

Social Materiality of Surveillance Camera : Case Study of Kamagasaki Area of Japan

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0. Outline

1. Introduction

2. About Kamagasaki

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1-1. Introduction (Background)

- With the development of social media, surveillance theories based on "the panopticon" have been replaced or supplemented by theories of "perioptic surveillance" or "social orchestration".
- Many studies discuss mutual surveillance through social media.
- The target of discussion in this presentation is a traditional surveillance camera, however this presentation discusses the mutual monitoring that surveillance cameras produce.

1-2. Introduction (Purpose and Perspective)

- This presentation presents the current status of and analyzes problems with surveillance cameras in Kamagasaki, an area of Osaka in Western Japan whose residents are primarily day laborers who lack permanent addresses in the city.
- The social construction of surveillance cameras in Japan would be discussed through the case study of Kamagasaki
- In particular, this paper adopts the perspective of "sociomateriality" from Information Systems Research.

2-1. About Kamagasaki Area 1/2

- Kamagasaki is a region which was formed artificially as an area of day laborers, located in the southwestern part of Osaka.
- An accurate count of occupants has never been produced, even in the national census, due to the large population of day laborers who lack permanent addresses.
- The area surrounding Kamagasaki is upscale, clean and attracts tourists with popular sightseeing spots including the Tsutenkaku, Shinsekai, and Nipponbashi.

2-2. About Kamagasaki Area 2/2

- However, in Kamagasaki, homeless people can often be seen sleeping in the streets throughout the day.
- And there are *Doya* hotels (cheap temporary rooms intended for day laborers) abound in the area (flophouse area).
- These hotels have recently become popular amongst backpackers from outside of Japan due to their cheap price and close location to rail transportation.





2-3. History of Kamagasaki Area 1/2

- Aa region that supported the modernization of Japan
- A region that was created as a new frontier in the Edo era.
- And it is a flophouse area that is situated inexpensive inns.
- A region live in day laborers engaged in construction work
- In the era of high-speed economic growth in Japan (1954-1973), Kamagasaki was crowded as a region of day laborers.

2-4. History of Kamagasaki Area 2/2

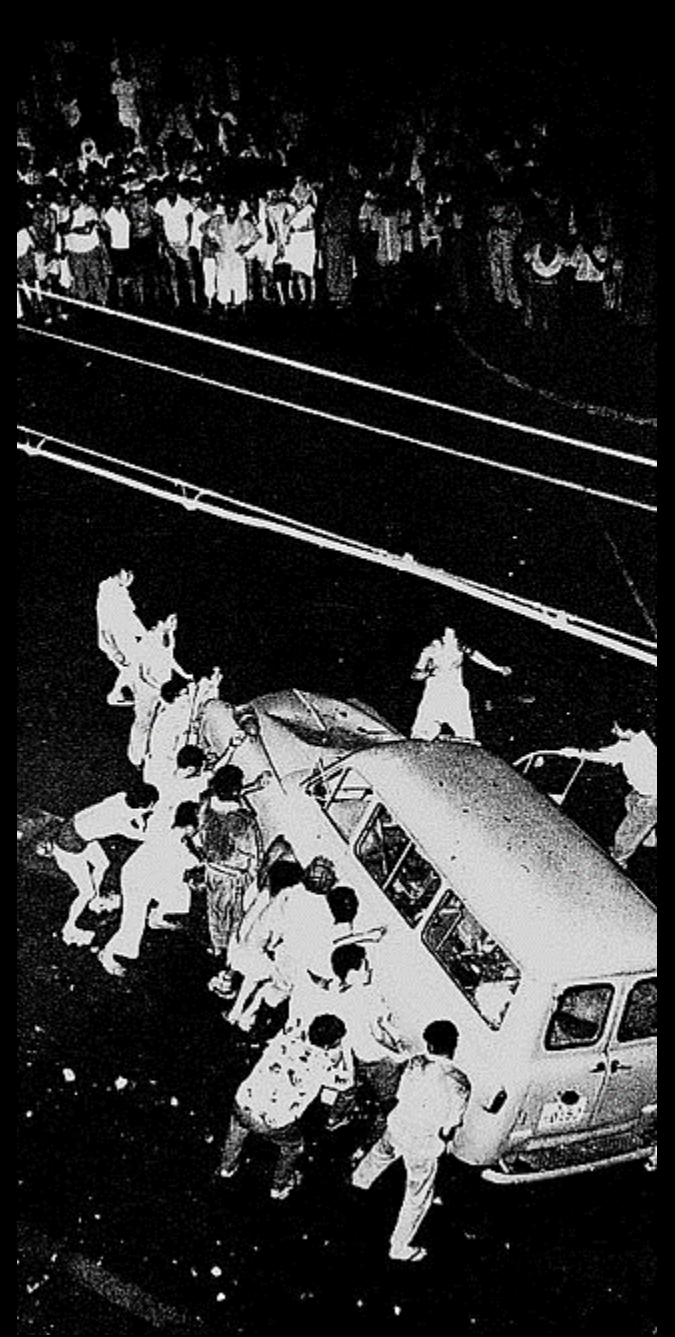
- Aa region of “riots” and “dangerous”
- Many Bōryokudan offices are located in Kamagasaki.
- Drug and weapons trafficking is thought to occur daily.
- Illegal gambling stores are often in business in broad daylight.
- Since 1961, day laborers in the Kamagasaki area have been in regular confrontation with the police.
 - The first riot occurred on August 1, 1961.
 - The last (24th) conflict with the police occurred on June 13, 2008.

2-5. About the First Riot 1/2

- A elderly day laborer from Kamagasaki was killed in a traffic accident. The official who arrived on the scene assumed that the man was already dead (only doctors are allowed to pronounce a death) and left the body on the street for over 20 minutes without calling an ambulance while he spoke with witnesses.
- A large group of day laborers surrounded the Nishinari police station in protest of the man's treatment, overturned parked police cars, and set fire to nearby apartment buildings.

2-6. About the First Riot 2/2

- The Osaka Prefectural Police responded with 6,000 officers, using police sticks and vehicles to round up the rioters. It took two days to stop the 2,000 rioters; 28 were arrested. Approximately 10 rioters and 100 police officers were injured.



2-7. After Riots :Name-less region

- Day laborers seeking to obtain their human rights with the with the assistance of volunteers have been called "riots" by the media.
- Osaka City is not allowed to be stated the name of the "Kamagasaki" on official maps and the media could not use the name "Kamagasaki" in its discourse.
- To consider the neighbors, Osaka city would be called "Airin Chiku" where riots occurred. That is, Osaka city has been erased from the map on the place name of "Kamagasaki."

2-8. After Riots: Surveillance Camera

- Claiming that it is to prevent "riots", local authorities have installed surveillance cameras in the area. In a little less than one square kilometre, 15 cameras were installed.



<https://maps.google.co.jp/maps/ms?msid=205925008527806386061.00046dfb935b82d0eb94a&msa=0&dg=feature>

3. Current Status of Surveillance Cameras











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4. Lawsuit of Surveillance Cameras

- Human rights campaigners supporting the laborers have sought the removal of the surveillance cameras.
- As a result of litigation, the Osaka District Court ordered the removal of just a single camera which was installed in front of the base of the volunteers.
- The ruling was on the basis of the right of publicity in Japan.

5-1. Discussion

- The focus of this presentation is on the relationship of the surveillance cameras to the transformation of Kamagasaki.
- That is, the environment surrounding the day laborers has changed greatly. With their aging and the slump in the economy, day laborers were changed to "welfare recipients" or homeless.
 - 23rd since the riots in October 1992, full-scale insurrection did not occur 16 years (blank period in riots) .This period roughly corresponds with the economic downturn after the collapse of the bubble.

5-2.A Plan to Expand the Number of Cameras

These welfare recipients and homeless were then considered security risks and used to justify an expansion of surveillance with a plan to expand the number of cameras to 45 in 2014.

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あいりん地区の防犯カメラ大幅増 大阪、環境改善へ5年計画

大阪市の橋下徹市長と松井一郎大阪府知事、三浦正充大阪府警本部長は4日、府庁で合同記者会見し、西成区の「あいりん地区」の環境改善に取り組む5カ年計画を発表した。薬物売買やごみの不法投棄対策として防犯カメラの設置台数を現行から大幅に増やすなど、1年目の2014年度は府市で計約5億円の予算を見込む。

西成区は市内24区で最も生活保護受給者率が高く、区民のほぼ4人に1人が受給者。中でも日雇い労働者が集まるあいりん地区では、不法投棄や覚せい剤密売などの犯罪が多発しており、府と市、警察が連携して課題解決を目指す。



「あいりん地区」の環境改善計画について記者会見する(左から)三浦正充大阪府警本部長、松井一郎大阪府知事、橋下徹大阪市長＝4日午後、大阪府庁

2014/04/04 19:47 【共同通信】

Source: <http://www.47news.jp/CN/201404/CN2014040401002116.html>

5-3. Socialmateliariy

- Lawrence Lessig has pointed out that there is a way to regulate the conduct of a person other than the law.
e.g. architecture.



5-4. Social Construction of Surveillance Camera

- Before Era of surveillance cameras
 - Ensure civil workers of non-regular
- Era of surveillance cameras for eliminating vulnerable groups
 - Surveillance cameras for safety and security
 - Region of riot ← Human rights campaigners
- Era of surveillance cameras for eliminating “homeless”
 - Surveillance for “drug trafficking” and “Illegal dumping of waste”
 - Camera as architecture for eliminating “homeless”

6. Conclusions

- Surveillance cameras transformed into a tool to eliminate welfare cases from devices to monitor volunteer support of human rights.
- Ogura has long argued that surveillance cameras in Japan were often used to target or eliminate vulnerable groups in Japanese society.
- The social construction of surveillance cameras in Japan is thus discussed through the case study of Kamagasaki

7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- Thank you for your attention!



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