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INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH IN HUMANITIES

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2006

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Research Seminars

KINGSHIP AND RITUAL

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

This seminar aims to study the relationship between kingship and ritual in different worlds and ages from various angles with the collaboration of scholars in many fields including history, archaeology, anthropology, linguistics, and classical studies of India and China. The seminar consists of two kinds of sessions: readings and forums. At the former sessions, we are engaged in studying and translating the Vedic texts of the Rajasuya, a rite of royal consecration in ancient India, as one of our basic research materials. The latter sessions are open forums where seminar members present papers or reports including results of the reading sessions, and discuss various aspects of kingship and ritual.

STUDY ON ASIAN NETWORKS: REGIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER IN ASIA

(coordinated by N. KAGOTANI, April 2004–March 2007)

In the post-Cold War international relations, the United States, backed by its military power matched by none, exerts significant influence in world affairs, a phenomenon that is recently regarded as the emergence of a new empire. An empire in this case is broadly defined as a transnational regime surpassing nation-states in governance. Still, what is the nature of empires? How do empires keep their governance over territories much larger than nation-states? Scholars need to take a fresh look at these questions that arise from relating systems and dynamics of empires and modern nation-states.

In this research project, we intend to investigate institutions and mechanisms of empires in Asia during three different periods: (1) Chinese empire (17th century to early 19th century); (2) European (primarily British) imperialism (mid-19th century to mid-20th century); (3) American supremacy (from mid-20th century onwards). In examining these three cases, we focus on their relations to the Asian regional economy. The recent scholarship of Asian economic history focuses on the integration of the regional economy dating back to the 17th century. At the same time, a number of scholars observe that the networks of Asian merchants (e.g., Chinese and Indian merchants) have played key roles in directing flows of goods, labor, and capital in the region. How have the business networks safely sustained trade in these three cases? How has the economic order in Asia evolved over the past five hundred years or so? Our working hypotheses are that, on the one hand, empires provide various institutions to enhance intra-regional economic integration in Asia. Some are “soft” infrastructures like the freedom of mercantile activities promised by the Chinese empire, the

principle of free trade executed by the British Empire and the United States, and the financial services offered by British colonial banks. Others are “hard” infrastructures like steamships, railroads, telecommunications, and the Internet. On the other hand, Asian traders, besides their networks to secure safety of economic transactions based upon kinship ties, common languages, and so on, would make the most of the institutions that empires offer. Meanwhile, Asian traders’ networks themselves are transformed over time. In focusing on the interactions between empires as transnational regimes and “business networks” as transnational economic actors, we intend to investigate the Asian regional order and governance from historical perspectives.

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” arose in East Asia for many 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, this problem has solely been considered within the context of each country or area. This project aims to examine the historical meanings of movements of peoples in modern East Asia, mainly by investigating 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); almost none to seek an all-embracing knowledge about them that I would call “general fictology”. That is our concern. This research project will be led 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” is made up 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 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 Ōtsu.

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 govern-

ment and commercial and industrial interests to remake the 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.

FOR A STUDY OF MULTI-CULTURAL CONTACT ZONES

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

This new project is planned to be conducted over a period of 3 years. It reviews the problems of previous researches in history and literature that take for granted the nation-state as a unit and area studies which assume particular regions as 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.

AN INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDY OF REPRESENTATION AND EXPRESSION OF RACE

(coordinated by Y. TAKEZAWA, April 2003–March 2007)

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 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.

THE ENLIGHTENMENTS AND THEIR VICISSITUDES—A GENCALOGICAL STUDY

(coordinated by S. TOMINAGA, April 2005–March 2008)

“Enlightenment” is not a word that only refers to a tide of philosophy in the 18th century Europe. It is taken to carry an idea of universal value for which it has been pursued throughout the world ever since the French Revolution, while at the same time this very idea has stirred up a series of criticisms. From the latter point of view “Enlightenment” is the key critical concept through which the modern society reflects on itself in the course of its

organization and re-organization. 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 “crisis” of the systems and ideals of the modern society and the entrance 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 permit to grasp the multidimensionality this concept showed in modern history and then to propose what, and how, we can take over from the history.

RETRIAL OF SPACE

(coordinated by S. YAMAMURO, April 2004–March 2007)

This interdisciplinary seminar is working on reintroducing dynamics of the diverse types of material and mental spaces into our knowledge to reconstruct and reintegrate modern humanities and social science, which have been mainly based and understood on time series. In the seminar spaces are analysed not only as fields divided by natural environment and products of interaction and negotiation between different groups using the borders to create power relations and hierarchies. But also spaces are addressed as terms of discourse existing at the level of various ideas and symbolic forms, representing academic and non-academic narratives of both visible and invisible lines, and part of the international geopolitical landscape, the nation and nation-state system, and regional and local life. Revisiting to the fields in which spaces have been perceived and originated, we should also consider spaces as dynamic phenomena in their own right and approach to them historically and comparatively in term of the establishing process of modern European knowledge and the introductions, acceptances, circulations, and appropriations of it outside Europe.

LANGUAGE AND CIVILISATION

(coordinated by T. YOKOYAMA, April 2002–March 2007)

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 pre-modern 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 civilisation/ 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.

SOURCES OF ANCIENT CHINESE HISTORY

(coordinated by T. ASAHARA, April 2004–March 2007)

This is an introductory seminar for the willing members who wish to study ancient Chinese history, especially of the pre-Qin period. Reading basic articles or historical sources, the members will develop their understanding and increase their knowledge. They are also expected to help each other to do so.

PARAMARTHA (ZHENDI) AND HIS TIMES

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

This research seminar focuses on Paramartha alias Zhendi (sixth century CE), investigating his geographical movements, his identity and significance as a Buddhist monk, his historical contexts, and various religious phenomena pertaining to his career and work. Paramartha, who is counted by the tradition 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, which our Institute possesses. At first, we check Chinese characters on the rubbings precisely, and then comment on it based on a traditional method. About missing parts, we refer to precedent studies. The rubbings of inscriptions digitalized in our Institute (<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, we can still find a deep-seated ideology and socialist, cultural styles. 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, the development of

socialist culture in 20th-century China was not only heavily 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 historical perspectives.

LEGAL INSTITUTION IN YUAN PERIOD

(coordinated by S. IWAI, April 2004–March 2007)

“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 Yuan period. Institute for Research in Humanities organized a study project headed by Professor Takeo Abe and his colleagues about half a century ago. This project published a revised edition of volumes 39–57 relating to criminal law of “Yuan Dianzhang 元典章” and indexes that covered the whole volumes. We now restart to study this material, especially on ceremonial protocols, education system and religious policy. Furthermore we have made a system for searching and viewing of this book on network. Revised electronic text will be prepared in the term of our study.

RESEARCH ON EARLY MODERN CHINESE ENCYCLOPEDIAS

(coordinated by B. KIN, April 2004–March 2007)

Since ancient times the Chinese have compiled encyclopedias called Leishu 類書, the primary function of which was to provide a glossary for writers of poetry and prose. By the 13th century Southern Song period, however, there emerged a new genre of Leishu containing knowledge that would be of use in everyday life. Representative of this new genre is the Shilinguangji 事林廣記, which was widely read not only in China, but also in Korea and Japan. The main purpose of this research group is to carefully read, interpret, translate, and annotate the Shilinguanji.

SOCIAL SYSTEM OF THE 20TH CENTURY CHINA

(coordinated by T. MORI, April 2003–March 2008)

Research groups of Modern China used to consider the period from the 19th century to the first half of the 20th century as their main object. Since historical-record’s public presentation progresses in archives of various parts of China and field survey of various forms is also conducted now, it has become time now to extend the period of interest to include the time after the foundation of the People’s Republic of China, that is the second half of the 20th century. Being conscious of this present condition, this research group aims at considering change of the social system within this 100 years [from the last years of the Qing Dynasty to now] from various sides, such as politics, economy, society, and culture. At present, about 50 scholars studying modern China gather, and research is advanced.

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 in the Tang dynasty, Confucians, Buddhists and Taoists had many heated controversies, and influenced each other in that process. This project aims to clarify the relationships between Confucianism, Buddhism and Taoism in the Tang dynasty by analyzing some 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 eminently useful for study of chronology. Besides the design proper, there are inscriptions on a great many mirrors in Han age. The mirror inscriptions have not quite been the subjects of a comprehensive study, because the content and the language of the inscriptions are sometimes very difficult of analysis. To make a concordance of all the inscriptions known so far, we are reading B. Karlgren's "EARLY CHINESE MIRROR INSCRIPTIONS" (BMFEA, No. 6, 1934) at first.

A SYNTHETIC STUDY OF CHINESE PAINTING

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

In late years the materials of Chinese painting follows a course of increase more and more, by an appearance of the ancient times/ middle ages work based on archeological excavation and a disclosure of early modern times work doing spreading. But it is the present conditions that most are similar as non-digestion, and is left unattended. At first, for this enormous materials, systematic rearranging by a database and approach from many aspects are demanded. We collect materials as much as possible and consider it from the viewpoint of style theory, iconology, theory on paintings, technique, patron and collection. We add approach from aspects such as calligraphy, poetry more and try 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 lot of medieval manuscripts were found successively at Dunhuang, Turfan and other archaeological sites in Chinese Turkestan. They have been the subject of many scholars from all over the world and excellent results have been achieved so far. Nevertheless we still have many problems which are waiting to be solved. In this seminar, we will go deep 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 THE 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 thoughts and sciences. 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 lots of researches have discussed about its origin and its effects on political thoughts of Han dynasty. However, its development after medieval times has been seldom referred. So we take up 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 lot of valuable materials that had been lost in China. By analyzing various aspects of Yin-Yang and Wuxing, we will try to find out the role it has played in Chinese culture and to clarify its theoretical characteristics.

WRITTEN MATERIALS IN THE THREE KINGDOMS PERIOD

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

On the actual phases of daily life in China from the pre-modern times, we have very few knowledge, in particular concerning to the dwelling houses, garden, furniture and design of the inner and outer space, as well as the rituals in the palace and dwelling houses. We are intending to explain the characteristics of the life space in the traditional China, by the methods of philology and field survey both, actually of the of the history of architecture and garden design, also of folklore and ethnology as well. At the moment, we are reading the chapter 38 on the architecture of the dictionary *Tong Ya* 通雅 by Fang Yizhi 方以智 (from 1667 of the early Qing dynasty). Not only the discussion at meeting of every other week, but also we often go outside of the institute to several point of restoration spots of the ancient buildings around Kyoto-Nara area to learn the actual technology.

A STUDY OF THE TERMINOLOGY IN HAN WOODEN SLIPS

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

Several groups of the 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 records of administration. In these records, we can find many specific terms concerning document system, legal system, and so forth. The usages peculiar to these terms make it difficult to read the Han manuscripts correctly. In this seminar, we will pick up every term from Han wooden slips and analyse its meaning in each context. Our final goal is to finish a dictionary of the terminology in Han wooden slips.

CONSTRUCTING 漢字-INFORMATICS

(coordinated by K. YASUOKA, April 2004–March 2007)

In the field of Informatics nowadays a text is treated as a one-dimensional stream of characters. But a real text, especially written in 漢字 characters, is not such easy material.

It includes a mass of non-linear things, for example, 版心, 割注, or ルビ, that we hardly 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 to manipulate East-Asian texts and we will 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.