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INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH IN HUMANITIES

STAFF AND SEMINARS

April 2015–March 2016

ACADEMIC STAFF

DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES

Professors

FUJII, Masato, Ph.D. (U. of Helsinki), *Indology/Vedic Studies*
KAGOTANI, Naoto, D.Econ. (Osaka City U.), *Economic History of Modern Japan*
KOSEKI, Takashi, Ph.D. (Hitotsubashi U.), *Social History of Victorian Britain and Ireland*
MIZUNO, Naoki, D.Litt. (Kyoto U.), *Political and Social History of Korea under Japanese Rule*
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OURA, Yasusuke, Ph.D. (U. of Paris-VII), *Literary Theory*
TAKAGI, Hiroshi, D.Litt. (Hokkaido U.), *Modern Japanese Cultural History*
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TANAKA, Masakazu, Ph.D. (U. of London), *Social Anthropology/Gender and Sexuality Studies*
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Associate Professors

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ITO, Junji, D.Litt. (Kyoto U.), *History of Transcaucasia*
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ONO, Yasuteru, D.Litt. (Kyoto U.), *The Korean National Movement and East Asia in the Modern Era*

TANAKA, Yuriko, Ph.D. (U. of Tokyo), *History of Modern Medicine and Philosophy of the Body*

DEPARTMENT OF ORIENTAL STUDIES

Professors

ASAHARA, Tatsuro, *History of Ancient China*

FUNAYAMA, Toru, *Scholastic Tradition and Practice in Indian and Chinese Buddhism*

IKEDA, Takumi, *Sino-Tibetan Dialectology*

INABA, Minoru, *History of Early Islamic Expansion to the East*

INAMI, Ryoichi, *Cultural History of the Qing Period*

ISHIKAWA, Yoshihiro, D.Litt. (Kyoto U.), *History of the Chinese Communist Party*

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TAKEDA, Tokimasa, *Intellectual History of Chinese Science*

TOMIYA, Itaru, D.Litt. (Kyoto U.), *Legal History of China*

WITTERN, Christian, Ph.D. (Goettingen U.), *A Knowledgebase for Buddhist Studies, with a Focus on Chan-Buddhism*

YAGI, Takeshi, D.Litt. (Kyoto U.), *Medieval and Early-Modern History of Korea*

YASUOKA, Koichi, D.Eng. (Kyoto U.), *Character Encoding Methods*

Associate Professors

INAMOTO, Yasuo, *History of Buddhist art in East Asia*

KOGACHI, Ryuichi, D.Litt. (U. of Tokyo), *History of Commentary on Classics in China*

MIYAKE, Kiyoshi, D.Litt. (Kyoto U.), *History of the Qin and Han Dynasties*

MURAKAMI, Ei, D.Litt. (U. of Tokyo), *Socio-Economic History of Modern China*

NAGATA, Tomoyuki, D.Litt. (Kyoto U.), *Literary Theory in Medieval and Early Modern China*

Assistant Professors

ANDO, Fusae, *Buddhist Cave Temples in the Northern Wei Dynasty*

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TAKAI, Takane, *History of Chinese Furniture*

TSUCHIGUCHI, Fuminori, D.Litt. (Kyoto U.), *A Study of the Territorial Control in Ancient China*

YAMAZAKI, Takeshi, D.Litt. (Kyoto U.), *Socio-Political History of Late Imperial China*

Program-Specific Assistant Professors

KOBAYASHI, Takamichi, Ph.D. (Waseda U.), *Politics, Culture and Region during the Song, Jin and Yuan dynasties in China*

MEGURO, Kyoko, Ph.D. (Kyoto Prefectural U.), *State Rituals in the Qin and Han Dynasties*

MORIKAWA, Hiroki, Ph.D. (U. of Tokyo), *Intellectuals and Politics in Republican China*

VISITING SCHOLARS

VITA, Silvio (Professor, Kyoto U. of Foreign Studies), *History of Ideas, Chinese and Japanese Buddhism*

- (Jul. 2007–)
- JACQUET, Benoît (Associate Professor, EFEO, Kyoto) *History and Theory of Modern and Contemporary Japanese Architecture* (Aug. 2008–)
- TAKEGAMI, Mariko (Researcher, National Institutes for the Humanities), *Modern History of China* (April 2012–)
- FUJIMOTO, Yukio (Emeritus Professor, Toyama U.), *Korean Linguistics/Bibliographical studies*, (April 2012–March 2015)
- IKARI, Yasuke (Emeritus Professor, Kyoto U.), *A Study of the Vādhūla Śrautasūtra* (April 2015–)
- KIM, Byung-joon (Professor, Seoul U.), *The Restoration of the Qin-Han Prefecture Installation Process* (Jan.–July 2015)
- XU, Jingbo (Professor, Fudan U.), *China Recognition of a Modern Japanese Intellectual, 1920–1945* (Apr.–Aug. 2015)
- JENSEN, Casper Bruun (Honorary Fellow, U of Leicester.), *Socializing Nature: Infrastructural Responses to Environmental Challenge* (July 2015–Jan. 2016)
- TIEN, Shih-min (Associate Professor, Tamkang U.), *Interactions in the Study of Japanese and Chinese Thought: Perspective from East Asia* (Aug. 2015–Feb. 2016)
- AHN, Sang-woo (Principal Investigator, Korea Institute of Oriental Medicine), *A Study on Materials of traditional Korean medicine Remaining in Japan* (Jan. 2016–)
- TONG, Ling (Associate Professor, Nanjing U.), *Research in Oversea Chinese Classics, the Thought and Academic History of Sixteen Kingdoms Period and Northern Dynasty* (Mar. 2016–)

HAKUBI RESEARCHERS

Kyoto University the Hakubi Project: <http://www.hakubi.kyoto-u.ac.jp/eng/eng.html>

Program-Specific Associate Professor

MAK, Bill M., Ph.D. (Peking U.), *Historical transmission of Indian astral science in East and Southeast Asia*

Program-Specific Assistant Professors

UEMINE, Atushi, Ph.D. (Doshisha U.), *Reconstruction of Early Palaeolithic history based on the novel research methods of lithic observation, excavation and dating*

WADA, Ikuko, D.Litt. (Kyoto U.), *Changing Society along with Developing Port Towns in Early Modern India*

KOISHI, Katsura, D.Litt. (Osaka U.), *Birth and development of public concert and F. Mendelssohn Bartholdy (1809–1847)*

NAKANISHI, Tatsuya, D.Litt. (Kyoto U.), *A Historical Study of Islamic Thought in Modern China Utilizing Multilingual Primary Sources*

RESEARCH SEMINARS

JOINT RESEARCH CENTER

ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURES: COMPARATIVE ETHNOGRAPHIC STUDY ON NATURE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE

(Coordinated by Atsuro MORITA, April 2013–March 2016)

The Environmental Infrastructures project aims at exploring the complex interfaces between scientific and indigenous environmental knowledge among proliferating international attempts to achieve sustainable management of global environmental changes. Mainly drawing on anthropology and science and technology studies (STS) and based on international collaboration between Japanese and Danish scholars, among others, our project is developing a comparative basis for the analysis of the intersections of a variety of practices in the making of infrastructures for knowing and managing environmental change. Our empirical studies range from watershed management projects in Thailand and Ethiopia, to the wave energy industry in western Denmark, and from the construction of an indigenous knowledge database in India, to the reconstruction of the areas affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake.

RE-EXPLORATION OF WEB FOR HUMANITIES RESOURCES

(Coordinated by Kikyonori NAGASAKI, April 2013–March 2016)

With the development of web technology, new possibilities, for example interoperability, have been added to the web service for humanities resources. However, it is still challenging to solve problems such as the improvement of old systems and data. As a result, it has become difficult for humanities scholars to use these technologies in a mixed environment where old and new services coexist. Under such circumstances, we aim to re-explore the web for humanities resources, surveying ideal implementations and the current various web services managed mainly by ourselves, in order to suggest ways of realizing better web services for humanities resources.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE EAST-ASIAN EXEGETICAL TRADITION, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO RELIGIOUS TEXTS

(Coordinated by Jun FUJII, April 2013–March 2016)

This project explores the historical development of East-Asian exegetical tradition(s) by carefully comparing translations and interpretations of religious texts produced in the East Asian cultural sphere with those produced in other regions. In exploring the transmission, interpretation, and transformation of the East Asian classics over time, the history of Buddhism provides a particularly effective avenue of inquiry, because Buddhist textual materials are a rich resource, both in terms of quality and quantity. They have, as a result, inspired a long history of productive research. In the case of medieval China, for example, when exegetes commented on the meanings of terms, they often based their interpretations on the orthodox Chinese exegetical tradition, which sometimes led to the replacement of specific characters with either homophonous or (near-)synonymous ones. This led to an evolution in the interpretation of the original terms, whose connotations and denotations were transformed by these borrowings and substitutions. This research project aims to offer both a diachronic investigation of

the exegetical approaches taken to the classics in the East Asian cultural sphere, and an exploration of the idiosyncratic modes of thought and expression that have arisen in East Asian cultures due to their mode of literary expression, namely, Chinese characters.

RECONSTRUCTING JAPANESE RELIGIOUS HISTORIES

(Coordinated by Eiichi ÔTANI, April 2014–March 2017)

The purpose of this research is to undo the “modernist” assumptions in the accepted view of the history of Japanese religion, unearth the phenomena that have hitherto been hidden by this bias, and construct a new view of the history of Japanese religion. Historical views of Japanese religion have suffered from various limitations, including the assumptions associated with the modern concept of “religion,” the grip of the nation-state, the fragmentation of research along sectarian lines and so on. Now it has become necessary for us to bring these restrictions out into the open and search for new ways to overcome them. In order to achieve our purpose, we are advancing along two tracks. First, by subjecting the history of Japanese academia to methods from intellectual and social history, we aim to uncover the hidden assumptions that formed and sustained the accepted view of the history of Japanese religion. Second, by bringing together empirical research from various disciplines, such as the history of religion, history, sociology, and folklore, we aim to shed new light on the perspectives and omissions in the accepted view of the history of Japanese religion. In this way, we aim to unite the theoretical, metahistorical approach, and the empirical approach to Japanese religion, and thereby create a space for productive dialogue that allows us to open up new directions.

VARIOUS ASPECTS OF TRADITIONAL MEDICAL CULTURE IN EAST ASIA

(Coordinated by Toru ÔGATA, April 2014–March 2017)

The East-Asian tradition of medicine, exemplified by techniques such as acupuncture, moxibustion, acupressure massage, and medical treatments such as herbal remedies, has been developed extensively. As a unique cultural complex, the tradition is closely connected to transformative corporal techniques found in Taoism, Buddhism and Onmyodo, such as religious incantation, inner alchemy, and meditation. It is also associated with folk beliefs which are mixed with popular life-prolonging practices, elixirs and rituals. In order to create a comprehensive framework for examining the traditional medical culture, our research group brings together not only historians of medicine, but also medical practitioners from the pharmaceutical and clinical fields, acupuncturists, and textual scholars from philosophy, religion and science. It attempts to grasp the whole picture of the medical culture from a multidisciplinary perspective and to examine its features and possibilities. By reviewing the medical traditions and the current research on the medical history of Japan, China and Korea, we plan to discuss the future of traditional East-Asian medicine, both within the context of the current trends of medical practice such as integrative medicine and team medicine, and from the standpoint of traditional medicine itself.

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES ON THE HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE TIBETO-HIMALAYAN CIVILIZATION

(Coordinated by Kazushi IWAO, April 2015–March 2018)

This research project aims to re-evaluate the historical position of the civilization of the Tibeto-

Himalayan region in the context of Eurasian history. To this end, our team brings together the latest academic knowledge on various aspects, such as social systems, religion, ritual and language, historical and long-term cultural exchanges between the Tibeto-Himalayan region and the surrounding civilizations, and analyzes these historical developments from various angles.

The Tibeto-Himalayan region has developed a unique civilization under the influence of the surrounding prior civilizations. Assimilating Buddhism in the society made Tibetan civilization more powerful, and since then it has widely expanded its influence towards the Mongolian plateau and Eastern Asia. Even after the middle of the 20th century, when PRC annexed the region, it has maintained its influence and has reached Europe and the United States. One has to consider how the Tibetan civilization gained its power and flexibility, and also trace how it came into conflict and later found ways to be harmonized with the surrounding civilizations. To clarify these issues, our project will analyze the various aspects of the multiple contacts between the Tibeto-Himalayan region and other civilizations.

Department of Humanities

HISTORICAL RESEARCH ON KOREA DURING THE SINO-JAPANESE AND ASIA-PACIFIC WARS (1937–1945)

(Coordinated by Naoki MIZUNO, April 2012–March 2016)

This research project aims to survey the basic documentary materials of wartime Korea, such as newspapers, magazines and unpublished documents, and to use them to analyze various aspects of politics and society in Korea under Japanese colonial rule. During the war (1937–1945), the colonial government of Korea implemented a number of dramatically transformative policies, such as the so-called “Policy of Making Koreans Imperial Subjects” and “Policy of Integrating Japan and Korea into One Body.” There are few academic studies that focus on this period, despite its importance for Korean history. With that in mind, this project intends to clarify the political and social aspects of wartime Korea.

THE MAKING OF SOCIAL ORDER WITHIN ASIAN COMMERCIAL NETWORKS

(Coordinated by Naoto KAGOTANI, April 2012–March 2016)

This research project aims to examine the dynamism of Chinese merchants and other people in tropical Southeast Asia, with a special reference to the public records and archive sources of their activities in Java. Our main discussions will concentrate upon the social order created by Chinese merchants and people in order to acclimate themselves to a tropical natural environment and the institutions of colonial powers.

THE MODERN EMPEROR SYSTEM AND JAPANESE SOCIETY

(Coordinated by Hiroshi TAKAGI, April 2012–March 2016)

Recently, there has been a decline in the historical research that considers the emperor system in relation to the state and society in Japan. Instead, recent work has focused on the image of the emperor or on Japanese emperors as individuals. In our research, rather than thinking in terms of simple political processes, we aim to examine modern Japan itself by making the modern emperor system and Japanese society our object of study. For example, approaching the progression from the Meiji Restoration to the Asian Pacific War through the framework of Japanese society and the modern emperor system allows us to rethink what is unique and what is universal about modern Japan. Focusing on the transition from

the early modern to the modern period, we explore the emperor system in relation to society, broadly defined to include local areas such as towns and villages, and diverse elements such as culture, religion, thought, education, social movements, and folk customs. Of course, we also do not deny the importance of politics within our research group, which includes researchers specializing in diverse fields of historical study such as political history, educational history, cultural history, intellectual history, social movement history, art history, colonial history, folklore studies, and regional history.

BRAHMANISM AND HINDUISM: A PRELIMINARY STUDY

(Coordinated by Masato FUJII, April 2014–March 2016)

Brahmanism and Hinduism, although the latter succeeded the former historically, have coexisted, mingled, and influenced each other as two fundamental religious and social systems in India. This seminar intends to make a preliminary study of diachronic and synchronic relationships between Brahmanism and Hinduism in the past and present of India, in preparation for a full-scale research planned to start next year.

WHAT IS THE 'MODERN WORLD'? A STUDY FROM THE VIEWPOINT OF HUMANITIES

(Coordinated by Shin'ichi YAMAMURO and Takashi KOSEKI, April 2015–March 2018)

This project intends to further the academic achievements of the previous project, 'A Trans-disciplinary Study of the First World War', and to examine them in the larger contexts of modern/twentieth century history. As a foundational moment of the 'modern world', the First World War brought about various 'modern' questions, some of which have been answered, while others remain unresolved. Some of them have changed their appearance, keeping their essence intact. Topics to be examined in our project are: the transformation of democracy, the changing relationship between globalism and localism/nationalism, the rise of paramilitary violence and terrorism, the rise and decline of 'modern' arts, the continuity and discontinuity between 'kindai' and 'gendai', and so on. The subtitle of the project, 'from the viewpoint of humanities', implies an ontological question, that is: in the age following 'the crisis of European sciences' (Edmund Husserl), can humanities effectively tackle the questions posed by the 'modern world'?

STUDIES OF UMWELTEN: THE LIVES AND LIVED WORLDS OF HUMAN AND NON-HUMAN BEINGS

(Coordinated by Yasusuke OURA, April 2015–March 2017)

By focusing on the lives, skills, interactions, and boundaries of human and nonhuman beings, this research explores a new field in humanities. Jakob von Uexküll, a German biologist, has put forth the idea of Umwelt, which denotes the unique and entwined relationships between a creature and its environment. This notion presents a novel perspective by which to pluralize the 'natural worlds' of creatures, thus criticizing the anthropocentric idea of a sole 'world'. The notion of Umwelt has provoked broad arguments in both the natural and the human sciences. The influence of Uexküll's work can be found, for instance, in Viktor von Weizsäcker's influential book *Der Gestaltkreis* and also in the work of Bin Kimura. Moreover, since the 1990s, we find an interesting common trend in various fields of the humanities: studies of the environment are flourishing in history; new approaches to human-nonhuman

relations are developing in anthropology; and inquiries into human-animal relations and ethology are evident in philosophy. This development shows that the humanities have now broadened their reach beyond anthropocentrism and are proposing new perspectives for exploring the lives and lived worlds of both human and nonhuman beings. This research project, based on both philosophical arguments and concrete case studies, investigates the comprehensive issues concerning life and Umwelten. It deals with various critical topics, such as agriculture, natural and man-made disasters, mining developments, religious practices, illness and care, and scientific technology. Through a thorough investigation of the lives of and interactions between human and nonhuman beings, as well as of their unique Umwelten, this project seeks to understand the ‘worlding’ of human beings as a part of life on the planet.

A PERSPECTIVE ON UMESAO STUDIES

(Coordinated by Masakazu TANAKA, April 2015–March 2018)

This two-year long project focuses on the works of the late Tadao Umesao and his colleagues. Although Umesao’s major articles and books are found in his collected works published by Chuokoron-shinsha, there are many published articles not included in the above collection. We plan to turn our attention to these articles, as well as his dialogues and discussions with other academics published in books and journals. The Institute for Research in Humanities has numerous recorded tapes of his seminars, and this project is the first attempt to analyze them in a systematic way. In addition, we will try to understand the mutual influences among Umesao and his colleagues. This project will be developed in close collaboration with the National Museum of Ethnology, where Umesao became Founding Director in 1974.

A STUDY OF THE *VĀDHŪLA ŚRAUTASŪTRA*

(Coordinated by Yasuke IKARI and Masato FUJII, April 2015–March 2018)

The main purpose of this joint study is the examination of the ritual manuals of the Vādhūla school of the Yajurveda, whose original manuscripts were discovered by the coordinator of this joint study in the Kerala State of South India. The texts of the Vādhūla school have previously been analysed by scholars using only the secondary manuscripts available at the time. The discovery of the original manuscripts has drastically changed the situation, and we are now in a far better position to get the almost full picture of the original texts of the Vādhūla school. We have been preparing an edition of the fundamental texts of this school, that scholars of Vedic philology are looking forward to.

In this joint study, we will comprehensively examine the texts of two significant rituals of the Vedic Śrautasūtra, i.e. the rituals of the Soma (Agniṣṭoma) and the Construction of the Fire-altar (Agnicayana). The former is the core of the entire Vedic ritual tradition starting from the Rig Veda, the oldest Vedic literature, while the latter represents the culmination of the history of Vedic culture, the social as well as cultural reformation and restructure of the middle Vedic age.

Our research will be carried out by combining two types of studies: joint reading and examination of the manuscripts of the relevant portions of the Vādhūla Śrautasūtra (6th, 7th and 8th Chapters) by all the members, and reports on important topics related to the rituals examined, made by the coordinator and the members. Our plan at the end of the joint study is to publish a critical edition and an annotated English translation of the three chapters of the Vādhūla Śrautasūtra mentioned above.

DEPARTMENT OF ORIENTAL STUDIES

REORGANIZATION OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC INSTITUTIONS IN MODERN CHINA

(Coordinated by Ei MURAKAMI, April 2012–March 2016)

The economic development in China during the last 30 years has attracted many foreigners, including Japanese, seeking business opportunities. As contact between foreigners and Chinese people increased both in and out of China, various conflicts arose because of cultural and behavioral differences between the native Chinese and foreigners. Thus, it has become important to properly understand Chinese society and economy in order to solve these problems.

On the other hand, recent scholarship from the English-speaking world tends to hold that the economic standard in China's core regions is almost the same as that in Western Europe at the end of the eighteenth century. However, these studies do not fully explain the rapid economic growth in China during the last 30 years or the "small divergence" between China and Japan since the mid-nineteenth century. Therefore, in order to fully understand these issues, it is important to investigate the institutions directing social and economic changes in China in the modern period.

In this study, we examine the transformation of institutions such as customs, common sense, rules, orders, and behavioral patterns, which have directed Chinese society and its economy from the 17th century to the modern period.

APPLIED DIGITAL ANALYSIS OF CLASSICAL CHINESE TEXTS

(Coordinated by Koichi YASUOKA, April 2013–March 2016)

In this project, we research a method of retrieving keywords from classical Chinese texts, based on our original morphological analyzer and our digital corpus of classical Chinese texts. In other words, we develop a keyword-retrieving system that can fragment continuous strings of characters of classical Chinese texts into phrases, divide classical Chinese phrases into words, and classify classical Chinese words under proper word-classes, designed to describe the detailed behavior of the words in the phrases.

FUNDAMENTAL TOPICS IN DIGITAL HUMANITIES

(Coordinated by Christian WITTERN, April 2013–March 2016)

Digital Humanities has become a hot topic in recent years as a catch-all designation for research in the Humanities that somehow employs digital data or methods. This research project takes a rather different approach, as it attempts to apply methods developed in philological and textual studies to texts transformed into the digital realm, and thus to create a firm basis support traditional research in the fields of East-Asian Studies using the methods of the 21st century. The current work focuses on protocols and infrastructure for a shared repository of pre-modern texts and research material.

SOURCES OF ANCIENT CHINESE HISTORY

(Coordinated by Tatsuro ASAHARA, April 2013–March 2016)

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 develop their understanding of, and increase their knowledge on the topic. They are also expected to help each other to this end.

INTER-REGIONAL RELATIONS AND MEDIATORS IN EARLY MODERN EAST ASIA

(Coordinated by Shigeki IWAI, April 2014–March 2017)

China has experienced a rapid rise both in the economic and political spheres. This rise is one of the main factors contributing to the changes in the structure of world order. Recently, historians have been focusing on analyzing various issues related to the past international and inter-regional relations and world order in East Asia.

Before the era of opening ports and treaties, China entertained an idea of an extremely self-centric world order, and forced neighbouring nations to concede the superiority of the Celestial Empire of China. At the same time, persons or groups engaged in inter-regional trade acted according to their own desires and interests, which were different from political and diplomatic matters. They sometimes participated in the process of inter-regional order formation. In other words, the sovereigns and vassals expressed their political and formal interests, while private mediators in inter-regional relations acted according to theirs.

This project tries to identify the moments of confrontation and conciliation between political ideas and economic strategies, and to shed light on the dynamics of inter-regional order formation processes in early modern East Asia.

EAST-ASIAN RELIGIOUS CULTURE AND NATURAL SCIENCE

(Coordinated by Tokimasa TAKEDA, April 2015–March 2018)

The purpose of this research project is to explore the relationship between religious cultures and natural science in pre-modern East Asia. In contrast to the lack of enthusiasm in scientific enquiries in the officialdom due to the tenacity of the Confucian politico-exegetical tradition, religious cultures represented by Taoism and Buddhism played a vital role in the development of East Asian natural science. Based on the naturalistic philosophy and health theory of the Taoists on one hand, and the unique worldview and life theory developed from ancient Indian science by the Buddhists on the other, religions and science play a complementary role in the East Asian societies. The two focuses of our project are: i) The relationship between the theories of body and health as encapsulated in Taoist and Buddhist practices and medical science; ii) The conflict between the Buddhist and Taoist worldview and the Western cosmology brought to the East by the Jesuits, and their influence on pre-modern astronomy.

A STUDY ON WENSHI TONGYI

(Coordinated by Ryuichi KOGACHI, April 2015–March 2018)

Zhang Xuecheng (1738–1801) was an eminent Qing Dynasty historian especially famous for the historical theory expressed in his magnum opus, *On Literature and History*. The book clarifies the meaning of philological and historical writings in the Chinese culture from ancient times to the Qing dynasty; thus, it should be read more closely, and from the standpoint of various disciplines.

To clarify the framework of *On Literature and History*, we shall employ a multifaceted approach and thoroughly translate its *Inner part* into Japanese, with precise annotations. The series of translations

will be published in the *Tōhō gakuho*, Kyoto.

A STUDY ON MAO ZEDONG: FROM THE VIEWPOINT OF HUMANITIES

(Coordinated by Yoshihiro ISHIKAWA, April 2015–March 2018)

After his death in 1976, Mao Zedong's importance has, at least on the surface, been wearing thin all over China. In contemporary China, however, the significance of his legacy still prevails. It affects the patterns of thinking of the people at large, and has become a kind of icon of the anti-inequality sentiment among the people. On the other hand, the image of Mao as a commanding leader is shared by the current political leadership of China and determines the discourse about the history of the Chinese Communist Party. Although it seems that much ink has been spent on Mao, there are still a lot of unanswered questions. In this research seminar, we shall investigate various aspects of Mao, mainly from the viewpoint of humanities, focusing on his image in history, literature, art, and so on.

FRONTIER AND TRANSFRONTIER AREAS IN PRE-MODERN EURASIA

(Coordinated by Minoru INABA, April 2015–March 2018)

Eurasia has been divided into several historical/cultural spheres since ancient times. We can, however, observe considerably vigorous interactions and exchanges across the frontiers/boundaries of those spheres even in the pre-modern period. It is almost certain that the trans-frontier activities, namely the activities which brought various people, objects, and notions from beyond the frontier provided each sphere with historical and cultural dynamism. However, it is not at all an easy task to explain why these spheres have been essentially divided and sustained as separate, as this is a question that may deeply be related to the fundamental structure of human society and culture. In this research seminar, issues such as the physical background of the emergence of each historical/ cultural sphere in pre-modern Eurasia, as well as how the trans-frontier activities were made possible, are to be addressed, employing viewpoints from various disciplines, in order to contribute to the general understanding of the frontier.

STUDIES ON THE BUDDHIST CAVE-TEMPLES OF THE NORTHERN DYNASTIES

(Coordinated by Hidenori OKAMURA, April 2015–March 2018)

The Yungang Caves, located near the city of Datong in the Shanxi province in China, are a group of Buddhist cave-temples excavated in the latter half of the fifth century by the Northern Wei dynasty. Between 1938 and 1944, following the investigations of the Xiangtangshan Caves in the Hebei province and the Longmen Caves in the Henan province, the Research Institute of Oriental Culture, the predecessor of the Institute for Research in Humanities, Kyoto University, carried out investigations of the Yungang Caves and its neighboring sites. A report on these investigations was published in the form of the voluminous *Yunkang* (1951–1956), in 16 volumes and 32 fascicules, by Mizuno Seiichi and Nagahiro Toshio. This research seminar has set about researching the visual materials and field notes collected from the above-mentioned investigations with the goal of systematically digitizing, actively promoting the further use of these research resources, and making them available to the public.

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The Center for Informatics in East Asian Studies (CIEAS) was established in April 2009 via the reorganization of the former Documentation and Information Center for Chinese Studies. The overall mission of the CIEAS is to carry out information science research on East Asian languages and to make historical East Asian materials accessible to researchers through new media. A variety of databases, including the Catalog of Old Chinese Books in Japanese Libraries, are being constructed. The Annual Bibliography of Oriental Studies, which has long been published in book form, is now also available online.

RESEARCH CENTER FOR MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY CHINA (RCMCC)

<http://www.zinbun.kyoto-u.ac.jp/~rcmcc/index.htm>

The Research Center for Modern and Contemporary China (RCMCC) was established in April 2007 via an agreement between Kyoto University and the National Institutes for the Humanities (NIHU), which is part of the Inter-University Research Institute Corporations. The main mission of the RCMCC is to carry out research on the fundamental structure of modern and contemporary China from the point of view of humanities. Research activities of the RCMCC consist of two research groups: Research Group 1, "Deep Structure of the Modern and Contemporary Chinese Culture", and Research Group 2, "Social Foundation of the Modern and Contemporary Chinese Politics". Moreover, the RCMCC, as one of the research bases selected by the NIHU program "Contemporary Chinese Area Studies", conducts joint research in association with the other five research bases.