyo
Mar 6 Mon.	Visit Odaka / Stay @Odaka
Mar 7 Tue.	Odaka Research / Stay @ Odaka
Mar 8 Wed.	Visit Aizu / Meet Arch. Haganuma – Haryu Studio / Stay @ Aizu
Mar 9 Thr.	Depart from Aizu / Stay @ Tokyo
Mar 10 Fri.	Free time / Stay @ Tokyo
Mar 11 Sat.	Presentation @ ABW / Exhibition Opening @Mito Art Museum
Mar 12 Sun	Depart to NY

## Reference

Minamisoma City web site: <http://www.city.minamisoma.lg.jp/>

NPO Tsunagappe Minamisoma web site:

[http://www14.plala.or.jp/yamaki\\_farm/todays\\_odaka.html](http://www14.plala.or.jp/yamaki_farm/todays_odaka.html)

Odaka Worker's Base web site: <http://owb.jp/>

Haryu Studio web site: <http://www.haryu.jp/>

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Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1987.

Ostrom, Elinor. *Governing the Commons: The Evolution of Institutions for Collective Action*.

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