

## オーストラリアセミナー

### Bringing Postgraduate Researchers Together to a Common Platform : The 3rd Postgraduate Conference in Japanese Studies

Eid-UI Hasan (Research Fellow, Institute for Advanced Social Research)

The Institute for Advanced Social Research (IASR) at the Kwansei Gakuin University fosters young researchers by providing support for the international dissemination and exchange of advanced scientific knowledge and research know-how among postgraduate researchers, organizing conferences and seminars in Japan and abroad and thus contributing to university's global presence. For example, over the past few years, the institute has been actively supporting postgraduate students' participation in seminars and conferences at the universities in Australia. This program is supported by the Graduate School of Sociology in tandem with the course 'Advanced Social Studies/Research E' and is a part of the institute's Graduate Student Support Program (GSSP) and academic exchange projects.

The 3rd Postgraduate Conference in Japanese Studies was a collaborative program held at The University of Melbourne, Australia from 28th to 30th August 2019 with the goal of bringing innovative postgraduate researchers of Japanese studies together to a common platform. This international conference in English was co-hosted by the Asia Institute of The University of Melbourne and the IASR with the support of the School & Graduate School of Sociology, Kwansei Gakuin University. In 2017 the two institutes concluded an academic exchanges and collaboration agreement.

Four master's students conducting research related to Japan from three different disciplines at the Kwansei Gakuin University—Graduate School of Sociology, Graduate School of Economics, and Graduate School of Language, Communication, and Culture—were selected as the recipients of the IASR's 'Graduate Student Support Program Grants for Australia Seminar 2019' to present their work in this international academic conference. The participants were selected through a university-wide open call. They were required to submit a 3000-word conference paper in English. The IASR provided them with writing support, including proofreading and English correction service. The IASR also organized two rehearsal sessions in English. The rehearsal sessions provided the participants with an opportunity to find out the strengths and weaknesses of their papers and get feedback both from their colleagues and from

the IASR research fellows.

In the two-day conference, a total of eight papers, four each from The University of Melbourne and from Kwansei Gakuin University, were presented orally, addressing diverse research topics related to Japan such as sexuality and gender, language dynamics, politics and international relations, and culture and society. Participants from Kwansei Gakuin University and the titles of their papers are as follows (in alphabetical order) :

Chihiro Imai (Graduate School of Economics)

*Traffic Accidents in Aging Japan : Applying GIS and Statistical Analysis*

Hoi Yan Rosella Luk (Graduate School of Language, Communication, and Culture)

*A Study on Japanese College Students' English Motivation and Grammar Accuracy*

Katsuki Emi (Graduate School of Sociology)

*Beyond "Otaku" : How "Uncool" People Are Described in Contemporary Japanese Culture*

Yuki Yoshii (Graduate School of Language, Communication, and Culture)

*Communication in Intercultural Situations : The Case of Overaccommodation of the Osaka Dialect at the Workplace*

The 3rd Postgraduate Conference in Japanese Studies began on 28th August 2019 at the Sidney Myer Asia Centre, The University of Melbourne with opening remarks by the co-convenors Professor Akihiro Ogawa of the Asia Institute and Dr Eid-UI Hasan of the IASR. On behalf of the IASR, Dr Eid-UI Hasan expressed his sincere gratitude to the Asia Institute for having invited them to The University of Melbourne, followed by a brief presentation on the IASR's goals and objectives.

In Session 2, chaired by Dr Yasu Watanabe, The University of Melbourne, the first two papers from Kwansei Gakuin University were presented by Hoi Yan Rosella Luk and Yuki Yoshii respectively. Hoi Yan Rosella Luk's study explored the relationship between the motivation and grammar learning processes of L1 Japanese English learners by first modifying Tseng et al.'s (2006) self-regulating capacity in a vocabulary learning scale into a grammar learning scale, and then examining whether this scale could be used as a measuring scale of grammar motivation, as well as investigating whether a correlated relationship could exist between students' success in understanding PP&PPC and their motivation for learning English. The findings of the study showed that although there were no significant differences between the results for the grammar

test and the motivation of the students in general, students who tried to push themselves to study in a better English setting were likely to have higher grammar test scores. The study concluded that students who strategically learn language and students who learn English in a fruitful setting may have a greater chance of self-regulation, leading to increased motivation to learn English grammar compared to those who do not. Yuki Yoshii's paper on the other hand addressed an important issue of communication at intercultural workplaces in Japan. It focused especially on the role of communication at the workplace for Japanese workers and explored the problems caused by the linguistic performance of Japanese native speakers at intercultural workplaces. By using a qualitative approach, the paper concluded that linguistic performance of Japanese native speakers can cause a problem at the workplace, and that the language behavior of Japanese workers can be counterproductive. It also claimed that foreign employees can be confused with communication strategy and linguistic performance, which is not simple misunderstanding caused by Japanese language ability, and therefore Japanese employees also need to learn how to communicate with foreign employees at the workplaces in Japan.

The final two papers from Kwansei Gakuin University were presented in the 4th session on the second day. The session was chaired by Professor Naho Tanimoto, Kansai University and The University of Melbourne. The first paper in this session by Katsuki Emi explored the various categories of 'uncool' that exist in today's Japanese culture, as well as how people use those categories, focusing on publications and online discourses from the 2000s to the 2010s. First, the study found that there are several categories, such as 'inkyara', 'bocchi', 'komyusho', and 'himote' that have their own backgrounds and then classified the common practices among these categories using a two-axis four-quadrant graph that distinguishes between negative/affirmative and enforcing/self-enforced. The paper argued that the complicated relationship between these practices has contributed to the reframing of the 'cool' and 'uncool' demarcation. The next paper in this session presented by Chihiro Imai was the final paper from Kwansei Gakuin University. This paper shed light on an important issue of traffic accidents in present-day Japan. It analyzed the influence of road attributes and the traffic environment on the occurrence of traffic accidents, with a particular focus on the impacts of population aging. It estimated the frequency of traffic accidents using two types of analysis: traffic accidents in municipalities and traffic accidents in 250-meter-mesh in Saitama City using a geographic information system (GIS). The study found that a low number of traffic accidents occur in municipalities with high population density and that people are vulnerable to the risk of traffic accidents in their daily lives, particularly when they go shopping, to the hospital, or to a school.

The oral presentation session was followed by the post-lunch workshop-style open discussion session chaired by Professor Yoshihiro Seki, Kwansei Gakuin University and The University of

Melbourne. Participants reflected on all of the papers presented over the two days, including how to improve their research, and discussed the challenges and opportunities a postgraduate conference in English provides in groups. The open discussion session had generated much stimulating interdisciplinary discussions and new knowledge resulting from different perspectives.

In concluding remarks, co-convenor Dr Eid-Ul Hasan of the IASR expressed his gratitude, stating that collaboration with the Asia Institute has strengthened the international education and research activities of Kwasei Gakuin University. Professor Akihiro Ogawa of the Asia Institute congratulated the participants on being part of this successful program, expressing his hope that the two institutions will continue to have good relations in the future. To further strengthen the relationship between the Asia Institute and the Institute for Advanced Social Research, a mutual agreement was reached between the two institutes to extend the current academic exchanges and collaborative agreement.

The two-day conference was followed by a campus and museum tour. Participants from Kwasei Gakuin University first visited the The Melbourne University campus, then visited the Melbourne Museum. Such visits were included in the program to help the participants understand, build empathy and appreciate a society's diversity and culture.

The 3rd Postgraduate Conference in Japanese Studies was a huge success as the conference yielded opportunities for the participants to showcase their research in English, engage in discussion and academic debate with audience from different disciplines, exchange their ideas, and gain valuable input from experts in Japanese Studies on how to develop their research. The conference also provided them with the opportunity to network with potential research collaborators. Furthermore, this was the first time in the history of the IASR that the institute had supported graduate students across disciplines to participate in an overseas conference.

We are deeply indebted to all those who helped to organize this successful conference. We would like to thank our co-sponsors the Asia Institute of The University of Melbourne and School & Graduate School of Sociology of Kwasei Gakuin University. We are grateful to the Director of the Asia Institute, as well as the co-convenor Professor Akihiro Ogawa for his kind hospitality and continued support. We hope that through organizing both on-campus and overseas collaborative academic programs with internationally renowned partner institutions on a regular basis, we will further contribute to the Kwasei Gakuin University's drive for internationalization and to the development of young, next generation researchers for a better future.

Below is the outline of the program.

### 3rd Postgraduate Conference in Japanese Studies

**Co-Sponsor :** Asia Institute, The University of Melbourne and Institute for Advanced Social Research, Kwansai Gakuin University

**Cooperation :** Graduate School of Sociology, Kwansai Gakuin University

**Co-Convenor :** Akihiro Ogawa (Asia Institute, The University of Melbourne) and Eid-UI Hasan (Institute for Advanced Social Research, Kwansai Gakuin University)

**Date :** Wednesday, 28—Friday, 30 August 2019

**Venue :** Room 321, Level 3, Sidney Myer Asia Centre, The University of Melbourne

### Programme

#### Day 1

<b>Date :</b>	28 August 2019	<b>Time :</b>	10 : 00—17 : 00
<b>Venue :</b>	Room 321 — Level 3 — Sidney Myer Asia Centre — The University of Melbourne Parkville VIC 3010		
<b>Enquiries :</b>	Akihiro Ogawa		
<b>10 : 00—10 : 30</b>	<b>Morning Coffee/Tea &amp; Opening Remarks</b> 10 : 00—10 : 30 <b>Prof Akihiro Ogawa &amp; Dr Eid-UI Hasan—</b> (Asia Institute, The University of Melbourne & Institute for Advanced Social Research, Kwansai Gakuin University) Agenda Setting		
<b>10 : 30—12 : 00</b>	<b>Session 1 : Sexuality &amp; Gender in Japan</b> <b>Chair : Dr Mayuko Itoh, The University of Melbourne</b>		
10 : 30—11 : 00	<b>Michaela Luschmann—</b> The University of Melbourne Masculinity Discourses in Japanese Love Advice Text		
11 : 00—11 : 30	<b>Saffron Lai—</b> The University of Melbourne Gender, nation and self-responsibility : Conservative recontextualization of the Ito Shiori case		
11 : 30—12 : 00	<b>Discussion</b>		
<b>12 : 00—13 : 15</b>	<b>Lunch break</b>		
<b>13 : 15—14 : 15</b>	<b>Session 2 : Language Dynamics in Japan</b> <b>Chair : Dr Yasu Watanabe, The University of Melbourne</b>		
13 : 15—13 : 45	<b>Hoi Yan Rosella Luk—</b> Kwansai Gakuin University A Study on Japanese College Students' English Motivation and Grammar Accuracy		

13 : 45—14 : 15	<b>Yuki Yoshii</b> —Kwansei Gakuin University Communication in Intercultural Situations : The Case of Overaccommodation of the Osaka Dialect at the Workplace
14 : 15—14 : 45	<b>Discussion</b>
14 : 45—15 : 15	<b>Afternoon Tea</b>
15 : 15—16 : 45	<b>Session 3 : Politics &amp; International Relations in Japan and East Asia</b> <b>Chair : Mr Shuntaro Iizuka, The University of Melbourne</b>
15 : 15—15 : 45	<b>Susan Yang</b> —The University of Melbourne The Evolution of Japan and South Korea Relations in the Post-War Era
15 : 45—16 : 15	<b>Adam Eldridge-Imamura</b> —The University of Melbourne A Survey of Japanese Law and Society Scholarship : Perspectives, Trends and Utility for my Article 9 Research
16 : 15—16 : 45	<b>Discussion</b>
18 : 00	<b>Conference Dinner at Shakahari</b>

## Day 2

<b>Date :</b>	29 August 2019	<b>Time :</b>	9 : 30—16 : 30
<b>Venue :</b>	Room 321 — Level 3 — Sidney Myer Asia Centre — The University of Melbourne Parkville VIC 3010		
<b>Enquiries :</b>	Akihiro Ogawa		
<b>9 : 30—10 : 15</b>	<b>Morning Coffee/Tea</b>		
<b>10 : 15—11 : 45</b>	<b>Session 4 : Culture &amp; Society</b> <b>Chair : Prof Naho Tanimoto, Kansai University &amp; The University of Melbourne</b>		
10 : 15—10 : 45	<b>Katsuki Emi</b> —Kwansei Gakuin University Beyond “Otaku” : How “Uncool” People Are Described in Contemporary Japanese Culture		
10 : 45—11 : 15	<b>Chihiro Imai</b> —Kwansei Gakuin University Traffic Accidents in Aging Japan : Applying GIS and Statistical Analysis		
11 : 15—11 : 45	<b>Discussion</b>		
<b>12 : 15—14 : 00</b>	<b>Lunch break</b>		
<b>14 : 00—15 : 30</b>	<b>Open Discussions</b> <b>Chair : Prof Yoshihiro Seki, Kwansei Gakuin University &amp; The University of Melbourne</b>		
<b>15 : 30—16 : 30</b>	<b>Afternoon Tea &amp; Closing Remarks</b>		

**Day 3**

<b>Date :</b>	30 August 2019	<b>Time :</b>	10 : 30—
<b>Venue :</b>	Room 321 — Level 3 — Sidney Myer Asia Centre — The University of Melbourne Parkville VIC 3010		
<b>Enquiries :</b>	Eid-Ul Hasan		
<b>10 : 30—</b>	<b>Library, Campus &amp; Museum Visit</b>		
<b>13 : 00—</b>	<b>Field Trip</b>		