

# IDE Research Bulletin

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Research Summary based on papers prepared for publication in  
academic journals with the aim of contributing to the academia

## Comparative Studies of Trends in Regional Structures

Project Organizer

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**Comparative Studies of Trends in Regional Structures**

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South Asia is expected to become more regionally integrated in the next few decades. When we imagine a South Asia without borders, how is it different from the one during the British Colonial period when there was no border. This research project explores the shifting trends of regional structures with the partitioned regions under the current territories. The research results will offer a basis for considering future regional integration in the region.

**Regional Disintegration in South Asia: Evidence from the End of British Empire on maritime networks (DP708)**

**Cesar Ducruet and Kenmei Tsubota**

In the early 20th century, as South Asia were mostly governed by the British Empire, these regions shared similar administrations, institutions and commercial practices. After the Second World War, decolonization in South Asia ended up as the partition of India and independence of countries. These subsequent events can be seen as regional disintegration and offer a potential scope for studies on the impacts of these institutional changes on maritime transport networks. With new database of vessel movements among ports within South Asia and the rest of the world for 1890-2000, we explore how the maritime transport networks evolved in South Asia. We compare the trends of shipping routes among ports specifically before and after 1947. Applying the methodology developed by Redding, Sturm and Wolf (2011) and Xu and Itoh (2017), we show that regional disintegration clearly lowered the routes which became international after 1947. Additionally, we also examine the relation with UK and the independence of Bangladesh from Pakistan. For all cases, we find significantly negative impacts on the vessel movements directly affected by regional disintegration.

**The Structure of Coasting Trade in British India from 1901 to 1931 (DP710)**

**Michihiro Ogawa, Noriyuki Osada, and Kenmei Tsubota**

South Asia in its early 20th century was the most regionally integrated period in

her history. Under the British rule, port cities were well connected via coasting trade. This paper examine the trade structure within British India between 1901 to 1931. It quantitatively show how South Asia was regionally integrated and show various maps.

### **Displacement in Bengal revisited (DP709)**

**Takashi Kurosaki, Abu Shonchoy, and Kenmei Tsubota,**

Bengal was divided twice in 20th century. At the first occasion, both sides were within British India. Then the second occasion split the two into different countries, India and Pakistan. We examine the displacements in Bengal after the partition in 1947 with the finest geographical level at thana. The results show that there were significantly negative impacts on population growth on the region which changed their side from East in 1905 to West in 1947. They also experienced increase in literate share, suggesting the impact of population exchange in different levels of literacy.