

Contents

Focus	01
Recent Events	02-04
Awards	04
New Staff	05
Publications	06
Letters	07-08
Editorial	08

Focus

Reflection on the 12th Meeting of the Asian Paleolithic Association

The 12th Meeting of the Asian Paleolithic Association (APA) was held at Tohoku University from June 20th to 23rd. The conference began on the 20th at the TOKYO ELECTRON House of Creativity on the Katahira Campus with registration and a special lecture. On June 21st and 22nd, the venue moved to the Multimedia Education and Research Complex on the Kawauchi-Kita Campus for keynote lectures and research presentations, followed by a post-conference excursion on the 23rd.

The APA was established in 2008 by Russia, China, South Korea, and Japan. Since its founding, international meetings have been hosted by these four countries on a rotating basis, with this year marking the third time the event has been held in Japan.

APA international meetings involve unique regional customs that differ from “standard” international conferences. The host nation is responsible for covering domestic travel expenses for three representatives from each of the other three founding countries, and by tradition, provides transportation from the airport to the venue and manages hotel reservations. These logistics require significant efforts from the organizers.

In the past, I have limited my participation in APA meetings held outside Japan for several reasons. While keynote lectures by prominent professors are a staple, some “lectures” consisted primarily of commemorative photos from past research. Other presentations featured speakers exceeding their one-hour time limit by an additional hour to advocate for highly biased personal hypotheses on human evolution. Furthermore, some presentations were delivered in native languages, requiring attendees to wait for English translation to understand the content.

When organizing this year’s meeting at Tohoku University, I carefully considered the program structure. Instead of relying on a “famous professor” framework, we invited researchers with exceptional skills and achievements to give the keynote lectures. The symposium, titled “Early Upper Palaeolithic in Asia: Commonality and diversity after the IUP,” primarily featured mid-career and young researchers producing cutting-edge research results. Crucially, we designated English as the sole language for all presentations. When the lid was lifted, a total of 130 participants from 12 countries and regions attended—the second highest attendance in APA history.

Many young researchers, including students, also took part in the general presentation sessions. Since the number of oral presentation slots was limited, it was unfortunate that half of those who wished to give an oral presentation had to be redirected to poster sessions.

Many participants remarked that the Sendai meeting featured many fascinating presentations and was highly enjoyable. Prof. Robin Dennell from the University of Exeter, who delivered the keynote lecture, sent a thank-you email stating that the conference was a fruitful learning experience. Having dedicated nearly all my time since April to these preparations, I feel our hard work has been rewarded.

Personally, I was impressed by the vigor of the young Chinese researchers. Whether they were trained in Europe or China, the quality and delivery of their presentations were superior among the four nations and rivaled those at European international conferences. While some criticized the selection process for moving many Japanese presenters to the poster session, this was the result of prioritizing high-quality presentations while maintaining a degree of regional balance. I believe the enjoyment of this conference was due to the rising caliber of young researchers and the commitment to providing them with a platform for their work.

(Katsuhiko Sano)



Group photo of the 12th Meeting of the Asian Paleolithic Association

Recent Events

2nd Special Seminar of the Historical Materials Studies Research Group Exploring Research Trends in Modern Japanese Economic History

Since April 2022, the Uehiro Graduate Course in Historical Materials Studies has held monthly meetings of the Historical Materials Studies Research Group. Conducted primarily online, the group invites historical research experts—including those residing overseas—to deliver oral presentations, aiming to facilitate both academic discussion and professional networking. In addition to these regular sessions, the group organizes occasional in-person “Special Seminars.” The most recent seminar focused on the latest research trends in modern Japanese economic history, structured as a two-part program consisting of a research report and a book review.

The research report, presented by Mirai Tanikawa (Tokyo University of Foreign Studies) and titled “Post-Kaitakushi Hokkaido-Related Companies and Former Officials,” introduced the various operations of the *Kaitakushi* (Hokkaido Development Commission, 1869–1882), which was responsible for developing Japan’s northern regions during the early Meiji period. The report provided a detailed analysis of the relationship between “the public and the private” by focusing on the subsequent establishment of the Hokkaido Transport Company and the Hokkaido Kyodo Shokai. This study revealed the involvement of a wide range of individuals in the process and demonstrated that examining the circumstances of corporate formation has a significant impact on regional historical research. In the second half of the seminar, the group discussed the publication *Indigenous Development and Great Cities: The Evolution of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises in 20th-Cen-*

tury Japan (Nagoya University Press, 2024). The author, Masayuki Tanimoto (The University of Tokyo), explained the core objectives and arguments of the book. This was followed by comments from the reviewer, Kazuho Sakai (Graduate School of Economics, Tohoku University), who focused on the work’s achievements and future research challenges. The book represents the latest scholarship on small-scale management—often cited as a defining characteristic of the Japanese economy—by analyzing the features of Tokyo’s small-scale manufacturing and toy industries during the pre-war, inter-war, and post-war periods. For further details, please refer to the full book review written by Dr. Sakai, published in the 29th issue of *Northeast Asian Studies*.

(Kenichiro Aratake)



Cover of *Indigenous Development and Great Cities* by Masayuki Tanimoto

Recent Events

Maps and the Right of Nomadic People: Spatial Representations of Nomadic Societies and Landscapes in Northeast Asia

This workshop was co-organized by the JRP-LEAD project “Comparative Studies on Post-Pandemic Inner Asian Pastoral Societies” (PPIA)—led by Professor Takahiro Ozaki of Kagoshima University and Departmental Lecturer Ariell Ahearn of the University of Oxford—and the East Eurasian Studies Project, Tohoku University Site (EESTU), under the NIHU Global Area Studies Program. The workshop focused on the current state of spatial use by pastoralists in Inner Asia and its representation through maps, facilitating a discussion on how “nomadic space” can be described.

In the first half of the workshop, four presentations were delivered from the perspectives of anthropology and history. These focused on the reality of pasture management and conservation among Mongolian pastoralists, as well as how the boundaries of communities and dwellings are conceptualized.

The afternoon session featured four presentations that critiqued, from an anthropological perspective, how various actors—including the Qing administration, the former Japanese military, mining companies, and modern governments—have recorded pastoralist campsites and place names on maps, and the specific

intentions and technologies behind their creation.

Following all presentations, Professor Hiroki Oka of the Center for Northeast Asian Studies served as a commentator. He provided comments and raised critical questions regarding how the media and technology of “maps” can—or cannot—express nomadic spatial recognition and utilization. The workshop proved to be a significant international and interdisciplinary exchange of map materials and expertise held by the participants. (Moe Terao)



Commemorative photo of the workshop participants

Recent Events

Rethinking Regional Culture through *Umigyo* How Regional Studies Benefit Real-World Society

Umigyo (literally, maritime industries/activities), is a concept that envisions utilizing the sea's abundant resources and beautiful natural environment in holistic and diverse ways—beyond fishing—to support local livelihoods and coastal sustainability. The international workshop, organized by Professor Delaney, aimed to explore regional potential and seek the sustainability and revitalization of communities by discussing *Umigyo* with residents of the Sanriku coast—a region facing numerous challenges such as climate change, population decline, and reorganized fishing regulations.

The venue was filled to capacity with participants. Professor Izumi Seki of Tokai University explained the concept of *Umigyo*, while Professor Kate Barclay of the University of Technology Sydney introduced research and initiatives related to the sea in Australia. Additionally, Ms. Yume Yoshida, a member of the Community-reactivating Cooperator Squad, presented her activities in the Urato Islands through songs and photographs. As a researcher of Chinese studies, I spoke on how Chinese village communities survived the Cultural Revolution and achieved revitalization. While the participants listened with great intent, I remained concerned about how much my own expertise could contribute to the workshop.

During the group discussions, questions and opinions were raised one after another regarding what new activities are possible in daily life facing the sea while utilizing government initiatives. I realized that the participants were the true experts; these fishery

stakeholders, having survived the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake, have actively applied research to solving real-world problems. In contrast to the instability of the fishing industry, *Umigyo* appears to function as a safety net by discovering stable industries and connecting the community. Notably, the activities of women are particularly prominent in this regard. Coastal regions in Tohoku are currently being called upon to demonstrate a “suppleness” or resilience in responding to environmental changes.

Chinese village networks survived the socialist restructuring of the region by transforming like an amoeba. If that adaptability resonates with the resilience of Tohoku's coastal areas, I believe my research may indeed offer some contribution to the development of *Umigyo*.
(Yumi Ishii)



A view of the workshop

Recent Events

Why and How Should We Study War Memories Now?

The second symposium of the international comparative study on war memories was held in Hiroshima, featuring guest speaker Minoru Iwasaki (Professor Emeritus at Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, History of Political Thought). In the “present” moment, as war forces changes upon the global order, the significance of war memory is also shifting. The symposium's title reflects three core themes—spatiotemporality, agency, and methodology—exploring why and through what perspectives and methods we should study war memory in Asia. On the first day, lectures and discussions were held with the considering people regarding the intergenerational transmission of atomic bomb trauma.

As we considered how to share these realities with other Asian nations, the hall of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum—a symbol of the atomic bombing—became a space of tension and complexity. On the second day, Professor Iwasaki delivered a lecture on collective memory in the context of ongoing contemporary wars and genocides. At the forefront of memory studies, this was a challenging attempt to apply the first day's discussions to a broader field. During the general discussion, participants engaged in a profound, time-transcending debate on how to research

the intergenerational war memories of Asian countries amidst the mutual influence of global memory representations. Although the intensity of the discussions pushed the limits of our intellectual stamina, the two-day event concluded with a shared conviction regarding the potential for future research.
(Yumi Ishii)



A scene from the lecture at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum Hall

Recent Events

Creating a Future-Oriented Coastal Community: For the Coexistence of Humans and the Ocean

On Saturday, February 22, 2025, the Future Society Design School of the Tohoku Forum for Creativity (TFC) held a workshop and public event titled “Creating a Future-Oriented Coastal Community: For the Coexistence of Humans and the Ocean”. The event brought together students, researchers, and fisheries industry professionals to discuss the impacts of rising sea surface temperatures, climate change, overfishing, and population decline. Participants also exchanged views on actions to enhance sustainability and resilience within these regions.

Professor Alyne Delaney of the TFC emphasized the critical importance of integrating social-cultural perspectives alongside economic and environmental considerations. Her transdisciplinary project, SEAQUEST, also served as a co-sponsor for the event. Through this valuable opportunity, participants shared the

challenges and opportunities facing the future of coastal communities and gained deep insights into potential paths forward.

(Alyne Delaney)



Event speakers and participants

Recent Events

Lectures by Visiting Foreign Researchers Siberian Studies Concerning Environmental History and War

In April 2025, we hosted two lectures presenting the latest findings in Siberian studies by visiting professors at our center. Dr. Emmanuel Garnier delivered a presentation on environmental history, and Dr. Arbakhan K. Magomedov spoke on themes related to war.

Dr. Garnier’s lecture was titled “Siberian Indigenous Peoples Facing Environmental Changes and Risks (17th-20th Centuries)” (delivered in English). Drawing on the natural science descriptions found in Jean-Baptiste Chappe d’Auteroche’s *Voyage en Sibirie* (1768) and integrating them with paleoclimate research, he presented a methodology for reconstructing the history of disasters in Siberia. Only a few days before this manuscript was written, an M8.0 class earthquake and tsunami occurred in Kamchatka. Dr. Garnier noted in his report that a similar tsunami had been recorded in the 18th century. His approach to deciphering the relationship between nature and society through the lens of disasters was profoundly stimulating.

Two weeks later, Dr. Magomedov gave a presentation titled “The Russian-Ukrainian War and the Arctic Indigenous Peoples,” providing a compelling report based on materials accessible to

him as a researcher within Russia. While the media has reported that conscription rates are relatively higher among ethnic minorities, his research indicates that those affected are primarily residents of villages and small towns rather than nomadic populations. Meanwhile, some legislators of indigenous descent argue that indigenous people and reindeer herders should be exempt from mobilization from the perspective of food security. While these individuals do not outwardly oppose the government, Dr. Magomedov suggested that there are phenomena that should be regarded as “resistance” in a broader sense.

(Hiroki Takakura)



Commemorative photo following Dr. Magomedov's lecture

Awards

Assistant Professor Teng Yuanyuan Receives the 2024 Geographical Association of Japan Award (Outstanding Paper Division)

Assistant Professor Teng Yuanyuan of our center, along with her colleagues, have received the 2024 Geographical Association of Japan Award in the Outstanding Paper Division. This award is presented to the authors of outstanding papers published in the Association’s journal, *Geographical Review of Japan Series A*, during the

one-year period up to August of the applicable year. The awarded paper, titled “*Neighborhood ties as an effect of mediation: Exploring links between residential concentration and integration among immigrants in Japan*” (Yuanyuan Teng, Tomoya Hanibuchi, and Tomoki Nakaya), draws on an online survey of foreign residents in Ja-

pan to quantitatively examine how the residential concentration of immigrants influences their integration into the host society through neighborhood networks. The findings indicate that, although there is no direct relationship between residential concentration and integration, concentration may hinder immigrants' integration into the host society by weakening opportunities to form networks with Japanese residents while strengthening networks among immigrants themselves.



Award ceremony held on March 19, 2025

New Staff and Visiting Scholars

Visiting Scholar
Emmanuel Garnier

Feb. 2025 - Apr. 2025
Environmental History



Visiting Scholar
GRISHACHEV Sergey

Jul. 2025 - Sep. 2025
History of Asia



Visiting Scholar
Arbakhyan Magomedov

Feb. 2025 - Apr. 2025
Geopolitics



Assistant Professor
Yuka Terauch

Apr. 2025 - present
Early Modern Japanese History



Visiting Scholar
SUN Laichen

May. 2025 - Aug. 2025
Early Modern Southeast Asian History



Research Fellow
Mitsutoshi Ishikawa

Apr. 2025 - present
Medieval Japanese History



Visiting Scholar
Matthew GOLLOCK

Jul. 2025 - Sep. 2025
Fish Biology, Conservation Ecology



Research Fellow
Xiaorong ZHANG

Apr. 2025 - present
Modern and Contemporary Asian History



Visiting Scholar
Xiaoming HUANG

Jul. 2025 - Sep. 2025
Politics, Economics, and International Relations in East Asia



Visiting Professor
Shinji Hyodo

Apr. 2025 - present
History of Russian Diplomacy



Associate Professor
Kento Takahashi

Oct. 2025 - present
Modern Korean Political History



Visiting Scholar
Luo Jialing

Oct. 2025 - present
Social anthropology



Visiting Scholar
Anderson, David George

Oct. 2025 - present
Social anthropology



Specially Appointed Senior Assistant Professor (Management)
Kaori Ishii

Oct. 2025 - present
Cultural anthropology



Research Fellow
Kenji Okubo

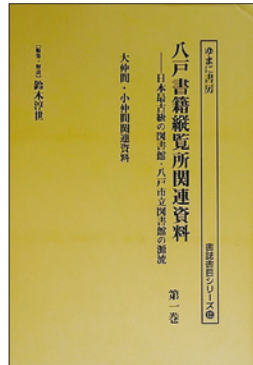
Nov. 2024 - Mar. 2025
Evolutionary Biology

Visiting Scholar
Anna Stammer-Gossmann

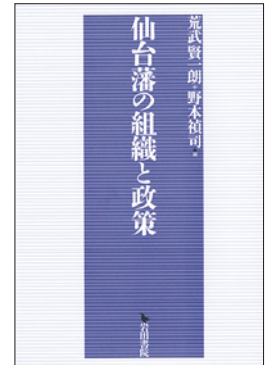
Jan. 2025
Arctic Anthropology

Publications

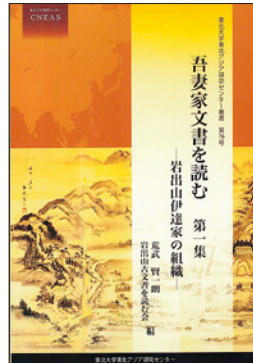
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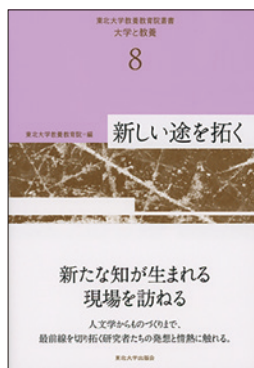
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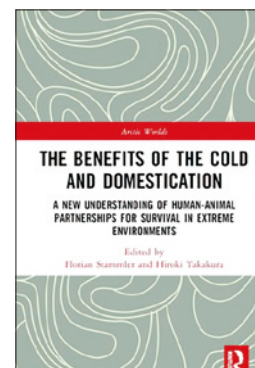
Gu Mingyuan (ed.). A Study of the Seizanji Temple Documents in Tsushima. Hana Shoin, 2025



Institute of Liberal Arts and Sciences (ILAS), Tohoku University (ed.). Pioneering a new path in academic research. Tohoku University Press, 2025



Florian Stammer and Hiroki Takakura. The benefits of the cold and domestication: a new understanding of human - animal partnerships for thriving in extreme environments. Routledge, 2025



Letters

(French National Centre for Scientific Research and the French Atomic Energy Commission (CEA), Paris-Saclay University)

Emmanuel Garnier

Emmanuel Garnier Letter

The vagaries of a researcher's life hold many surprises and scientific adventures. Being welcomed as a visiting professor at the Center of Northeast Asian Studies at Tohoku University between February and May 2025 is a perfect example. Indeed, in addition to discovering a new, open, and supportive academic ecosystem, it offered me, as a historian, the privilege of having time—a rare commodity in an academic career—to open new pioneering scientific frontiers. What I consider a “privilege” allowed me, for three months, to undertake original research on the adaptation of the indigenous peoples of Siberia to their natural, climatic, and political environment (Russian colonization) between the 16th and 20th centuries. My approach was based on the study of European scientists' accounts of Siberian exploration, the testimonies of political exiles about local indigenous peoples, and Russian historical documentation (chronicles of Siberian cities, reports from governors and fort commanders). This data analysis allowed me to create a database of several hundred records, to begin reconstructing Siberia's past climate, to better understand the modalities of the Russian colonization process and its environmental impact, and also to address the strategies developed by these nomadic or semi-nomadic peoples to reduce their vulnerabilities.



To carry out this research, I was able to count on the unwavering support of Professors Takakura and Penmellen Boret and the invaluable advice of numerous members of CNEAS, starting with my colleague Arbakhan Magomedov (Moscow State Linguistic University), also a visiting professor, the Siberian doctoral students at CNEAS, and other local researchers from disciplines different from, but nonetheless complementary to, my own. In terms of outcomes, I would say the results are rather unexpected, as these three months spent in Sendai allowed me to give two seminars, the first at CNEAS and the second at the Slavic-Eurasian Research Center of Hokkaido University. The scientific impact of my stay is also far from negligible, as it enabled me to participate in the Eighth International Symposium on Arctic Research in Tokyo in October 2025 and to establish new collaborations focused on Turkic peoples with Nazarbayev University in Astana, Kazakhstan. Finally, on the editorial front, my project at CNEAS will soon result in the publication of an article in the journal *Polar Science* and a book chapter edited by the Chair of Russian-Asian Studies at Ludwig Maximilian University (Munich, Germany).



Letters

Luo Jialing
(Sichuan University)

Reflections on the CNEAS Visiting Fellowship

I currently serve as Professor of Social Anthropology at Sichuan University, China. My research areas include the spatial and social transformations of cities and peri-urban villages, urbanisation and infrastructure, everyday life, state-society relations, modernity and modernism, and house, kinship, and relatedness. Over the years, my ethnographic enquiries have spanned the contested modernities of The Hague, the old-town neighbourhoods of Beijing, migrant workers in central Chongqing, and the vanished villages on Chengdu's urban fringe.

With the support of the CNEAS fellowship, I have had the privilege of joining the vibrant, interdisciplinary community at the Center for Northeast Asian Studies and Tohoku University from October 2025 to January 2026. This period has been profoundly generative. Alongside advancing my primary research, I have had the opportunity to participate in the Center's intellectual life through colloquia, seminars, and a documentary screening. It was a particular pleasure to present two papers: "Urbanising the Outskirts: Infrastructure, Modernity, and Everyday Life in Chengdu" and "Living the Change: Housing, Neighbourhoods, and the Reimagining of Beijing." The ensuing Q&A sessions, marked by the rigorous yet constructive exchange of ideas so vital to our craft, have been immensely rewarding. Often, the fertile seeds of collaboration, such as the formation of a panel proposal for an international conference, are sown during informal discussions over coffee or meals.

The fellowship has further facilitated essential fieldwork across Tokyo, Kyoto, and Osaka. These excursions have deepened my comparative understanding of East Asian urbanisms within a global context. Having received my anthropological training at Leiden and Cambridge, conducted field research in The Hague, worked briefly in Lausanne and Oxford, and spent years immersed in Western social theory and society, returning to East Asia to practice "anthropology at home" offers a recalibrated, broader vision of the discipline.



Professor LUO Jialing

As we navigate the uncertainties of 2026, the CNEAS visiting fellowship remains a vital platform for cross-cultural bridge-building. In an increasingly fragmented world, such institutional links remain indispensable to the pursuit of academic excellence and a more cohesive global future.

Editorial

Editorial postscript

Welcome to the 13th volume of the CNEAS Bulletin! Reflecting the lifting of travel restrictions following the COVID-19 pandemic, CNEAS research staff have actively pursued fieldwork over the past year. They have also promoted research and academic exchanges both domestically and internationally, actively sharing their research findings. A new Department of Geopolitical Studies has been established, and we are strengthening our research staff to prepare for future activities. The articles in this issue introducing activities, publications, and awards provide insight into the

diverse activities of CNEAS. This issue features letters from Dr. Emmanuel Garnier and Dr. Luo Jialing, highlighting how our international exchanges significantly contribute to advancing mutual research.

The international situation has been growing increasingly unstable and uncertain in recent years, and Northeast Asia is no exception. Nevertheless, CNEAS will resolutely continue its research activities from an academic regional studies perspective in the coming year.

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>

Editor: Toshihiro Ueno

Editorial panel: Alyne Delaney, Yongchao Cheng, Yuanyuan Teng, and Mitsu Hatakeyama

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