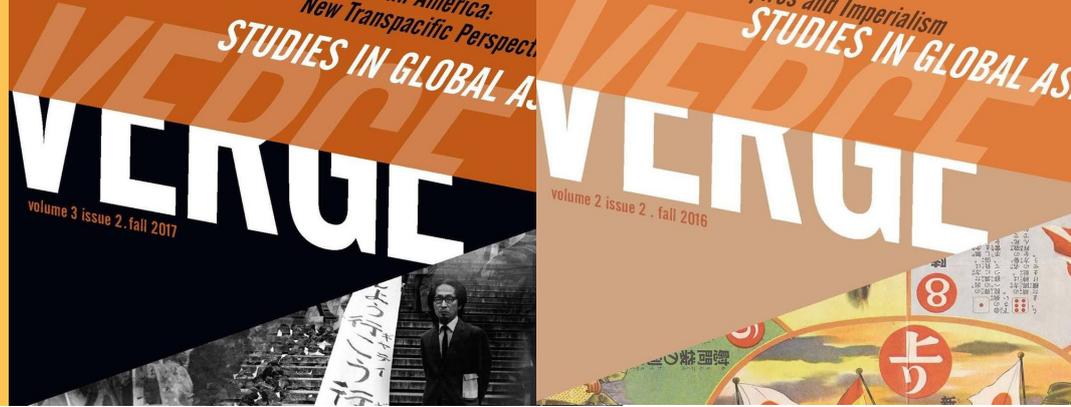


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Verge: Studies in Global Asia



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The infrastructures of the modern world—from roads and railways to global communications, from codes of law to the code within computers—move things, people, and ideas and help craft regions and urban spaces while conveying the images that people use to shape selves and communities. In all these ways, infrastructures have been central to the historical and contemporary experiences of Asian communities. Across the humanities and social sciences, however, infrastructure has only recently emerged as a topic of focus, and questions remain about how to analyze infrastructures as material artifacts and media of the imagination, to read for their appearances in literature or interpret representations of them in film, and to understand their role in contemporary aesthetic, political, or ecological practices.

This special issue will gather new work from the humanities, arts, and social sciences examining “infrastructure” as concept or material reality in Asia, Asian America, and Asian diasporic communities around the world. We welcome scholarship that explores the relationships between real and conceptual infrastructures, concrete materials and codes of practice—both in particular parts of Asia and as Asian people, goods, and ideas circulate globally. We are especially interested in essays that use the concept of infrastructure to better understand questions related to development projects, technological changes, and emergent political and social realities. Our goal is to discover how infrastructure studies can renew classic approaches to Asian societies and their national or global histories, provide new insights into Asian and Asian diasporic literatures or arts, and help focus attention on current ecological and political concerns—for example, by mobilizing new concepts such as redundancy, resilience, and repair. We seek close examinations of the evolution of the infrastructures that are fundamental to economic and political relations, and to the daily lives of billions of people, to reveal the ways in which material technologies, sociotechnical processes, legal forms, popular culture, and the natural environment interact to produce the physical and imagined spaces of city, nation, region, and empire.