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▲ International Symposium on Dec 6, 2008

International Symposium

Reconsidering Ruth Benedict: Conflict Resolution, Culture and Sino-Japanese Relations

On December 6, 2008, the Afrasian Centre held an International Symposium entitled *Reconsidering Ruth Benedict: Conflict Resolution, Culture and Sino-Japanese Relations* at Fukakusa Campus, Ryukoku University. This symposium was set up as the first event of the 370th anniversary of the establishment of Ryukoku University. President Dosho Wakahara gratefully made the opening address to the event. Over sixty years after its publication, Benedict's book, *The Chrysanthemum and the Sword*, is still very popular and is translated into many languages all over the world. Especially in China, it is one of the bestselling

books in recent years. Why is the book paid so much attention to now? Looking over the latest research about Benedict, and debating possible reasons for the current boom of her books in China, we discussed the role of academic studies of culture on conflict resolution in the symposium.

Gathering over fifty attendees as audience, with many from the public, we ended the symposium on a high note. Details of the symposium will be published as *Afrasia Research Series 6 soon*.

Keynote Speech

Pauline Kent: Behind the Writing of *The Chrysanthemum and the Sword*

Prof. Pauline Kent of Ryukoku University gave a keynote presentation that covered Benedict's personal history in detail; illustrated the backdrop to the writing of *The Chrysanthemum and the Sword*, and explained its attractions and factors in its re-evaluation today.

Prof. Kent opined that three areas of Benedict's personal make-up—her handicap in one ear, her gender, and her homosexuality—gave rise to her singular writing talent, her fervour for the fight against discrimination and her interest in cultural diversity. She concluded by saying that *Chrysanthemum's* resurgence as a must-read book for intercultural understanding was a result of Benedict's contribution to cultural anthropology, the methodology of comparative culture and the interdisciplinary approach of study. In particular, her research methodology based on paying close attention to everyday life and using photographs, magazines and other such materials, is standard practice in Cultural studies today.



Prof. Pauline Kent ▲

Panel Discussion 1

Intercultural Understanding in Wartime

In the first panel discussion, Prof. Reiko Tsuchiya of Osaka City University gave a presentation entitled “Japanese Studies in Psychological Warfare: The Background to *The Chrysanthemum and the Sword*”. Prof. Tsuchiya explained how the Western perception of the Japanese and the Japanese culture was generated in the process of making propaganda leaflets by the Allied Forces during the World War II. She concluded that the psychological warfare led indirectly to the development of Japanese studies, and that this in turn played a role in promoting research into intercultural understanding, the most fruitful outcome of which was *The Chrysanthemum and the Sword*.

Following this, Prof. Pauline Kent gave a presentation entitled “The Role of Radical Comparison in the Intercultural Understanding”. Prof. Kent contended that Benedict succeeded in portraying the Japanese people in a more human image because she explained people’s behaviour in their cultural context. And that is one of the reasons that *Chrysanthemum* can awake the ethnocentrism which the readers of the book unintentionally have in their mind.

Discussant Prof. Nanako Fukui of Kansai University pointed out some issues regarding Benedict and Geoffrey Gorer. Based on new materials, Prof. Fukui explained the influence that Gorer, who had

conducted studies into the Japanese behaviour prior to Benedict, had on Benedict.



Prof. Reiko Tsuchiya ▲



Prof. Nanako Fukui ▲

Panel Discussion 2

East Asia and Japanese Studies

In the second panel discussion, Prof. Hu Bei of Tianjin University of Technology gave a presentation entitled “The Translations of *The Chrysanthemum and the Sword* in China”. He began with an overview of current translations of *Chrysanthemum* in China, and analyzed three excerpts from existing translations, which number more than twelve. Prof. Hu indicated that while translation standards were improving and the book was attracting large numbers of readers, mistranslations and insufficient explanations were still a concern. He also pointed out that, because Japan and China were both countries whose writing systems involve Chinese characters, it was easy to assume that cultural concepts are interpreted in the same way in Chinese and Japanese because they are written using the same characters, whereas this is not always the case (“義理 (Giri)” or “duty”, for instance). Therefore, Prof. Hu contended, it was important that differences in cultural concepts were given proper consideration.

This was followed by a presentation from Prof. Guo Lianyou of the Beijing Center for Japanese Studies entitled “*The Chrysanthemum and the Sword* Studies in China”. Prof. Guo indicated that *Chrysanthemum* became a bestseller in China because of lingering issues surrounding

Japan’s approach to its history in the region (underlying tensions rose to the surface when then-Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi visited Yasukuni Shrine) and simultaneously a desire to settle the situation through better understanding of Japan. He pointed out that the popularity of *Chrysanthemum* has served to bring attention to Japanese culture and history in China.

Finally, Prof. Takeshi Hamashita of Ryukoku University gave a presentation entitled “East Asian Studies Reconsidered: The Mutual Perspectives of Ruth Benedict, John Dower and Zhuang Xichang”. He sought to understand the message being communicated by Chinese intellectuals through the large illustrations and photographs added to Chinese translations of *Chrysanthemum*, and their captions. Prof. Hamashita opined that Japanese studies in China is now increasingly diverse, incorporating Japanese studies originating in the US and also taking post-war Japan into their view. He contended that the diversity of Japanese studies was a reflection of an urgent need for studies of their own people’s identities and regional cultures as Chinese society continues to change so rapidly.



Prof. Hu Bei ▲

One of the issues discussed in the Q&A session was the role of *Chrysanthemum* in the US military's occupation of Japan. According to Prof. Tsuchiya, the fact that the book was translated immediately for Japanese people shows that the US military was aware of its importance and its impact. Another issue was the role of intercultural understanding in conflict resolution. Prof. Guo indicated that the

boom of *Chrysanthemum* in China today is a chance for Chinese people to understand Japanese culture as an endemic one, not as a part of Sinosphere. He contended that intercultural understanding has a potential to overcome the longstanding tension between Japan and China. (RA Tomoko Matsui)



Prof. Guo Lianyou (left) and Prof. Takeshi Hamashita (right) ▲

Group 1 ◆ Meeting

International Conflicts in Asia



▲ Prof. Sano

Group 1 held five seminars in FY2008 and, together with the Intercultural Studies Association of Ryukoku University, hosted a symposium in December entitled “Modern History Education in East Asia: Has School Education Contributed to East Asian Peace Building?” Spread across three sessions, the symposium saw reports on conflict resolution among nations regarding their views of history, and there

was a concluding panel discussion that featured healthy debate among representatives of multiple nations.

The seminars held in FY2008 saw reports from ten participants that examined conflict in Asia from a large spectrum of perspectives including the formation of nationalism, human rights issues, social movements, and creating international order. Here, we will look at the reports of Prof. Tosei Sano and Prof. Etsuro Totsuka of Ryukoku University.

In the first seminar, Prof. Sano gave a report entitled *Iranian Nationalism and Taqizade: over the Issue of Separation of Azerbaijan*, in which he re-evaluated Iranian nationalism in the 19th and 20th centuries from a perspective of the formation of nationalism under intellectuals such as Hasan Taqizadeh (1878-1970). Particular attention was given to moderate nationalism (cultural pluralistic form of nationalism) advocated by Taqizadeh as opposed to the homogenous, monolingual nationalism. Prof. Sano approached the Azerbaijan issue as an international conflict set within two historical events. (1) The intervention of world powers (the UK, US and USSR) regarding oil rights, the pull-out of Soviet troops after WWII and bilateral talks with the USSR and international agencies (League of Nations, UN); and (2) The appearance and demise of the Azerbaijani government. The post-report discussion threw up a number of topics for further study. These included: logical analysis of the structure of Iranian nationalism from an integration standpoint, re-examining the issue of separatism in terms

of ethno-geographical background and historical context; and study of the relevance of Iranian resource-oriented nationalism.

In the second seminar, Prof. Totsuka gave a report entitled *Study on the Influence of the United Nations Human Right Mechanism towards the Settlement of Asian Regional Conflicts: Focusing on the Issue of Military Sexual Slavery*. His report focused on “military sexual slavery”, its definition and the practical application of international law, and covered his study of the procedures of the UN human rights mechanism and specialist international institutions. Additionally, Prof. Totsuka looked at the activities of NGOs that succeeded in adding the sexual slavery to agenda setting as international issues. From a standpoint of system building in conflict resolution, Prof. Totsuka examined the UN human rights mechanism—in particular the issue of the Universal Periodic Reviews (UPR) through which the human rights situation in UN member countries is examined—and indicated that UPR had the potential to help resolve conflicts in Asia. During discussion time, there was talk of the dual issues of war and gender within the problem of sexual slavery, and debate on the treatment of victims during the resolution and settlement process. There was also mention of the need to study the historical background of the Slavery Convention and the need to acknowledge the contrasts between Western-influenced international law and order and its Asian counterpart. There were also indications that participants hoped that, despite the limited influence non-permanent members of the Security Council can exert within the UN system, a larger portion of UN funds, the effectiveness of special procedures within the UN human rights mechanism and the expansion of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights would see Asian and African nations having greater sway in the scheme of things.

(RA Kimiyo Yamakawa)



Prof. Totsuka ▲

The Impact of Globalizing Economy on Local Resources Management and Community Development for Conflict Resolution



▲ (from left to right) Profs. Kitahara, Jussaume and Fortmann

Group 2 hosted an International Seminar entitled *The Impact of Globalizing Economy on Local Resources Management and Community Development for Conflict Resolution* on June 29, 2008. The event served as a follow-up to last year's Afrasian International Symposium, *Resources under Stress: Sustainability of the Local Community in Asia and Africa*.

The first keynote speech was by Prof. Raymond Jussaume of Washington State University. In his report, Prof. Jussaume contended that achieving sustainable regional development is only possible with an appropriate strategy that relies not only on local context, but that also takes into account global political, economic and cultural factors. He also introduced the audience to the wide-ranging debate on globalisation, including such concepts as "commodity chains", and opined that regional communities must not just blindly follow the "think globally, act locally" and "think locally, act globally" mantras, but must also consider them dialectically and act self-reflectively.

In the second keynote speech, Prof. Atsushi Kitahara of Ryukoku University went into some detail about the management of resources by "loosely" structured regional communities in Thailand, and the historical changes that that management has undergone over time. He then emphasised, given the depletion of resources driven by globalisation in

recent years and the aging of the population in the villages in those areas, the urgent need for plural actors (such as governments, communities and NGOs) to cooperate on the preservation of resources.

The third keynote speech was by Prof. Louise Fortmann of the University of California in Berkeley. Prof. Fortmann pointed out that local resource management today is becoming largely influenced by the whims of global donors and global NGOs. What were required, she contended, were participatory researches that take into account the global politics of knowledge based on three kinds of science: situated knowledge, civil science and conventional science.

Following the keynote speeches, the seminar heard reports from five others. Among these, Prof. Takashi Kurosaki of Hitotsubashi University spoke of the need for interdisciplinary cooperation on regional resource management, and Prof. Hisashi Nakamura of Ryukoku University on the need for efforts to overcome the limits of modern social science based on nation-state ideology and Newtonian physics.

Details of all the aforementioned reports can be found in the symposium's proceedings, *Resources under Stress (Afrasia Symposium Series 3)*.

Group 2 held four other seminars in FY2008, as well as one SGSD seminar (a series of seminars that aim to improve the English-language presentation skills of young researchers).

(RA Shinya Ishizaka)



International Seminar on Jun 29, 2008 ▲

Workshop on Intercultural Communication Issues in Employing Filipino Carers in Japan Conducted

A Workshop entitled "Intercultural Communication Issues in Employing Filipino Carers in Japan" was conducted on February 1, 2009 at the Omiya Campus of Ryukoku University. The aim of this undertaking is to identify the problems and issues in the training and employment of a Filipino carer that could be largely attributed to the differences in, and the lack of knowledge and understanding about, the two countries' cultures.

After an introduction and brief explanation about the Workshop, the participants were first divided into 2 groups, one comprising of Japanese representatives from nursing homes that have been employing Filipino carers; and another group whose members were Filipino long-term residents of Japan who hold Homehelper Level 2 license and who are currently working as carers in Japanese nursing homes and hospitals. In the Japanese group, Prof. Yumiko Goto (Hagoromo International University) asked about the participants' opinions on the difficulties in training and employing Filipino carers as well as about the Philippines-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (JPEPA) which allows government-to-government recruitment of Filipino nurses and carers from the Philippines.

On the other hand, Prof. Ma. Reinaruth D. Carlos of Ryukoku University facilitated the group work in which the Filipino carers were presented two issues, (1) the concept of *jiritsu shien* (support to the elderly in order to achieve self-reliance) and (2) working as a member of a team and teamwork, and then asked about what they were going to do in these circumstances. The Filipino participants also expressed their views about their "image" of a co-worker who is difficult to work with, as well as their sense of fulfillment and satisfaction in being a carer in Japan.



▲ Workshop on Feb 1, 2009

In the next part of the Workshop, all participants were gathered and Profs. Goto and Carlos

gave presentations about what were discussed in the group work. Prof. Goto reported, among others, that the language problem, which is reflected in the Filipino carer's inability to make documentations and read Kanji, is the main reason why foreigners often receive lower wage rates than their Japanese counterparts. Moreover, she pointed out that without the full support and understanding of the Japanese staff, it will be difficult to train the foreign carers.

Prof. Carlos in her report emphasized that the Filipinos may have ideas on the concepts presented in the group work which are different from those of the Japanese, due to cultural differences. However, as expressed by the participants, these differences are not irreconcilable. The flexible and observant characters of the Filipinos have allowed the participants to be able to adjust to their work as carers. She also noted that most of the participants feel a strong sense of fulfillment in their work as carers.

Prof. Sachi Takahata of Hiroshima Kokusai Gakuin University then facilitated the question and answer session after which she made an integration and analysis of what were discussed in the Workshop. She acknowledged that indeed there are problems and issues in employing Filipino carers arising from cultural differences that may take time to be resolved. She emphasized that social environment and training are important in overcoming these differences in culture and achieving transcultural communication in caregiving. The strong efforts and collaboration of the following parties: (1) the Filipino workers, especially the more trained (*sempais*), (2) human resource agents (*haken-kaisha*), and (3) staff in the workplace (*genba*) are indispensable in achieving smooth communication in the workplace.

(Program Chair / Maria Reinaruth D. Carlos)



Workshop on Feb 1, 2009 ▲

Four seminars were held in CY 2008 in the lead-up to the Afrasian International Symposium in November. These seminars featured reports from six people, which were based on the topics of resource allocation conflicts that arose from development and resolution in the form of recognition of access. Herein, we will look at the reports of Mr. Kazuya Masuda of Kyoto University and Mr. Katsuya Mochizuki of the Japan External Trade Organization.

Mr. Masuda's study looked at how land conflicts related to forest development bred in Riau, Indonesia, with attention given to Adat customs. Most of Indonesia's forests were nationalised in the 1960s; the Adat system that had governed the use of forests until that time was severely restricted. In the mid-1980s, the government introduced a plan to make large oil palm plantations in the Riau forests which local people relied on, for their slash-and-burn.

It was around that time that urban intellectuals brought together Adat leaders, who had traditionally held positions in the leadership of this indigenous peoples, into an organised group that began to assert customary land rights to the government. Similarly, once the cultivation of oil palms gained traction among local communities, local residents began to claim tracts of pristine forest as private land, which consequently led to recurrent conflicts.

The privatisation of forests is tantamount to the rejection of Adat, yet people interpreted Adat in a variety of ways in order to justify their land ownerships. Whereas common people had access only to *tana masyarakat* (inhabitants' land) as members of the local community, the Adat leaders had access to that as well as *tana wilayah* ("zones ruled by the descent groups") as representatives of local communities. Thus, they used their authority to adapt Adat in different ways at different times in a bid to grab more land.

Mr. Mochizuki's report, which covered his study of Nigeria, saw the problems of the Niger Delta in southern Nigeria as resource conflicts pertaining to oil and its various related resources. He observed the residents' efforts and movements related to those resources, as well as

antagonism and conflict between those residents today.

Life in this region has changed dramatically since oil development began in the 1960s, but there is much pent-up frustration among those unable to share in the compensation packages and wealth. This has led to explosive popular movements, especially since the 1990s. According to Mr. Mochizuki, the groups behind these uprisings could be divided into three categories: in the early 1990s, it was activists; in the mid- and late-1990s it was youths; and in recent years it has been armed mobs. In terms of those groups, the image created by international media of these sensational incidents have tended to put the horse ahead of the cart and, as a result, the "resources" demanded by movement leaders and local residents have taken on a double meaning: on the one hand, security deposits against future contingencies and development funds; and, on the other, the means to profit and improve their own social standing.

The two reports described above illustrate conflicts on two levels—local community versus the outside world and internal conflicts within local communities. The also suggest resolutions that involve a range of theories and methods such as reviewing customs-based systems and the use of international media and NGOs.



Mr. Masuda ▲



Mr. Mochizuki ▲

(RA Akiko Watanabe)

Joint Seminar (The Fifth Joint Seminar), 27 February 2008

What is 'Conflict'? What is 'Conflict Resolution'?

The 2008 joint seminar was held on 27 February 2009 at the Chikokan Building of Ryukoku University's Seta Campus. The objective of the seminar was to delve further into the meaning of conflict, the major keyword of the project, making this the third seminar to look into the concept of conflict after the first joint seminar of 2005, *On the Concept of Conflict*, and the first joint seminar of 2007, *A Theoretical Analysis on Conflict Resolution*.

In the latest seminar, *Conflict* by Martin Jones and Andrew Fabian (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006) served as a launch pad for robust debate on the similarities and differences between conflict as seen from the perspectives of natural science and social science, and for efforts to discover the factor that separates the positive aspects of conflict from the negative aspects.

(PD Shiro Sato)



Joint Seminar on Feb27, 2009 ▲

List of Publications

《Afrasia Working Paper Series》

- No.38** Acharawan Isarangkura Na Ayuthaya and Senjo Nakai, *The Emergence and Development of Interfaith Cooperation: A Case Study of the Theravada Buddhist Advocacy for People Living with HIV/AIDS (PWA) in Upper Northern Thailand*
- No.41** Takehiko Ochiai, *Personal Rule in Nigeria*
- No.42** Toru Sagawa, *Why Do People "Renounce War?" The War Experience of the Daasanach of the Conflict-ridden Region of Northeast Africa*
- No.44** Kosuke Shimizu, *Nishida Kitaro and Japan's Interwar Foreign Policy: War Involvement and Culturalist Political Discourse*
- No.45** Julian Chapple, *Increasing Migration and Diversity in Japan: The Need for Dialogue and Collaboration in Education, Language and Identity Policies*

《アフラシア研究 /Japanese Working Paper Series》

- No. 7** Junya Himoto, *Land Disputes at Estates in Indonesia: Agrarian Legislation to Solve Squatter Problem*

《Afrasia Symposium Series》

- No. 3** Proceedings of the Third Afrasian International Symposium, *Resources under Stress: Sustainability of the Local Community in Asia and Africa*, 23-24 February 2008, Ryukoku University, Kyoto, Japan. Edited by Yoshio Kawamura, Hisashi Nakamura, Shiro Sato, Aysun Uyar and Shinya Ishizaka.

For other publications, please check our website.

<http://www.afrasia.ryukoku.ac.jp/>

List of Recent Activities

■1 February 2009 First Workshop

Yuichi Kamata, Miyuki Takahata, "Intercultural Communication Issues in Employing Filipino Carers in Japan"

■27 February 2009, Afrasia Joint Seminar

Pauline Kent, Aysun Uyar, Shiro Sato, Shinya Ishizaka, Kimiyo Yamakawa, Tomoko Matsui, Akiko Watanabe, "What is 'Conflict'?, What is 'Conflict Resolution' ? "

■17 March 2009, Group 1, Fifth Research Meeting

Keiko Sakai "Conflict and the Moment of Turning Violent in the Middle East"

Hiroyuki Tosa "On Violence of Subjectification",

Michael Furmanovsky "The Role of 'Niche' NGOs in Facilitating the Rehabilitation of Street Children in Vietnam: The Case of KOTO and Blue Dragon"

Forthcoming Event

Asahi University Partners Symposium (APS)

13:30-17:00, 20 June 2009 (Saturday)

Afrasian Centre was selected by Asahi Shimbun Osaka Headquarters as one of the recipients of the Asahi-University Partners Symposium Program Grant for the first half of FY2009. The Symposium, entitled "Who Cares?" is going to be held on 20 June 2009 at Kenshin Hall of Fukakusa Campus. It will discuss the issue of elderly care in Japan and the participation of foreign workers in this sector.

Prof. Chizuko Ueno of the Graduate School of Humanities and Sociology of the University of Tokyo and author of *Ohitorisama no Rougo* will deliver the Keynote Speech.

* Details of the symposium and information related to attendance will be posted on the Asahi Shimbun and Ryukoku University websites at a later date.

(Related article: <http://www.asahi.com/shimbun/sympo/release/090122.html>)

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