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Article: Public Space and Ethics

Abstract

Two topics are discussed; 'public space' and 'ethics'. I will talk about 'space', especially social space, in case of public space. Because the definition of the public space is a historical concept born out of research and practice of social science (in particular geography) confronting social change in the 20th century. While quoting the discourse of researchers in social science, I will consider what social space is.

About ethics, the problem I want to raise is how this created a relationship of 'giving assistance' vs. 'being given assistance' in our activities at the site of arts management. I was unconsciously creating a division between 'I am the person giving aid' and 'you are the one being given aid.' When we carry out socially inclusive arts management we have to be sensitive. The reason for this is that the places where we are working are places where such relationships can easily come about. These places are desolated villages, facilities for the handicapped, districts with concentrations of elderly poor people, hospitals, disaster areas, massacre sites, conflict zones, slums, discriminated-against settlements, etc. and places where we come into close contact with people of multiple gender, convicts, migrants, drug addicts and alcoholics, NEETs and stay-at-homes, and people who are difficult to employ. Since these are people who are in various senses disadvantaged and in a vulnerable position, if we leave things as they are it will simply turn into an asymmetric relationship. It is necessary for us to be deeply cognizant of this asymmetry.

Personal Information

He is the professor of Urban Research Plaza and the Graduate School of Literatures & Human Sciences, Osaka City University. He has had responsibility to maintain the cooperation between Chulalongkorn University and Osaka City University since 2002. He has been working on soundscape and music in Southeast Asia and Europe, and arts management study. He got his Doctoral degree from Osaka University of Arts in 2001. He got many awards; the cultural prize from Kyoto Prefecture, Kyoto Music Prize, Suntory Prize, Koizumi Music Prize, City Planning and etc.. He has written books including "Heiankyo Oto no Uchu (The Sounding Cosmos of the *Heiankyo*(Kyoto) Capital)" in 1992, which was published in Germany in 2000, "Musik dan Kosmos, Sebuah Pengantar Etnomusikologi, Yayasan Obor, Indonesia" in 2000, "New Methodology of Arts Management" in 2011 and "Power of Arts" in 2013. He published his first novel, titled "Sawa Sawa" in 2003. He is the founder of the Javanese gamelan group called 'Marga Sari' in Osaka, which takes him abroad often. He is now mainly involved in socially engaged arts management activities in collaboration with NPO sectors and local government. He is presiding for the conference of arts management in Asia to be held once a year.