



The 2nd HOKU (Honolulu Office of Kobe University) Symposium

Intra-Pacific Collaboration for Advanced Academic Research on Transborderness of Japanese People, Culture, and Thoughts

Organised by the Institute for Promoting International Partnerships, Kobe University

Date: February 5, 2018

Preface

I am pleased to present the first report outlining the Second Honolulu Office of Kobe University (HOKU) Symposium. Kobe University established HOKU within the Japan-America Institute of Management Science (Fujitsu-JAIMS) on June 30, 2016 to operate as a base for academic collaboration with the Americas and to facilitate symposia and workshops.

The First HOKU Symposium in 2016 was the highlight of the HOKU opening ceremony and explored applied econometrics and particle physics. The Second HOKU Symposium, as is reported in this booklet, focused on the humanities, exploring the theme of "Transborderness of Japanese People, Culture, and Thoughts". The booklet organization follows the symposium program covering Session 1 "Transnational Actors in Asia-Pacific: Practice, Discourse, and Representation" followed by Session 2 "Japanese Literature/Thought Crossing the Oceans: To Construct 'Trans-border Japanese Studies'". Each session concluded with an open discussion between participants and attendees.

I hope the annual symposium continues promoting dialogue and exchange between Japan, the Americas, and other Pacific Rim countries, and offering an ideal opportunity for presenting new findings, creating new ideas, and exchanging insights covering a wide-range of topics from a Pacific perspective. Finally, I would like to express our sincerest appreciation to all the participants for contributing with their excellent presentations and fruitful discussions, and making the time and efforts to join the symposium.

We eagerly look forward to organizing the Third Symposium and more workshops through our Honolulu Office.

Hiroshi Takeda

President

Kobe University

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "H. Takeda", written in a cursive style.



The Second HOKU (Honolulu Office of Kobe University) Symposium
***Intra-Pacific Collaboration for Advanced Academic Research on
Transborderness of Japanese People, Culture, and Thoughts***

Date and Time : Monday 5 February 2018 9:30AM-5:15PM

Venue : Hawaii Imin International Conference Center at Jefferson Hall
East-West Center, Asia Room
1777 East-West Road, Honolulu, HI 96848 USA

Opening 9:30AM - 10:00AM

Symposium MC :

Prof. Hideyuki Yamamoto, Director, Honolulu Office of Kobe University

Opening addresses :

Prof. Fumitoshi Mizutani, Executive Vice President, Kobe University

Prof. Denise Konan, Dean of the College of Social Sciences, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Session 1 10:00AM - 1:00PM

Transnational Actors in Asia-Pacific: Practice, Discourse, and Representation

Session 2 2:00PM - 5:00PM

Japanese Literature/Thought Crossing the Oceans: To Construct "Trans-border Japanese Studies"

Closing 5:00PM - 5:15PM

Prof. Tohru Kataoka, Vice President, Kobe University

Organiser : The Institute for Promoting International Partnerships, Kobe University

Opening



Prof. Fumitoshi Mizutani

Executive Vice President,
Kobe University

Good morning, distinguished guests and colleagues. Welcome, and thank you for attending this symposium organized by the Honolulu Office of Kobe University, which we call HOKU. I am Fumitoshi MIZUTANI, Executive Vice-President of Kobe University.

It is a great honor to welcome so many participants from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, University of Washington, American University, among others. Today we are pleased to be holding HOKU's 2nd symposium. Our 1st symposium last year focused on Social and Natural Sciences, and this year we will focus on the Humanities.

First of all, let me introduce Kobe University briefly because some of our participants are not familiar with our university. Kobe University was established in 1902, so we have about 120 years of history. Although Kobe University seems young compared with prestigious North American universities, it is actually one of the oldest national universities in Japan.

Kobe University started as a college of economics and business administration in 1902, but many schools and colleges have been added since then, such as the college of arts and sciences, the education school, the engineering school, the medical school and so on. Now Kobe University is one of the biggest national universities in Japan, consisting of 10 undergraduate faculties and 15 graduate schools, with approximately 12,000 undergraduate students and 5,000 graduate students in 2017.

Kobe University has been vigorously exploring and pursuing novel academic endeavors in the spirit of 'integrity, freedom, and cooperation.' As a university located in one of the most important port cities connecting Japan with the rest of the world, we are proud to have fostered many talented scholars and businessmen who have played active roles around the world, and to have promoted a wealth of cutting-edge research that ranks alongside that of the world's leading universities. For example, Kyoto University Professor Shinya Yamanaka, the 2012 Nobel Prize Recipient in Physiology and Medicine for the discovery of iPS cell, is a graduate of Kobe University's medical school. Another example is Mr. Sazo Idemitsu, the founder of a major oil company in Japan, Idemitsu Kosan, who graduated from Kobe University's business school. Mr. Idemitsu's success story inspired a recent mega-hit movie in Japan.

As the world moves rapidly toward globalization, the development of better infrastructure and the promotion of international collaboration in the fields of education and research are becoming increasingly important for all universities. Japan is no exception. In this regard, we have established our own Charter on Research, which clearly states that Kobe University should "play the role of a key institute for international exchanges and collaboration in education and research." We have also declared in our Charter on Education that we will seek to foster individuals

who have an appreciation for diverse values, a deep understanding of other cultures and excellent communication skills. With these ideals in mind, we are now establishing a worldwide base for enhancing international competitiveness in education and research by developing our own original projects as well as promoting international mobility of students and researchers for furthering their studies and research on a worldwide basis.

In order to foster global education, we are taking several important steps going forward. One epoch-making step is the founding of a new undergraduate school, the Faculty of Global Human Sciences, in April of 2017. This new school has two important characteristics. First is the requirement that all students study abroad under the school's Global Study Program (GSP). In GSP, students can choose one of three kinds of programs: (i) study at a foreign university, or (ii) carry out field study and complete an internship in a foreign country, or (iii) enroll in a foreign language study program or attend summer school in a foreign country. To help students, we have prepared more than 100 sub-programs, among which undergraduate students can choose according to their own interests over the course of four years.

The second characteristic of the new school is that active learning is emphasized. In recent times, the weak point of Japanese education is that students have a tendency to be passive, although they are good learners. This passivity might result from an over-dependence on big-group classroom lectures. In order to make our students more active learners, we are changing classrooms and instituting more active-learning oriented classes.

With all these changes, we believe that someday in the future, our new school's graduates will contribute to society not only in Japan but in foreign countries as well.

As for our global network, since we first opened our overseas office in Beijing in 2008, we have increased the number of our overseas offices to three: in Beijing, Brussels, and Honolulu. We also have two liaison offices, in Hanoi, Vietnam, and Kraków, Poland. Using these facilities, our researchers have been expanding their networks of international research and strengthening ties with partner universities in several regions.

Among our overseas offices, the Honolulu Office of Kobe University (which we call HOKU) is quite new. Building on our global experience, HOKU was established last year as an organization with the aim of promoting international collaboration between Kobe University and universities and research institutes in Hawaii and the Americas.

Although Kobe University has strong ties with Europe, our relationship with the United States has been relatively weak, despite the fact that the United States has always been the most popular destination for Kobe researchers and students wanting to conduct research or study abroad. Therefore, HOKU is envisaged as the contact point for fostering active academic collaboration and providing more effective support for further international exchange with institutions in North and South America.

Today's symposium will focus on a humanities-related topic: "Intra-Pacific Collaboration for Advanced Academic Research on the Trans-borderness of Japanese People, Culture, and Thoughts." Our topic encompasses two goals. The first is to display the academic fields comprising humanities and arts in Japan. The second is to recognize the importance of global and cross-cultural discussions on humanities-related issues.

As for the first point, in my opinion, recent governmental education policy seems to depend too much on science & technology. For example, the national government has been shifting the total numbers of students enrolled in national universities from the humanities and social sciences, to natural and life science and engineering. Furthermore, when we look at the national budget on research and education, including competitive research funds, most are granted to science & technology fields. On the other hand, grants for the humanities and arts are very limited. I do not deny the importance of science and technology, but we must continue to support the humanities and arts, which teach us history, and tell us what it means to be human.

In fact, there was a famous American writer, Raymond Chandler, who explained the importance of the humanities better than I can. Here are his words, from 1938:

“There are two kinds of truth: the truth that lights the way and the truth that warms the heart. The first of these is science, and the second is art. Without art, science would be useless as a pair of high forceps in the hands of a plumber. Without science, art would become a crude mess of folklore and emotional quackery.”

He also said, “The more you reason, the less you create.”

I think that society without arts would be too mechanical and utilitarian, and people would be too cold and uniform. When we see the current chaotic situation in society all over the world, it is clear that the humanities and arts are more necessary than ever. And with today’s excessive focus on technology, money, and other practical matters, it is clear that it is right for us to remember and value matters of the spirit—which we find in the humanities and arts.

Unfortunately, in Japan, the humanities and arts have lagged behind natural science as topics for study at university, and when studied have been discussed only within Japan. This might be an extreme case, but studies on Japanese literature, society, culture, and so on have been discussed among Japanese people in the Japanese language, but have not been shared with audiences overseas. Compared with science and technology, Japanese scholars researching Japanese humanities and arts tend to keep their work for domestic consumption only.

It is important to have a global or cross-cultural point of view, even when dealing with what has until now been considered a very domestic subject. With discussions among many kinds of people with different views and backgrounds, there are exciting possibilities to create new ideas that yield unity. At this symposium program here today, I feel those possibilities.

Japan has a long 2000-year-long history. But it is only in the last 150 years that Japan has started to become a modern westernized country. A lot has changed on this journey.

Here we are today in Hawaii, midway between Japan and the US. Many people with Japanese grandparents and great grandparents live here, and honestly, when I’m in Hawaii, although it’s thousands of miles from Kobe, I don’t feel very far away from home. Just as the University of Hawaii campus has the “East-West Center,” the Honolulu Office of Kobe University will be a bridge for many endeavors to connect Japan and the US. I ask for your continuous support to help our office nurture and sustain the US-Kobe collaboration.

Finally, I hope this symposium will be a fruitful meeting for you all.

Thank you very much.



Prof. Denise Konan

Dean of the College of Social Sciences
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Aloha! Welcome to Honolulu and the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa .

I really thank Prof. Yamamoto for taking a leadership role to pull together this interesting and exciting topic for a symposium. I also thank Executive Vice President Prof. Mizutani for his presence and commitment to this endeavor. We will be talking later on today about how to deepen and further our collaborations between University of Hawai'i and Kobe University. So I do encourage you to think of ideas and to propose these during coffee hours so that we might benefit from your thoughts.

To some of you, it may be the first time to come to Hawaii. I apologize for the rainy weather. This is not so common. Usually we have blue skies and we expect the blue skies to return again very soon. Also, our indigenous ancestors of Hawai'i believed rain is a kind of blessing. It is something we appreciate and something that we value. And of course, it is water and fresh water is very important in our islands. So I also believe that today's rains are a blessing on this Symposium. We hope it is raining outside while you are in your sessions today, and not after the sessions while you are on your relaxing time.

I would like to tell you a little bit about the University of Hawai'i - as you just heard from the previous opening speech a little bit about the initiatives of Kobe University. Our University of Hawai'i is a ten-campus system. We have about 60,000 students across all of our islands that are involved in our activities. The U of H at Mānoa is the flagship research university of that system. And we are located just here in the valley of Mānoa. And we overlook Waikiki in the city of Honolulu. It is actually an ideal location for us because we have the freshness of Mānoa's natural setting and close proximity to all of our economic centers of Waikiki and our government centers of downtown Honolulu and our capital. We have very strong relations with legislators, community and business leaders.

We offer for our students a marvelous opportunity to have not just a research and academic opportunities. But because we are in such a vibrant global city, we are able to give our students a chance to have marvelous practical experiences.

We've been a university since 1907 while Kobe University since 1902, so you are five years older than we are. And still we think this is a long time for a university. University of Hawai'i has been one of the most important institutions in our state for many, many reasons. We had collaborations with Japan. We've had a very long history of involvement with the nation of Japan There were royal interactions between our kingdoms, the Kingdom of Hawai'i and that of Japan. Those traditions led to a great migration that has been an important component of Hawaii's culture. In fact that migration pattern is longer than a century, 150 years. So as we think of the topic here today of trans-borderness, Hawaii is an ideal place for such a study as this because Japan's people have had interactions with Hawaii that is very historic. In fact, those with Japanese ancestry still represent a significant component of our population here in Hawaii.

It is interesting to see how that influence has shaped and molded what we are as an island nation and Hawaii's influence, and Japan's as well, culturally though music and the arts tourism, of course, but also through thought and many aspects, Hawaii's leadership has been influenced by Japan but it has also influenced the globe. And we see that in many, many ways, especially in the area of humanities. We have these historic ties that are interesting to explore.

This Symposium also offers an opportunity to have global impact. I am very pleased to see the commitment of Kobe University to open HOKU, Honolulu Office of the Americas. I think that is very important. And the University of Hawai'i wants to be a strong partner in that effort.

I can say that many of our faculty have strong ties Japan in terms of research and scholarship. We have especially strong relations with Kobe University, particularly in economics and business. And I am of course an economist and I recognize that some of our oldest relationships in the economics field have been with Kobe University. I would like to these relationships grow into other areas like the humanities. And we do have faculty with a strong interest in this.

I would like to note some of the things we are exploring together are things like these sorts of faculty exchanges. Also opportunities for student programs – programs that benefit our students. And maybe some opportunities for short-term study or even semester study or internship opportunities.

And I can say that also Kobe is a beautiful city and has much in common with Hawaii being a port city. Being this kind of entry point for much commerce and activity in that region. As we are as well. I do think we can build on those historic relations to go into the future with studies like the kind of studies you will be undertaking today. So I would like you to know as scholars, that the kind of work you are doing is very important in our collaboration between the two universities and that I hope that this will be a very productive conference for you. Symposium for you as you explore your research you can also think about the global impacts. And as you out to explore Waikiki and hopefully it will be sunny when you do that you will also see that this issue of transborderness of the Japanese people, culture, and thought just permeates what we are here, who we are here, in Hawaii. It's just present. And I'm hopeful that you have that opportunity to explore and to discover these connections for yourself.

Again I'm committed to the development of stronger relationships between Kobe University and University of Hawai'i both to benefit our faculty and our students and I do think that collaboration can be important for the discovery of knowledge that will inform the globe.

Thank you very much. Mahalo

Session 1

10:00AM - 1:00PM

Transnational Actors in Asia-Pacific: Practice, Discourse, and Representation

Chair : **Prof. Naoko Terauchi**
Kobe University

Speakers : **Asst. Prof. Shinnosuke Takahashi**
Kobe University

Assoc. Prof. Masato Karashima
Kobe University

Assoc. Prof. Fumiaki Itakura
Kobe University

Prof. Naoko Terauchi
Kobe University

Discussants : **Prof. Mire Koikari**
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Prof. Em. Ricardo D. Trimillos
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

This session explores contemporary issues concerning the interactions between peoples and between cultures that are caused by migration in our globalized world. The term 'actor' in the title of this session is intended to indicate a main character or subject who (or which) advocates some issue or promotes a situation. 'Actor' would in most cases be an individual person but could also be a group of people or even an event or movement.

Dr. Naoko Terauchi (Kobe University), as an organizer and chair of this session, briefly explained the framework of discussion above, followed by four presentations.

The first presenter was Dr. Shinnosuke Takahashi (Kobe University), who reported on a conflict between Okinawan local people and the Japanese government and how a notion of 'local' has grown into a global one in the process of establishing solidarity between Okinawan and Korean people. The second presenter Dr. Masato Karashima (Kobe University) talked about Japanese people's gaze toward south-east Asian countries after WW2, focusing especially on discourses from influential intellectual Tadao Umesao. Dr. Mire Koikari (University of Hawai'i), as a discussant, gave stimulating comments on these two presentations, also mentioning important issues such as gender politics.

The last two presentations concerned Japanese visual and performing arts. Dr. Fumiaki Itakura (Kobe University) analyzed the significant image change of a famous Japanese movie actress Tanaka Kinuyo after her visit to the U.S. in 1949 and claimed that her 'Americanized' fashion was related to GHQ's policy of promoting an image of a 'liberated woman.' Lastly, Dr. Naoko Terauchi introduced the practice of Japanese imperial court music *gagaku* in universities outside Japan and suggested that the construction of a system to connect students or practitioners in local places outside Japan and professional artists based in Japan is very much needed. As a discussant, Dr. Ricardo Trimillos (University of Hawai'i) gave many insightful suggestions on both presentations based on his vast knowledge and experience in cultural-anthropological research.



Shinnosuke Takahashi

Assistant Professor
Faculty of Global Human Sciences
Kobe University

Assistant Professor, Faculty of Global Human Sciences since April 2017. Takahashi received his doctoral degree at the Australian National University in December 2016 with his dissertation on the nexus between social cohesion and identities involved in the anti-US base activist communities in Okinawa. Through ethnography, interviews, and archival works, his research highlights the so-called “non-Okinawan”, and a significant number of “non-Japanese”, activists to examine, and reflect critically, the discourses and practices that divide and connect the local protest community. Takahashi is an editor and author of *Transnational Japan as History: Empire, Migration and Social Movements* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2016).

Becoming Local, Connecting Places: Trans-local Lives of Anti-Base Activists in Okinawa

Abstract: While we witness an ever-increasing number of scholarships on transnational social movements, particularly in the fields of political sciences and sociology, only rarely examined is how a local civic activism grows to become a movement overarching the multi-national boundaries. The usefulness of socio-historical inquiries is that it unravels the local origins of the transnational movements and power relations that represent the dynamic and heterogeneous nature of a local community upon which a form of transnationalism is created within a category of “locality”. In this light, the 70 year-long tradition of anti-US base struggle in Japan’s southern-most prefecture, Okinawa, is an important site to observe the historical process by which the local activism became a node of transnational anti-base networks in Asia and the Pacific. This presentation explores the details of a movement called “Okinawa-Korea People’s Solidarity”, a group founded in the late 1980s with the aim of internationalising Okinawa’s protest movement. The historical inquiries of respective activists from different places in Okinawa, Japan and Korea compel us to take into account the context and concept of “region” in understanding the meaning of “locality” of Okinawan protest movement.



Masato Karashima

Associate Professor
Graduate School of Intercultural Studies
Kobe University

Associate professor of Japanese studies, Kobe University, Japan. He specializes in twentieth-century social and cultural history of Japan, with particular interest in studies of knowledge production, cultural diplomacy and development aid. His current research deals with American foundations' activities in postwar Japan-Southeast Asia relations.

Japan-Southeast Asia Relations in 1957: Ajiken, AOTS and Tadao Umesao

Abstract: In 1957, Japan re-engaged with Southeast Asia with the establishment of Ajiken (Institute of Developing Economies) and ABK (Asian Students Cultural Association). In the same year Umesao Tadao, one of the most well-known intellectuals in postwar Japan, visited Southeast Asia with his field study team. The foundation of Ajiken and ABK and Umesao's endeavor were based on wartime colonial resources of Japan's imperial commitment to Asia. Through analyzing Umesao's transnational activities and discourses on Asia and Europe around 1957, I shall discuss interaction between Japan and Asia from the 1950s to the present.



Mire Koikari

Professor
College of Social Sciences
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Mire Koikari is Professor of Women's Studies at the University of Hawai'i, Mānoa. Her research has focused on issues involving race, gender and empire, in particular the intertwined formation of American and Japanese feminisms against the backdrop of militarism and expansionism in Asia and the Pacific in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Her publications include *Pedagogy of Democracy* (2008) and *Cold War Encounters in US-Occupied Okinawa* (2015). She is currently working on her new project which analyzes the process of remasculinization and remilitarization of Japan following the 2011 Tohoku earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disasters.



Fumiaki Itakura

Associate Professor
Graduate School of Intercultural Studies
Kobe University

Fumiaki Itakura has been an associate professor at the Graduate School of Intercultural Studies, Kobe University since October 2012. He specializes in film studies and the history of Japanese cinema. He received a PhD in Human & Environmental Studies from Kyoto University in 2006. He worked as curator of the National Film Center at the National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo from 2005 to 2012. His most recent publication was *Eiga to Imin* ('Cinema and Immigration', Shinyo-sha, 2016).

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE ON “AMERICANIZED” IMAGE OF A JAPANESE ACTRESS IN POSTWAR JAPAN: KINUYO TANAKA’S JOURNEY TO THE U.S., 1949–1950

Abstract: This presentation, through the activities of Japanese movie actor Kinuyo Tanaka (1909–1977), explores the characteristics of the representations of U.S. culture and the Nisei soldiers of the 442nd regiment during the U.S. occupation of Japan during 1945–1952. Tanaka visited Hawaii, California, and many cities in the U.S. from October 1949 through January 1950 as a cultural ambassador. After she came back to Japan, she was severely criticized as being “too Americanized” by Japanese magazines and newspapers because of her Americanized fashion and behavior. This paper inquires into the cultural and gender contexts in Japan when Tanaka was criticized on her return. The latter part of the presentation discusses the production process of the Japanese movie titled *The Mother of a Japanese American* (Nikkei shimin no haha), the story of a Nisei soldier of the 442nd regiment and his mother. This film was planned to be adapted from the literary work of Lawrence (Larry) H. Sakamoto, who was actually a veteran of the 442nd regiment. However, this project ceased in the middle of production before the shooting and was never released. This presentation examines the reason behind the non-completion of this Japanese film about Nisei soldiers by analyzing primary materials from the occupation forces and the records of Japan’s film classification committee (Eirin, formerly known as Eiga Rinri Kitei linkai).



Chair

Naoko Terauchi

Professor
Graduate School of Intercultural Studies
Kobe University

Professor at Graduate School of Intercultural Studies, Kobe University. She received an M.A. in Tokyo National University of the Arts (1987), and D. L. in Osaka University (1999). She was invited to Columbia University in 2006 as a visiting professor. Her research interests focus on performing arts of Japan and Asia. Recent publications include, *Gagaku no kindai to gendai (The ‘modern’ and ‘contemporary’ in gagaku)* (Iwanami shoten, 2010), and *Japanese Traditional Music: Kokusai Bunka Shinkokai 1941* (CD annotation) (World Arbiter, 2008-2016). She also contributes chapters in *Performing Japan: Contemporary Expressions of Cultural Identity* (Global Oriental, 2008), *Analytical and Cross-Cultural Studies in World Music* (OUP, 2011), and *A History of Japanese Theatre* (CUP, 2016).

GAGAKU CROSSING BOUNDARIES: INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF THE JAPANESE PERFORMING ARTS IN UNIVERSITIES OUTSIDE JAPAN

Abstract: This presentation explores how Japanese traditional performing arts have made their way to foreign countries, settled and developed there. In particular, it focuses on how gagaku (imperial court ensemble music) became institutionalized in ethnomusicology programs at universities in US and Europe.

The presenter classifies Japanese performing arts practiced abroad into two types, 1) dispatch type and 2) resident type. In the former, Japanese professional or amateur performers visit foreign cities and give concerts or workshops, while in the latter, local resident performers and instructors give regular concerts and lessons. The *gagaku* programs at universities are mostly conducted by residents. The oldest *gagaku* classes started simultaneously in 1962 at the University of Hawaii (UH) and the University of California, Los Angeles. The Cologne University Gagaku Ensemble (Germany), established in 2000, is a sister group of the UH *Gagaku* society. The *gagaku* course at Columbia University (New York), launched in 2006, interestingly seeks a slightly different direction, in that it combines dispatch and resident types and puts more stress on modern composition of *gagaku*.

The presentation clarifies problems and achievements in each program and discusses future perspectives of the programs in the context of world music.



Ricardo D. Trimillos

Professor Emeritus
School of Pacific & Asian Studies /
Music Department
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Dr. Ricardo D. Trimillos is Professor Emeritus in Asian Studies at the School of Pacific & Asian Studies and in Ethnomusicology at the Music Department. He completed the PhD at UCLA on the music of the Tausug, a Muslim community in the southern Philippines. He has published in three languages on Hawaiian music and dance, the music of the Philippines, and the traditional music of Japan. His theoretical emphases concern ethnic identity, the arts and public policy, and issues of gender in the arts of the Pacific and Asia. He performs and has taught Japanese *koto* and *gagaku* and Filipino *rondalla* and *kulintang*.

Session 2

2:00PM - 5:00PM

Japanese Literature/Thought Crossing the Oceans: To Construct "Trans-border Japanese Studies"

Chair : **Prof. Nobuo Kazashi**
Kobe University

Speakers : **Prof. Nobuo Kazashi**
Kobe University
Prof. Jin Y. Park
American University
Prof. Em. Stephen Sumida
University of Washington

Discussants : **Assoc. Prof. Masato Ishida**
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
Prof. Denise Konan
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
Prof. Hideyuki Yamamoto
Kobe University

This session was intended as the starting point for “trans-border Japanese studies,” a multidisciplinary international joint-research project to investigate the translation, reception and evolution of Japanese literature and thought overseas, particularly in the Pacific-rim areas, identifying its modern significance and potential.

In *A History of Japanese Literature* (1975; English translation 1990) Katō Shuichi, one of the leading thinkers in post-war Japan, presented what he considered to be the salient features of Japanese literature and philosophy, such as a concentration on “living here and now,” stylistic polish of emotional expression, and weak political character in contrast with Chinese traditions. He also asserted the necessity to expand and transform the very notion of “literature and philosophy” to include social, political, philosophical and religious texts, and to give importance to the interactions between institutionalized literature and the popular masses as creators and readers of texts.

Adopting Kato Shuichi’s views as our initial frame of reference, this session brought to light the trans-border significance of the works of Ishimure Michiko, Hiratsuka Raicho, and Shelly Ota, a Japanese American immigrant in Hawai’i. The first presentation by Prof. Nobuo Kazashi examined the features of Ishimure Michiko’s *Kugai-Jōdo* as an exemplary work showing the on-going self-renewal of Japanese literary thought. (It turned out that Ishimure Michiko passed away on February 5th, five days after the session; her death was widely reported by the media.) The second presentation by Prof. Jin Y. Park shed new light on the reception of Hiratsuka Raichō, particularly by Kim Iryō, a Buddhist nun thinker. The third presentation on Hawaii-born Nisei writer Shelly Ota’s unpublished second novel titled “The Palanquin” was done by Prof. Hideyuki Yamamoto on the basis of manuscripts previously submitted by Prof. Sumida, who was absent due to sudden illness.

The session shed new light on the pioneering careers and innovative works of the three female writers. The very insightful comments and questions from the three discussants Prof. Masato Ishida, Prof. Denise Konan, and Prof. Yamamoto, and the floor led to a meaningful and lively discussion of the points highlighted by the presentations.



Chair

Nobuo Kazashi

Professor
Graduate School of Humanities
Kobe University

Professor of philosophy at Kobe University. Received M.A. from Tokyo University of Foreign Studies and Ph.D. in philosophy from Yale University. Research areas are modern Japanese thought, comparative philosophy and peace studies. Publications in Japanese include *Nishida's Philosophy of History* ed., 1998, and *The Unending Iraq War: Questioning Anew from Fukushima*, co-ed., 2013, and those in English include "The Passion for Philosophy in a Post-Hiroshima Age" and "The Musicality of the Other: Schutz, Merleau-Ponty, and Kimura." Recipient of The 6th William James Prize by American Philosophical Association (1991) and an award by Japanese Society for Science and Technology Studies (2012).

"KUGAI-JODO (PARADISE IN THE SEA OF SORROW) AS A FRONTIER IN JAPANESE LITERATURE"

Abstract: In *A History of Japanese Literature* (1975; English translation in 1990) Katō Shuichi presents a panorama of Japanese literature from the Man-yō Era with a clear methodological awareness: the need to enlarge the notion of "literature" by including political, philosophical, and religious texts, and to give importance to the interactions between the institutionalized literature and the popular masses as producers and readers of texts. Highlighting what he considers the "indigenous" sensibility and worldview, namely, concentration on "living here and now" with little orientation toward "transcendence (religious or critical)" and weak political character in contrast with the Chinese traditions, Kato argues that they are manifested in the ways the foreign systems of thought such as Buddhism, Christianity, and Marxism have been assimilated.

On the other hand, Kato tends to set aside as "exceptional" those works that do not fall well into his framework. Kato's work ends with the sections entitled "The Age of Industrialization" and "The Postwar Years," taking up contemporary writers including Ishimure Michiko, but only summarily. Hence, our questions: Can Kato's characterization be considered valid with regard to such a poetic and deeply engaged work as *Kugai-Jōdo*? Or, are we witnessing a transformation of the frontiers of Japanese literature through it? If so, in what senses?



Jin Y. Park

Professor
Department of Philosophy and Religion
American University

Professor of Philosophy and Religion and founding director of Asian Studies Program at American University, Washington DC, U.S.A. Received B.A. from Yonsei University (Korea) and Ph.D. from State Univ. of New York at Stony Brook. Research areas are East Asian Buddhism (especially Zen and Huayan Buddhism), Buddhist Ethics, Buddhist-postmodern comparative philosophy, and modern East Asian philosophy. Publications include: *Merleau-Ponty and Buddhism*, ed., 2009; *Buddhism and Postmodernity: Zen, Huayan, and the Possibility of Buddhist Postmodern Ethics*, 2008; *Buddhisms and Deconstructions*, ed., 2006; *Reflections of a Zen Buddhist Nun*, 2014. *Women and Buddhist Philosophy*, 2017. Incoming President of the Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy.

RAICHO AND FEMINIST THOUGHT IN KOREA

Abstract: This paper considers the Korean reception of Japanese philosophy in the early 20th century, focusing on Korean feminists' interaction with their Japanese counterparts. Hiratsuka Raichō (平塚らいてう, 1886-1971) was a leading figure in the New Women movement in Japan. From the establishment of *Seitō* in 1911 on, her publications were absorbed by the Korean New Women, most visibly by Na Hyeson (羅蕙錫, 1896-1948), the first Korean female painter in Western painting, and Kim Iryōp (金一葉, 1896-1971), a writer, thinker, and Buddhist nun. What did these Korean New Women share with Raichō, and where did they diverge from her? The Korean reception of the Kyoto School thinkers is another example that demonstrates how the geopolitics of Korea and Japan overrode philosophical interaction. Miki Kiyoshi (三木清, 1897-1945) was an exception to the relative absence of Kyoto School thinkers in Korea. Which aspects of Miki's philosophy did Korean thinkers find interesting, and what does it tell us about our way of philosophizing? I will try to answer these questions in the paper's conclusion.



Stephen H. Sumida

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Dr. Sumida is Professor Emeritus at the University of Washington. He earned his Ph.D. in English in 1982 at the University of Washington. He committed his scholarship and teaching to Asian American literary studies in 1975. He went on to be a co-founder of Talk Story Inc., a cultural organization for developing research, creativity, and study in Hawaii's literature and arts. This activity continues today in Hawai'i. From 1986 to 1990 Prof. Sumida was a member and chair of the Committee on the Literatures and Languages of America, of the Modern Language Association of America. He went on to serve as President of the Association for Asian American Studies and the American Studies Association.

THE PALANQUIN BY SHELLY OTA: AN UNPUBLISHED HISTORIC STORY OF JAPANESE AMERICANS IN HAWAI'I

Abstract: When Shelley Ota passed away in 1987, she left a manuscript of what would have been her second novel. Her first, *Upon Their Shoulders* (1951), is the first historical novel about Japanese Americans. Like that first novel, the unpublished manuscript, titled "The Palanquin," is set in Japan and Hawai'i, and both works are complicated by Shelley Ota's critical views of social injustices and Issei aspirations in both settings. Since his mother's death, Bill Ota has worked on completing and editing "The Palanquin" with the hope that it will be published. The title refers to *tama no koshi*, though this term doesn't occur in Japanese in the manuscript. Here, rather than the rise of a woman, the story is about the attempted rise of a poor young man who emigrates to Hawai'i when his father and conditions in Meiji Japan urge him upward. His labor on a sugar plantation, however, is oppressive. Lucky to have learned to read and write while in Japan, he becomes a newspaper editor in Honolulu. *Upon Their Shoulders* and "The Palanquin" demonstrate Shelley Ota's skills as a Nisei writer of fiction, as her work is informed strongly by both Japanese and American historical and cultural precedents.



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Denise Konan

Dean of the College of Social
Sciences and Professor of Economics
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A noted international trade economist, Dr. Denise Eby Konan has worked extensively in Asia, the Middle East and North Africa. She has been a consultant to the World Bank, the Council of Foreign Relations, the Arab League, and governments of Egypt, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, UAE, and Hawai'i and publishes on issues of regional economic integration, trade in services, intellectual property rights, foreign direct investment and energy. Dr. Konan is a Research Fellow at the University of Hawai'i Economic Research Organization (UHERO) and founding Director of the Center for Sustainable Coastal Tourism at the University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program. Dr. Konan served for two years as the Interim Chancellor and for three years as the Assistant Vice Chancellor of UHM. She received her undergraduate degree from Goshen College and her doctorate from the University of Colorado.



Hideyuki Yamamoto

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Hideyuki YAMAMOTO is Professor of American Literature in the Graduate School of Humanities, and Faculty of Letters at Kobe University, Japan. He received his M.A. in English from Sophia University, Tokyo, Japan in 1989. He has taught at Kobe University since 1996. Awarded with *Monbusho* (Japan's Ministry of Education) fellowship, he did research on Asian American drama/theater as a Visiting Scholar in Asian American Studies Center at UCLA in 1998-99. Funded by the JSPS (Japan Society for Promotion of Science), he has done short-term research in the States numerous times for the past twenty years. He serves as president of AALA (Asian American Literature Association) in Japan.

Closing

Distinguished guests; colleagues; ladies and gentlemen;

It was a great pleasure for me to welcome you at today's 2nd HOKU (Honolulu Office of Kobe University) Symposium. On behalf of Kobe University, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for your support and participation in this symposium. In particular, I would like to thank Prof. Konan and colleagues from UH Mānoa, Prof. Sumida from the University of Washington, Prof. Park from American University, and the East-West Center here. I am confident that this symposium addressed themes common to Japan, Hawaii, and the Pacific, and facilitated the exchange of the latest research among participants.

For Kobe University, universities in Hawaii and North America are strategically important partners. American universities conduct research and education of the highest standard, as easily seen in any world university rankings. Kobe University has been, and will be, striving to become their equal by actively cooperating with them.

In this regard, Kobe Univer has already made a significant step forward since the opening of the Honolulu Office of Kobe University in June 2016. Since then, Kobe University researchers held 4 workshops with their American and Pacific counterparts in Engineering, International Relations, and Linguistics. The Office was also used by Kobe University Elementary School for its Global Challenge Program with the local Haha'ione Elementary School. Another workshop in computational science is scheduled next month.

It is only natural that many of the participants in these workshops came from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UH Mānoa). Geographical proximity is one reason, but UH Mānoa is an invaluable long-term partner of Kobe University. The two universities have been cooperating for nearly 30 years, especially in Economics and Medicine. I hope today's symposium served as a catalyst for research collaboration in the humanities between UH Mānoa and Kobe.

Kobe University eagerly looks forward to holding more academic events in the Americas and I sincerely hope we will have another chance to work together. In closing, I thank you all again for participating in today's symposium.



Prof. Tohru Kataoka

Vice President,
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