

Embedded Global Destruction Networks and Environmental Justice of E-waste: Story from Informal Recycling Hubs in Greater Bay Area and Its Surroundings

Abstract

Waste is “the poem of our time” (Moore, 2012). Humans, places, and territories are bound to one another by the flows of waste as much as they are connected by the flows of commodities (ibid.). Recent geographical scholarship on the illicit e-waste geographies and e-waste processing hubs in the Global South has shed light on the global mobilities, production/destruction networks, and political economy/ecology of e-waste at macro scales. However, studies are relatively reticent about how recycling networks and environmental justice discourses are mediated by place-sticky social and cultural fabrics and vernacular institutions at the local scale. This lecture will discuss these issues drawing on the story from informal recycling hubs in Greater Bay Area and its surroundings.