

## Acknowledgments

Revised May 15, 2018

Like most publication projects, this one has been years in the making. The instigators of this work include not only us as editors but also our colleagues at the University of Washington (UW)—Daniel Abramson, Ken Tadashi Oshima, and Vikramāditya Prakāsh. Our collaboration first emerged through a jointly offered, interdisciplinary seminar on Asian cities at UW in 2006 taught by Daniel Abramson, Jeffrey Hou, and Vikramāditya Prakāsh. The course was offered again in 2008 together with Ken Tadashi Oshima when he joined the faculty. Our effort was supported through a course development grant from the UW's East Asia Center.

Through these courses and a number of other collaborative projects on the side, we became interested in not only engaging our students in understanding the complexity of urbanism in the fast-growing and changing region of Asia but also in producing scholarship that utilizes our cross-disciplinary lenses and our collective experiences and expertise. Out of a series of conversations and perhaps from the exhaustion of trying to make sense of the complexity of urbanism in Asia, the notion of “messiness” became something of a revelation—an intellectual starting point for this project and the theme around which we began coalescing our joint inquiry.

As much as we were excited with our intellectual journey, it turned out that we failed to acknowledge Viren Brahmhatt's use of the term “Messy Urbanism” before the first printing of this book in an article titled “India's Messy Urbanism,” published in *Architect's Newspaper* in 2009. We also failed to duly acknowledge that in 2011, we (Jeffery Hou) had a conversation on the topic with Mr. Brahmhatt and his ongoing work on messy urbanism (now to be published in a forthcoming book titled “Messy Urbanism”) when he participated in the Next Eco-City Symposium, organized by the Department of Landscape Architecture at the University of Washington in Seattle and gave a presentation titled “Architecture of Disjuncture” with a sub-section titled “Messy Urbanism.” Later he contributed a chapter titled “Messy Urbanism: Transformation and Transmutation of Cities under Globalization” to the book *Now Urbanism: The Future City is Here!* edited by Jeffery Hou, Benjamin Spencer, Thaisa Way and Ken Yocom. We would like to acknowledge his contribution and use of the term “Messy Urbanism” and apologize for failing to recognize him in the previous printing of the book.

This project would not have materialized without the support from many individuals and entities. First, we would like to thank all the contributors for joining our effort in digging deeper into the messiness of cities and urban processes in Asia. Without their

participation and insights, we could not even begin scratching the surfaces of such broad and diverse geographical and intellectual terrains. We are grateful to the China Studies Program of the East Asia Center for the faculty research grant awarded to Daniel Abramson and Jeffrey Hou that supported this project. We would also like to thank Dean John Schaufelberger for his support of the center through a grant for support a research and teaching cluster in the college focusing on urbanism in Asia.

Like most faculty members, we could not have completed this work without the help of our students who assisted us at different stages of this project. Emily Grigg-Saito was the first to work on a bibliography of relevant work. Nancy Chan worked on mapping of selected cities that we investigated. Amber Piona helped with formatting and copyediting the manuscript. Weijia (VJ) Wang, a doctoral student and visiting intern from the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, produced a series of maps that enable us to convey the contexts of the cities and sites that we examined. We are grateful for their assistance.

Over the course of developing this book, many others have contributed to our thinking in multiple ways. Various parts and aspects of this book were presented at conferences and invited talks, including those at the Department of Architecture at the University of Hong Kong, the New School, the Price School of Public Policy at the University of Southern California, the Asia Research Institute at the National University of Singapore, National Taiwan University, and at the Seattle Asian Art Museum as part of the Future of Asian Cities lecture series in 2012. Many thanks to Aseem Inam, Vinayak Bharne, Melissa Cate Christ, Mike Douglass, Liling Huang, and Mimi Gardner Gates for their generous invitations and the opportunities for feedback and reflections.

Over the course of our careers, we have studied, lectured, and taught at different schools in Asia and worked with many colleagues there. Their wisdom, insights, and camaraderie have also enriched our understanding of urbanism(s) in Asia. This book is dedicated to them and those living in the cities of Asia whose everyday ingenuity and tenacity constitute the substance of this work and the hope for the future.