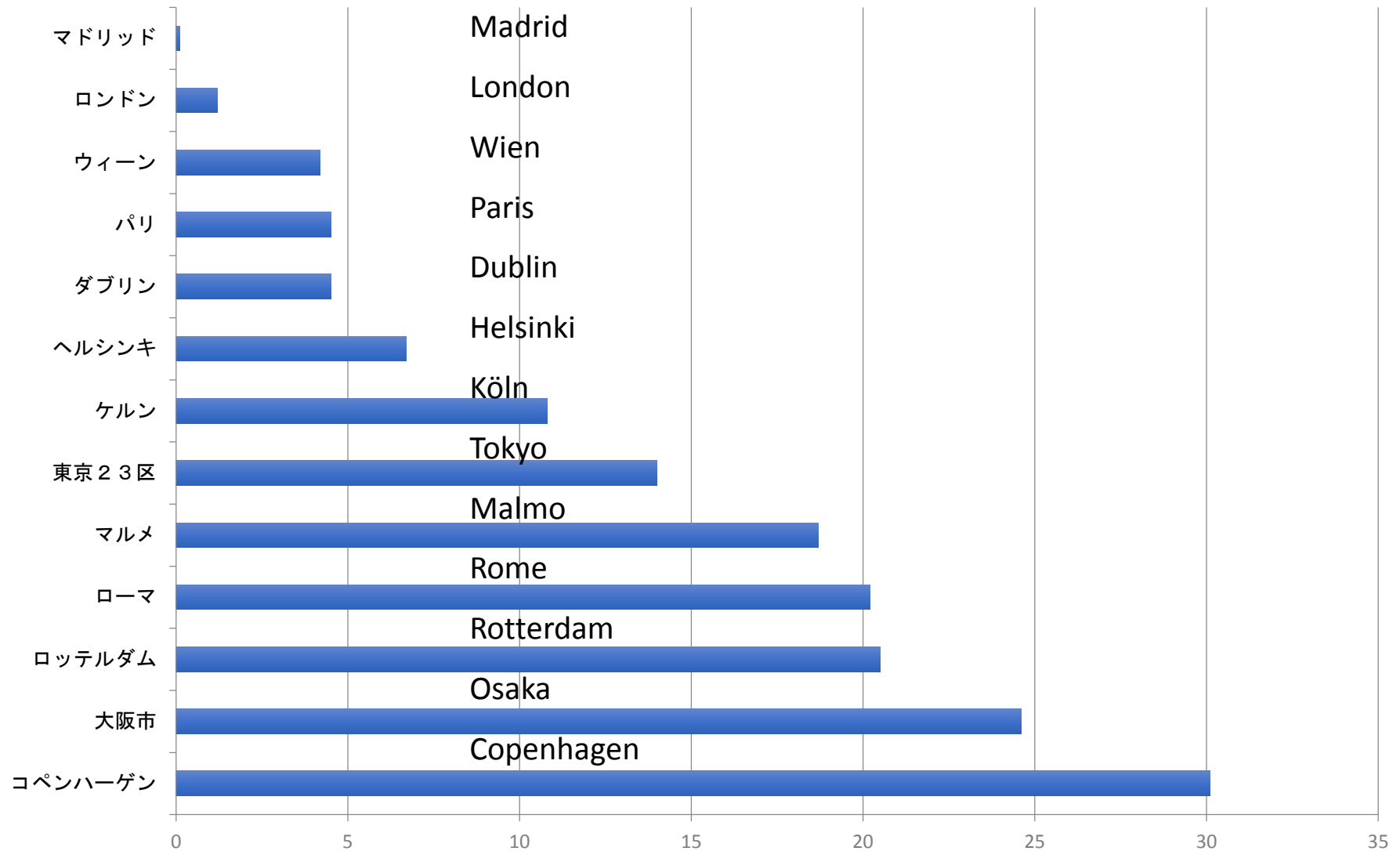


# Bicycle Culture in Public Space in Japan

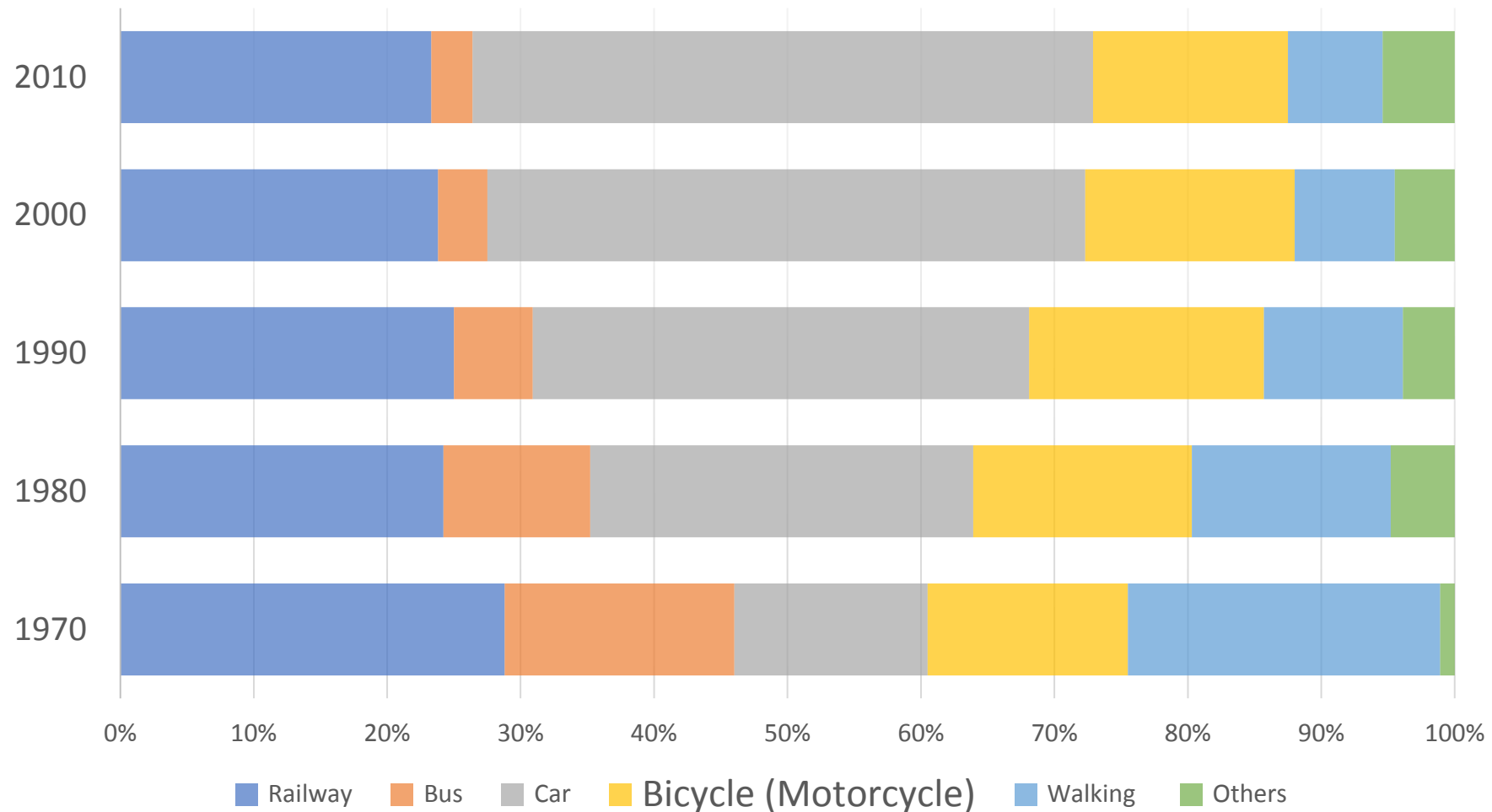
Public Space in Traffic Culture

2017.11.17

# Bicycle Usage of Large Cities



# Change of Modal Split



# The points of discussion

- Japanese have been utilizing bicycles even before the War.
  - The bicycle culture was praised by American researchers.
- However, the government has been discouraging people to ride bicycle.
- There is not even a safe place for people to ride bicycle.

”Mamachari will save the Earth”

by Chester Liebs  
(Emeritus Professor of University of Vermont)



# Quotes from the book

- *My first encounter with the wonderful practical “mamachari” began back in 1992 on my first trip to Japan, and my fascination and admiration for versatile bicycles and the people who use them, has continued ever since.*
- *Like many Americans at the time I had been used to bicycling only for recreation. I owned two bicycles, a mountain bike which I used for getting some exercise on city streets and a touring bicycle for long distance trips. For going to work, shopping, or just about anything else that is practical rather than recreational, I had, and still have to drive my automobile. That has been the American way and the only convenient way because in the last century America reorganized many of its communities around the motor car often leaving no other options for travel.*
- *This is why I was so delighted and hopeful when I began exploring Japan and noticing people using bicycles to accomplish so many daily tasks without the need for a motorcar and with almost no harm to the planet.*

Chester Liebs

Prof. Liebs praised not only the high bicycle usage but also the urban structures that encourage bicycle use coining them “Mamachari Neighborhood.”







However, the government has been discouraging people to ride bicycle.







There is not even a safe place for people to ride bicycle.







Because they treat you like criminals, they act like criminals, naturally.





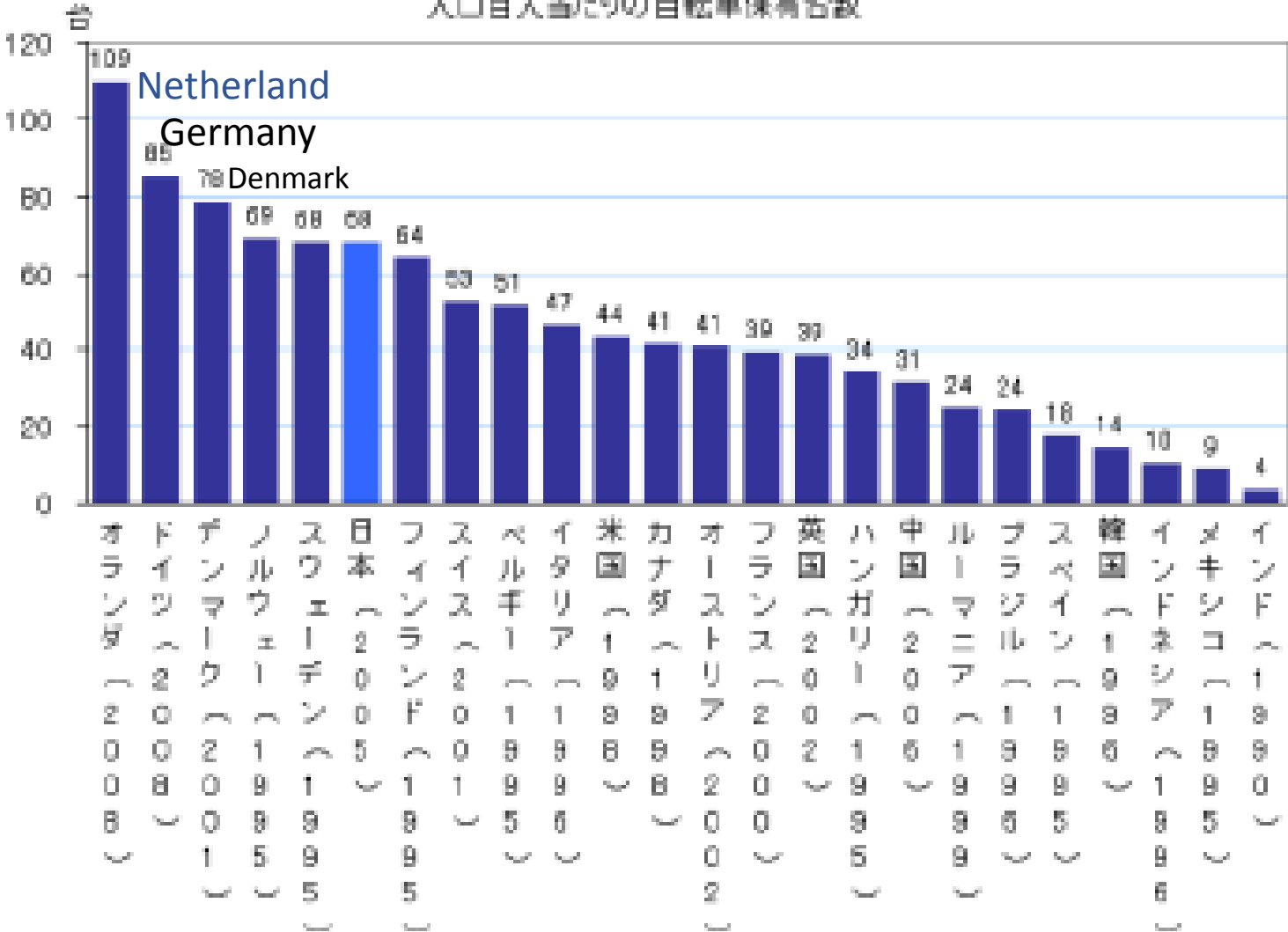
Japanese people have been quite ingenious of using bicycle but the public policy has been quite passive or even hostile of bicycle use.



# Bicycle Ownership per 1000 people

自転車普及率の国際比較

人口百人当たりの自転車保有台数



- Despite all these adversity, Japanese are stubborn enough to keep cycling.
- However, after listening to the keynote speech from Mr. Sim, I feel like Japanese are Iguanas of Galapagos Islands.

