Environment and culture in an island community: some insights for re-building the framework of Cultural Ecosystem Services

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Culture ?
Definition of ‘culture’

Anthropology:
social, communicative and productive process (Ingold 2000)

Sociology:
a set of shared understandings and practices (Elder-Vass 2012)
Definition of Cultural Ecosystem Services

- Cultural ecosystem services (CES): nonmaterial benefits people obtain from ecosystems

(MEA 2005)
Recreation and ecotourism are the most focused services as ‘cultural’

(Milcu 2013)
Recreation and ecotourism are the most focused services as ‘cultural’
one part of my PhD work:
important elements of notion of community from local residents’ perspective

-> missing part in the current CES framework

This talk aims to:
propose a new perspective for reframing CES, based on the finding of my PhD work
Method
Case study site: Shiraho village, Okinawa, Japan

population: 1618
household: 674
Utaki: Spiritual center of the Okinawan islands (仲松1990)
Residents who belong to utaki are only regarded as local, “real” villagers.

Most fishers are immigrants. They are ‘outsiders’ without belonging to Utaki.
In reality (daily lives),

Some fishers are accepted/regarded as “real” villagers
But, some locals are excluded from “real” villagers
In reality (daily lives),

Some fishers are accepted/regarded as “real” villagers
But, some locals are excluded from “real” villagers

The boundary of ‘community’ is dynamic
What’s the factors shaping the dynamic boundary of community?

→ to capture the notion of ‘community’ from the local residents’ perspective (my PhD)
Structured free-answer questionnaire designed with the time axis

Q1. Do you think Shiraho village became better place than the past (for example 10 years ago)? Please circle (○) the number that represents how you think.
   1. Strongly disagree
   2. Disagree
   3. Neutral
   4. Agree
   5. Strongly agree

Q2. Why do you think like the above? Please explain your thought.

Q3. What do you think is important for Shiraho village to become further better place than present in the future (for example 10 years later)? Please explain your thought freely.

Sugimoto et al. (2017) in Japanese
Data collection & analysis

Data collection: structured free-answer questionnaire designed with time axis

Text content was analyzed quantitatively & qualitatively (self-organized map & affinity diagram)


Informants: 57 residents selected by stratified sampling

Sugimoto et al. (2017) in Japanese
Results
# Structure of participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender (M: F, %)</th>
<th>Samples</th>
<th>Mother pop.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>59.65: 40.35</td>
<td>49.96: 50.04</td>
</tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population (%)</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20-29</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>9.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-39</td>
<td>33.9</td>
<td>14.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-49</td>
<td>23.2</td>
<td>13.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-59</td>
<td>17.9</td>
<td>14.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-69</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>12.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>13.7</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Birth origins (%)</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Locals</td>
<td>50.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Migrants from other islands of Okinawa</td>
<td>29.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Migrants from other pref.s</td>
<td>19.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Sugimoto et al. (2017) in Japanese*
residents’ inner conflict between economic development & rapid socio-cultural change in the community
Locals and immigrants

Increase & decrease of population

inner conflict toward changing culture & social relationships

Words included
- Community
- Immigrate
- Outsiders
- Locals
- Young people
- Old people
- Number
- Population
- Decrease
- Increase
- Relationship
- Culture
- Rituals
- Important
- Activity
- Slightly
- Different
Self-organized map & affinity diagram of Q3 answer

residents’ ideal image of community which overcome the inner conflict shown in Q2 answers
行事
子ど も
地域
伝統
文化
積極
環境
地元
内地
考え
住民
人達
世代
部落
歴史
関わり
気持ち
近所
若者
人々
人口
青年
石垣
村人
中学
中心
同士
参加
移住
理解
意見
交流
協力
子育て
意味
学習
活動
観光
尊重
意識
規制
生活
誘致
大事
大切
必要
立派
白保
今
昔
思う
作る
住む
増える
増やす
知る
来る
教える
決める
言う
考える
守る
受け入れる
出来る
続ける
入れる
売れる
富む
聞く
良い
多い
若い
新し い
古い
も う 少し
互いに
つき あい
つながり
する
なる
ある
でき る
いる
いう
とり いれる
とる
はかる
もつ
いい
も っ と
ずっ と
人
村
力
外
事
他
道
ない
ぬ
ほし い
いい
やすい
良い
Feeling of residents
Continue culture & tradition over the generation
Words included
-Community
-residents
-feeling
-ritual
-culture
-continue
-forever
-meaning
-generation
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q2</th>
<th>Freq.</th>
<th>Q3</th>
<th>Fr.</th>
<th>Integrated components</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Change of social relationships</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>Social cohesion, cooperation</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Social relationships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conflict over culture and tradition</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Succeed and development of culture/tradition</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>culture/tradition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conflict over living/natural environment</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Retaining and improvement of living/natural environment</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>living/natural environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decrease of local governance capacity</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Development of local governance capacity</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>local governance capacity</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Improvement of local governance capacity of present generation</td>
<td>17</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Capacity development of next generation</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sugimoto et al. (2017) in Japanese
4 components of “community” among Shiraho residents

- living/natural environment
- Culture /tradition

local governance capacity (Next generation)

Sustain Sustain

Sugimoto et al. (2017) in Japanese
4 components of “community” among Shiraho residents

For Shiraho residents, the ideal community is a device to keep developing the “living/natural environment” and “culture/tradition”, being well supported by the “local governance capacity” and “social relationships”

Sugimoto et al. (2017) in Japanese
Important key for locals & immigrants to build social cohesion (shape the boundary of community) is: to practice something beneficial for developing “living/natural environment” and “culture/tradition” of the community.
Discussion and Conclusion parts are excluded, as the contents are under preparation for a peer review manuscript.
Thanks for listening ☺ ありがとうございました