

Recent JCAS Activities

JCAS has gradually developed research exchanges with domestic and foreign institutes and specialists, as well as systems for studies, data rearrangement and storage. Recent JCAS research activities are summarized below.

Launching the First JCAS Collection of Papers

JCAS Review (in Japanese) was issued in August, 1997. This issue features the papers, under the theme of "Towards the Sea of Area Studies: Method and Possibilities." Four other independent papers are also presented.

JCAS Symposium Series No. 1 and 2 Issued

Japan-USA Area Studies Conference
In an attempt to study the actual

conditions and direction of area studies, this issue features discussions held in a conference attended by representatives of six American and eight Japanese area studies associations.

Ciudad y en América Latina

This is a compilation of the results of reports and discussions by nineteen specialists, focusing on issues pertaining to: cities and self-government, Andean cities, Brazilian cities, rural problems, and the transforming relationship between urban and rural areas.

Three International Symposia Held

- *The Second International Symposium on Population Movement in the Modern World: Diversified Migration Patterns of North America*

- *The First International Symposium on State, Nation, and Ethnic Relations:*

State Formation and Ethnic Relations in the Middle East

- *The Third International Area Study Conference:*

South Asia under Economic Reforms

Four Inter-institutional Projects Getting Started

- Political, Economical, and Social Changes in West Asia
- Politics and Religion in South Asian Societies
- Comparative Study of Cities of Colonial Origin
- Aspects of Islamic Revival: Inter-Area Studies



JCAS NEWS

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TWO INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIA

Population Movement in the Modern World: Diversified Migration Patterns of North America

The second international symposium of JCAS's joint research project on Population Movement in the Modern World was held for three days from January 20 to 22, 1997, at the National Museum of Ethnology. The theme of the symposium was the Diversified Migration Patterns of North America.

Twelve scholars from Japan and seven from North America and Europe presented their papers, followed by lively discussions on these fascinating topics: diversified population migration patterns and structural changes in industries; economic and political friction in the receiving societies; the definition of "citizenship" from multicultural and legal perspectives, including native Americans issues; and the basis for differences in U.S. and Canadian immigration policies. (KITAGAWA OTSURU Chieko)

Keynote speech: *The New Wave of Mass Immigration and the Search for a New Identity*, IGARASHI Takeshi, Professor, The University of Tokyo, Japan.

Session 1: *Social/Economic Situation of Sending Societies*

Chair/Comment: YONEYAMA Hiroshi, Associate Professor, Toyo Women's College, Japan.

Paper Presentations:

Explaining the Paradox: Stabilization, Social Conditions, and Emigration in Mexico, 1988-1994, Agustín Escobar Latapí, Professor, CIESAS Occidente, Mexico.

Qiaoxiang Mentality and Economic Development, Yuen-fong Woon, Professor, University of Victoria, Canada.

Socio-economic Background of the First-stage and Second-stages Migrants: Lebanon as a Case, HASHIMOTO Kohei, Senior Research Fellow, PHP Research Institute, Japan.

Session 2: *Structural Changes of Industries and Migration of Workers*

Chair/Comment: IYOTANI Toshio, Professor, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, Japan.

Paper Presentations:

Economic Integration and Mexico-U.S. Migration, Philip Martin, Professor, University of California-Davis, U.S.A.

Economic Restructuring and the Asian Immigrant Scientists and Engineers, SHOJI Keiichi, Associate Professor, Josai University, Japan.

New Employment Regimes in Cities: Impacts on Immigrant Workers, Saskia Sassen, Professor, Columbia University, U.S.A.

Session 3: *Settlement and Friction in Receiving Societies*

Chair/Comment: MURAYAMA Yuzo, Associate Professor, Osaka University of Foreign Studies, Japan.

Paper Presentations:

An Ethnic Paradise?: The Myth of Harmonious Ethnic Relations in Hawaii, TAKAGI KITAYAMA Mariko, Associate Professor, Tokai Women's College, Japan.

Potential Power, Real Power: The Political Participation of Asian Americans, Don Nakanishi, Director, UCLA Asian American Studies Center, U.S.A.

The Dynamics of Incorporation and Exclusion of Mexican Immigrants Labor in the United States, KOIDO Akihiro, Associate Professor, Sophia University, Japan.

When "Orientals" Are Not Socially Weak: A Conflict Between the Chinese and Canadians in Markham, Ontario, MORIKAWA Makio, Professor, Doshisha University, Japan.

Session 4: *A New Definition of "Citizenship"?*

Chair/Comment: KITAGAWA OTSURU Chieko.

Paper Presentations:

Multiculturalism and Citizenship:

The Uniting or Disuniting of America, I. TAKEZAWA Yasuko, Associate Professor, University of Tsukuba, Japan.

American Immigration and Refugee Law: A Legal Reflection of the Ambivalence toward "Aliens", MIYAGAYA Shigeo, Associate Professor, Doshisha Women's College, Japan.

Canada: Citizenship in a Multicultural Global Perspective, Janet McLellan, Assistant Professor, University of Toronto, Canada.

Citizenship Between Globalism and Regionalism, Rob Kroes, Director, America Institute, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Concluding Discussion

Chair: KITAGAWA OTSURU Chieko.

State, Nation, and Ethnic Relations: State Formation and Ethnic Relations in the Middle East

The first international symposium of JCAS's joint research project on State, Nation, and Ethnic Relations was held for three days from January 28 to 30, 1997 at the National Museum of Ethnology. The symposium focused on the Middle East, and was organized in cooperation with the Institute of Oriental Culture, The University of Tokyo and the Graduate School of International Cultural Studies of Tohoku University.

The JCAS hosted 36 participants, including five foreign guest scholars. "Ethnicity" was the keyword, based upon which discussions dealt with issues such as state formation, Islam, identity, and national economy. The symposium yielded much valuable scholarship. (USUKI Akira)

Keynote speech: *Cultural Worlds, Political Units and Identity: Phenomenon of "Nation State" in a Comparative Perspective*, SUZUKI Tadashi, Professor, Institute of Oriental Culture, The University of Tokyo, Japan.

Session 1: *State Formation and Ethnicity: Theoretical Perspectives*

Chair: Harvey E. Goldberg, Professor, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel.

Paper Presentations:

"The Ties that Bind:" Ethnonationalism and the Politics of Religion in the Middle East, Dale F. Eickelman, Professor, Department of Anthropology, Dartmouth College, U.S.A.

State Formation and Ethnicity: Political and Economic Perspectives, MIYAJI Kazuo, Professor, Keisen Jogakuen College, Japan.

A Sociological Framework for Changing Ethnic Relations in the Middle East, KANO Hirokatsu, Professor, Tsuda College, Japan.

Discussant: Ali Kleibo, Visiting Professor, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, Japan.

Session 2: *State Formation and Ethnic Groups*

Chair: Saad Eddin Ibrahim, Professor, American University in Cairo, Egypt.

Paper Presentations:

Ethnic and Religious Dilemmas of a Jewish State: A Cultural and Historical Perspective, Harvey E. Goldberg.

Religion and the State in Egypt's Political Changes, INO Takeji, Professor, Chubu University, Japan.

Dhimmi in Islamic Multi-Cultural Structure and Minority in the Nation-State System, TAMURA Airi, Associate Professor, Tokyo International University, Japan.

Discussant: KIMURA Shuzo, Professor, Kobe University, Japan.

Session 3: *Ethnicity and Islam*

Chair: SHIMIZU Manabu, Professor, Utsunomiya University, Japan.

Paper Presentations:

Management of Ethnic Diversity in the Arab World, Saad Eddin Ibrahim.

Ethnicity in Islam, NAKATA Ko, Associate Professor, Yamaguchi University, Japan.

Ethnicity between Relics of Empire and the Nation-State Reference, Modjtaba Sadria, Professor, Chuo University, Japan.

Discussant: KOSUGI Yasushi, Associate Professor, International University, Japan.

Session 4: *Ethnicity and Identity*

Chair: Dale F. Eickelman.

Paper Presentations:

From Recognition to Political Nationalization, Abdellah Hammoudi, Professor, Princeton



University, U.S.A.

Multiple Identities and Ethnicity: A Case from the Northern Sudan, OHTSUKA Kazuo, Associate Professor, Tokyo Metropolitan University, Japan.

Bedouins: Minority or Vagabond?: Bedouins in the Formation of the Egyptian "Nation State," KATO Hiroshi, Professor, Hitotsubashi University, Japan.

Discussant: AKAHORI Masayuki, Lecturer, Senshu University, Japan.

Session 5: Ethnicity and National Economy
Chair: MIYAJI Kazuo.

Paper Presentations:

National Economy and Ethnic Relations in Modern Turkey, Zafer Toprak, Professor, Bogazici University, Turkey.

The Arab Bank in Palestine and Jordan, SHIMIZU Manabu, Professor, Utsunomiya University, Japan.

The Formation of the Etatism and the National Bourgeoisie in Egypt, NAGAZAWA Eiji, Associate Professor, Institute of Oriental Culture, The University of Tokyo, Japan.

Discussant: TOMITA Hiroshi, Professor, Keio University, Japan.

Concluding Remark

USUKI Akira.

Participants Totaled 60 in Monbusho International Symposium

The Third International Area Study Conference: South Asia Under Economic Reforms

The symposium "South Asia Under Economic Reforms" was held from March 17 to 19, 1997, with nine foreign (from India, Bangladesh, Australia and The Netherlands) and eleven Japanese scholars in attendance.

Papers reported upon various aspects of changes in economy, politics, society, and culture that South Asian countries are experiencing under their economic reforms. Discussions pointed out that what is called for is the formation of a social consensus—or a "public sense"—during reforms.

Participants had lively discussions together with over 40 observers, including members of the co-sponsor, the Japanese Association of South Asian Studies. (OSHIKAWA Fumiko)

Keynote speech: *South Asia Under the Economic Reforms*, KOGA Masanori,

Professor, Meiji University, Japan.

Session 1: Characteristics of South Asian Economic Reforms

Chair: KOGA Masanori.

Paper Presentations:

India's Balance of Payments Crisis, Prabirjit Sarkar, Research Fellow, Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, India Research Centre, India.

Bangladesh's Experience with Economic Reforms, Rehman Sobhan, Executive Chairman, Centre for Policy Dialogue, Bangladesh.

Structural Adjustment and the Correction of Regional Disparity, KANEKO Masaru, Professor, Hosei University, Japan.

The Economic Reform and the Public Sector in India, ISHIGAMI Etsuro, Professor, Fukuoka University, Japan.

Comment: ESHO Hideki, Professor, Hosei University, Japan.

Session 2: Changes in the Political System Under the Economic Reforms

Chair: Rehman Sobhan.

Paper Presentations:

Political Economy of the Economic "Reforms," Arvind N. Das, Managing Director, Asia Pacific Communication Association, India.

Implications of the 11th Parliamentary Election in India, SATO Hiroshi, Director, Area Studies Department, Institute of Developing Economies, Japan.

The Economic Reforms and Politics in India: The Situation in West Bengal, Peter Reeves, Professor, Curtin University of Technology, Australia.

Comment: HORIMOTO Takenori, Deputy Director, Special Materials Department, National Diet Library, Japan.

Session 3: Social Changes Under the Economic Reforms

Chair: KOTANI Hiroyuki, Professor, Tokyo Metropolitan University, Japan.

Paper Presentations:

The Informal Sector of India's Economy, Jan Breman, Centre for Asian Studies, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Women and Economic Reform in India: A Case Study from the Health Sector, Malavika Karlekar, Research Fellow, Centre for Women's Development Studies, India.

Recent Political Tendency in an Indian Metropolis: A Case Study of Shiv Sena of Bombay, NAITO Masao, Professor, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, Japan.

The New Farmers' Movement in Maharashtra and Its Response to New Economic Reforms, D. N. Dhanagare, Vice-President, Shivaji University, India.

Session 4: Cultural Changes Under the Economic Reforms

Chair: Arvind Narayan Das.

Paper Presentations:

"Communalism" and Modern Thinking,

SEKINE Yasumasa, Professor, University of Tsukuba, Japan.

Some Observations on a Shift in Sabaltem Studies during the Economic Reforms, USUDA Masayuki, Professor, Tokai University, Japan.

The Origins of Economic Planning in India, NAKAZATO Nariaki, Professor, The University of Tokyo, Japan.

Comment: Sudhil Chandra, Professor, Centre for Social Studies, India/ Visiting Professor, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, Japan.

Session 5: New Trends in International Relations

Chair: D. N. Dhanagare.

Paper Presentation:

The Changing South Asia: An Observation from Southeast Asia, A. B. Shamsul, Professor, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Malaysia.

Forging a Vision: The Implications of East Asian Economic Development for India, Brij Tankha, Lecturer, University of Delhi, India.

Concluding Discussion

Co-chair: Jan Breman, OSHIKAWA Fumiko.

Upcoming Symposia and Conference

The Third International Symposium of JCAS Joint Research Project on Population Movement in the Modern World

Migration in Central Asia: Its History and Current Problems

Since ancient times, the interaction of a variety of ethnic groups, their cultures and civilizations has contributed to Central Asia's illustrious history. On the whole, languages and religious beliefs tend to overlap, but a particularly diverse, interesting world has taken shape in this region.

Recently and especially since the collapse of the Soviet Union, political, economic, and social environments within and around the area have changed substantially on local as well as international levels, owing to the abandonment of the socialist system and the opening of borders. These changes are attracting world attention.

Under these circumstances, population movement is an important issue when attempting to understand the area. Population movement is closely related with such phenomena as: national identity reestablishment in the newly independent Central Asian countries; the shift to capitalism and market economy; the rise of international business activities; emigration

of ethnic minorities; and so on.

The symposium—which will be held from March 10 to 12, 1998—welcomes about twenty scholars from abroad and Japan to take part by presenting papers and contributing their thoughts and opinions. Those present will report upon and discuss migration in Central Asia, mainly in the former Soviet bloc, from historical and contemporary perspectives.

The Second International Symposium of JCAS Joint Research Project on State, Nation, and Ethnic Relations: Regions and Immigration in the Context of European Integration

The above-mentioned symposium has been organized by JCAS, and will be held at the National Museum of Ethnology from January 27 to 29, 1998. Seven speakers from the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Spain and Belgium will join seventeen Japanese speakers to present papers focusing on such issues as ethnic groups and their identity, immigration, and integration.

The feasibility of an integrations system to substitute the present nation states is being questioned in Europe, where a regional market larger than those of the United States and Japan is emerging.

Regionalists and ethnic minorities are asserting themselves in a process of multiculturalization backed by the increase of diverse immigrants, which also causes social and political reactions in local societies. This case presents many interesting problems for world communities, including Japanese society.

The Fourth Monbusho International Area Studies Conference on

Islam in the Middle Eastern Studies: Muslims and Minorities

This symposium will focus on the issue of the coexistence of diverse religions, religious sects, and ethnic groups in the Middle East, in the past and at present. Special attention will be paid to the relationships between the majority and minorities. Under the title of "Muslims and Minorities in History," session 1 will throw light upon such relationships demonstratively, from a historical point of view, chiefly addressing premodern eras.

In session 2, titled "Ethnic Groups in Situations," their modern relationships will be discussed through social-scientific analysis.

Eight scholars from abroad and eighteen

from Japan will participate in this symposium, presenting papers, making comments, and chairing the proceedings.

The symposium is scheduled for three days from January 20 to January 22, 1998, and is cosponsored by the Japan Association for Middle East Studies and the Islamic Area Studies Project.

An Outside View

The Potential of Gender/ Women's Studies in the Arab Region



Prof. Cynthia Nelson

Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, The American University in Cairo

For over 100 years, despite the widespread western perception to the contrary, the historical record in the Arab world and Egypt in particular bears witness to women's struggles to change traditional attitudes and institutions which have often prevented women's enjoyment of equal human rights, including full participation along with men in all of society's functions.

Progressive voices throughout the Arab region have long argued that a necessary condition for the optimum development of society as a whole rests on the participation of men and women in all spheres of activity.

At present the challenge facing both men and women of the Arab region is the struggle to maintain a measure of cultural authenticity and material well-being in a world that is becoming increasingly more interdependent and structured by economic and technological forces originating from and orchestrated by powers that are beyond their control.

These very forces not only offer the potential for new and more creative solutions to age-old problems; they also constitute the source of tremendous social and cultural rupture in societies that are traditionally structured around powerful gender-based roles and relationships.

The changes that are taking place in contemporary Arab societies are impacting dramatically on both men's and women's lives and raise serious challenges about the future social structure and value system upon which gender roles and relationships will be defined. Key issues include societal development and the conditions for women's empowerment. The impact of these challenges calls for special analysis which must be undertaken and understood within the cultural and historical specificity of the

region, as Arab societies are neither homogeneous entities nor variants of western societies moving in a similar direction but at a slower pace.

In terms of the impact of economic and technological change on gender questions and societal development, Arab societies probably share more in common with those of Africa, Latin America and Asia than they do with the highly industrialized societies of western Europe and North America.

In recent decades the recognition of gender as a critical element in social organizations as well as a category of analysis has opened exciting new directions for research and provided new dimensions for a range of instructional offerings in many western universities.

What is needed in the region is a regional gender/women's studies scholarship that is capable of: (1) stimulating research, curriculum development and community action that focus around and emerge from the Arab Middle Eastern experience in a serious, sustained manner; and (2) interacting with and contributing to an international gender/women's studies scholarship.

There is tremendous potential for such scholarship and praxis to take root within the region itself. Unfolding across the Arab region is the emergence of a number of gender/women's studies programs within academic institutions. There are already nascent beginnings at Birzeit University in Palestine; Beirut College for Women in Lebanon; Mohammed V University in Morocco; the Center for Arab Women's Research in Tunis; Kuwait University and al-Ayn University in Abu Dhabi; to mention a few. And in recent years we have witnessed the rise of several independent secular-oriented feminist associations committed to an agenda of research and activism grounded in the politics of gender.

Given Egypt's historical and cultural centrality in the Arab world, there is need for a solid and broad-based program in Egypt that would enhance gender-based research, curriculum development and community outreach. The goals of such a program aim: (1) to provide for continued scholarship in this area; (2) to deliver the products of research directly through educational programs; and (3) to reinforce and strengthen other emergent gender/ women's studies programs across the Arab Middle East by promoting dialog between and among scholars of Egypt, the Arab region and other nations of the world.

There is great need to understand gender-based roles and relationships and the changes occurring in them both within different societies. Therefore, it was a great privilege for

me to visit the Center for Area Studies, National Museum of Ethnology, Osaka, Japan and the Institute of Oriental Culture, The University of Tokyo during June 1997.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank Professor Akira Usuki for his generous hospitality and providing me with the opportunity to meet and exchange ideas regarding gender/women's studies with several Japanese scholars, many of whom have conducted research within Arab and other Middle Eastern societies. Such comparative scholarship and dialog can only lead to greater understanding of parallel, but different, dynamic processes of change and transformation occurring in both Asian societies and those of the Arab Middle East.

Area-Based Knowledge and the Social Sciences

Ms.
Sheri H. Ranis

The Social Science Research Council, New York



Over the past eighteen months, the New York-based Social Science Research Council (SSRC) and its sister organization, the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS), have re-organized their program priorities to reflect an emphasis on "area-based knowledge." Area-based knowledge is defined as scholarship that seeks local understanding and detailed knowledge of language, cultural, social, economic and political traditions of particular places, while also engaging with global connections and comparisons.

In arguing for an area-based knowledge approach, the Councils are consciously traversing heavily contested ground. Many want to retain the intellectual approaches and organization of traditional area studies as practiced in the United States over the past fifty years, and others argue that "global studies," or topically-driven research, is the best method for organizing international scholarship.

The SSRC and ACLS seek to reposition, not abandon, area scholarship. The goal is to connect deep local understanding with historical trends, social processes, and value transformations that reach across and link many world areas. In promoting area-based knowledge, then, the Councils are acknowledging that US-based social science needs to become more interdisciplinary, trans-regionally comparative, and closely linked to social science as it is practiced around the world.

The Councils see danger in a rush to global studies that does not pay close attention to place-specific histories and cultures. At the

same time, the Councils perceive the forces of globalization—population movements, environmental and health concerns, and capital flows, to name a few—generating and shaping powerful phenomena and social processes that the scholarly community has not yet found methods to analyze properly.

Globalization is an empirical reality that creates winners and losers, that fragments as well as unites individuals, societies and nations. Area-based knowledge is proposed as a method of facilitating scholars' ability to capture global processes in all their complexity and contradiction: in other words, it is hoped that this approach will allow scholars to find and explore the meeting points of the global and the local.

At its core, the SSRC has been and continues to be devoted to the advancement of interdisciplinary research in the social sciences. It has long been the location for American social scientists from different disciplinary and methodological traditions to come together to produce scholarship relating to specific countries or regions of the world. This was the arena in which US area studies' traditions were nurtured.

Interdisciplinary research of this kind was a path-breaking undertaking for its time.

But boundary-breaking of this sort is no longer enough. Those with expertise in one particular locale must be willing and able to talk to and work with specialists on other locations about those themes and issues that resonate strongly in specific countries or regions, but also those that transcend such specificity.

Area-based knowledge must also be a consciously international enterprise engaged in by area experts around the world. The international production of area-based research has enormous potential to expand audiences across regions and disciplines. This will allow more of us to appreciate how local understanding can illuminate broader theoretical, comparative and transnational concerns.

The production of area-based knowledge depends, however, on training scholars who have a deep understanding of local situations—through field research, learning local languages, and immersion in local historical and cultural contexts. These same scholars must also be willing and able to examine the interaction between local and global forces. The new International Dissertation Research Fellowship program (IDRF) that the two Councils launched this year with funding from the Mellon Foundation aims to develop a cohort of this sort. The IDRF funds field research for promising young US-based scholars who have the methodological, theoretical and linguistic training required to undertake research in locations around the world, on topics that have cross-disciplinary

interest and which inform debates beyond the specific topic and place they have chosen to study.

The SSRC and ACLS are also organizing conversations with scholars worldwide to begin to determine new research and training agendas implied by the pursuit of area-based knowledge. The first of many planned consultative meetings with international scholars was held in April 1997 in New York. Even at this very early stage in the process, participants indicated excitement over the comparative dimensions posed by topics such as governance, history of the public sphere, and economic reform. They identified transnational issues such as migration, diasporas and the global circulation of images and objects in popular culture as potential subjects for research. The Councils have also launched a Human Capital Initiative to examine how training and professional career maintenance can be organized to increase the productivity of and improve the prospects for a self-sustaining, inter-national social science community.

As the Councils are only two institutions among many around the world that deal with the organization of international scholarship, they do not claim to be the only authoritative voices on this matter. Still, the messages being broadcast are new and compelling. Underlying the Councils' activities is a relatively simple premise: area-based scholarship is a rich resource awaiting greater appreciation and utilization by wider academic and non-academic audiences. The ultimate goal is more ambitious and complex: to make sure that in the future, the best area-based scholarship will be internationally-produced, locally informed and globally relevant.

Activities

Achievements Summarized, Four Joint Projects Restarted in New Framework

In 1996, the inter-institutional project, "The Multilayered Structures of West Asian Societies," was completed, and its results have now been summarized. To further develop its theme, this project recommenced in April, 1997, as "Political, Economical, and Social Changes in West Asia." Research activities for the project, "Religion, Power, and Society in South Asia," were also completed and started anew as "Politics and Religion in South Asian Societies."

The joint project, "Comparative Study of

Rural Development—Central America, Southeast Asia and Africa—,” also came to an end and restarted in 1997 as an inter-institutional project, renamed “Comparative Study of the Cities of Colonial Origin.” Moreover, the joint project “Islamic Revival Movements” also made a fresh start as an inter-institutional project, titled, “Aspects of Islamic Revival: Inter-Area Studies.” This project is now affiliated with the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Tokyo Metropolitan University.

INTER-INSTITUTIONAL PROJECTS

Political, Economical, and Social Changes in West Asia

Affiliate: Institute of Oriental Culture, The University of Tokyo & Graduate School of International Cultural Studies, Tohoku University. States in the West Asian area are undergoing a radical transformation. The aim of this project is to study, from inter-disciplinary points of view, the political systems (such as republic, monarchy, and Islamic republic), economic structures (oil-producing or not, and the like), and social structures (religious sects, tribes, families, etc.) of West Asian states (including Central Asia in the former Soviet Union and North Africa). Comparative studies of political, economic, and social changes in each region in West Asia are also an essential part of this project.

Politics and Religion in South Asian Societies

Affiliate: Institute for the Study of Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies.

Religion in South Asian societies has not only provided belief systems, but has also interacted with economic and political changes to play a vital role in the formation of power and social structures in local communities. We at JCAS organized a research team to study “Religion, Power, and Society in South Asia,” analyzing various aspects through an interdisciplinary approach between 1994 and 1996 as an inter-institutional project with the Institute for the Study of Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies.

The aim of the present project is to provide a more comprehensive framework for understanding. In particular, the project will historically and comprehensively examine the process by which religious traditions in small communities—such as villages—have been subsumed by greater power structures. This will be carried out through review of such instances in South Asian regions.

Comparative Study of the Cities of Colonial Origin

Affiliate: Masters Program in Area Studies,

Graduate School, University of Tsukuba.

Not a few cities in today's developing regions were constructed as bases for colonial rule and the development of colonial empires by European nations. In order to compare the New and Old Worlds, this project will attempt historical and also contemporaneous comparisons of urban formation, urban functions, indigenous urbanism, and other characteristics. The development of international links and urban identity will also be analyzed. The project will study primarily Latin American cities, in addition to a number of others in Asia, Oceania, and Africa. Some types will be proposed and the background and factors investigated.

Aspects of Islamic Revival: Inter-Area Studies

Affiliate: Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Tokyo Metropolitan University.

This project aims to study the phenomenon known as Islamic Revival, and will focus on regional characteristics and deviations from various perspectives. Emphasis will be placed on comparative inter-area studies, principally regarding the Arab World, including: North Africa; the region ranging from Turkey and Iran to Central Asia; South Asia; Southeast Asia; and West Africa. As part of its scope, this project will also study revival phenomena at various levels, from the personal awakening of Muslims and social and political movements, to changes of state structures.

Launching the First Issue (Vol. 1, No. 1) of the JCAS Review

The first issue of the JCAS Review (in Japanese) was issued in August, 1997. With the theme of “Towards the Sea of Area Studies—The Method and Possibilities,” this issue features four papers: MATSUBARA Masatake's “The Principle of Area Studies;” TACHIMOTO MAEDA Narihumi's “A Compositional Synopsis of Area Studies in Japan;” TAKAYA Yoshikazu's “The Concept of a ‘World Unit;’ ” and IGARASHI Takeshi's “Area Studies as the Art of ‘Heart’: Between Political Science and Area Studies.” Another four independent papers are also included: USUKI Akira's “An Introduction to ‘Area Studies’ of Palestine/Israel: Some Remarks on Representation of Others in Discourse of Israeli Political and Social Sciences;” WAKATSUKI Toshiyuki's “From Comparative Studies to the Promotion of Global Area Collaboration: Possible Transfer of Farming Systems of Northeastern Thailand

to Guinea Savannah Zone in West Africa;” KATO Hiroshi's “The Revolution that Disappeared into the Desert: The Revolution of Bedouins in Modern Egypt;” and MURAKAMI Yusuke's “Análisis histórico del sistema electoral en el Perú.” The review will be put on the market by Heibonsha Limited at a list price of 2,800 yen (tax not included).

New JCAS Researcher

SHINOHARA Takuji

(Assistant Professor)

Topics: Information on Science; Inference Systems, Computer Software.

Area Research Institute 2

Institute of Oriental Culture, The University of Tokyo

History

The Institute of Oriental Culture was established on November 26, 1941 in the Imperial University of Tokyo, for the purpose of studying oriental culture in a comprehensive manner. It initially had three sections focusing upon philosophy/ literature/ history, law/politics, and economy/trade. Study rooms and offices were located in the library of the university. In 1949, three more sections were added, and the opportunity was taken to reorganize the institute. The headquarters moved into the former College of Eastern Culture in Otsuka-cho, Bunkyo-ku, while the former study rooms were used as a branch of the institute.

The sections of the institute gradually increased, reaching thirteen in 1978. The Documentation Center for Asian Studies was established in 1966 as a subsidiary establishment.

In 1981, the institute adopted a department system to enrich research activities and expand research scope. Its sections were consolidated into four departments: the Department of Pan Asian Studies, Department of East Asian Studies, Department of South Asian Studies, and the Department of West Asian Studies.

A plan to construct a new building on the Hongo campus was formulated in 1964, and in 1967, construction was completed. Although the building was originally shared with the University's Administrative Research Archives, in 1982, the institute successfully negotiated full occupation of the building. The building was fully remodeled in March 1984.

Future Plans

Research conducted at the institute

integrates studies of classics and of contemporary situations, and has used a comparative method to study widely diverse Asian regions. In addition to individual or joint research, the staff conduct a variety of overseas academic research activities supported by other departments, and researchers from other universities as well. These activities have produced a rich quantity of research results, for which the institute has gained high international esteem.

Beginning in 1988, the institute conducted a nation-wide research project entitled "Urbanism in Islam" over a three-year period. Based on the research results, two 10-year projects were formulated to research the influences of change in Chinese society on other Asian countries. With the political and social transformation of the Islamic world after 1995, the third long term project started, entitled *Socio-Economic and Cultural Transformation and Cross-Regional Intercourse in the Bengal Bay World*.

To expand our research networks, other crucial resources currently under preparation are the establishment of a department of foreign guest researchers, and the establishment of a center for Asian Research Information Network.

An overseas base of the institute is also planned, to promote local research activities. Hong Kong is one promising candidate. To study, in the very field, the changes and global effects brought about by Hong Kong's return to China is a most suitable mission for the Institute of Oriental Culture.

Towards this end, in October 1995, an academic exchange agreement was signed with the Centre of Asian Studies, University of Hong Kong. Joint projects underway include research on Hong Kong and South China and the formation of research networks in the East and South-East Asian region. Other attractive candidates for an overseas branch are Singapore and Amman.

An institute's involvement with the education of graduate students is a significant issue which can only be solved through a cooperative approach of the entire university. The institute has contributed to the training of young researchers and is formulating plans to establish either a new research course for graduate students or a specialized course focusing on comparative study of the Asia region and relations therein.

Basic Data

Founded: 1941

Address: 7-3-1 Hongo, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 113 JAPAN

Research staff: 34 full-time and 11 part-time researchers

—HAMASHITA Takeshi

Area-Focused Academic Societies 2

The Japanese Association for American Studies

The origin of the Association can be traced back to September 27, 1947, when a small but enthusiastic group of about twenty-five specialists on America gathered in Tokyo to start an Amerika Gakkai [America Institute]. A journal was published, but had to be suspended after a few years due to financial difficulties.

In January 1966, these pioneers and a new generation of specialists on America reestablished Amerika Gakkai, now referred to in English as the Japanese Association for American Studies (JAAS). We celebrated the 30th anniversary of JAAS last year. The number of original members was about 200. As it has enjoyed a steadily growing popularity, the Association now boasts 1,081 members.

JAAS aims to promote American studies in Japan through publication and activities facilitating communication and cooperation among specialists on America. An individual or an institution with an interest in American studies, sympathetic to the aim of the Association and willing to cooperate in its activities can apply for membership. An individual member is required to have an M.A. or Ph.D., or to have scholarly publications and/or be engaged in professional activities equivalent to having an M.A. degree.

The disciplines and interests of members include history, literature, political science, economics, international relations, Japan-U.S. relations, law, religion, education, sociology, philosophy, women's studies, mass culture, ethnic studies, and others. This variety in disciplines and interests is a great asset for cultivating a dynamic, multifaceted understanding of the United States.

One of the JAAS's main activities is a two-day annual meeting in June. The program consists of a symposium, sessions, workshops, a general meeting, business meetings, and an informal party. The Association also publishes the annual *Amerika kenkyu* [The American Review] and the quarterly *Amerika gakkai kaiho* [The American Studies Newsletter]. In 1981 JAAS started to publish an English journal, *The Japanese Journal of American Studies*, in order to make some of the American studies scholarship in Japan available to scholars overseas. Eight volumes have been issued so far, and the journal is now an annual.

JAAS has been making efforts to promote international exchanges with Americanists abroad. The Association occasionally

sponsors seminars with American scholars as guests in order to provide Japanese and visiting scholars with opportunities to share information and exchange opinions. JAAS sends its members to the conferences of international organizations such as the American Studies Association, the Organization of American Historians, the Hawaii Forum, and the European Association for American Studies.

More formal cooperation between JAAS and the American Studies Association (ASA) started in 1989, when the annual meeting included English workshops in which members of JAAS and ASA presented papers together. It also has become customary for the president of ASA to give a speech at the JAAS annual meeting. Accepting invitations from the Korean Association of American Studies, JAAS has sent representatives to their International American Studies Seminars to read papers and make comments. Korean scholars have been invited to the annual meetings of JAAS as well.

The most recent international cooperation, commencing this year, is the Short-Term Residencies for U.S. Historians in Japanese Universities. Each year three members of the Organization of American Historians spend two weeks at three Japanese institutions, offering lectures and seminars, consulting with individual faculty and graduate students, and contributing to the expansion of networks of scholars in the two nations. We hope that our inter-national network will continue to grow, that we will contribute to international understanding and cooperation through sharing our interests and activities. The current president (1996-present) is Hitoshi Abe.

For more information, please contact the Executive Office:

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—FUJITA Fumiko

Japan Association for Latin American Studies

In June of 1980, Japan Association for Latin American Studies was founded. Originally having approximately 160 members, it has grown to over 500 members today. In 1964 another association—named Japan Society of Social Science on Latin America—was established, and it has about 100 members at present. Though the existence of two organizations researching the same region is very rare, part of the reason for this is the

late development of Latin American studies in Japan.

Before Japan Association for Latin American researchers became organized, the Japanese Association for American Studies and Asian Political and Economic Studies were already extant. As the names suggest, the former was based on broad, interdisciplinary principles, while the latter focused on social science.

When Latin American specialists decided to form their own foundation in 1964, the different policies of these two preexisting organizations caused great disharmony: researchers could not agree on whether or not "Social Science" should be part of the name of the association. Though ultimately it was incorporated, some dissatisfied cultural anthropologists and historians refused to join, and for years attempts to organize Latin American studies researchers from a broader range of disciplines was unsuccessful. Finally, young researchers took a leading role in remedying the situation, and set up the Japan Association for Latin American Studies in 1980.

Accordingly, this association places strong emphasis on cross-disciplinary perspectives. Association members characteristically include not only human and social scientists, but also natural scientists, including physical anthropologists and those researching medicine. However, human and social scientists form the overwhelming majority of the membership. Based on the association's 1996 directory, it is estimated that members who are historians, economists, and ethnologists (including anthropologists and archaeologists) each number more than 50, whereas there are approximately 40 literary researchers and about 30 political scientists.

The Association's major activities are its annual congress and semiannual meetings, which take place in three regions in Japan. In addition, it publishes an annual journal, in its 17th issue this year.

Emphasis on international collaboration is a recent and important policy development for the Association: it has already become a member of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA) in the United States as an institution. Moreover, the association is considering a long-term exchange program with German Latin American studies experts after a successful joint symposium took place in Berlin in March of this year.

Secretariat

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—MATSUSHITA Hiroshi

Perspective

Egypt Viewed from Periphery



Prof. KATO Hiroshi

Faculty of Economics, Hitotsubashi University.

Herodotus said that Egypt was a gift of the Nile. As symbolized by these famous words of the well-known Greek historian, agricultural civilizations watered by the Nile flourished in Egypt since ancient times. Strong political powers developing one after another in the Mediterranean region tried to conquer Egypt, attracted by its rich agricultural resources. As time passed, however, all these political powers eventually became "Egyptianized" instead.

The Nile was a serpent that swallowed everything. Though men of power established centralized governments to exploit Egypt's wealth as much as possible, they were not the heroes of Egyptian history. Rather, the hero was the Nile, which nourished Egyptian civilization, and the farmers who depended on her waters for the fruits of their diligent labor.

This was my view of Egypt a quarter century ago, when I chose Egyptian socio-economic history as my subject of research. Clearly illustrated in this view is the academic atmosphere then surrounding Japanese students interested in socio-economic history of foreign countries. Characteristic elements of the academic approach at that time were intellectual curiosity about foreign cultures—seemingly primitive and romantic—and an emphasis on agriculture. The general attitude of Japanese academic circles was that the key to economic growth and "modern" society was to modernize agriculture and improve farmers' lives.

This emphasis on agriculture—which could lead to physiocracy, or the "agriculture-first" principle—was based on the economic development pattern of Japan, as well as that of Europe (after which Japan modeled its construction of a modern nation). Egypt was a typical agricultural country. It was an ideal subject of research for my interests. Within Egypt, as well, the historical perspective that the modern and contemporary history of Egypt could be imaged as a process of constructing the nation-state of Egypt at the hands of the Egyptian, mainly the farmers, was influential. Young and respected Egyptian historians usually specialized in socio-economic history, especially as related to agriculture. My personal interest, strongly influenced by the trend in Japanese

academic circles, was harmonious with the trend of academic circles in Egypt, and so I could pursue my research comfortably.

However, this did not last long. When I shifted my analytic point of view from the macroscopic to the microscopic—from, for example, the nation to villages—I felt a sense of incongruity in the agriculture-centered view of history, and that sense of incongruity grew. This certainly was influenced by the rapid decline in the economic position of agriculture in both advanced and developing countries. (This decline is also noted as part of the emergence of post-industrial capitalism or information-oriented society.) There was, nonetheless, a factor more significant to me than the contemporary historical features mentioned above: my discovery of an authoritarian, unitarian perspective in the agriculture-centered view of history. I understand that a similar incongruous sense is also emerging amongst the recent researchers studying social history in the field of Japanese history, with a particular focus on human groups engaged in non-agricultural occupation.

My present work is to reconstruct the great nomadic uprising which occurred in mid-19th century Egypt. For that purpose, I am investigating unpublished documents and interviewing people concerned. It was the greatest rebellion in modern Egypt and a significant incident that thoroughly changed the position of nomads in their relation to the national government. Notwithstanding this importance, the uprising has never been referred to in existing research. It is an incident that has been ignored in the history of modern Egypt. Why have all researchers ignored the uprising, despite the fact that it was a tremendous challenge to the Egyptian government at that time? My interest in the uprising is focused exclusively on this point.

Indeed, I believe that they ignored the incident because of the agriculture-centered view of history underlying the existing research on the history of modern and contemporary Egypt. The agriculture-centered view cannot take nomads as a subject of study because nomads are regarded as mere driftwood living on the peripheries of the nation-state. It is a clear reflection of a unitarian and authoritarian view of society.

My reconstruction of this incident, ignored by standard Egyptian history, is a statement against the trend of existing research of modern and contemporary Egyptian history—including my own—which relies heavily on the agriculture-centered perspective. At the same time, it is also an expression of my adoration of a non-authoritarian society that permits coexistence of a variety of values.