

Comparison between Japan and Europe on the historical formation and
changes of university towns and their living environments
—in Leuven, Belgium, and Waseda, Japan—

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[SYNOPSIS]

The purpose of this study is to analyze and examine how university districts were formed, how they related to the lives of students and faculty members, and what problems they are currently facing, by comparing the historical formation and changes between university districts in Japan and university districts in Europe, as well as the current situation. I believe that this can be a valuable material for considering how to improve the environment between Japanese universities and surrounding areas in the future.

The first chapter, entitled "History of the University City of Leuven," describes the developmental history of Leuven as a university city, the history of the "Great Begijnhof," which was used as a dormitory for teachers and students and was actually used and stayed by researchers, and how the history of this university city is reflected in the present students' lives and consciousness. In particular, it is noteworthy that the results of interviews with students at the KU Leuven were included. The Second chapter describes the history and current status of Waseda as a university town, taking the case of Waseda University in Japan, to which the representative researcher belongs.

From the above, I compared the two previous chapters and examined what Japan can learn. While the presence of the university is still large in Leuven City, I pointed out that the sense of unity between the city and the university is disappearing in Waseda, and I concluded that it is important in the university town and urban planning in Japan not only to preserve individual buildings but also to understand the whole region as a group and to plan environmental improvement with an awareness of the whole structure of the city, as in the case of the KU Leuven, which developed the Groot Begijnhof as an accommodation facility.