ANGIS Tokyo 2021
December 4-5, 2021

Keynote Lecture (Webinar)
11:00-12:00 JST
December 4th, 2021
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Professor Keiji YANO
(Geography Department, Ritsumeikan University)

"Virtual Kyoto Project: Discovering Integrated Knowledge in Digital Humanities"

ANGISTokyo2021

Keiji Yano
Geography Department, Ritsumeikan University

Title:
Virtual Kyoto Project: Discovering Integrated Knowledge
in Digital Humanities

Abstract:
Virtual Kyoto is one of the large-scale research projects
being developed at the Art Research Center of Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto since 2002.
Kyoto, the capital of Japan from 794 until the early modern period, was the political and
cultural center of the country. Virtual Kyoto is a superimposition of geospatial information
(maps, drawings, photographs, films, paintings, classical books, excavations, etc.) of Kyoto, a
historical city of over 1,200 years, based on its location in time and space, using cutting-edge
GIS and VR technologies.
This project aims to create new comprehensive knowledge from the perspective of digital
humanities.
In this lecture, I will introduce the outline of Virtual Kyoto and its application cases. In
addition to the current three-dimensional city model, Virtual Kyoto is based on large scale
maps and aerial photographs taken by modern surveyors since the modern era, as well as
large-scale surveys of *Kyo-machiya* (Traditional wooden townhouses) and Western
architecture that have survived since before World War II.
In the reconstruction of Kyoto in the early modern period, pictorial materials such as
Rakuchu-Rakugai-zu folding screens (views in and around the city of Kyoto) and Ukiyoe
were used as a base. For the reconstruction of the Heian period (8th to 12th centuries), a
three-dimensional model was constructed based on archaeological excavation data and a
diorama created by Kyoto City for the 1200th anniversary of the *Heian-kyo* Capital in 1994.
Recent progresses such as the construction of a digital museum of the *Gion* Festival, a world
intangible cultural asset that has lasted for more than 1100 years, the construction of a portal
site for Japanese old maps, the comparison system of *Rakuchu-Rakugai-zu* folding screens,
panoramic photographs of 1960s streetscapes, the database of *Heian-kyo* sites, and examples
of the use of AR will also be introduced.

Biography:
Keiji Yano (B.Sc., M.Sc., Ph.D (D.Sc.)) has been Professor of Human Geography and
Geographic Information Science at the Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto, Japan since April
2002. Before joining Ritsumeikan in 1992, he was at the Tokyo Metropolitan University as
Assistant Professor of Geography, where he also earned his Master and PhD degrees in
Geography.
His professional roles include being the former president of GIS Association of Japan,
Member of Science Council of Japan, and Program Officer of The Research Center for
Science Systems, JSPS.
His research interests are grouped around the use of Geographical Information Systems and
quantitative methods in urban analysis. This includes information integration within GIS,
geodemographics, geodesign, spatial interaction models, urban modelling, virtual cities,
history of quantitative geography, and history of GIS.
(https://keijiyanocom.wordpress.com/home/)