

**Yina Sima**  
**Xi'an Jiaotong – Liverpool University**

### **Connected Space: The Changing form of Melbourne's Skywalks**

Industrialization brought new building types to the central city of Melbourne. There was the consolidation of build through the linking of buildings by aerial bridges, known as 'skywalks' in Melbourne literature, over laneways and 'little streets'. Skywalks appeared in Melbourne's city plan in early 20<sup>th</sup> century and thrived for decades. There was a short period when this type of typology faded away, not long before the variation of Skywalks reappeared in the city's footprint in late 20<sup>th</sup> century. The new form of skywalks accentuated connected spaces above ground. This paper investigated the growth pattern of Melbourne's skywalks by looking at its origins and variations, shape and scale. It analyzed the spatial relationship between skywalks and buildings, as well as the indication of improved connectivity above the ground level in Melbourne's city center. The social and cultural meaning of the inherited form was also discussed.