

How to live with bicycles and what about parking?

Name

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Who am I? Who do I want to be?

I'm a student of UoS, and part-time job worker at cinema. I wanna be a rich man.
静岡県立大学の生徒で、映画館で働いている。お金持ちになりたい！

What local problems am I aware of?

I'm riding a bicycle as transportation, but the number of parking lots is not enough.
自転車を交通手段としているが、駐輪場が少ない
The traffic everywhere is not suitable for bicycle(e.g. Too narrow and bumpy road).
交通や道路が自転車で利用しづらい

What global problems am I aware of?

Economical and sustainable ways of transportation.
経済的、エコで持続可能な交通手段
Urban development regarding transportation or other stuffs like buildings or nature.
都市開発における交通やその他の物(建造物や自然など)

Discussions

I talked with my friends about how congested and full bicycle parkings is. Some areas implemented paid parkings but yet it looks full. What is the best way to solve?
友人と駐輪所がどれだけいっぱいか話し合った。ある場所では有料の駐輪場もあるが、解決したようには見えてない。どうすればいい？

What Sustainable Development Goals have I learned about?

Goal SDGs No.7: AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

Information: Carbon Footprint→ Bicycle emit virtually no carbon dioxide except during the manufacturing process. From a carbon footprint perspective, they are one of the most eco-friendly means of transportation.
自転車はカーボンフットプリントが少なく、持続可能な社会の構築に適している。
Source: <https://ourworldindata.org/travel-carbon-footprint>

Goal SDGs No.11: SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Information: Not only bicycle parking facilities, but also dedicated bike lanes and other infrastructure should be incorporated into urban development. At present, there are growing concerns that the narrow width of roads poses a safety risk for cyclists.
駐輪場のみならず、自転車通行帯など交通インフラの発展も重要な議題である。
Source: <https://www.mlit.go.jp/road/ir/ir-council/bicycle-safe/pdf1/bicycle-safe4.pdf>

My fieldwork

What was my research question?

→How much is the parking lot for bicycles filled? How has the presence of bicycles been addressed in urban development?

駐輪場はどれだけ混雑している？自転車が交通手段として都市開発にどのように組み込まれている？

Why is this important to me?

→I've been riding my bicycle from a young ages and using it as a way of transportation. My cities implemented paid parking a few years ago but the problem of being overcrowded is still unchanged. I want to look into the problem and find a clue to it.

若い頃から自転車を交通手段として利用してきた。私の街では数年前から有料駐輪場を導入したが、あまり混雑が解消したようには思えない。この問題について調べていきたい。

What did I do?

→I took pictures of some bicycle parkings and see how much filled they are.

複数の駐輪場を同条件下で撮影し、混雑具合を調べる。

What data did I collect?

→Efforts were made to keep the conditions consistent, such as using the same day of the week and similar weather.

なるべく同じ条件になるようにする。例えば天候や同じ曜日であることなど留意する。

・Urban Bicycle Parking 1 (Kurogane-Cho Higashi Bicycle Parking, north exit of Shizuoka Sta.)



・Urban Bicycle Parking 2 (Morishita-Cho Bicycle Parking, south exit of Shizuoka Sta.)



• Suburban Bicycle Parking (Bicycle Parking for South Exit of Mishima Sta.)



Paid Parking or Free Parking for each cities?(near station)

- Mishima Station→Mostly Paid(¥ 100 for a day)
- Numazu Station→Mostly Free
- Fuji/Yoshiwara Station(Fuji City)→Mostly Free
- Shin-Kambara Station→Free
- Kusanagi Station→Both Paid or Free(daily or monthly subscription for paid ones)
- Shizuoka Station→Both Paid or Free(daily or monthly subscription for paid ones)

What trends did I find in the data?

• Regardless of whether it is an Urban, Suburban or Rural area, it looks like most of the parkings are saturated.

→It is presumed that the total floor area and number of bicycle parking facilities differ according to local demand. However, due to considerations such as profitability, there may be a tendency to deliberately underprovide these facilities across regions in order to reduce vacancy rates.

- The results indicate that the proportion of paid bicycle parking facilities tends to be higher in more urbanized areas.

→ Could this be related to land prices? Or perhaps to management costs such as labor expenses?

How does my fieldwork connect to my future?

Through this survey, I was able to gain a clearer understanding of the development of bicycle transportation in Shizuoka. Japan is considered a major bicycle-oriented country, with 68 bicycles per 100 people—a figure that ranks among the highest globally. However, the findings raise questions about whether sufficient infrastructure has been put in place to support this high level of ownership.

Although no critical issues have surfaced with regard to bicycle parking facilities, there were instances—particularly during peak hours—when available space was lacking, giving the impression of limited redundancy. Beyond parking, concerns were also raised about road width; due to inherently narrow roads, it is often difficult to establish dedicated bicycle lanes.

As a mode of transportation, bicycles occupy a unique position—they can be both victims and perpetrators in traffic accidents. Yet, from the perspective of environmental sustainability, they are highly eco-friendly. Therefore, in order to promote wider adoption, it is hoped that safer and more comfortable environments for cyclists will be developed.

Who is doing related work?

Local connection

Global connection

Reflection

What I learned this semester

Over the course of this semester, I learned the importance of sincerely confronting and addressing issues that I personally experience in my daily life. Simply expressing dissatisfaction with the current situation does not lead to any real change. Instead, it is necessary to analyze the situation on one's own, explore possible solutions, and—even if implementing them individually may be difficult—recognize that raising awareness and communicating about these issues is itself a meaningful attempt to bring about change.

What I did well

- I could find out what I'm interested and curious about the sustainable society
- I tried my best to use my English.

What I could have done better

- I could've done more data-gathering for final report (not enough sample to be honest)
- I could speak more and be more confident to say some ideas or opinions.

The connection to my future

I have been learning about the SDGs since high school, but this course once again highlighted their significance for me. Although I am still unsure what kind of career I will ultimately pursue, I hope to continue engaging with environmental and other social issues with a sense of curiosity and responsibility. If I ever find myself

in a position with enough time and capacity, I would like to consider taking part in social initiatives related to these challenges.

Advice for other students

“Don’t stress yourself too much! Just have fun learning about your interests!!”