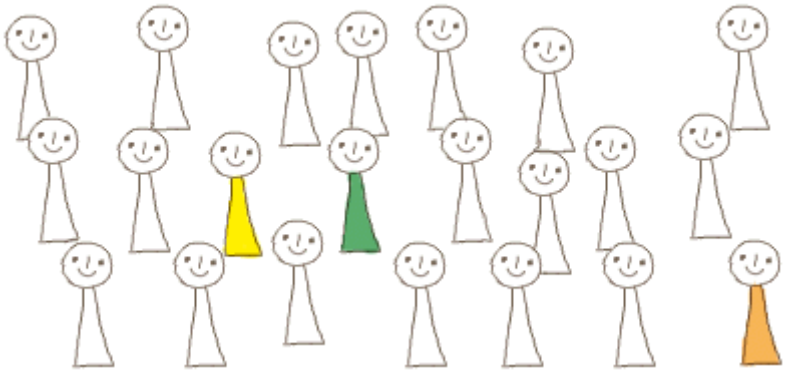
Postmodern City films

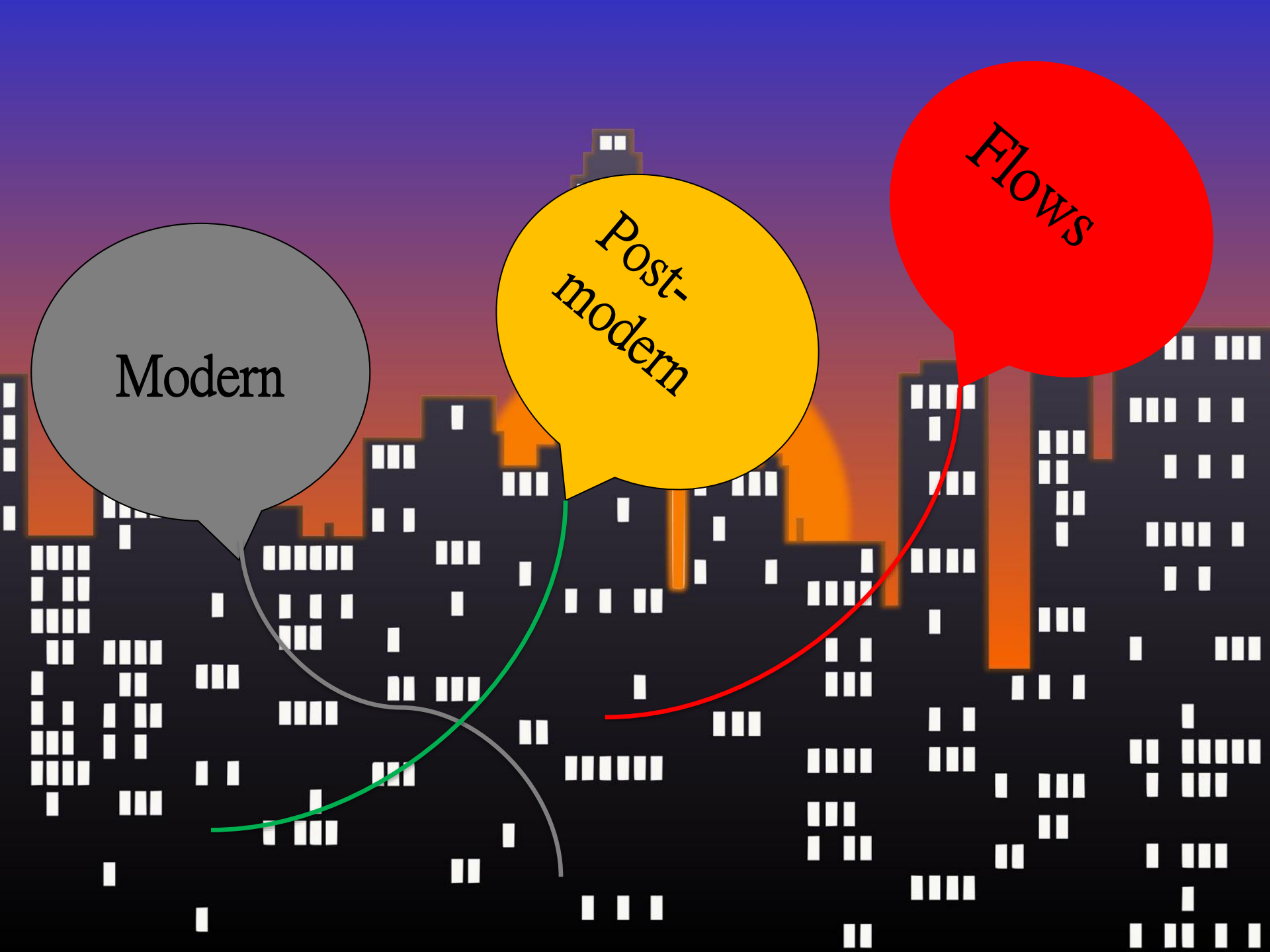
& Global Flows (1)

General Issues

Outline

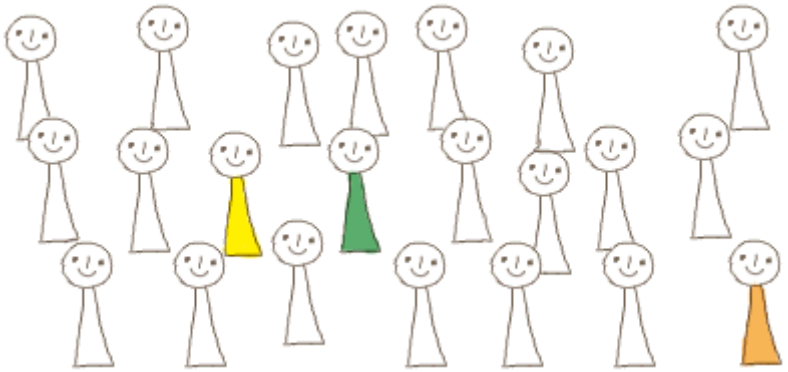
- Overview: Modern vs. Postmodern
- Postmodern City: 3 G's and 1 P
- Global Flows and Urban Space of Flows
- Large Issues and Main Themes for the Course



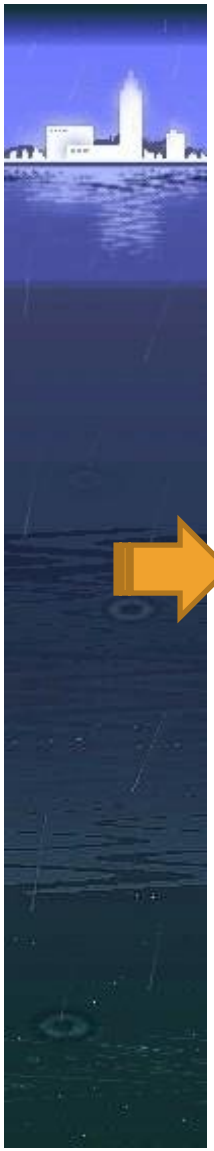

Modern
Post-modern
Flows

"Postmodern" : a Historical Period

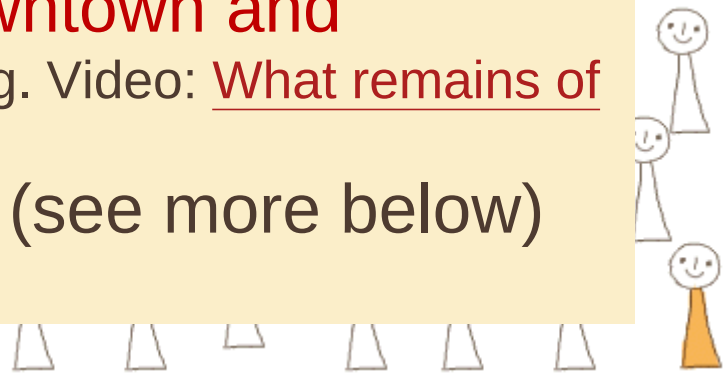
- Traditional City-- as the center of trade, religion and empire
- Industrial City-- in the 19th century
- Modern City-- 20th century
- Postmodern City-- 1960's ~ (Some are postcolonial City)



City's Modernization



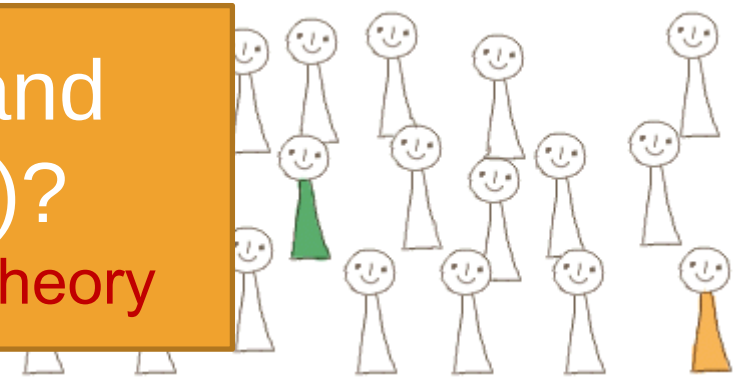
- **Urban Development in three phases since the 19 century:**
- 1st – emergence of industrial city (city with heavy industry) --> fast economic progress with serious social problems and environmental problems. (e.g. Dickens' and Blake's London)
- 2nd – Modern city: utopian city, or a split between the spectacular metropolitan centers, declining downtown and spreading suburbs (e.g. Video: What remains of the utopia of Brasilia?)
- 3rd – Postmodern city (see more below)



e.g. Modern Urban Culture in *Flight of the Red Balloon*

1) **Urban Jungle** (conflicts between Suzanne and her tenants; Suzanne's alienation from her husband)
2) Urban Kaleidoscope (use of window reflections)

Dissociated and Blasé (Numb)?
See Luis Wirth's theory



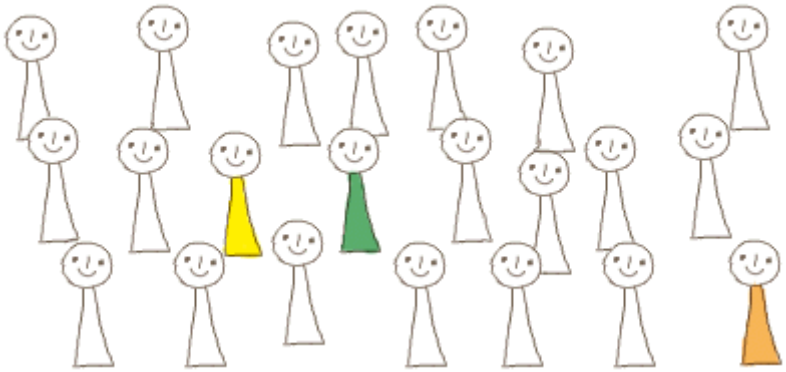
City's Postmodernization (1)

1) Posts-Industrial Society:

-- Heavy industry replaced by service industry & tourism;

-- Mechanical reproduction replaced by Electronic Reproduction

2) Transportation & Tele-Communication



City's Postmodernization (2)

Transportation & Tele-Communication

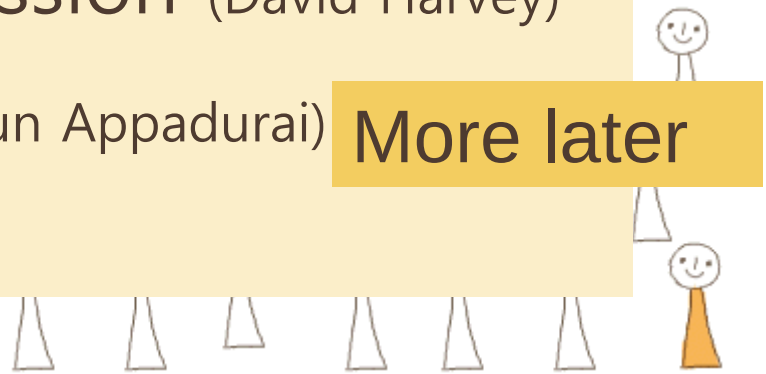
-- Fragmentation: Pastiche, Loss of Subjectivity (Fredric Jameson)

-- Disembeddedness, Self-Reflexivity (Anthony Giddens)

-- Time-Space Compression (David Harvey)

-- Flows (Manuel Castells; Arjun Appadurai)

More later



Postmodern City (3)：3G + 1 P

1. Globalization (全球化): (globalizing capital) -- increasing fragmentation and assimilation by global culture; Mega city and Inner City (Merger vs. demerger)
2. Gentrification (土地增值) : East Area in Taipei
3. Ghettoization (陋巷區隔) → increasing gap between the rich & the poor
4. Pluralism (多元化) – 區域功能、建築風格、人口 (next slide)

Postmodern City (3)：3G + 1 P
-- Pluralism

建築上，保留並維修古老建築；新型建築物仿古

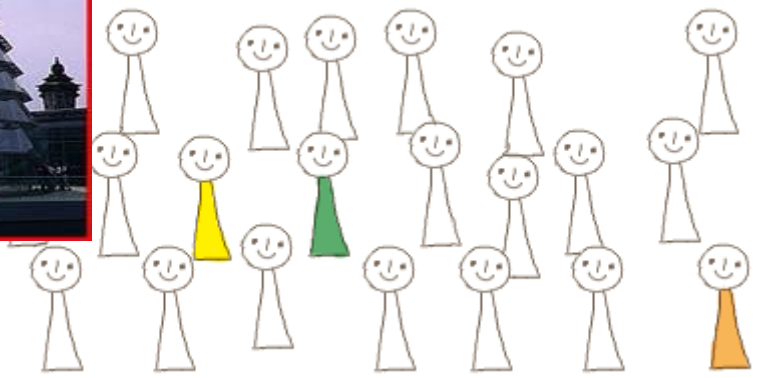
- (1) **diversification of regions** and their functions, manufacturing sites reinvented as tourist destinations (e.g. Taipei?)
- (2): spectacular and multi-functional sites of consumption, **architectural pastiche** & restoration (e.g. Berlin's parliament building as an example of **Architectural Pluralism**)
- (3**): The new underclasses (immigrants)** in the urban centers
- The future of cities? De-centralization? Part of service industries move to the outskirts; a mega mall (cultural, entertainment and shopping center) (ref. Kotkin)

Urban Pluralism (1, 2)：Function & Architectural Styles

Ref. Panoramic view of Berlin from the Parliament

Urban Pluralism (1, 2)：Function & Architectural Styles

- Der Reichstag: the German Parliament 建築複合功能
- Renaissance-Style Exterior, with a new dome and modern-style interior embodying the spirit of democracy

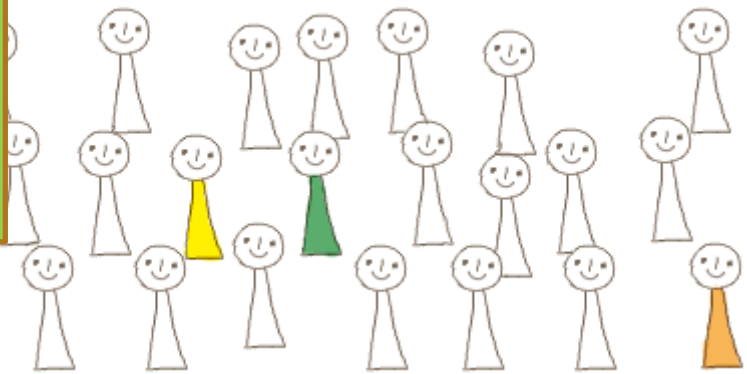


Ref. Panoramic view of Berlin from the Parliament

Postmodern Urban Culture

1) Urban Jungle → **Garden City or Mega Mall**
2) Kaleidoscope → **Mega Screen**

Heteroglossia
(眾聲喧嘩)
Fragmentary & Transient
Sights & Sounds



Urban Pluralism (3): Numbers of Foreigners in Taipei/Taiwan

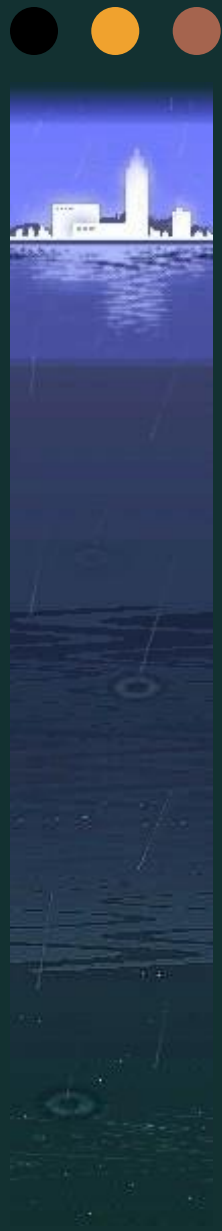
A. Newly Born

Newly Born	Of New Residents/Total Newly Born
2002	12.5%
2003	13.37%

B. Foreigners with ARC

Year	TOTAL	New Taipei	Taipei
2003	56,246		
2014	621,757	86,604	60,749
2014	percentage	0.14%	0.10%

Source: 中華民國內政部戶政司人口統計資料 資料截止日期：104年06月30日



Globalization: 3 Theses

"The world is shrinking";

"the world is growing smaller."

1) Global expansion of Capitalism and Capitalist Culture; of American/Western Culture
2) West vs. East (Christian vs. Muslim)
3) Increasing Hybridization and Strangeness

→ Re-structuring of Global economy, politics, activist groups, etc.
→ Awareness of Global Connectedness

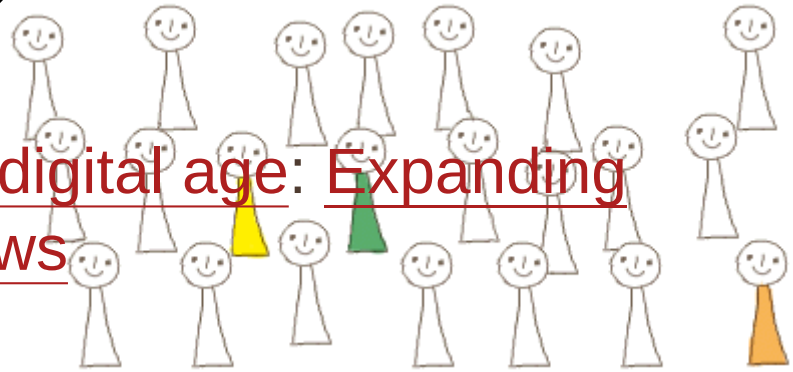
Connected by Global Flows

- Flows of goods, services and finance
- Flows of people –the most limited
- Flows of data and communication
  - → knowledge-intensive flows;
  - → labor-intensive flows

Impact:

1/3 of goods flow across national borders;

“left behind if not being connected.”



- Ref. Global flows in a digital age: Expanding Network of Global Flows

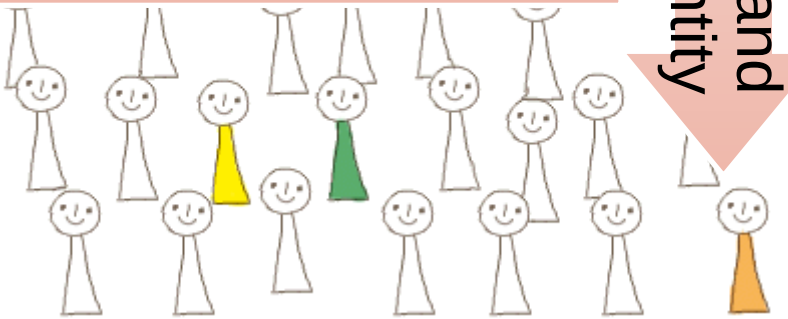
Issue: Space vs. Place

Global Flows

Space of Flows	Space of Place

Local History and Identity

Loss of identity?



Issue: Flows of Different Kinds

- Different Persons w/ purposes: flaneur, tourist, urban migrant, migrant worker, refugees
- Class & Race: Different degrees of mobility,
- Impact: Increasing risks, chance encounters and coincidences

→ Different senses of community

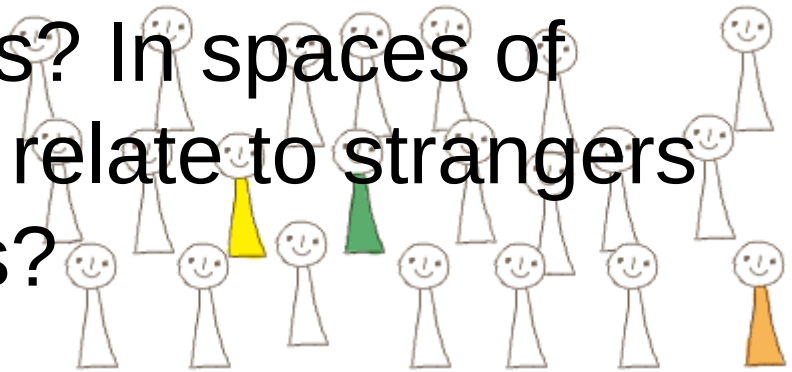
e.g. The Red Balloon as a symbol of global urban flow

- **(of childhood, of memory, of city bird's-eye view)**
- **of multiple temporality:** progression of time (change), continuity of time (the past that lingers in the air), multi-temporalities (birds and airplanes, balloons) ,
- **of migrant life & urban flows:** a reflection on urban life style through contrast (movement), the migratory nature of modern life (translation), the (lost) lightness and tranquility of being (existence; red balloon vs. red traffic/car lights and signs of restriction)
- **of self-reflexive art combining East & West, Past & Present:** an old film, a painting, a DV film, art and technology of movie making, a form of puppetry, the translation of art/culture
- **Of Cultural Spaces of Flows**: translation, visits, symbol of happiness, Museum

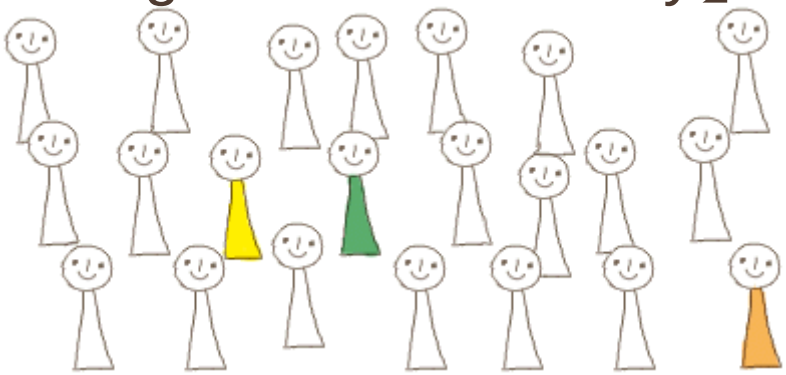
Larger Issues

Course Site

- Is urbanism a way of life? How do urban residents relate to one another?
- History: Are city residents oblivious? Where do we find a city's histories?
- Flows: how do we define global cities as a "place" with history? Or as spaces of flows? In spaces of flows, how do we relate to strangers and manage risks?



Main Themes

Course Site

- Urban Flows &
  - 【Urbanism as a Way of Life】
  - vs.【History】
  - 【Time-Space Compression & Family】in Flows
- Global Flows &
  - 【Flâneurism】
  - 【Risk Society, Global Strangers & Connectivity】