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Focus

Distant Relatives - Lake Baikal

There is a creation myth among the Buryats living on the banks of Lake Baikal that is extremely similar to the Izanagi Izanami myth. Based on the fact that the land of the Buryats is separated by a great distance from the actual ocean, the “primordial ocean” mentioned in their mythology is thought to be Lake Baikal. This is reinforced by the fact that the waves lapping on the shore of the lake remind one of a calm, pristine ocean beach.

Lake Baikal has a history reaching back over 2000 years. Due to its long history of evolution, it is thought that nearly 70% of the plants and animals living in the region are endemic species that have undergone unique evolutions. Our team, consisting of myself and my students, researchers from the Russian Academy of Sciences, and dedicated professional divers, has been conducting biota surveys of Lake Baikal since 2012.

We have used various methods in our surveys, including catching animals with nets on the lake shore, and diving to collect samples from the lake floor. Countless shrimp-like animals swim around when we move stones in the shallows of the lake. These animals are amphipods, and are unique to Lake Baikal. Our divers brought up rocks from the lake floor and we found sponges that resembled clumps of green moss and a large number of snails attached to the surfaces of the rocks. We classified the rocks and animals collected by the divers in the lake into containers to acquire and preserve the samples needed for our surveys. While the region is small, we found surprisingly diverse amounts of plants and animals. As such, collection and classifying took a significant amount

of time and effort.

We were surprised to discover that the snails of Lake Baikal are very similar to those found in Lake Biwa in Japan. These snails are related to river snails, which are also called valve snails or ramshorn snails. We ran a molecular genetic analysis and were able to estimate that the snails of Lake Biwa and Lake Baikal diverged several million years ago. This leads us to hypothesize that there was a period in which Lake Baikal was connected to the Amur system of Far East Russia, during the period in which our ancestors migrated to the east. Furthermore, we think that, when the Japanese archipelago was connected to the continent during the glacial period, these people migrated from the north to the Japanese archipelago and reached Lake Biwa. There is other evidence tracing the plants and animals of Lake Biwa and Lake Baikal to common ancestors. The amphipods swimming in the shallows of Lake Baikal have also been found in the deepest parts of Lake Biwa. In fact, looking at some of the invertebrates that live in the lakes, Lake Biwa can be said to be a “relative” of Lake Baikal. Our surveys of the biota of Lake Baikal hold an important key in understanding the origin of the freshwater biota in Japan.

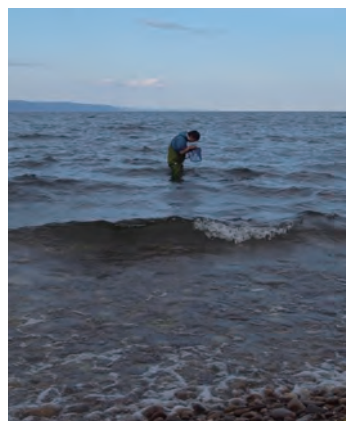
One of the members of my team has wanted to visit and study Lake Baikal from a young age. As a member of my research team, his dreams have come true. Interestingly enough, he looks just like a Buryat and was frequently mistaken for a local during our survey at Lake Baikal. The similarity was enough

that even the local Russians who are used to seeing Chinese tourists mistook him for a Buryat. As I watched him diligently collect samples on the shores of the lake, I couldn't help but imagine that sometime in the distant past, there might have been some sort of exchange between the Japanese and Buryat people.

(Satoshi CHIBA)



Survey at Lake Baikal



International Conference Dedicated to the 25th Anniversary of CNEAS Dynamism in Changing Environment

The Center for Northeast Asian Studies at Tohoku University just celebrated its 25th anniversary. To mark this, a commemorative lecture and an international conference were held on June 26th and 27th. Over the past 25 years, the actions of people and development of goods in the Northeast Asian region have been accelerated due to globalization, and solving climate change and environmental issues has become a shared, urgent cause. In consideration thereof, the conference set “Dynamism in Changing Environment” as its general topic for the commemorative lecture and the general session, and held eight sessions consisting of Session Group A on Environmental Aspects and Dynamic Changes of Northeast Asia, Session Group B on Cultural Preservation and Environment in Northeast Asia, and Session Group C on Energy and Environmental Issues in Northeast Asia.

During the commemorative lecture, Prof. Yosuke KAIFU of The University Museum at the University of Tokyo introduced the history of humankind in Asia over the past 2 million years on the basis of the latest findings in the field of human evolution, and discussed human diversity and the impacts of the emergence and diffusion of *Homo sapiens* on the heterogeneous human race and environment.

In Session A1 entitled, “International Network on Geological Sciences: Perspectives and More”, the results of geochemical research on a geohistorical scale were presented; and in Session A2 entitled, “Human Evolution and the History of Advances in Human Cultures”, evolutionary modes related to human tools, technologies, behaviors, domestication, and the like were discussed.

In Session B1, “Cultural Preservation and Environment in Northeast Asia”, the characteristics of social thought formation in early modern Japan from a historical standpoint were discussed; and in Session B2, “Born from Disasters: Dealing with Death, Disaster Remains and Cultural Heritage in Time of Crisis”, the significance of activities, rescue efforts, and care to restore the wholeness of society while considering “what is left behind” in a disaster was discussed. In Session B3, “Archaeological Survey by Ground

Penetrating Radar”, practical examples and the results of applying ground penetrating radar technology were discussed using archaeological surveys in Egypt as examples.

In Session C1, “Energy and Environmental Issues in Northeast Asia”, measures taken by Japan, China, and South Korea against modern environmental issues such as water-related issues, waste, and global warming were discussed. In Session C2, “Interacting East Asia and Africa”, we discussed the aspects of interaction between people brought about by the increasing traffic between East Asia and Africa in recent years. In Session C3, “Social Sustainability of Coastal Communities: Transitions and Transformations”, the sustainability of coastal and mountain communities was discussed using Alaska and Japan as specific cases.

In the general session, a comprehensive discussion was held regarding current research trends and the identification of new issues surrounding Northeast Asia.

In the discussions held in each session, we strongly felt the growing academic and practical interest of researchers with respect to the various issues facing the Northeast Asian region, such as environmental issues. It is clear that regional research activities must have a practical and accurate grasp of the various real issues facing the region, and consider the global historical perspective and the social and cultural independence of local communities when seeking solutions to issues.

(Hiroki OKA)



General Session Northeast Asian Regional Studies: Present and Expectancy

Selected scholars in Japan studying Northeast Asia got together to discuss the potential of future research.

Prof. Shuji MATSUNO, President of The Association for Northeast Asia Regional Studies, spoke on “Regional Studies and Regionalization in North East Asia”, Prof. Nobuhiro KISHIGAMI, Chairperson of the National Institute of Humanities spoke on “Interdisciplinary Development of Area Studies in the National Institutes for the Humanities”, Prof. Shin-ichiro TABATA of the Slavic-Eurasian Research Center spoke on “Slav-Eurasia and Northeast Asia”, and Prof. Hiroki TAKAKURA from the Center spoke on “Crosscutting of Climate Change Research by Siberian Anthropology.”

Economic historian Prof. MATSUNO discussed regional formation based on the activation of economic exchange after the collapse of the Cold War, and Prof. KISHIGAMI spoke on the progress of the Northeast Asian studies project conducted by the

National Institutes for the Humanities. The session was both an uncovering of the common foundation of pre-Cold war history, culture, and philosophical thoughts, and an approach to modern Northeast Asian geopolitics. Prof. TABATA reported that the increased focus on Arctic studies has affected both Slavic and Asian studies. As a part of the Arctic studies, Prof. TAKAKURA introduced us to the forefront of interdisciplinary research on climate change in Siberia.

These discussions showed that the region of Northeast Asia defined in the 1990s is linked to various regions outside the region, and that the boundaries of the region are being not as clear as originally though. In addition, an interdisciplinary approach was once again shown as being effective for comprehending such trends. The need for organizational cooperation for future Northeast Asian studies was also confirmed.

(Hiroki TAKAKURA)

Session A1 International Network on Geological Sciences: Perspectives and More

Since mid-2015, in our research group (Petrotectonic Research Group at the Department of Earth Science, Graduate School of Science), we have been engaged in strengthening international joint research in order to deepen our understanding of the solid-earth process at the plate boundaries. Over the past five years, eleven foreign researchers have stayed as visiting researchers, and have interacted with our students and faculties to expand our network of international research experience. We have also led sessions in some international conferences and have published the results of our collaborations as papers in international academic journals. Some of our results have significantly affected not only Tohoku University, but also the global academic community. In this session, in celebration of the CNEAS 25th anniversary, we invited three researchers who have been heavily involved in our projects (See fig-

ure). Our principal goal was to involve more people in our international network and to deepen scientific exchanges and friendships. (Tatsuki TSUJIMORI)



Keynote speakers Left: Inna Safonova (Sobolev Institute of Geology and Mineralogy, Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences); Upper-right: Nelson Boniface (University of Dar es Salaam); Lower-right: Kennet Flores (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)

Session A2 Human Evolution and the History of Advances in Human Cultures

In Session A2, researchers from the fields of archaeology, anthropology, veterinary medicine, and genetics presented their latest results on the topics of human evolution and cultural development. Prof. Masaki FUJITA of the National Museum of Nature and Science, Japan and I showed the outstanding cultures of *Homo sapiens*. From the research results of the Cavallo Cave, Italy, I suggested that *Homo sapiens* acquired excellent a hunting technology, which may have given them a competitive advantage in subsistence strategies over Neanderthals. Prof. FUJITA introduced us to the shellfish hooks and shellfish tools from a Palaeolithic site at the Sakitari Cave site in Okinawa, and pointed out that *Homo sapiens* adapted to the environment of their respective regions, leading to the emergence of diverse cultures. Prof. Masakado KAWATA of the Graduate School of Life Sciences of Tohoku University analyzed the genomes of Japanese Jomon people, ancient Chinese

people, and modern Japanese and Chinese people, and indicated the possibility that the natural selection of genes related to the development of specific diseases occurred due to the introduction of rice culture at the beginning of the Yayoi period. Prof. Takefumi KIKUSUI and Dr. Miho NAGASAWA of Azabu University focused on the behavior patterns of Shiba Inus, and elucidated that their connection with humans, which demonstrates differences from European dogs such as not responding to pointing, may have been formed in the unique cultural background of Japan.

There were 217 attendees registered for this session, and many questions were asked during the Q&A time held at the end of the session. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the presenters, the moderator, Prof. CHIBA, and Dr. HORIUCHI, Dr. OHNO, and Dr. YAMAZAKI for their help in running the session. (Katsuhiko SANO)

Session B1 Intellect and Social Thought in Early Modern Japan

This session was prepared by the Uehiro Research Division of Historical Materials Study. The research report was presented by four presenters and, thereafter, seven commentators were added and a general discussion was held. A multifaceted approach to the topic of the characteristics of the formation of social thought in Japan was taken. This approach consisted of 1) The continuation of the household unit of the samurai society (Dr. Hiroyuki FUJIKATA); 2) The image of Peter the Great (Dr. Vasili SHCHEPKIN); 3) Disability recognitions (Prof. Nobuharu TAKANO); and 4) The human network of Kaiho Seiryō (Prof. Michael KINSKI). During the general discussion, attention was paid to the role of “intellectuals” with the aim of clarifying the actual situation and characteristics during the period in which society was class-based. I felt that the goal of this session, that is, to examine the relational awareness between individuals and groups and the construct thereof from the perspective of “social thought”, is also effective for clarifying the society unique to Japan, which has been ex-

plored in terms of relationships with others. There were about 80 participants on the day of the session and lively discussions were held with overseas researchers who participated via the internet.

(Teiji NOMOTO)



A screenshot from the general discussion (Zoom Webinar)

Session B2 Born from Disasters: Dealing with Death, Disaster Remains and Cultural Heritage in Time of Crisis

The sizes of disasters are frequently measured and understood in terms of “what was lost.” Research and public statements about natural disasters and wars often focus on numbers of victims and evacuees, billions of dollars in losses, and lost communities. However, such expressions sometimes end up hiding other aspects. The destructive forces of disasters leave behind “new” things and wounds that human society must deal with, the most obvious being the bodies of the dead left behind after a disaster, their “souls”, and their bereaved families. Organizations may also be set up to rescue documents, personal belongings, and cultural heritage from the rubble. In this session, eight reports were presented and a general discussion was held. The reports were: Elisabeth Anstett, The Difficult Issue of Incomplete Bodies and Cadaver’s Fragments of Mass Death; Shiho TOISHIBA, The Transformation of the Burial System after the Great Kanto Earthquake; Sébastien Pemellen Boret, Managing Mass Fatalities during the Crisis of 2011 Japan

Disasters: Tetsuo OHMURA, Diplomas for the Dead: Memorial Services for the Children Victims of 3.11 in Non-Religious Public Schools; Suhadi, The Petilasan of Mbah Maridjan Post Disaster Spiritual Remains and Social Change in Yogyakarta Indonesia; Sakura KUDOH, Post-Disaster Resilience and Uninhabited Resettlements in Nepal: A study of a Model Village following the Gorkha Earthquake; Toshiaki KIMURA, Memorial Services of Local Governments after the Great East Japan Earthquake; and Ryusuke KODANI, The Methods and Effects of Transmitting Cultural Heritage Damaged by Disaster to Future Generations. Through these reports and discussions, we reviewed the general hypothesis that disasters are related to death, loss, and reconstruction, and highlighted the significance of rescue and care actions needed to restore the public health and the well-being and integrity of society.

(Toshiaki KIMURA)

Session B3 Archaeological Survey by Ground Penetrating Radar

In this session, we heard lectures about an archaeological survey by ground penetration radar that the Center has been involved in. First, Prof. Sakuji YOSHIMURA and Prof. Hiromasa KUROKOUCHI (Higashi Nippon International University) introduced us to the use of high-tech technology at Egyptian surveys, and then director Gad El-QAD of the National Research Institute of Astronomy and Geophysics of Egypt shared examples of archaeological preservation. Next, Prof. Masayoshi JOKURA (Waseda University) gave us an introduction to non-destructive inspection and interpretation of domestic and foreign archaeological sites, and Mr. Dean GOODMAN, who has been involved in numerous domestic archaeological surveys, talked about global trends and technology in archaeological exploration. In the second half of the session, Mr. Akihiro KANEDA of the Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties spoke on practices and trends, Mr. Yama NAWABI of the Museum of the Sakitama Ancient Burial Mounds spoke about exploring the Saitama Burial Mounds,

Mr. Noriaki HIGASHI of the Miyazaki Prefecture Archaeological Center shared numerous exploration examples of the Saitobaru Burial Mounds, and Prof. Motoyuki SATO of Tohoku University lectured on radar system development at Tohoku University and applications to archaeological surveys. The session was held online and more than 100 people participated. (Motoyuki SATO)



Group photograph of presenters

Session C1 Energy and Environmental Issues in Northeast Asia

In Northeast Asia, energy and environmental problems are major risks. In particular, with regards to the climate change caused by fossil fuel consumption, Japan, China and South Korea have been identified as countries that emit large amounts of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO₂), and also as countries affected by heat waves, torrential rains, floods, droughts, and rising sea levels. In fact, many concrete policies, not limited to global warming mitigation actions, on energy and environmental issues have been implemented in these three countries. Regardless, this is not widely known and the effects of these policies and analyses of their economic impact are insufficient. In this session, first, Dr. Zhen JIN of the Institute of Global Environmental Strategies introduced a global warming countermeasure underway in China that uses an economic incentive called the National Emissions Trading System (ETS). Next, Dr. Dan JIN of Tohoku University explained

the current state and issues surrounding CO₂ emission reduction measures in the steel industries in Japan, China and South Korea, which are major CO₂ emission industries. Then, Dr. Kenji OTSUKA of the Institute of Developing Economies, Japan External Trade Organization, talked about historical changes in China’s environmental governance. Finally, Prof. Jusen ASUKA of Tohoku University delivered a talk entitled, “Green Recovery in Japan, China and Korea”, in which he introduced the current energy situation and the issues of each country from the perspective of economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Participants asked questions about the future development of energy and environmental issues in Northeast Asia, and discussed these topics in great depth with the presenters.

(Jusen ASUKA)

Session C2 Interacting East Asia and Africa

In our session entitled, “Interacting East Asia and Africa”, we discussed the fruits of the interactions between Asia and Africa, which are geographically and ontologically distant. Traffic between Asia and Africa has increased and commitment between the regions has deepened in re-



Chinatown, Lagos, Nigeria

cent years, leading to changes in the concepts of self and others. Chinese people have an increasing presence in Africa. On one hand they are seen as flooding the local market with cheap Chinese products and, on the other hand, they are seen as bringing commodities to a wide range of people. Sometimes they are seen as building walls and, at other times, they are seen as trying to break down those walls. Meanwhile, in Japan, where both Africans and Muslims are small minorities, migrants experience freedom of a sort, and are given the space to proactively question their existence and beliefs for the first time. An important hint for getting along with others may be found at the inevitable intersection between pragmatism and emotion. **(Yukihiro KAWAGUCHI)**

Session C3 Social Sustainability of Coastal Communities: Transitions and Transformation

This session was organized to draw upon lessons for resilience learned from not only coastal regions, but also from areas other than the coasts of NE Asia. So often, researchers speak together in a “sound chamber” and repeat the same findings over and over. They also tend to focus on the same topics which, in the case of coastal communities, often includes male-dominated fisheries and fisheries management. For that reason, the speakers presented their work on indigenous Alaskan groups, Tohoku Mountain villages, and fisher-forest movements, as well as on women in fisheries. Despite the disparate case study backgrounds, the session presenters were able to have a nice, academic discussion. The work of the presenters was also introduced to the symposium attendees with a number pleased to learn of new scholars. Though everyone would have preferred an in-person symposium, the group felt it was a valuable experience. **(Alyne DELANEY)**

沿岸コミュニティの社会的持続性：変容と変形

What is needed in the quest for sustainability and resilience in (coastal) communities facing the challenges and pressures of contemporary times?

Resources– Governance– different worldviews/knowledge needed

How can we broaden our perspectives to be more inclusive?

De-centralization needed?

Population decline
Resource needs (e.g., economic)

Activities of locals– critical for connection to one another/the environment, increased quality of life; sustaining requires connections with younger generation

Ideas for increasing resilience – Some key themes from Session C3

Recent Events

Workshop Series: “Muslim Families and Norms in Central Eurasia”

The “Muslim Families and Norms in Central Eurasia” workshop series was initiated in 2019 as a joint research project of the Center for Information Resources of Area Studies (CIRAS) affiliated with the Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University. Since 2020, this workshop series has been co-organized by the joint research project mentioned above and a joint research project of the CNEAS “Comparative Studies on Family or Gender Norms and Islamic Discourses in Russia and the Soviet Union.”

The third workshop, held on Saturday, Sept. 12, 2020, was conducted online to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Twenty people had registered for the workshop, of whom 17 attended. Having the event online allowed more people, such as remote residents of Hokkaido and Kagoshima, to participate. When meetings are held on-site on weekends, consideration must be given to participants who have children. However, this problem is also solved by online presentations.

The fourth workshop was held on Monday, Feb. 8, 2021, and was attended by 29 people from Japan and abroad. Dr. Shin SASAKI (Seikei University) delivered a research talk that detailed

the historical facts about the Ottoman journalist Ahmed Midhat and the female writer Fatma ‘Aliyye. Dr. Seika WAZAKI (Chubu University) and Dr. Adkham A. ASHIROV (Institute of History, Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan) had studied a women’s festival



A scene from the ethnographic film *Guli Armug'on*

held at an Islamic mausoleum in the Fergana region of Uzbekistan. They made an ethnographic film, *Guli Armug'on: Women's Local Islamic Ritual in Uzbekistan*, which was watched and discussed at the workshop. The film was shared among the participants as an unlisted video on YouTube. This film was selected and screened at the 17th Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland Film Festival 2021 (held Mar. 19–28, 2021).

(Masumi ISOGAI)

Recent Events

Urbanism in the Age of COVID-19: Towards an Inclusive and Resilient Society

On March 20, 2021, we held an online international symposium titled “Urbanism in the Age of COVID-19: Towards an Inclusive and Resilient Society.” We invited Prof. Roderick Lawrence (University of Geneva) to give a keynote address titled “Healthy and Resilient Cities in the COVID-19 Era: Transdisciplinary Responses are Needed.” In the following sessions, we invited young researchers from China and Japan to discuss urban and social issues both caused by and exacerbated by the pandemic and coping strategies with the uncertainties of different levels. In Session I, entitled Social Impacts of COVID-19, Prof. Shuangshuang TANG (Nanjing Normal University) present-

ed on social impacts of COVID-19 on rural migrants in China and their coping strategies. Following this, Dr. Aiko NAKAYAMA and Dr. Yuanyuan TENG from Tohoku university presented their studies. In Session II, entitled Response Strategies, we invited three presenters: Prof. Jiang GU (Central China Normal University), Dr. Xintao LIU (Hong Kong Polytechnic University), and Mr. Shohei NAGATA (Tohoku University). Together with the audience, we had a multifaceted discussion. Finally, Prof. Satoru MASUDA (Tohoku University) concluded the symposium.

(Yuanyuan TENG)

Awards

Prof. Motoyuki SATO Receives IEICE Best Paper Award

IEICE: The Institute of Electronics, Information and Communication Engineers

A paper written by Prof. SATO et al. was selected for a 2020 IEICE Best Paper award and the award ceremony was held (online) on June 3rd. The paper, “Displacement and vibration monitoring by GB-SAR



Online award ceremony

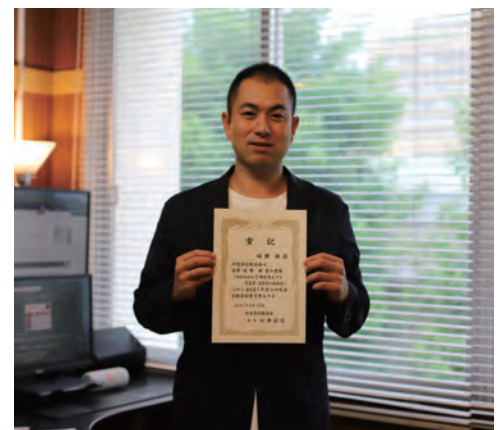
Synthetic Aperture

Radar)” (Motoyuki SATO, Lilong ZOU, Giovanni NICO (Italian National Research Council), Kazutaka KIKUTA; IEICE Trans. B, Nov. 2019) is a compilation of cutting-edge research on GB-SAR used for monitoring landslides and social infrastructure. Prof. SATO’s research team used GB-SAR to ensure safety in the large-scale landslides caused by the Iwate-Miyagi Nairiku Earthquake and the Kumamoto Earthquake. Note that Prof. SATO also won a Kiyasu Jun-ichi Award (Best Paper Award) in 2016 for his paper on the land mine detection radar (ALIS). The Institute of Electronics, Information and Communication Engineers (IEICE) was founded in 1911 and is the largest electronics engineering society in Japan. IEICE has around 25,000 members, four Japanese publications and seven English publications, and publishes over 13,000 peer-reviewed papers each year. Twelve papers received awards this year. The paper by Prof. SATO et al. was one of two selected from the IEICE Trans. B Japanese publication. Note that Prof. NICO is a former visiting professor of the Center, and Prof. ZOU and Prof. KIKUTA are former faculty members of the Center.

(Motoyuki SATO)

Visiting Researcher Dr. Yu FUKUDA (former assistant professor) Receives Award for Scholarly Book

At the 62nd Conference of The Association for Indology and Study of Religion held online on Sunday, June 20, 2021, my book, “When We Reflect Upon the Disaster: Sociology of Post-disaster Ritual” was awarded a 2021 Association for Indology and Study of Religion Award (see Newsletter No. 86 for details). The book was published in early 2020, coinciding with the outbreak of COVID-19. This was also 10 years after the Great East Japan Earthquake. I was worried about how the book would be received, but was very fortunate in that, in addition to academic journals such as “Japanese Sociological Review” and “Soshioroji”, local newspapers (cultural and book review columns) and “The Book Review Press (Tosyo Shinbun)” ran pieces on the book. It was an unexpected pleasure for the book to be called “an outstanding achievement for young researchers” in the field of religious studies. I wrote and published the book while I was an assistant professor at the Center for Northeast Asian Studies. I believe that it was the many discussions with researchers of various fields at the Northeast Asian Studies Discussion Group and the Disaster Humanities Research Unit that led to this award. I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the educators and staff of the Center for their support. I plan to use this experience as a source of encouragement for future studies on disaster-struck regions and to continue to share what I learn with the world. (Yu FUKUDA)



Visiting researcher Dr. FUKUDA receives award

and Study of Religion Award (see Newsletter No. 86 for details). The book was published in early 2020, coinciding with the outbreak of COVID-19. This was also 10 years after the Great East Japan Earthquake. I was worried about how the book would be received, but was very fortunate in that, in addition to academic journals such as “Japanese Sociological Review” and “Soshioroji”, local newspapers (cultural and book review columns) and “The Book Review Press (Tosyo Shinbun)” ran pieces on the book. It was an unexpected pleasure for the book to be called “an outstanding achievement for young researchers” in the field of religious studies. I wrote and published the book while I was an assistant professor at the Center for Northeast Asian Studies. I believe that it was the many discussions with researchers of various fields at the Northeast Asian Studies Discussion Group and the Disaster Humanities Research Unit that led to this award. I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the educators and staff of the Center for their support. I plan to use this experience as a source of encouragement for future studies on disaster-struck regions and to continue to share what I learn with the world. (Yu FUKUDA)

New Staff and Visiting Scholars

Research Fellow Tomoe SANGAWA

Jun 2020 - Sep 2021
Archaeology



Associate Professor (Cross-appointment) Mutsumi YAMAGUCHI

Associate Professor, Faculty of Humanities,
Yamaguchi University
Nov 2020 - present
Cultural anthropology



Research Fellow Ryuma SAITO

Apr 2021 - present
Electronics engineering



Assistant Professor (Cross-appointment) Kouhei TAMURA

Frontier Research Institute for Interdisciplinary
Sciences, Tohoku University
Apr 2021 - present
Anthropology, Digital humanities



Associate Professor Yongchao CHENG

Oct 2020 - present
Foreign relations in early modern Japan,
International relations of East Asia



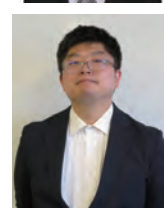
Assistant Professor Anwer Sayed Abdelhameed AHMED

Apr 2021 - present
Electromagnetic waves



Research Fellow Yoshitoki SUZUKI

Apr 2021 - present
Early modern history, History of ideas



Research Fellow Kazutaka KIMURA

May 2021 - present
Conservation ecology, Evolutionary ecology



Publications

The language of the following books is Japanese, unless otherwise noted.

■ Northeast Asia Monograph Series

Masahisa Segawa, *A Desire for Continuity: An Anthropological Study of Family through an Analysis of a Pre-Modern Genealogical Book*, Tokyo: Fukyosha Publishing Inc., February 2021.



Teiji Nomoto, *Feudal Lordship and Retainer of Hatamoto in the Early Modern Japan*, Tokyo: Yoshikawa Kobunkan Inc., February 2021.

■ Northeast Asian Studies

Northeast Asian Studies is a periodical academic journal for the purpose of contributing to the development of area studies and its related fields in Northeast Asia. Northeast Asian Studies vol.25, March 2021.

■ CNEAS Monograph Series

Research results of CNEAS joint research projects, and individual projects, irregular publication (in house publications)
Hiroki Oka (eds.), *Mobility and Symbiosis in Northeast Asia: On the Frontier of China, Mongolia, Russia and Korea*, Center for Northeast Asian Studies, Tohoku University Series No. 67, November 2020.

Arata Hirakawa (eds.), *The Fencer of the Common People in Dewa: "Bugenryu Kenjutu Jitsuroku" by Gunta Takeda*, Center for Northeast Asian Studies, Tohoku University Series No. 68, March 2021.

■ CNEAS Reports

Kenichiro Aratake (eds.), *Tohoku Region Hot Springs Historical Documents in the Early Modern: The Decipherment of the Kamasaki Hot Springs Ichijo Family Documents*, December 2020.

Hiroki Takakura et al. (eds.), *Permafrost and Culture: Global Warming and Sakha Republic (Yakutia)*, Russian Federation, March 2021. (in English)

Yukari Nagayama, Evdokia Pronina (eds.), *Language and Life: Oral Histories of Kamchatka Indigenous Peoples*, March 2021. (in Russian)



■ Researcher's Initiative Publications

Shuichi Shikano, Naoto Hirano, and Satoshi Chiba, *Natural History Connecting Japan and the Adjacent Continent: The Forefront of Integrated Researches in Geology and Ecosystems*, Tokyo: Kokon-shoin Publishing, January 2021.

Letters

Alyne Delaney, Associate Professor.
Tohoku University (Japan)

Researching Coastal Community Resilience and Sustainability- from CNEAS Visiting Fellow to Associate Professor

The COVID-19 pandemic continued its hold on the world in 2021, ending the Center's hopes for visiting fellows in the 2020-2021 academic year. This gives me the opportunity to reflect upon my own time as a 2015-2016 Visiting Fellow.

My career as an anthropologist began in Miyagi Prefecture where I spent 18 months on a Fulbright fellowship in a coastal fishing community, investigating local identity and livelihoods. With an 80+% decline in the active fishing population, I was interested in what compelled the remaining fishers to continue their way of life. Once awarded the Ph.D., I accepted a post-doctoral fellowship on fisheries co-management in Denmark. Thinking it would be simply a few years of new experiences in Europe, before I knew it, I was an associate professor at a Danish university. Working in Denmark opened me up to new avenues of research and I focused on bringing social science perspectives into fisheries management. My heart was still focused on Japanese anthropology, however. And though my main job focused on case studies outside of Japan, I worked to publish my earlier research and took any opportunity I could to return to Japan to update my knowledge of "my" community.

The events of 3.11 changed everything. No longer simply "wishing" to return to my grounding in Japanese coastal communities I found after 3.11 that I simply "must" return. And so, following a research fellowship from the Japan Foundation, I presented my new post-3.11 research at an IUAES World Congress, where I made the acquaintance of Professor Hiroki Takakura. Meeting Professor Takakura was a true bit of serendipity as I usually attended conferences of other organizations. After meeting Prof. Takakura and staying in touch for a while, he invited me to serve as a Visiting Research Fellow at CNEAS.

My four months at CNEAS were both enjoyable and challenging. The visit provided me with the opportunity to conduct research in my main community, of course, but I also gained some insight into the working of Japanese universities, and I had the opportunity to travel and meet other researchers in Japan.

Most importantly, in CNEAS I found faculty with whom I could work on interdisciplinary research through our shared focus on the environment and northeast Asia. CNEAS and Tohoku University are also home to fellow social scientists who share interests in Japan and post-3.11 recovery work. I am currently working on research, and am a member of research groups throughout Tohoku University, on a variety of projects such as eDNA of octopus with local stakeholders, gender perspectives of 3.11 related museums, and comparing revitalization efforts of Japanese commons.

Now a permanent Associate Professor at CNEAS, I look forward to being able to welcome my own Visiting Research Fellow to carry on the tradition of cooperative, international research.



By chance, while writing this letter, my "FB memories" feed opened up with pictures from my time as a Visiting Fellow.

Editorial

Editorial postscript:

We are sending you the ninth volume of the CNEAS Bulletin. In this issue, we present activities of CNEAS from 2020 to 2021 as well as a special letter from Associate Prof. Alyne Delaney. Prof. Delaney is one of our editorial board members and a former visiting scholar at CNEAS.

This past year has been very eventful. Professor Satoshi Chiba was elected as our new director and took up his duties in April

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2021. We expect him to guide our center to a new level. In June 2021, we celebrated the 25th anniversary of CNEAS and held a two-day virtual ceremonial conference. More than 500 people around the world participated in the conference. We hope that our continued cooperation will lead to the expansion of the academic field of Northeast Asian Studies in the years leading up to the 30th anniversary.

former visiting scholars and others who related to the Northeast Asian Studies.

Website: http://www.cneas.tohoku.ac.jp/index_e.html

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