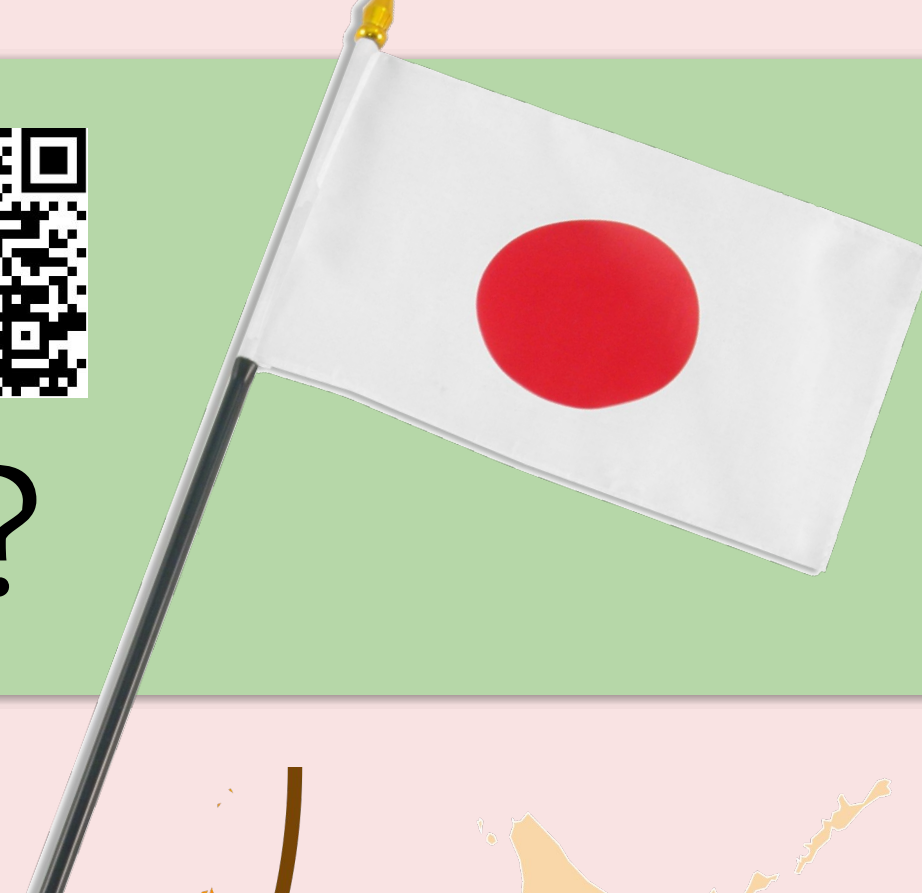


Steffen Seamon  
Portfolio

# Urban Green Spaces in Japan

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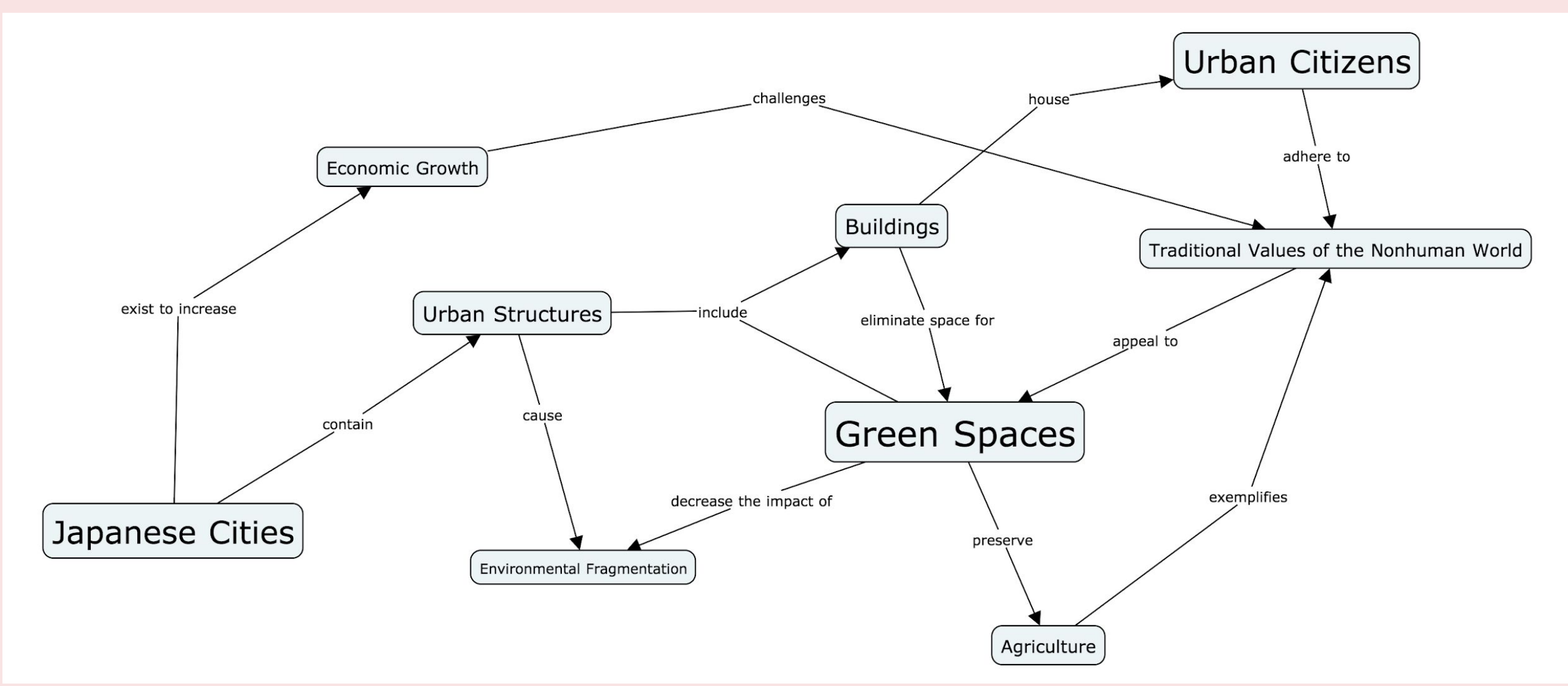


How do green spaces in urban environments reflect the values of modern Japan?

Framing Question: What Values Contribute to Urbanization?

## Background on Urbanization and its Environmental Consequence

- Increases productivity; for most countries majority of GDP comes from urban areas (UN, 2017)
- Increased air pollution, energy consumption, risk associated with extreme weather events (Johnson, 2001)
- Loss of species biodiversity
- Environmental fragmentation



## Why Japan?

- History of green spaces in urban environments
- “The Japanese model of planning should be understood as a way of achieving a city in nature.” (Yokohari and Amati, 2005)
- Economic booms following WWII led to shift of population towards urban centers

## Urbanization in Japan

- 92% of population lives in urban areas (World Bank, 2017)
- 348 people per sq. km of land area (World Bank, 2017)
- “annual mean temperature of 3C since 1900 in the Tokyo metropolitan area, compared with ~1.3C in the rural areas.” Hunt et al
- “the highest precipitation rates above 100 mm/h are several times more likely to occur in large and dense urban areas than in rural areas, where the main cause of increase in precipitation is global warming.” Hunt et al.
- 29.4% of terrestrial land is protected (World Bank, 2017)

## Methodology

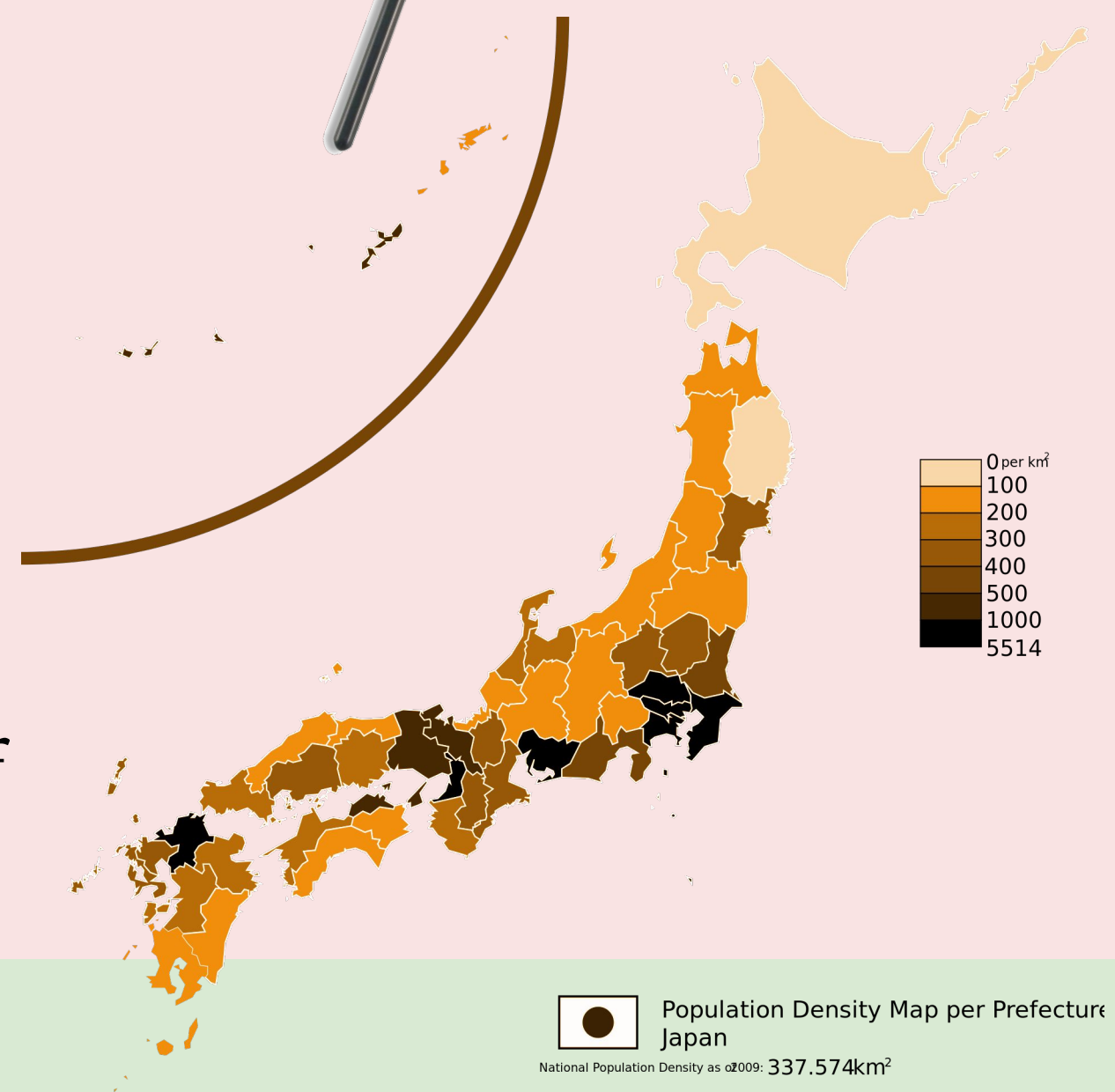
Our methodology in this situated research project relies heavily on statistics/textual scholarship and survey methodology.

- Proposed Survey**
- Extensive Survey
- Values Survey on Green Spaces in Urban Environments
- Hypothesis: There is probably some sort of value(s) that maintain green spaces in Japanese urban spaces. This survey will inform to what degree this is true.
- Using the Likert Scale as an inclusive method to conduct this survey.

The first portion of the roughly 10 question survey will pertain the Environmental Values as found in the World Values Survey we examined some weeks ago. An example of what this would like is found below. The latter half of the questions will be more exclusive answers, 1-4 options dealing with demographic information such as age, sex, and residential region. This data will be analyzed in a way that informs the values of the people pertaining to our research project, as well as who those people are. e.g.Q1. Land use Green Space vs. Urban Development

How should land be used in an urban space?

- There should be priority on creating more green space, even if it inhibits urban development
- Green space should be included in an urban space, only if it is convenient for urban development.
- Urban centers should include green spaces, but should be given low priority
- There is no need for urban centers to include green space.



Population density map of Japanese prefectures

## Timeline

### Before Departure

- Preliminary research pertaining to green spaces in urban Japan
- Determine the necessary statistics of green space in Japan
- Finalize our extensive research questions for values associated with green spaces
- Locate a translator/translators who will be available in each of the cities we will conduct our research
- Finalize locations best suited for our interviews

**Week 1-**Departure from Portland, OR; Arrival in Tokyo, Japan

**Weeks 2 - 9-** Conduct interviews in significant urban space in Japan: Tokyo, Yokohama, and Osaka to gather data on the values of modern Japanese people

**Weeks 10-12-** Perform survey analysis on our finalized results

**Weeks 13-**Return to Portland, OR.

### After Returning

- Finalize data analysis
- Begin situating data, potentially by using GIS or other appropriate methodology
- Publish a report that answers our focus question of “How do green spaces in urban environments reflect the values of modern Japan?”

## Follow up

Once completed, our study will ascertain the values surrounding urbanization in Japan. Those values and results could be used to contextualize Japan’s modern environmental history with that of the rest of the world. This study would give us insight into one facet of the urban-ocene. While this study is situated primarily in urban spaces, a further study could be conducted in rural spaces to further our understand of the urban-ocene through comparative analysis.

Key references

