

Milyung Son

Culture-Led Urban Regeneration in South Korea

SERIES IN SOCIOLOGY

About the author

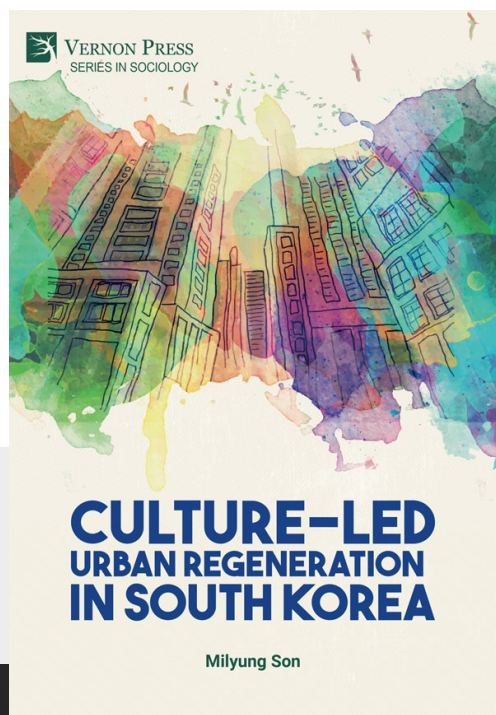
Milyung studied a Bachelor's degree in Performing Arts and worked as a performer in several musicals and music events in South Korea in her early twenties. In order to study the arts deeply, she decided to study a Master's in Arts Management in England, developing her knowledge of culture and art. She came to realize that culture and the arts can effectively improve communities and cities. Thus she began research into culture-led urban regeneration strategies, and she pursued this topic at PhD level. She also worked as a planner at a social enterprise which mainly works for deprived communities in Seoul, South Korea.

Summary

There is a continuing academic and policy interest in the potential for culture-based urban regeneration across the world. Such regeneration is intended to attract investment, re-imagine spaces and create employment, business and urban planning opportunities. This book seeks to examine the use of culture and arts in the urban regeneration sphere of South Korea. Specifically, a one-year-long cultural event (Culture City of East Asia) is used as a case study for exploring wider debates around and understandings of the relationships between culture-led urban regeneration initiatives and the impacts on communities in South Korea.

Despite the proliferation of culture-led initiatives aiming to tackle broad social issues, there is a lack of in-depth research into the efficacy of such urban regeneration. Previous researches have asked such questions as: What benefits can cultural elements (e.g. mega-events or signature buildings) bring into a city? What is the role of culture in economic development (e.g. tourism and internal investment)? What is the economic value of cultural goods and services?

This is not to say that such questions should be the only concerns in assessing a culture-led urban regeneration strategy. However, the evaluation process of culture-led regeneration frequently fails to ask questions about the impact on human communities: Are cultural resources being used to spread culture, or just to focus on economic development? Are cultural initiatives like mega-events being used to benefit local citizens? How can residents shape a culture-led regeneration strategy? This book is intent on examining residents' opinions and perspectives about culture-led urban regeneration. It recognizes how culture-led regeneration schemes interact with local communities, focusing on the actual views of local people rather than being coldly theoretical.



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