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INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH IN HUMANITIES

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2007

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Research Seminars

Department of Humanities

KINGSHIP AND RITUAL

(coordinated by M. FUJII, April 2005–March 2009)

This seminar aims to examine the relationship between kingship and ritual in different societies and ages from various angles with the collaboration of scholars in diverse fields including history, archaeology, anthropology, linguistics, and classical studies of India and China. The seminar consists of two types of sessions: readings and forums. Readings involve the study and translation of the Vedic texts of the *Rajasuya*, a rite of royal consecration in ancient India, which has been selected as one of our basic research materials. Forums provide seminar members opportunities to present papers or reports, including the results of the reading sessions, and to conduct discussions on the various aspects of kingship and ritual.

EXPLORATION OF “ZINBUN”

(coordinated by T. IWAKI and A. KIKUCHI, April 2007–March 2010)

This seminar aims to explore the history of the Institute for Research in Humanities (Zinbun), Kyoto University from various angles with the collaboration of scholars in many fields including history, anthropology, archaeology, literature, art and so on. Since its establishment in 1929, Zinbun has produced various kinds of intellectual outputs: 1) published works, 2) human resources, 3) intellectual materials, and 4) methods and methodology. We are currently engaged in collecting and arranging the basic information concerning these outputs. Based on these data, we will reexamine Zinbun in the context of modern Japanese intellectual history.

MIGRATION IN MODERN EAST ASIA

(coordinated by N. MIZUNO, April 2006–March 2009)

During the second half of the 19th century and the first half of the 20th century, large-scale “movements of peoples” occurred in East Asia for a number of reasons, such as incorporation of East Asia into world capitalist systems, expansion of the Japanese empire, and social

changes within each country or area. However, until now this problem has solely been considered within the context of each country or area. This project aims to examine the historical significance of movements of peoples in modern East Asia, mainly by investigating the issue of migration and its causes between Japan, Korea, China, and other areas.

STUDIES IN FICTION AND FICTIONALITY: TOWARDS A GENERAL FICTOLOGY
(coordinated by Y. OURA, April 2005–March 2009)

What is fiction? And fictionality? Between things or phenomena which may be related to these terms in various fields—literary, cinematographic, legal, economic, political, anthropologic, psychologic, etc.— can we conceive any common denominators and a logic sustaining them? Some attempts have been made to investigate each of these “fictions” (especially the literary one); however, it can be said that almost none were for the purpose of seeking an all-embracing knowledge about them that I would call “general fictology”. That is our concern. This research project will be conducted in collaboration with the “Projet de GDR” directed by Jean-Marie Schaeffer of the EHESS, Paris.

STUDIES ON MODERN ANCIENT CAPITALS
(coordinated by H. TAKAGI, April 2006–March 2009)

The “Modern Ancient Capitals Workshop” comprises historians, architects, art historians, and landscape architects who convene to examine the modern history of Japan’s “Ancient Capitals,” which include not only Kyoto, but also Nara, Shuri, Ise, and former castle towns such Kanazawa, Sendai, and Hirosaki. “Ancient Capital” is itself a modern term, originating in the *Ancient Capitals Preservation Law* of 1966, which has recently been expanded to include Kanazawa and Ôtsu.

One purpose of the research group is to investigate the tensions that arise between this image as Ancient Capital and political and economic realities. In Kyoto, for instance, its image as the center of native Japanese culture has often conflicted with attempts by the government and commercial and industrial interests to remake the city into a center for manufacturing and industry, as happened during the 1895 celebrations of the anniversary of Heian-kyō and the enthronement ceremony in 1915, the primary purpose of which were, in fact, regional (economic) development.

This workshop attempts to further interdisciplinary research on “Ancient Capitals” from the early modern period through to the present. In the future, we intend to expand our scope to include the study of “Ancient Capitals” in both China and Korea.

AN INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDY OF REPRESENTATION AND EXPRESSION OF RACE
(coordinated by Y. TAKEZAWA, April 2003–March 2009)

There has been a consensus among scientists that there is no biological reality of race. Why then does race maintain its social reality so pervasively? This study, following our previous project on the idea of race, aims to examine the reality of race in terms of its expression

and representation. The research aims to examine not only dominant ideas of race, but also contestation and challenge of racial representations by minorities themselves. Research members use caricatures, advertisements, novels, paintings, oral interviews, scientific writings and other materials to approach this question (See <http://www.zinbun.kyoto-u.ac.jp/~race/>).

FOR A STUDY OF MULTICULTURAL CONTACT ZONES

(coordinated by M. TANAKA, April 2006–March 2009)

This new project is scheduled to span a period of three years. It reviews the problems of previous research in history and literature that take for granted the nation-state as a unit and area studies that consider particular regions as being units for analysis. This project proposes to take up peripheral regions as contact zones where plural cultures interact and aims to analyze the dynamism of cultural practices therein. It has been pointed out for many years now that the field of humanities has become too subdivided and highly specialized, so it cannot deal with contemporary issues such as religious disputes, transnational migration, ethnic conflicts, etc. The present project recognizes this as an urgent problem and investigates the possibility of overcoming it by appropriate research content and organization. It selects East Asia, South Asia, and Central Asia as contact zones and studies the historical and contemporary issues in these regions. This project is the central project of the International Research Center attached to the Institute for Research in Humanities.

THE ENLIGHTENMENTS AND THEIR VICISSITUDES—A GENEALOGICAL STUDY

(coordinated by S. TOMINAGA, April 2005–March 2009)

“Enlightenment” is a term that not only refers to a tide of philosophy in 18th-century Europe, but also carries an idea of universal value for which it has been pursued throughout the world ever since the French Revolution. At the same time, this very idea has stirred up a series of criticisms. From the latter point of view, “Enlightenment” can be considered the key critical concept through which modern society reflects on itself in the course of its organization and reorganization. Rethinking of “Enlightenment” in this sense by contemporary philosophers such as Habermas, Foucault, and Derrida testifies to the importance of this concept in the study of intellectual history or in humanities today, having witnessed the “crisis” of the systems and ideals of modern society and the emergence of so-called “post-modern” conditions.

In this research project, we will study the ideas and practices of “Enlightenment” in different countries including not only Western Europe but also Asia, Russia, and North and South America, with research members from disciplines such as philosophy, sociology, literature, art, and history of science. This study aims to present a comprehensive historical perspective that will enable us to grasp the multidimensionality reflected by this concept in modern history, and then to propose what and how we can adopt from that history.

TOWARDS A TRANS-DISCIPLINARY STUDY OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR
(coordinated by S. YAMAMURO and A. OKADA, April 2007–March 2009)

Although nearly a century has already passed since its outbreak, the First World War still matters much. We can be said to be living under the historical impact of the First World War, which marked the commencement of the so-called modern age, i.e., the age of total war and massacre.

In spite of its being an important turning-point for modern Japan, only a few authoritative studies on the war are available in this country. On the contrary, a flood of publications has been produced on this subject in Europe and America. However it is safe to say that many of these works tend to regard the war as a kind of European civil war. The importance of the roles played by non-European elements in the war is still to be explored. What is needed is to overcome the futile dichotomy of 'the West versus the East' in our understanding of the war.

This two-year-long academic project, comprising members from a wide-range of academic backgrounds, aims to tackle the following question: how can we reexamine this subject of great historical significance from a global and trans-disciplinary perspective? From April 2009 onwards, a second and more specific project on the First World War will be conducted until 2014.

LANGUAGE AND CIVILISATION
(coordinated by T. YOKOYAMA, April 2002–March 2008)

When human societies move from the stage of mere stability to that of civilisation, it seems that language, while itself undergoing profound changes, plays a significant role. The seminar intends to clarify modes of relationship between language and civilisation by transdisciplinary discussion of notable cases in premodern East Asian and West European societies.

The participants in this seminar, ranging in their disciplines from the humanities to ecology, share the idea that since the Industrial Revolution, no civilization, or *bunmei*, in the classical sense of the word has come into being in human history, and that the quality of language will matter more than ever for the civilising process.

The problem today is that the seeds of global social stability and even of future civilisation have been sown in the form of new taboos, produced by cutting-edge science and technology, while at the same time the overspecialisation of human activities seems to lead to a gradual decline in the power of language, changing any new trend towards stability or civilisation into one of stagnation. The seminar will meet fortnightly with such concerns in mind.

Department of Oriental Studies

SOURCES OF ANCIENT CHINESE HISTORY
(coordinated by T. ASAHARA, April 2007–March 2010)

This is an introductory seminar for interested members who wish to study ancient Chinese history, especially of the pre-Qin period. By reading basic articles or historical sources, participating members will be able to develop their understanding and increase their knowledge on the topic. They are also expected to help each other to this end.

PARAMARTHA (ZHENDI) AND HIS TIMES

(coordinated by T. FUNAYAMA, April 2005–March 2010)

This research seminar focuses on Paramartha alias Zhendi (6th century C. E.), by investigating his geographical movements, his identity and significance as a Buddhist monk, his historical context, and various religious phenomena pertaining to his career and work. Paramartha, who is traditionally considered as one of the “four great translators” of Indic Buddhist works into Chinese, has a complex Buddhist identity. He had close ties with the Sammitiya School of Buddhism; he placed great importance on the *Abhidharmakosa* of the Sarvastivada School in doctrinal matters; moreover, as an adherent of the Mahayana, he also propounded Vijnaptimatra (“consciousness only” or “mere representation”) thought. In this research group, we will focus our attention particularly on commentaries composed by Paramartha himself during the process of translation, along with the collection and interpretation of fragments of his otherwise lost works preserved in later texts. Through these activities, we will attempt to arrive at new insights into Paramartha’s activities from the perspectives of both Indian and Chinese Buddhism.

STONE INSCRIPTIONS IN THE NORTHERN DYNASTIES

(coordinated by R. INAMI, April 2005–March 2010)

In this seminar, we will analyze the rubbings of inscriptions in the Northern Dynasties in the possession of our Institute. First, we will precisely examine the Chinese characters on the rubbings, and then comment on them based on a traditional method. For missing portions, we will refer to previous studies. Rubbings of the inscriptions have been digitalized by our Institute (See <http://www.zinbun.kyoto-u.ac.jp/~imgsrv/>).

SOCIALIST CULTURE IN CHINA

(coordinated by Y. ISHIKAWA, April 2006–March 2009)

With the end of Cold War ideology, the very idea of “socialist culture” has been wearing thin all over the world. In contemporary China, however, a deep-seated ideology and socialist culture still prevails. For example, these affect the patterns of thinking of the people at large, guide the current culture and art policies of the state, and determine the narrative of the history of the Chinese Communist Party. In addition, not only was the development of socialist culture in 20th-century China strongly influenced by that of contemporary Japan, but the latter also had a large impact on Chinese studies in postwar Japan. In this research seminar, we shall investigate various aspects of socialist culture in 20th-century China, mainly from the historical perspective.

LEGAL INSTITUTION IN THE YUAN PERIOD

(coordinated by S. IWAI, April 2004–March 2009)

“Da Yuan Shengzheng Guozhao Dianzhang 大元聖政國朝典章” is well-known as the most important source of the legal system of the Yuan period. The Institute for Research in Humanities organized a study project headed by Professor Takeo Abe and his colleagues

about a half-century ago. This project published a revised edition of volumes 39–57 related to criminal law of “Yuan Dianzhang 元典章” and indexes that covered the entire volumes. We have now restarted the study of this material, especially on ceremonial protocols, education system, and religious policy. Furthermore, we have devised a system for searching and viewing of this book on the Internet. A revised electronic text will be prepared over the term of our study.

SEMINAR ON TANG LITERATURE 「唐代文学の研究」
(coordinated by B. KIN, April 2007–March 2010)

This seminar focuses on Tang literature, and particularly on epistolary literature. At present, we are reading, translating, and annotating a famous collection of letter style samples from the early Tang period stored in the Shosoin Imperial Repository, the *Dujia licheng zashu yaolie* (Summary of Various Epistolary Styles of the Du Family) written in the hand of Empress Komyo.

SOCIAL SYSTEM OF 20TH-CENTURY CHINA
(coordinated by T. MORI, April 2003–March 2008)

Research groups on Modern China previously gave primary focus to the period from the 19th century to the first half of the 20th century. However, with the progressive opening of historical records to the public in the form of archives in various parts of China and field surveys being increasingly conducted in various forms, it is now time to expand the scope of the period to include the time following the foundation of the People’s Republic of China, that is, the second half of the 20th century. With an awareness of existing conditions, this research group aims to examine changes in the social system within this 100-year period [from the last years of the Qing Dynasty to the present] from various aspects, such as politics, economy, society, and culture. At present, about fifty scholars studying modern China gather together to further research on this topic.

A STUDY OF THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN CONFUCIANISM, BUDDHISM, AND TAOISM (II)
(coordinated by K. MUGITANI, April 2005–March 2010)

The relation between Confucianism, Buddhism, and Taoism is one of the most important subjects in the Chinese history of thought. Especially during the Tang dynasty, Confucians, Buddhists, and Taoists engaged in many heated controversies and influenced one another in that process. This project aims to clarify the relationships between Confucianism, Buddhism, and Taoism in the Tang dynasty by analyzing selected typical treatises on the defense of Buddhism.

A STUDY OF CHINESE MIRRORS

(coordinated by H. OKAMURA, April 2005–March 2010)

Chinese bronze mirrors are highly appreciated by archaeologists of China and Japan, for they are particularly useful for chronological studies. Aside from the actual design, inscriptions can be found on a great many mirrors of the Han age. The mirror inscriptions have not been fully subjected to comprehensive studies because the content and the language of the inscriptions are sometimes very difficult to analyze. To make a concordance of all the inscriptions known thus far, we are first reading B. Karlgren's "Early Chinese Mirror Inscriptions" (BMFEA, No. 6, 1934).

A SYNTHETIC STUDY OF CHINESE PAINTINGS

(coordinated by H. SOFUKAWA, April 2005–March 2009)

In recent years, material pertaining to Chinese paintings has become increasingly available with the discoveries of paintings from ancient times and the middle ages as a result of archaeological excavations and the disclosures regarding work of early modern times. However, efforts to gain a clear grasp of the situation have been far from adequate. From the enormous amount of existing materials, we consider it important to first systematically rearrange them using a database and to examine them from various approaches. We collect as much materials as possible and study them from the viewpoint of style theory, iconology, painting theory, technique, patron, and collection. Additional approaches used are examining them from the aspects of calligraphy, poetry, and so forth as we attempt to conduct a synthetic study.

A STUDY OF THE MEDIEVAL MANUSCRIPTS DISCOVERED IN DUNHUANG AND CHINESE TURKESTAN

(coordinated by T. TAKATA, April 2006–March 2011)

From the end of the 19th century, a large number of medieval manuscripts were successively found at Dunhuang, Turfan, and other archaeological sites in Chinese Turkestan. They have been the focus of study of many scholars from all over the world and excellent results have been achieved so far. Nevertheless, many problems remain to be resolved. In this seminar, we will delve deeply into the study of the manuscripts from interdisciplinary points of view. A collection of the articles of the members is to be published every year as an annual report.

A STUDY OF SCIENTIFIC THOUGHT BASED ON YIN-YANG 陰陽 AND WUXING 五行

(coordinated by T. TAKEDA, April 2004–March 2009)

Yin-Yang and Wuxing is one of the fundamental theories of Chinese thought and science. In various fields, such as astronomy, medicine, chemistry, pharmacy, alchemy, astrology, literature, and art, it was broadly used for explanations of various phenomena and proofs of hypothesis. Until now, much research has been conducted on its origin and its effects on political thought during the Han dynasty. However, little has been said about its development

after medieval times. We have therefore selected ISHINPO 医心方 and WUXING-DAYI 五行大義 for the synthetic study of Yin-Yang and Wuxing. These two books contain a wealth of valuable materials that had been lost in China. By analyzing various aspects of Yin-Yang and Wuxing, we will attempt to identify the role it has played in Chinese culture and to clarify its theoretical characteristics.

LIVING SPACE IN THE CHINESE TRADITION

(coordinated by T. TANAKA, April 2005–March 2010)

Not much is known about the actual phases of daily life in China from premodern times, in particular concerning dwelling houses, gardens, furniture, and the design of inner and outer spaces, as well as the rituals in the palace and dwelling houses. We aim to explain the characteristics of life spaces in traditional China by using both the methods of philology and field surveys, and examining them in the context of the history of architecture and garden design, as well as folklore and ethnology. We are currently reading chapter 38 on architecture of the dictionary, *Tong Ya* 通雅, by Fang Yizhi 方以智 (compiled in 1667 during the early Qing dynasty). Not only are discussions conducted at meetings held every other week, but we also often go on field trips to several restoration spots of ancient buildings in the vicinity of the Kyoto-Nara area to learn about the actual technology practiced.

A STUDY OF THE TERMINOLOGY IN HAN WOODEN SLIPS

(coordinated by I. TOMIYA, April 2005–March 2010)

Several groups of wooden slips, which have been unearthed from the sites along the Great Wall of the Han dynasty, contain a large amount of official documents, accounts, and various kinds of administrative records. In these records, we can find many specific terms concerning the documentation system, legal system, and so forth. Usages peculiar to these terms make it difficult to accurately read the Han manuscripts. In this seminar, we will pick up every term from the Han wooden slips and analyse their meanings in their given context. Our final goal is to complete a dictionary on the terminology in Han wooden slips.

CONSTRUCTING 漢字-INFORMATICS

(coordinated by K. YASUOKA, April 2004–March 2008)

In the field of Informatics nowadays, a text is treated as a one-dimensional stream of characters. But for a real text, especially one written in 漢字 characters, it may not be quite a simple matter. Such a text may include a mass of non-linear items, for example, 版心, 割注, or ルビ, that are difficult to convolute within a one-dimensional stream. This means that the treatment of texts, in Informatics hitherto, is not suitable for processing East-Asian texts. In this seminar, we investigate a model for manipulating East-Asian texts and aim to construct new Informatics for 漢字 characters.

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The Documentation and Information Center for Chinese Studies (DICCS) was established in April 2000 by a reorganization of the former Documentation Center for Oriental Studies. The overall mission of the DICCS is to carry out information science research on Chinese characters and to make accessible to researchers historical materials in the Chinese language through new media. A variety of databases are being constructed. *The Annual Bibliography of Oriental Studies* has long been published in book form and is now also available on the Web.