

SUMMARY

The diversity of urban society in the Sydney and Melbourne metropolitan areas

-Expanding the possibilities for analysis of Geographic Information System (GIS)-

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A significant body of literature concerning aspects of multiculturalism in Australia exists in the fields of international politics, international relations and Australian history, in addition to Australian geography. Immigrants of diverse origins had a considerable impact on the changing structure of metropolitan areas in Australia. Previous studies have shown that in the 1960s, non-English-speaking immigrants, mainly Greek and Italian, tended to live in suburbs located 10-15 km away from the Melbourne metropolitan core. These suburban areas were relatively less convenient in terms of public transportation, but were newly developed areas supported strongly by motorization. New universities, huge industrial parks, and distribution centres were established in these newly developed areas, and offices were relocated to them. Immigrants in the 1960s could only find affordable housing in these “new suburbs,” resulting in the expansion of the metropolitan area.

Since the 1990s, Australian cities have been strongly affected by a surge of immigrants from Asian countries. These Asian immigrants have tended to live in the existing Asian communities located at the peripheries of the metropolitan area, much farther than the “new suburbs” described above. Footscray in the west, Glen Waverley in the east and Springvale in the southeast are typical examples of these communities.

This paper focuses on the changing structures of the Sydney and Melbourne metropolitan areas in terms of the origins of immigrants. GIS-based mapping using Table Builder data distributed by the Australian Bureau of Statistics was used to identify the processes involved. This paper not only offers a methodological innovation but also makes a new and practical contribution to urban-social process studies.