

Abstract of Doctoral Thesis

Title: A Study on the Existence System for the Yamaboko Event of the Kyoto Gion Festival: Succession of the Traditional Festival in the Modern city

Doctoral Program: Major in Informatics of Behavior and Cultures

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This research aims at comprehensively investigating roles and relationships of organizations to support the existence of traditional festivals in modern cities and clarifying functions of the communities. By doing so, this author analyzes how traditional festivals are passed down in modern cities.

The author identifies the roles and relationships of the organizations involved in the Yamaboko event of the Gion Festival through history. As for the organizations, he categorizes them into five types. As for the relationships, they are hierarchically positioned with the upper level for “the whole event” and the lower level for “individual floats.” On each level, there exists a multilayered structure that socially and spatially classifies the urban area centering on the neighborhood community. He defines the upper one as “the existence structure for the whole event,” and the lower one as “the existence structure for the individual Yamaboko float.” The organizations that manage individual floats are neighborhood communities. They have secured personnel, funds, and the space necessary for the management of the festival from their social and spatial structures, which can be defined as “management platforms for Yamaboko floats.”

The author names the above-mentioned system “The existence system for the Yamaboko event.” Its historical comparison reveals changes in “what kinds of meanings for whom” and “*en* (human ties)” as criteria and logic to support Yamaboko events. These changes led to restructure the existence structure for the whole event as well as management platforms of Yamaboko float constantly. Moreover, this reconstruction has helped the neighborhood community maintain its traditional nature as a management organization. Keeping a good balance between the change and continuity is the key to successful succession of traditional festivals in modern cities.