

The Bulletin CNEAS

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Focus

The War on Ukraine and Multiculturalism



The Russian government's unilateral aggression into Ukraine, which began on February 24, 2022, proves that the genocide of peaceful peoples happens in real life. We learned from the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011 that natural disasters can result in the loss of numerous lives; this war is not a natural disaster but rather a huge crisis caused by the decision of a single politician.

When I was an undergraduate student, the Soviet Union collapsed and the Cold War ended. AIDS was still feared as an incurable disease, but a solution was on the horizon. It was a time when there was a hope that the wars and epidemics that threatened historical human society could be overcome by human ingenuity. At the time, political scientist Francis Fukuyama's book, *The End of History*, argued that if freedom and democracy triumphed over the socialist regime, there would be no more wars.

However, we all are keenly aware of the fact that wars continued all around the world. Also, it was thought that the disease could be overcome by science, but that sense of security disappeared with the COVID-19 pandemic. Putin's war has transformed the international order built after the war in that Russia, a permanent member of the UN Security Council, violated the UN Charter. I now feel that the world we live in has reached a crossroads.

From my own specialization (social anthropology and Siberian ethnography), I feel that one of the things that has been attacked by Russia's invasion of Ukraine is multiculturalism. Multiculturalism is the idea that a society can be created in which ethnic minorities such as indigenous people and immigrants, and gender minorities including the LGBT community are respected, and where everyone can live comfortably while remaining different. One of the reasons Russia cited as a basis for military aggression was to protect ethnic Russians living in Ukraine. There is a history behind why there are Russians living in Ukraine, but from the standpoint of a multicultural society, modern states must create a framework that allows various minorities to participate in politics equally and fairly as citizens of the state. There have been two

world wars in the 20th century, and one lesson that was learned by the international community was that, in a case in which a group of people closely related to one's own people lives in another country, when problems arise, those problems should be dealt with through diplomacy, at least through intervention through international organizations and multilateral cooperation, rather than military intervention.

While multiculturalism is a philosophy, it is also an ideology that supports the government's policy of order and stability in a modern society where interdependence is increasing due to globalization. It is impossible to stop people in their constant search of happiness and wealth. Moreover, our economic system is built on the premise of the freedom of travel. Multiculturalism is also an effective method of governance in terms of creating a stable society under such conditions.

Behind Russia's military aggression is the idea that only the state (Russia) can secure the interests of a certain ethnic group (Russian citizens and ethnic Russians). Moreover, Russia has an outrageous policy that it is acceptable to invade other nations in order to secure its own interests. Although not well known in Japan, Russia is a multi-ethnic great power, and consists of more than 200 individual ethnic groups. How do ethnic minorities view the choice of the Russian president this time? How are the interests of the multiethnic Russian people and ethnic Russians reconciled with each other? Also, as reported in newspapers, many Russians oppose President Putin's war despite the state's control over the media. Many have been oppressed and arrested, and Russia has become inhospitable to the expression of different opinions and positions. These are tantamount to attacks on multiculturalism by the Russian government, both in terms of policy and ideology.

Thinking about what we can do to bring peace to Ukraine and respecting multiculturalism, that is, thinking about how we can coexist with people of various cultural backgrounds in our society seem to be separate topics, but are actually connected. How individuals can independently evaluate and act on the decisions made by their own country's government while realizing freedom of the press is also a question for us today. **(Hiroki Takakura)**

Recent Events

Regional History into the Future

Panel Exhibition Commemorating the 10th Anniversary of the Founding of the Uehiro Research Division of Historical Materials Study

In 2021, the Uehiro Research Division of Historical Materials Study, founded in April, 2012 as a part of CNEAS, celebrated its 10th anniversary. To commemorate this landmark, a panel exhibition was held at Sendai Municipal Subway Kokusai Center Station in September of 2021. This research division has striven to preserve old documents that have been handed down in the region, mainly from the Edo period onwards, and has worked to discover new aspects of Japanese history. Looking back, the initial scope of our activities was limited to only a part of Miyagi Prefecture, but now we are working with museums, local governments,



Venue of the panel exhibition

and local residents to preserve historical materials in both Fukushima and Yamagata prefectures.

In this exhibition, we prepared eight panels summarizing the flow from the start of research on historical materials to their utilization, as well as the states of social cooper-

ation and the dissemination of results. At the venue, we distributed "Separate volume Fumi no Mori No. 4" (exhibition pamphlet) to help visitors understand the whole picture. We particularly emphasized cooperation with local communities over the long term. We presented profiles of the people who possessed the ancient documents and those who were devoted to their preservation, and reemphasized the need for modern society to "learn from the past." It is impressive to see historical documents that have laid dormant in storehouses and archives for a long time be brought back to life through research, and that these materials are used as study materials by students and citizens in ancient text decipherment courses.

The venue was located near Tohoku University's Kawauchi Campus, and there were more visitors than expected. We hope that this exhibition will lead to a deeper interest in and understanding of historical materials.

The publication "Separate volume Fumi no Mori No. 4" and other documented results are downloadable from "Research and Studies" (Japanese only) of the Uehiro Research Division of Historical Materials Study homepage

<https://uehiro-tohoku.net/survey>.



(Kenichiro Aratake)

Recent Events

Latest Advanced Humanitarian Demining Technology

Session in "Katahira Festival 2021"

Over the past 20 years, we have shared with the local community in Sendai, landmine detecting using ground penetrating radar (GPR) technology at the Katahira Festival, which is held every other year. At each event, elementary school students have had the opportunity to hold and experience using a real radar device.

This year, we were excited to have the opportunity to share the latest Advanced Landmine Imaging System (ALIS), which was completed in 2018. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we were regrettably unable to have a hands-on showing of the technology. Instead of the in-person showing, we held a live-streaming event in which we shared a 15-minute video that encapsulated our humanitarian demining efforts in Cambodia, Colombia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina.



Introduction of using ALIS in Cambodia

We first explained that the main aim of humanitarian demining is to eliminate landmines from areas where people live, thereby reducing incidents of injury and rebuilding the economies of nations where landmines exist. Then, we shared our local efforts using the latest technology for landmine detection, including metal detectors, mine detection dogs, and mine detection rats (currently under study). Then, we talked about the differences between the ground penetrating radar used in our landmine detection sensor "ALIS" and conventional metal detectors. Since we were unable to travel overseas due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we provided online training to local operators on how to operate ALIS. Some of the training provided to operators in Columbia is included in the video. Lastly, we shared footage of ALIS being used in the mine fields of Cambodia. The social situation has worsened in Afghanistan, where we began our study in 2004, and the threat of terrorism by the IS and other organizations is growing. We believe that the technology we are developing can be used to counter these situations.

The video can be viewed at <https://bit.ly/3vSIPqG>

*(Added Dec. 2022): The Japanese government decided to provide Ukraine with ALIS in order to remove landmines buried during the war on Ukraine by Russia that began in Feb. 2022.



(Motoyuki Sato)

Recent Events

Precarity in an Inter-connected Northeast Asia

The Fourth Tohoku Conference on Global Japanese Studies

Tohoku University's International Graduate Program in Japanese Studies holds an international conference on Japanese studies annually. In 2021, CNEAS organized a conference in conjunction with the Consortium for Global Japanese Studies. The event was held online and, in general, dealt with the topic of "precarity in an inter-connected Northeast Asia." The event consisted of four sessions, and one session in which program participants gave their progress reports. A total of 25 reports and comments by two researchers were given. In addition to Tohoku University and multiple other Japanese universities, the University of Ghent, the University of Leiden, and the University of Rome (universities affiliated with the HASEKURA league) were represented. Additionally, for the first time, we had participants from Russia's Novosibirsk State University. **(Hiroki Oka)**



Poster of the conference

Recent Events

Seminar

Local Well-Being, Human Securities, and Indigenous Peoples in the Arctic and Asia

In recent years, there has been increasing interest in the Arctic regions of Eastern Asian countries due to the increased availability among underground resources due to climate change and concerns about environmental issues. In light of this situation, we held a workshop aimed at laying the groundwork for international research on the topic mentioned in the title.

Seven speakers, each from Japan and Finland, gave presentations in the fields of anthropology, sociology, economics, and law. These presentations focused on the need to consider the well-being

of local communities not only from the standpoint of economic growth, but also from various perspectives, such as mental health and preservation of food culture. Of particular note, the comparison of the situation surrounding Arctic indigenous peoples and the Ainu people in Japan, and the exchange of ideas about China's "Polar Silk Road" led to discussions on the relationship between East Asia and the Arctic, and we concluded that further collaboration is needed. **(Kaori Ishii)**



Participants of the seminar

Recent Events

Special Lecture

Arctic-Asian Fisheries Trade: The Cases of Iceland and Japan

Kristín Ingvarsdóttir, visiting associate professor at Hitotsubashi University (affiliated with the University of Iceland), was invited to Tohoku University to give a public lecture titled “Arctic-Asian fisheries trade: The Cases of Iceland and Japan.” Prof. Ingvarsdóttir is a Japanese studies researcher who received a Ph.D. from Hitotsubashi University. She conducted this lecture in collaboration with Prof. Jun Akamine of Hitotsubashi University, her host faculty member.

Little is known in Japan about the relationship between Iceland and Japan, especially the history of exchanges related to the technology transfer of fishing. It was interesting to learn that the relationship between Japan and Iceland, which achieved independence from Denmark after the second World War, deepened through the trade of seafood products during the period of rapid economic growth. It was particularly interesting to learn about the qualitative impact of Japanese seafood market trends on Iceland's fisheries. East Asian countries, including Japan, currently import a significant amount of marine products from Iceland and Norway. Even in rural supermarkets, seafood from Northern Europe is becoming familiar. This historical background has come to light, and a new research topic, the relationship between the fisheries industry in the Arctic and East Asia, has come into view.

This lecture was co-sponsored by the Tohoku University International Graduate Program in Japanese Studies and the Arctic

Challenge for Sustainability II (ArCSII). It was a fascinating event that offered new perspectives on Japanese studies and knowledge about Arctic fisheries.
(Hiroki Takakura)



Poster of the lecture

Awards

Japan Association of Mineralogical Sciences (JAMS) Award to Tatsuki Tsujimori

Tatsuki Tsujimori is a professor of the CNEAS. He specializes in petrology and tectonics, with a particular focus on high- and ultrahigh-pressure (HP-UHP) metamorphic rocks, including, not limited to, blueschists, jadeitites, and serpentinites. Owing to his many valuable contributions to the metamorphic petrology field, he was awarded the 2013 Mineralogical Society America Fellow and the 2014 Geological Society of America Fellow. Since joining Tohoku University in 2015, his research aims understanding the geodynamic and geochemical processes of the Proterozoic and Phanerozoic active convergence margin at different scales, from the mineral equilibrium level to the plate tectonic. In addition, to evaluate hydration and dehydration within the subduction interface, and subsequent slab-mantle interaction, they aim to link HP-UHP metamorphism of ancient subduction zones to geophysical observations of modern analogs. Prof. Tsujimori has an extensive record of collaborative research projects on metamorphic petrology, including cooperative academic exchanges with local and international researchers. His continuous research on lawsonite eclogites and jadeitites has had a significant influence on the geoscience community. His research contributed significantly to the designa-

tion of jadeitite as the national stone of Japan by JAMS. Prof. Tsujimori is currently the Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Island Arc* as well as a member of several scientific journal editorial boards. See his award acceptance essay entitled “Orogenic and metamorphic processes in plate boundaries: Synopsis and future directions” at <https://doi.org/10.2465/gkk.220310>.



Jade tie tack received as a supplementary of the JAMS Award. The jade tie tack placed on a small wood (Japanese zelkova) carving made by Prof. Tsujimori

New Staff and Visiting Scholars

Research Fellow

Amarsaikhan Tsogtbaatar

Oct 2021 - present

Geoscience, ground-penetrating radar (GPR)



Research Fellow

Takumi Saito

Apr 2022 - Jun 2022

Malacology, evolutionary biology, biogeography, systematics



Visiting Scholar

Odontuya Turmunkh

Koosen College of Technology, Mongolian University of Science and Technology

Dec 2021 - Sept 2022

Cultural anthropology



Visiting Research Fellow

Hideyuki Mori

Japan Wildlife Research Center

Apr 2022 - present

Evolutionary biology



Visiting Scholar

Fumie Iizuka

Adjunct Research Professor, University of Missouri

Jan 2022 - present

Archaeology



Research Fellow

Waka Kuboyama

May 2022 - present

Archaeology



Assistant Professor

Kazuo Takehara

Apr 2022 - present

Japanese history, public health history



Visiting Scholar

Sherzod Muminov

Lecturer, University of East Anglia

Apr 2022 - July 2022

Japanese history



Research Associate

Ryuma Saito

Apr 2022 - present

Electronics engineering



Visiting Scholar

Jennifer Clarke

Lecturer, Robert Gordon University

Jun 2022 - July 2022

Social anthropology



Visiting Scholar Rotem Kowner

Professor, University of Haifa
Aug 2022 - Sep 2022
Japanese history



Assistant Professor Oleg Pakhomov

Oct 2022 - present
International relations



Assistant Professor Alimu Tuoheti

Aug 2022 - present
Cultural anthropology and folklore, history
of thought, religious studies



Research Fellow Kaori Ishii

Oct 2022 - present
Cultural anthropology



Visiting Scholar Heung Wah Wong

Associate Professor, The University of Hong
Kong
Oct 2022 - Dec 2022
Cultural anthropology



Visiting Research Fellow Isao Sano

Chugai Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.
Oct 2022 - present
Evolutionary biology



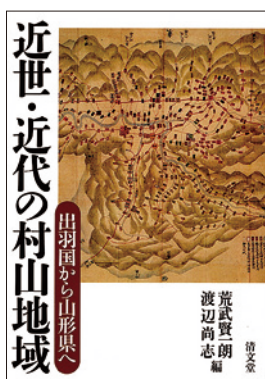
Publications

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

■ Northeast Asia Monograph Series

Kenichiro Aratake and Takashi Watanabe (eds). *Murayama Area from the Early Modern to Modern Times: From the Dewa Province to Yamagata Prefecture*, Seibundo Publishing, January 2022.

Teiji Nomoto and Hiroyuki Fujikata, *Samurai Residences and Political Space in the Sendai Domain*, Iwata-Shoin, February 2022.



■ CNEAS Monograph Series

This monograph series publishes results (in house) from both CNEAS individual and joint research projects.

Kenichiro Aratake and Sayaka Abe (eds). *The Real Image of Society as Seen in Regional Newspapers from the Late Modern Period: Reading the Shiroishi Jitsugyo Shimpo of Miyagi Prefecture*, Center for Northeast Asian Studies, Tohoku University Series No. 69, November 2021.

Teiji Nomoto. *The Documents of Oeda Family Served as Bugyo (Chief Retainer) in Sendai Domain: Family, Chigyo-chi, and Role*, Center for Northeast Asian Studies, Tohoku University Series No. 70, November 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.26, February 2022.

CNEAS Reports

Masahisa Segawa, *A Desire for Continuity: An Anthropological Study of Family Life through an analysis of a Pre-modern Genealogical Book in the New Territories of Hong Kong*, November 2021. (English)



Masahisa Segawa, *Hakka: Formation and Transformation of Its Ethnicity*, Tokyo: Fukuyosha Publishing Inc., December 2021.

Kaori Horiuchi, *Boundaries in Mongolia during the Qing Dynasty: Governance and Mobility in Nomadic Society*, Akashi-shoten, February 2022.



Researcher's Initiative Publications

Yongchao Cheng, *East Asia in the Kai Hentai transformation: Trilateral relations among Tokugawa-Joseon and China in the 17-19th centuries*, Osaka: Seibundo Publishing Inc., October 2021.



Masumi Isogai and Kenichi Isogai (eds.), *Imperial Russia and Muslim Laws*, Showado, February 2022.



Masahisa Segawa, *Ancestral Genealogies in Modern China: A Study of Lineage Organizations in Hong Kong and Mainland China*, London: Routledge, November 2021. (English)

Letters

Heung Wah WONG (Oxon)
The University of Hong Kong

It was my honour to be able to serve as a visiting professor at the Center of Northeast Asian Studies at Tohoku University, Sendai, Japan this autumn. My stay at the Center is particularly meaningful to me as this is the final sabbatical leave in my career at The University of Hong Kong. As a person who is approaching the end of his career in academia, I am grateful to the Center and Tohoku University for the chance they give me because it gives me an opportunity to reflect on my academic pursue in the past 30 years.

I did my undergraduate degree in anthropology at The Chinese University of Hong Kong in early 1980s. At that time, most of my teachers there graduated from the anthropology department at major American universities. Several years later, I pursued my PhD in social anthropology at Oxford University. I have to say immediately that I have training in both American and British anthropology. But because of this, I have been particularly alert of whether I am colonized by the theoretical regimes in the UK and the US in my academic career in anthropology. I always remind myself that as anthropologists, we should respect other cultures and study them in their own context rather than imposing our theoretical assumptions on them. Our informants do not live for us; neither do they survive for us. They have their own life goals, to which we must respect. In this regard, Japan anthropology demon-

strates to me how we can avoid being 'cooked' by Western theoretical discourses as my colleagues in Japan insist that they respect and are proud of their own disciplinary traditions. Staying at the Center provides me another chance of experiencing and appreciating the anthropological traditions in Japan.

During my stay in the Center and Tohoku University, I manage to develop a trilogy of critique of western theoretical discourses on different topics. The first of the trilogy is an attempt to criticise some dominant but, to me, strange theoretical discourses on the globalization of Japanese popular culture. The second volume is to criticise western theoretical discourses on Chinese kinship, marriages, gender, sex, and pornography. The final volume of this trilogy is a critique of the so-called queer theories.

I am afraid that this trilogy is the last project in my career in an institution, although I will continue to write as an independent scholar. I am glad that I completed my last project at the Center, to which I am most grateful.



Letters

Jennifer Clarke

Gray's School of Art, Robert Gordon University

I am an anthropologist and artist, and a Lecturer in Critical and Contextual Studies at Gray's School of Art, Aberdeen, in the northeast of Scotland. Working primarily in the UK and Japan, my research and artwork have evolved in tandem, responding to entangled ecological and social issues. I also curate interdisciplinary exhibitions.

I spent the summer of 2022 as a visiting associate professor at CNEAS. In these two short months, I was incredibly active. The fellowship offered me wonderful opportunities for fieldwork as well as sharing current research. While unquestionably too short, I was honoured to have the opportunity. During my time at CNEAS, I was able to grow and develop new relationships with artists and curators in Tohoku, and conduct fieldwork as far south as Nanoshima and Kyoto. One of the outcomes of the Fellowship is that I've been invited to return to Sendai in the summer of 2023 for a solo exhibition about this project, at a large local gallery.

The project I am developing is rooted in a feminist examination of the concept of hospitality in contemporary art. I am focusing on women's roles (host, curator, artist, mother) in socially engaged art. I am committed to making explicit the invisible labour and the care work, involved. This is not an art historical analysis of relational contemporary art practices, but a critical combination of art and anthropology through collaborative practice. None of this would have been possible without the fellowship in summer 2022. I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to the department, and in particular to my sponsor, Professor Alyne Delaney as well as Dr. Yuanyuan Teng, who supported me in all kinds of matters!

I was invited to present my initial findings to the Japanese

association of social anthropology, and graduate students from the anthropology program at Tohoku U. I am deeply grateful for their careful and engaged responses to my work, which have no doubt furthered my thinking. I also gave a seminar to postgraduate psychology students at Tohoku U., and have been invited to publish a chapter in an academic book as one outcome of this.

I hope that on my return to Sendai in 2023, I will be able to nurture and develop these fruitful collaborations!



'Contact Lens' by Haruka Kojin (2013), a photo I took of one of the art works on my fieldwork trip to Inujima

Editorial

Editorial postscript

Welcome to the tenth volume of the CNEAS Bulletin. This volume presents selected essays and highlights of CNEAS activities from 2021 to 2022. The activities include a report of the Katarira Festival in October 2021, where Prof. M. Sato demonstrated his latest ground penetrating radar-based "Advanced Landmine Imaging System (ALIS)" for humanitarian demining in a YouTube video. There are short reports on a remote video conference of the International Graduate Program in Japanese Studies, a seminar related to Arctic research, and a public lecture by Dr.

K. Ingvarsdóttir. A panel exhibition at a subway station, celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Uehiro Research Division of Historical Materials Study, is also documented. We chose to translate Prof. H. Takakura's perspective essay on the War on Ukraine and multiculturalism as a leading focus article for this volume. We strongly condemn Russia's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine and desire for peace in Ukraine. The seeming never-ending COVID-19 pandemic continues, and we hope for the health and safety of all. Here's to the new year being better for all in the world!

The CNEAS Bulletin is published once a year by the Center for Northeast Asian Studies, Tohoku University.

The Bulletin promotes a continuing exchange of information with

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

Website: <http://www2.cneas.tohoku.ac.jp/english/index.html>

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Editorial panel: Alyne Delaney, Tatsuki Tsujimori, and Mitsu Hatakeyama

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