

NAJS 2006 – The Third NAJS Conference on the Study of
Contemporary Japanese Society, 27–29 April 2006,
Helsinki, Finland

www.najs.jp

Dear participants,

You are all very welcome to the Third NAJS Conference. The Conference will take place at Helsinki Business College (HBC). Coffee breaks and lunches will be provided at HBC. On Thursday evening there will be a welcome dinner at Korea House (Address: Mariankatu 19). On Friday evening we will have dinner together at Piano Restaurant (Address: Rauhankatu 15).

There is no conference fee, and thanks to our sponsors we are happy to announce that coffee breaks, lunches and dinners are all free of charge.

In this booklet you will find a schedule, list of participants and abstracts.

We are looking forward to three intensive days!

NAJS 2006 Organizing Committee
Riikka Länsisalmi, Pia Moberg, Lars Martin Sørensen
Martin Nordeborg & Bart Gaens

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Theme for The Third Annual NAJS Conference in Helsinki

“The Politics of Community in Japan”

The focus of the Third Annual NAJS Conference will be on the constructed character of community and identity in Japan, especially in connection to world politics in the wake of the Cold War. Particular emphasis will be put on the political processes whereby a sense of community is constructed in Japan and on the political implications of such construction. Communities, as shared senses of belonging, are not static. This is especially true for the present era, characterized by political, economic, cultural and social forces moving on a transnational level. Previous boundaries and belongings dissolve as forces upholding them vanish, and new senses of solidarity and identification—following other geographies and other ideologies—appear. On the other hand, contrary to, or possibly because of, the recent global trend towards diminished significance of the nation state, the role of the nation all over East Asia (reinforced national sense of community and the reintroduction of national symbols and practices) has simultaneously increased. Thus, contemporary Japanese society deals with very contradictory forces of mobilizing belongings and identities, and less is known about late modern, post-Cold War, forms of identification.

This conference invites research that attempts to understand political participation and forms of identification, that questions the naturalness and taken-for-grantedness of given solidarities, and that opens up for their renegotiation as the forces, norms and values that are upholding them are made explicit, talked about, discussed, questioned, reevaluated, and thus made more accessible in discourse and practices. In investigating various understandings and practices of “the political” (beyond formal political institutions such as parties, elections and opinion polls) a multi-disciplinary approach will doubtlessly be necessary.

Conference venue:

Helsinki Business College
Hattulantie 2
00510 Helsinki, Finland

Saturday 29 April 2006

9.30-11.00 *Session 3*

Chair: Pekka Korhonen

Paper 5: Arto Ojala

Discussants: Elzbieta Kostowska-Watanabe, Bart Gaens

Paper 6: Susanne Kreitz-Sandberg

Discussants: Päivi Poukka, Martin Nordeborg

11.00-11.30 *Coffee break*

11.30-12.15 *Session 3 continued*

Paper 7: Päivi Poukka

Discussants: Yoshiyuki Asahi, Minna Eväsoja

12.15-13.30 *NAJS in the future & lunch*

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS: (contact information will be included in the paper version)

APPELGREN, Staffan (Göteborg University, Sweden)

ASAHI Yoshiyuki (The National Institute for Japanese Language, Tokyo, Japan)

AUTIO, Antti (University of Oulu, Finland)

EKHOLM, Thomas (Göteborg University, Sweden)

EVÄSOJA, Minna (University of Helsinki, Finland)

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GUSTAFSSON, Karl (Örebro University, Sweden)

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SILLMAN, Tanja (University of Turku, Finland)

SORENSEN, Lars-Martin (Copenhagen University, Denmark)

TAKEUCHI Rio (University of Jyväskylä, Finland)

TAPANAINEN, Tommi (University of Turku, Finland)

VIHKO, Tuuli (University of Helsinki, Finland)

ABSTRACTS:

APPELGREN, Staffan (Göteborg University, Sweden)

The Huis Ten Bosch Concept

As a part of a dissertation that explores the phenomena of simulated environments in Japan, and the Dutch-themed town of Huis Ten Bosch in northern part of Nagasaki Prefecture in particular, this chapter discusses the major actors behind the construction of the town and their "philosophy" underpinning it. In the chapter it is argued that rather than being a simple representation of the "other" Huis Ten Bosch constitutes an environment where relationships between self and other is worked out on multiple levels, and that in the end it is as much a return to a forgotten self (i.e. premodern Japan) as it is a reconstruction of the other.

ASAHI Yoshiyuki (The National Institute for Japanese Language, Tokyo, Japan)

Sakhalin Japanese: Past, Present and Future

Sakhalin Island, located to the north of Japanese northernmost island, Hokkaido, has received a number of people of different ethnic backgrounds. The nature of this island as a multiethnic as well as multicultural society has provided an ideal condition for sociolinguistic studies. In the history of Sakhalin Island, Japan has given such a strong influence over this island.

This paper is an attempt to draw a picture of the status of Japanese language in Sakhalin Island from a historical point of view. The explanation will be made in the following three periods: before the Japanese domination period (until 1905), Japanese domination period (1905-1945), and after the Japanese domination period (1945-today). Until Japan took Sakhalin Island, it was Ainu, not Japanese language that were widely used: it was used in inter-ethnic communication. However, in the Japanese domination period, a large number of Japanese immigrated to this island, and Japanese language was used as an official language. Japanese language education was also conducted towards non-native speakers of Japanese language such as Koreans, Ainu, Uilta, and Nivkh. After the Japanese domination period, Russian took dominance over Sakhalin Island, the number of Japanese speakers decreased drastically. However, Japanese is still in use amongst those who remained in Sakhalin Island and those who acquired Japanese language at Japanese school. Based on these descriptions, the future of Sakhalin Japanese will be discussed.

AUTIO, Antti (University of Oulu, Finland)

Translation, Transposition and Rewriting: The Adaptation of European and Japanese Written Fiction into Audiovisual Forms

The adaptation of written fiction into audiovisual forms is one of the primary processes of cultural renewal and the reproduction of cultural heritage. The present study examines the process of literary adaptation in close detail. The primary question it seeks to answer is: "What are the changes a narrative is subjected to when different types of literary texts are adapted into audiovisual manifestations in different media?" The study concerns itself with the adaptation of both literary and graphic novels into film and digital interactive forms.

The study examines adaptation as a process that in many ways resembles literary translation. Translating a work of fiction consists of transferring not only the content but also the form of an original literary work to another language. As scholars of translation studies have argued, the process can be conceptualised as one of rewriting of the original text. The present study will apply this idea to an investigation of audiovisual adaptations: adaptation

will be examined as a process of rewriting of the original work into the "language" (in a metaphorical sense) of the new audiovisual form.

The phenomenon of literary adaptation will be examined through a selection of European and Japanese texts in three different modes of adaptation. Firstly, the adaptation of contemporary literature to film, which is the traditional and paradigmatic mode of audiovisual adaptation. Secondly, the adaptation of graphic novels to film, a contemporary and increasingly popular mode of adaptation. Thirdly, and finally, the adaptation of literary narratives into digital interactive forms, an emerging and experimental mode of adaptation that seems destined to become an important cultural process.

EKHOLM, Thomas (Göteborg University, Sweden)

Chanoyu and the West: Chanoyu in Sweden during late 19th and early 20th Century

During the 1870:s a Swedish ship called Vanadis came to Japan and with it came the anthropologist Herman Stolpe, who brought up to 150 items related to the Japanese tea ceremony with him back to Sweden. The items, as well as other items, were put to display in Stockholm and this is likely to be the first time chanoyu was presented to Swedish population.

The year of 1911 a book about the Japanese tea ceremony was published by Ida Trotzig. This book explains in detail the ceremony and is the first book in a non-Japanese language of its kind. Trotzig had at that time lived almost 20 years in Japan and would stay for another 10 after that. Well back in Sweden in early 1920s, she found work at a Swedish tea company and traveled to many parts of Sweden presenting the Japanese tea, the tea ceremony in particular. She became the prime influence to the tea house build in Stockholm in 1935, the first in Europe, maybe in the west.

The knowledge of chanoyu was brought to Sweden mainly by Swedish hands, yet it was not without the help of Japanese. To what extent remain to be answered however. Was there any interest from Japanese government, media etc to spread their own culture abroad. Is this yet another example of Swedish "orientalism" or can it be shown that the Japanese themselves worked to present their culture.

My aim is therefore to examine both the Swedish and the Japanese influences which made this cultural presentation possible and to what extent respective country's interest in the matter from the media's point of view. If possible it would also be interesting to see the difference of this presentation and the first presentation to Europe made in the 16th century.

EVÄSOJA, Minna (University of Helsinki, Finland)

J-POP and Contemporary Japanese Society

Contemporary Japanese art criticizes and reflects the forms and problems of Japanese society in an unusual straightforward way. It tries to force a viewer to contemplate one's thoughts and attitudes toward porn and violence as well as the "flatness" of society where no one strikes out with personal and unconventional ideas. In this paper, I will study these themes through contemporary paintings, manga and movies.

GAENS, Bart (University of Helsinki, Finland)

The European and Japanese Rediscovery of 'Asia'-The Construction of Regional Identities in the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)

Europe and Japan simultaneously “re-discovered” Asia in the 1990s. While the new European awareness of Asia was primarily rooted in economic interests, the definition of “Asia as Other” can also be seen as a tool for the EU to enhance a still weak European identity. Japan on the other hand, as of the 1990s regards itself again as “Asian” and defines itself increasingly in terms of a wider Asian system of values and culture. My paper takes the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) as a starting point to explore how the European Union and Japan approach an emerging Eastasian community.

GUSTAFSSON, Karl (Örebro University, Sweden)

Japanese Historical Memory and Sino-Japanese Relations

This dissertation concerns how Sino-Japanese political and economic relations are affected by the historical heritage from the Japanese invasion and occupation. The study will focus on Japanese and Chinese collective memories of the war, with its main focal point being Japanese memories. Even though the problems in Sino-Japanese relations have often made themselves visible in the realpolitik of the two countries, for example in territorial disputes and Chinese resistance to the Japanese bid for a permanent seat in the United Nations security council I am of the opinion that the issue of history lies at the very core of the problems between the countries. Furthermore, mobilisation of the past can play a powerful role in international conflicts because of the emotional and motivating power inherent in collective memories. Sound Sino-Japanese relations must therefore be preceded by a solution to or at least some kind of compromise or understanding regarding the history problem.

What is usually brought up when speaking of the history problem is, on the one hand, the Japanese Ministry of Education’s approving Japanese history textbooks for use in Japanese junior high schools. These textbooks are considered to make light of the atrocities committed by Japanese soldiers during the war in Asia. Another problem related to the history issue is that of Japanese prime ministers recurring visits to the controversial Yasukuni shrine in Tokyo where, among common soldiers killed in the war, convicted war criminals are being remembered.

HAGSTRÖM, Linus (Swedish Institute of International Affairs, Stockholm, Sweden)

Japan, the Great Powers, and the Coordination of North Korea Policy

The aim of the book of which this is an introductory chapter is to analyse the formation of North Korea policy in the context of great power relations in East Asia. The focus is on Japan’s policy formation and “the Japan factor” in the North Korea policies of other concerned great powers. There are several reasons for choosing to focus on Japan’s role in the coordination of North Korea policy: First, most books that touch on the coordination of North Korea policy treat the U.S.A. as the major regional actor. This is not necessarily wrong, but it is a picture that needs to be problematised. Secondly, North Korean nuclear weapons are, according to sources from Pyongyang, aimed primarily at Japan. Thirdly, because of its passive and reactive foreign policy, Japan has become known as anomaly in international affairs. By looking at Japan’s North Korea policy and “the Japan factor” in the North Korea policies of other major actors in the region, this volume aims to make a fair assessment of the development of Japan’s foreign policy.

ILLMAN, Johanna (University of Helsinki, Finland)

Wrapping with Textiles: Gift Giving Presentations Viewed through Japanese Aesthetic Concepts

The aim of the paper is to look at what ceremonial presentations of gifts tell us about Japanese values and aesthetic concepts. With presentation I here refer to both the created outward appearance of the gift and the activity of presenting at the gift giving occasion.

The aesthetical concepts are explored by focusing on the fukasa and furoshiki wrapping textiles. Although to a lesser extent, these textiles are still used today in the context of gift giving traditions in Japanese daily life, wedding ceremonies and national festive days. In the paper I will address the following questions: what kind of aesthetic concepts and notions are attached to the wrapping textiles used for presenting gifts and what can the fukasa textiles and their use tell us about Japanese aesthetic concepts?

The theoretical frame of reference of my study is the discussion on gift presentations inside the anthropological research on gift giving and exchange. The paper hopes to contribute with an anthropological perspective on aesthetics and through looking at how aesthetic values relates to broader cultural values. This paper also hopes to contribute to the anthropological discussion on exchange by focusing on the presentation of gifts and the aesthetical concepts related to it.

KAMOTO Itsuko (Kyoto Women's University, Japan)

Who will become Japanese Nationals?

Kokusai kekkon [国際結婚]; literally 'international marriage', is an original Japanese concept, which was significant to Japan's nation-state building process in the 19th century. There is no doubt that the disappearance of this concept will come as a consequence of the transformation of community or Nation-State Japan. In the world of Post-Cold War, accelerated globalization leads to the question "Who will become Japanese nationals?"

What was a 'shock' to Japanese politicians in 1989 was not the fall of the Berlin Walls, but the fact the total fertility rate reached mark of 1.57. This is well below the replacement level (2.1), at which the population will more or less reproduce itself. Who then, would support the childless and aging Japanese society?

During the bubble economy, the numbers of international marriages between Japanese men and foreign women, as well as the number of children from Asian mothers rapidly increased. On the other hand, there has been a tendency since 1992 for Japanese women to find foreign partners outside of Japan. Even during the Heisei recession the influx of foreign workers never ceased. As a result of these factors, the percentage of children born in Japan who have at least one foreign national as a parent is increasing.

In 2002, 13,294 children were born from "Japanese father & foreign mother" couples, 8,957 from "Japanese mother & foreign father" couples, and 11,611 from "foreign mother & foreign father" couples. Needless to say that still, 97% of children born in Japan have both a Japanese father and a Japanese mother. However, it is also becoming clear that in the future, that number will decrease as more and more Japanese women choose to get married abroad to foreign nationals, while those Japanese women who remain in Japan choose to have fewer and fewer babies.

From the perspective of families of kokusai kekkon, this paper will argue on the politics of men and women in contemporary Japan.

KONTTINEN, Annamari (University of Turku, Finland)

Japanese Environmentalism as an Agent for Change

The emergence of new forms of collective action in advanced industrial societies has stimulated innovative reconceptualizations of the significance of social movements. The “New Social Movement” literature has suggested that the ability of these issue-based movements that developed mainly from ‘60s onwards to act as an identity-constructing force is the hallmark that most clearly separates them from “old” interest-based social movements.

In addition to identity construction, social movements bring about both intended and unintended changes in the lives of the activists, in communities, policies and cultures. This paper discusses these multi-level transformations through the analysis of extensive life-course interviews of activists from a wide variety of citizen groups and organizations working for the environment across Japan. The great transformation of Japanese civil society in the '90s and in the new millenium forms the backdrop of the analysis.

Close attention will be paid to how the informants discuss the dynamics of their relationships with their social environments from family and neighborhood communities to the political and decision-making systems they attempt to influence. The accounts of these relationships reveal sometimes contradictory and fragmented patterns of alliance and confrontation sometimes facilitating, sometimes interfering with activists’ aspirations. Many of the activists identify with the global moral community represented in the interviews simply by the notion of “foreign countries” as a desirable model for developing a more ecological society. The categories of “ecology” and “environment” themselves become vehicles for a variety of critiques directed at the establishment.

KORHONEN, Pekka (University of Jyväskylä, Finland)

Asia in Japanese Rhetoric

Asia is a Mediterranean geographic concept, which was transferred to the eastern end of the old continent in various waves from the 15th century onwards, and which has ever since created conceptual problems there, varying with the narrative contents given to the term Asia as a synecdoche in Europe. As the transfer of concepts between cultures is never a process of simple planting, but rather a process of translation and interpretation. Intellectually and politically some of the most interesting interpretations of Asia have been made in Japan after World War II, and the most striking tendency in them is that as time goes on, they geographically more and more start to resemble the area depicted in old Buddhist 五天竺图。 For instance, the East Asian Summit held in 14 December 2005 in Kuala Lumpur, bringing together a number of countries from South, Southeast and Northeast Asia, fits geographically nicely with these maps.

I am not yet sure of the actual contents of the paper I'll write, but it will certainly contain material on the contemporary Japan of earlier temporal periods, simply because the history of the concepts we use nowadays is always present in them, in one way or another.

KOSTOWSKA, Elzbieta (Nicolaus Copernicus University, Torun, Poland)

Foot Soldiers of the State and Consumer Queens – Japanese Women and the State

1. Wife and mother as a tool of the state – creation of new roles for women in Meiji Japan.

Meiji leaders faced a task of building the frames of a new Japanese statehood with the purpose of showing to the world that Japan is a civilized country. Creation of a “new

Japanese”, an educated and obedient citizen able to perform in the “new society”, required the cooperation of families, and particularly mothers.

2. Militarization of Japanese society in the early 20th C. was done - among others – through a substantial effort of women’s groups. The state was using (and abusing) women to realize numerous “campaigns” helping Japan in war efforts. Women were deprived of any political representation, allotted a role of foot soldiers of the state. But women’s groups were self-managed and were a fertile soil for creation of able and efficient female leaders.

3. New roles and new ways of influencing the state by women after the World War 2.

Women gained full political rights in 1946. Women’s groups began energetic activities through series of campaigns for the purpose of coping with postwar shortages of goods. The first campaign showing a political influence of women as voters was a campaign to delegatize prostitution, which was successful in changing the laws in 1957.

The rapid rise of Japanese economy and emerging consumer society created new ways for women to show their bargaining power – as consumers whose anger can shake the markets...

4. Conclusions:

- Clearly defined gender roles should not be seen as merely oppressive – in a democratic society they can serve as a convenient channel of social, and even political influence.

- Cooperation and self-organizing skills learned by Japanese women under the oppressive regime of militarized Japan serve the new generations of women in gaining access to political influence by controlling the ways in which their voice is being heard.

KREITZ-SANDBERG, Susanne (TREE East, Rimforsa, Sweden)

Specifics of School Experience in Japan. Which Role does Gender Play in Education?

School is one of the places, which is seen as comparatively gender equal. Many studies have however pointed out various matters of discrimination, both of boys and girls, and an enormous amount of adjustment is still needed if equality between or equal opportunities for the sexes is being seen as an ideal. In this paper I shall discuss how gender influences the experience of young people in Japanese schools and shortly review how this is being reflected in scholarly discussions and Ministry papers. Which role does the so-called gender free education play today, more than a decade after jendâ furiina kyôiku became a catchphrase in 1995? I shall introduce a case study from a primary school in West Japan. Rather than implicitly comparing the results with West-European standards of gender in education, I shall include an international comparative perspective by reviewing results from another case study, which has been carried out in The Philippines. Hopefully this approach can provoke a lively discussion on some reasons for the continuation of unequal approaches in the educational settings for boys and girls in different regions. This discussion might help us to rethink appropriate measures of support for the change of the gender order in (post-) modern societies.

MERKLEJN, Iwona (Warsaw University, Poland)

Natural Disasters and Information Society: Some Recent Research Trends in Japan

My paper is an attempt to draw general background for the study of the behaviour and role of media in a community affected by natural disaster. For this purpose, I will concentrate on major disasters that affected Japan in the late 20th and early 21st century and the media’s reaction to those events. I will try to relate to a view expressed by Hiroi Osamu (“Saigai”, in: “Shakai jôhôgaku” Part I: “Shisutemu”, Tôkyô Daigaku Shuppankai 1999) saying that being an advanced information society (kôdo jôhō shakai) makes Japan, in fact, more vulnerable in

the case of natural disaster. While it might be true at the very moment the disaster strikes, in some cases Japan's mass information system played an important role in the process of reconstruction (fukkō). My approach is close to that of Yamanaka Shigeki who focuses on reconstruction problems ("Shinsai to media. Fukkō hōdō no shiten", Sekai Shisōsha 2005). He mentions the idea of IT support (IT shien) for disaster victims and two cases where this sort of support proved particularly useful: the volcano eruptions in Hokkaidō (Usu zan, 2000) and Miyake jima (2000). I would like to develop his ideas, using also the examples of volcano eruptions in Kyūshū (Unzen Fugendake, 1990-1996) and Hokkaidō Nansei oki earthquake (1993) when considerable aid for the victims was raised through the media. I believe the role of media in the reconstruction process is evolving from restoring social order towards a community-building role, as the spread of the Internet results in the fragmentation of audiences and tendencies to change mass media into community media.

MOBERG, Pia (Göteborg University, Sweden)

The Validity of a Questionnaire: How can 'Good' Questions be Formulated?

My new project, "Creating a new generation of political leaders in today's Japan: Rhetorical strategies at The Matsushita Institute of Government and Management (Matsushita Seikei Juku)", explores how the new generation of political leaders meet the challenges of a more individualistic and public-oriented leadership where personal appeal is of increasing importance. The study object will be the elite training academy Matsushita Institute of Government and Management (MIGM). The theoretical framework of comparative rhetoric will be used, taking into account both the Western tradition of rhetorical criticism as well as the Japanese tradition of communication.

The project will last for three years. My idea is to follow a group of students during their three-year education (2007-2009). During this period I will also include the other students at the school in my study, as well as MIGM board members and graduates.

As a part of the data gathering I will use a questionnaire. One questionnaire is for those presently studying at MIGM and another is for all other respondents. In my paper I will present and discuss my first draft of the questions in these questionnaires. How can 'good' questions be formulated, and can their validity be measured?

NORDEBORG, Martin (Göteborg University, Sweden)

Discovery of the Child in Early Meiji Japan?

The first Japanese primary school reader (1873) has been referred to as a direct translation of the Willson Readers, a series of schoolbooks widely used in the USA. The aim of this paper is to show that interpretations and supplements has made the Japanese schoolbook more in line with the tastes of the times. Focus will be on the implied reader. What view of the child does the pedagogics, the text strategies of the translation convey? How does this differ from the view of the American original?

The paper is part of my doctoral thesis and examines the differences between the Japanese translations (there were two versions) with the Willson Reader. It is done so through a discourse analysis where the texts are put in a wider context of politics and ideology. In this paper I especially focus on the pedagogics of the times and the view of the child.

OJALA, Arto (University of Jyväskylä, Finland)

Challenges for Foreign Software Companies in the Japanese Market: A Case Study

The Japanese market is often characterized by different barriers to entering and doing business in the existing literature. Although these barriers are well documented and researched, these investigations mainly focus on large sized manufacturing companies or give only a general description of the entry barriers. Despite a great amount of examination of the barriers in the Japanese market, almost no research exists on what kinds of barriers foreign small- and medium-sized software companies have encountered in the Japanese market. This is surprising if we take into consideration the size and importance of the Japanese software markets that offer foreign software companies good opportunities to conduct business and significantly expand their market potential. In this research, a case study method was used to investigate and analyze what kinds of barriers or challenges a small- and medium-sized Finnish software company has encountered in the Japanese market. The research findings in this study reveal that the barriers were mainly related to language and culture, recruitment, keiretsu groups, complex supply chain, and customers' high requirements for products. None of these barriers terminated their business in Japan, and were seen moreover as challenges for their business, not as actual barriers. The research findings also demonstrate that many of these barriers can be avoided by using the correct strategies in the Japanese market.

POUKKA, Päivi (University of Helsinki, Finland)

Moral Socialization

In Japan, the cultivation of good members for society has been a highly valued educational aim for centuries. Despite the rhetoric about the importance of individuality in the revised curriculum of 2002, socialization to norms and ideals is the underlying force also in the present Japanese moral education. Education for membership of various groups is the most stressed section among the four areas of morality, for instance, in the moral teaching material called Kokoro no nôto. In fact, the ultimate purpose of these moral books, compiled by the Ministry of Education, seems to be pupils' willingness to contribute to society.

This paper, which is done in the field of education, is a qualitative content analysis of the social orientation of the last section in Kokoro no nôto from the perspective of children's educational problems. In the context of the curriculum revision, the need for reinforcing moral education was argued for because of the concern of an increase in such undesirable behavior as violence, bullying, and school refusal among school children. Behind these kinds of problems, there may be ignorance of what is right and wrong, but also lack of courage to defend one's rights. The main research question is how socially oriented values contribute to building such a sense of responsibility that seeks justice and wellbeing, not only for others but also for oneself.

SAUNAVAARA, Juha (University of Oulu, Finland)

Some Observations on Occupation Authorities' Attitude towards the Japanese Conservative Parties during the First Nine Months of the Occupation

The first contacts between the mainly US based occupation officials and the Japanese conservative leaders, that were later to become the United States' most important allies in Asia, saw the daylight during the first nine months of the occupation. Traditionally all the newly-formed conservative parties have been counted as one homogenous group that was at a disadvantage position, while the left-wing elements enjoyed the support of the GHQ until the

so-called “reverse course” took place. However, my working hypothesis, which is partly based on the findings of my earlier research, is that the occupation authorities’ attitude towards the conservative parties varied between the different parties and this attitude was anything but constant. On the contrary, it was, with the utmost probability, a matter sensible for changes even during the very first winter of the occupation. In the very nucleus of my research is a term "attitude" that I have divided into concrete research questions. In short, the object of this research is to investigate, how the parties were seen and estimated in the documents prepared by the officials, who worked in different offices under GHQ. Were those parties seen as influential political powers and were their activity and its development seen as a positive or a negative factor? Besides that, I will pay attention to the estimations given in the documents concerning the future of the conservative parties and to the different kinds of opinions, how those parties fitted in the concept of new democratized Japan that was the occupiers’ ultimate goal. Naturally the question, why did the occupation officials get into these kinds of estimations is not forgot. The differences inside the GHQ and its offices are a matter of research and closer analysis as well.

TAKEUCHI Rio (University of Jyväskylä, Finland)

Idealized Character in the Age of Westernization: Vocabulary War Over *Shinshi* (gentleman)

In this paper, I examine a discourse on "Shinshi(=gentleman)" as an ideal person who symbolizes "westernization" and "modernization".

I think the role of "Shinshi" image is important when we examine the transformation and transmission of the value and customs, such as "civilized" or "westernized", in modern Japan. For example, people those days thought it important that the man called "Shinshi" had not only superficial knowledge about "West" but also true civilized personality. So the discourse on "Shinshi" reflects anxiety or conflicts of the country which faced modernization and westernization.

By discussing the discourse on "Shinshi", I will clarify the strong power or influence of "West" in modern Japan. And I would like to examine various aspects, sometimes conflicting, of "Occidentalism(the counterpart of the concept of Orientalism)". For this purpose, I use some data, such as manner books, newspapers, magazines and the like.

And in this presentation, I use "West" or "Shinshi" not as substance but as images. Because I pay attention to the role of the image of "West" in modern Japan. "West" as an image raised up various complex feelings, such as yearning, antipathy, a sense of inferiority, and nationalism. It also gave rise to various patterns of adaptation, such as "Wakon-Yousai(=Japanese spirit combined with Western learning)". And these various kinds of feelings and patterns of adaptation pushed modernization in Japan smoothly, and , on the other hand, gave birth to some reactions, such as "Nihon Romanha", "Kyoto school", and Ultrnationalism. That’s why I pay attention to the image of the "West". In this presentation, I would like to examine (1)the invention of “Shinshi” as an idealized character, (2)the way of life of “Shinshi”, (3)the discussion surrounding "Shinshi", (4)recent nostalgic feeling for "Shinshi".