Topics on Globalization and Culture

Global City and Cosmopolitanism I

Lecturer: Ma Ran
Tokyo has no nationality.
prelude:

NOTEBOOK ON CITIES AND CLOTHES
1989. Director: Wim Wenders

I like to consider myself less of a Japanese...
ideals on autuer/authorship (either for film art/industry or for fashion design/industry); individual artist vis-a-vis the collective fashion-making as the expression of identity

identity (national identities, gender identities etc.); conflicts of ideas about identities

vision of cosmopolitanism
"Tokyo has no nationality"
Yamamoto is often quoted as saying that he designed for women that were powerful in the sense that they didn't have to rely on their appearance or flaunt their femininity. Instead, they could take loose, draped garments and be confident enough to make them look as chic as a YSL gown.

He also pushed against concepts of perfection, and this is because his work was based on the Japanese principle of 'wabi-sabi', a concept which believes that beauty lies in imperfection.
Global Culture & Global City

Featherstone, Mike. “Global Culture: An Introduction”, Theory, Culture & Society, June 1990, No.7: 1-14
According to Featherstone, "global culture" should be approached in terms of *processes*, as "the globalization of culture":

1) cultural integration & cultural disintegration processes taking place not only on an inter-state level but processes which transcend the state-society unit and can therefore be held to occur on a trans-national or trans-society level—"third cultures"
2) **postmodernism**: defining global culture less in terms of alleged homogenizing processes (Americanization, mass consumer culture etc.) and more in terms of the diversity, variety and richness of popular and local discourses, codes and practices which resist and play-back systemicity and order.
Since the 1960s, understandings of globalization have highlighted asymmetry in the center-periphery/metropolis-satellites model?
Arjun Appadurai on five dimensions of global cultural flows
ethnoscapes
produced by flows of people: tourists, immigrants, refugees, exiles and guestworkers.

financescapes
produced by the rapid flows of money in the currency market and stock exchanges.

ideoscapes
linked to flows of images which are associated with state or counter-state movements ideologies which are comprised of elements of the Western Enlightenment world-view--images of democracy, freedom, welfare, rights etc.

mediascapes
repertoires of images and information, the flows which are produced and distributed by newspapers, magazines, televisions and film.

technoscapes
the machinery and plant flows produced by multinational and national corporations and government agencies.

Arjun Appadurai on five dimensions of global cultural flows
His Holiness the Dalai Lama poses with the Christ University Choir who performed before his keynote address at an international conference on Bounds of Ethics in a Globalized World hosted by Christ University in Bangalore, Karnataka, India on January 6, 2014. (Photo by Tenzin Choejor/OHDL)
3) **global ecumene**:

definition:
the inhabited or civilized world
[OED]

Globalization has created a global ecumene – a global commons

"a region of persistent culture interaction and exchange"; a process whereby a series of cultural flows produce **a)** both "cultural homogeneity and cultural disorder"; and **b)** transnational cultures as genuine "third cultures" (Featherstone)
global/world cities

cities in which the global financial and banking services and culture industries are concentrated. But global cultural centres whether of the traditional type or new forms of popular culture industries do not necessarily correspond to economic and political centres. (Hannerz)
Saskia Sassen
Context for the emergence of Global Cities:

With the partial unbundling or at least weakening of the national as a spatial unit due to privatization and deregulation and the associated strengthening of globalization come conditions for the ascendance of other spatial units or scales. Among these are the sub-national, notably cities and regions; crossborder regions encompassing two or more sub-national entities; and supra-national entities, i.e. global digitalized markets and free trade blocs. The dynamics and processes that get territorialized at these diverse scales can in principle be regional, national or global.
a single global city is unimaginable; there exists a series of transnational networks of cities

"The growth of networked cross-border dynamics among global cities includes a broad range of domains: political, cultural, social, and criminal."

world city (a type of city we have seen for centuries; old colonial centers) is not necessarily global city (Sassen)
by AT Kearney + Chicago Council on Global Affairs

Global Cities Index, 2012

- Business Activity (headquarters, services firms, capital markets value, number of international conferences, value of goods through ports and airports)
- Human Capital (size of foreign born population, quality of universities, number of international schools, international student population, number of residents with college degrees)
- Information Exchange (accessibility of major TV news channels, Internet presence (basically number of search hits), number of international news bureaus, censorship, and broadband subscriber rate)
- Cultural Experience (number of sporting event, museums, performing arts venues, culinary establishments, international visitors, and sister city relationships).
- Political Engagement (number of embassies and consulates, think tanks, international organizations, political conferences)
Institute for Urban Strategies

Global Power City Index, 2011

- Economy (Market Attractiveness, Economic Vitality, Business Environment, Regulations and Risk)
- Research and Development (Research Background, Readiness for Accepting and Supporting Researchers, Research Achievement)
- Cultural Interaction (Trendsetting Potential, Accommodation Environment, Resources of Attracting Visitors, Dining and Shopping, Volume of Interaction)
- Livability (Working Environment, Cost of Living, Security and Safety, Life Support Functions)
- Environment (Ecology, Pollution, Natural Environment)
- Accessibility (International Transportation Infrastructure, Inner City Transportation Infrastructure)
Map of the interconnectedness of World (global) Cities- courtesy Knox

http://archiveds.wordpress.com/2012/10/15/where-we-are-now-where-are-we-now/
cosmopolitanism in context

cosmopolitan-local distinction

cosmopolitanism vis-a-vis localism
cosmopolitanism as "a perspective, a state of mind, or---to take a more precessual view---a mode of managing meaning"
an *orientation*, a willingness to engage with the Other. It is an intellectual and aesthetic stance of openness toward divergent cultural experiences, a search for contrasts rather than uniformity.
a matter of competence, of both a generalized and a more specialized kind. There is the aspect of a state of readiness, a personal ability to make one's way into other cultures, through listening, looking, intuiting and reflecting. "a built-up skill" in manoeuvring more or less expertly with a particular system of meanings and meaningful forms.
play of mastery and surrender: the cosmopolitan's surrender to the alien culture implies personal autonomy vis-a-vis the culture where he originated. "He possesses it, it does not possess him"
varieties of mobility
"being on the move" is not enough to turn one into a cosmopolitan: are travelers ("home-plus"), exiles (experience forced upon him/her), labour migrants, expatriates cosmopolitans (more related to the transnational cultures)?
cosmopolitans tend to immerse themselves in other cultures; they want to be participants; they want to be able to sneak backstage rather than being confined to the frontline areas.
cosmopolitanism & power
But what about a situation where these conditions are not available—a situation where “divergent cultural experiences” are not freely chosen but forced on us, as they are under colonialism? What form of “openness” should we cultivate then, and would this constitute a cosmopolitan stance or a compradorist one? Could cosmopolitanism be one version of “cultural imperialism”? 
compradore

A native-born agent in China and certain other Asian countries formerly employed by a foreign business to serve as a collaborator or intermediary in commercial transactions.