The SRC to Be Renamed the Slavic-Eurasian Research Center

The Slavic Research Center has decided to rename itself the Slavic-Eurasian Research Center from April 1, 2014. This is a long-awaited event. From the beginning, the name “Slavic” was a kind of compromise: In 1955, when the SRC was established, such words as “Soviet,” “socialist,” and even “Russia” (which was then associated with the old tsarist regime) inevitably bore ideological connotations. Therefore, the SRC’s founders selected “Slavic” as a neutral word, although the SRC was not a center for Slavistics in its narrow sense (Slavic philology) but was rather a social-science-oriented center. Needless to say, the area of the former Soviet and East European countries has never been wholly “Slavic,” with many non-Slavic nations and ethnic groups.

After the demise of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia, it became even more difficult to call the whole area “Slavic.” Now, among the 29 independent countries (not including unrecognized states) in the former Soviet and East European space, 16 are countries with predominantly non-Slavic populations, and there are also a number of non-Slavic republics in the Russian Federation.

The search for new names for the former Soviet space has become a global problem, and many research organizations have begun to use the word “Eurasia” in relation to this area, although the distinction between the wider Eurasia (Europe plus Asia) and the post-Soviet Eurasia remains problematic. The SRC invented the word “Slavic Eurasia,” and has been using it in the titles of books and research projects, such as “Changes in the Slavic-Eurasian World” in 1995–1998 and “Making a Discipline of Slavic Eurasian Studies” in 2003–2008. The rapid development of Central Eurasian studies at the SRC since the mid-1990s has also strengthened its “Eurasian” orientation. Moreover, in recent years, the SRC has conducted big projects involving a large number of specialists on China, India, and other regions of Eurasia outside the former Soviet and East European space (“Comparative Research on Major Regional Powers in Eurasia” in 2008–2013 and “Reshaping Japan’s Border Studies” in 2009–2014).
The time is ripe for changing the name of our center. At the same time, many of us and our friends have an attachment to the traditional name, so we decided to limit the change to a minimum, only adding one word. The abbreviation “SRC” will remain in use, at least for the time being. The new name “Slavic-Eurasian Research Center” is effective in showing our research orientations in a double sense. First, it more correctly indicates the area we study, i.e., former Soviet and East European countries, where people speak not only Slavic, but also Turkic, Finno-Ugric, Caucasian, Baltic, Iranian, Mongolic, Romance, Tungusic, and other languages. Second, it implies our vision of area studies in an age of globalization: the characteristics of a region cannot be properly understood without comparison with other regions and research on transborder phenomena, and cooperation with specialists in studies of other regions of the world, especially Eurasia (China, India, the Middle East, Western Europe, Japan, Southeast Asia, etc.), is vital for us.

The renaming does not mean that we are curtailing Slavic studies. On the contrary, unlike the social-science-oriented SRC until the 1990s, we have now almost equal numbers of social scientists and humanities scholars, including prominent specialists in Slavic literature and languages. In other words, Slavic studies and Eurasian studies have been simultaneously developing at the SRC, stimulating each other. We will continue to be a center for both Slavic and Eurasian studies, and would like to entreat: Slavists and Eurasianists of the world, unite!

Uyama Tomohiko

**THE SRC ACHIEVED THE HIGHEST MARK “S” AS A RESULT OF THE INTERIM EVALUATION OF JOINT USAGE/RESEARCH CENTERS**

Since 2009, the Slavic Research Center has been recognized as a “joint usage/research center” (JURC) for comprehensive research on the Slavic-Eurasian regions by the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT). JURCs have a mission to provide their facilities to researchers from all over Japan and to conduct joint research based on open competition programs. The SRC as a JURC aims to become a hub of not only nationwide but also worldwide networks of Slavic-Eurasian studies, and to train the next generation of scholars capable of joining global research activities. For this purpose, the SRC has launched new joint usage and research programs along with preexisting programs for foreign fellows, visiting fellows, and postdoctoral and doctoral fellows, and uses these programs to enrich its own research projects and networks. It has also strengthened cooperation with Japanese and global research associations, including the Japan Council for Russian and East European Studies (JCREES) and the International Council for Central and East European Studies (ICCEES).

In 2013, a working group of the Council for Science and Technology of MEXT carried out an interim evaluation of 74 JURCs affiliated with national universities. As a result, the SRC achieved the highest mark of “S” (superb), which means that the working group recognized that the SRC actively conducts its work as a JURC, achieving notable and effective results of joint usage and research and making a great contribution to related research communities. The evaluation comments were as follows:

This JURC deserves high praise for achieving excellent research results, involving a wide range of both prominent and young researchers, and for developing international research activities aimed at global integration of academic communities in the field, with excellent researchers as its leaders. It is expected to further expand the research communities to promote the area studies of the vast Slavic-Eurasian regions.
We are extremely glad that our efforts to promote Japanese and global Slavic-Eurasian studies received such high evaluation. We are really grateful for the help of our friends and colleagues from other universities and countries, as well as for the devotion and support of our staff. Encouraged by this evaluation, we are determined to contribute to the further development of our field.

Uyama Tomohiko

THE GLOBAL COE PROGRAM, “RESHAPING JAPAN’S BORDER STUDIES,” ENTERED ITS FINAL YEAR

1) SUMMER INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

On August 2–3, 2013, the Global COE organized a summer symposium called “Border Studies: Challenges and Perspectives in the Twenty-first Century.”

The symposium consisted of the following five sessions: “Introducing North American Borderlands,” “New Perspectives on Eurasia’s Arctic Borderlands,” “Borders and Language: Case Studies from the Slavic World,” “Trans-border Environmental Issues: Chernobyl, Fukushima, and the World,” and “Border Studies: A Compass towards a New World Politics? (Round Table),” as well as a luncheon seminar entitled “Border Studies in Africa” and a DVD showing “Border Regions in Transition XII: Fukuoka-Busan Conference 2012.” A remarkable session was the Arctic session where leading scholars around the world got together and heated debate was exchanged. This session was held in cooperation with the Hokkaido International Exchange and Cooperation Center (HIECC), and simultaneous translation was provided for citizens.

Foreign scholars from Russia, the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Finland, Poland, and Ukraine presented their papers. Throughout the two-day symposium, almost one hundred people joined.

Speakers at the Symposium (August 2–3, 2013)

Paul Ganster (San Diego State University, USA) “Evolving Environmental Management at the U.S.-Mexican Border”
Victor Konrad (Carleton University, Canada) “Borders and Culture: Zones of Transition, Interaction and Identity in the Canada-United States Borderlands”
Mizutani Yuka (Sophia University, Japan) “Borders and Boundaries in Indigenous Life of Modern North America”
Oishi Takanori (Kyoto University, Japan) “Special Lecture on ‘Border Studies in the Middle East’”
Alexander Sergunin (St. Petersburg State University, Russia) “Paradiplomacy as a Capacity-Building Strategy: The Case of Russia’s Arctic Subnational Actors”
Lassi Heininen (University of Lapland, Finland) “Security in the Arctic: New Dimensions, Global Challenges and National Policy Responses”
Klaus Dodds (University of London, UK) “Managing Polar Orientalism: East Asia, Euro-Asia and the Arctic Region”
Ohnishi Fujio (Nihon University, Japan) “The Struggle for Arctic Regional Order: Developments and Prospects of Arctic Politics”

Robert Huebert (University of Calgary, Canada) “Fickle Nationalism: Slovakia’s Shifting Ethno-Linguistic Borders”

Alexander Maxwell (Victoria University, New Zealand) “Fickle Nationalism: Slovakia’s Shifting Ethno-Linguistic Borders”

Tomasz Kamusella (University of St. Andrews, UK) and Nomachi Motoki (SRC) “When Is a Language? The Long Shadow of Border, or on (Non-)Recognizing Other Languages in an Officially Monolingual Ethnolinguistic Nation-State: The Cases of Kashubian and Silesian in Poland”

Curt Woolhiser (Brandeis University, USA) “Language Ideology, Borders, and Identity: Mapping Languages and Identities in Poland’s Podlasie Region”

Sergii Iegan (State Nuclear Regulatory Inspectorate of Ukraine) “Defence in Depth in Ukraine”

Roman Khaltenko (State Nuclear Regulatory Inspectorate of Ukraine) “Ukrainian Emergency Preparedness System”

Kawano Shinji (Doshisha University, Japan) “International Law for Nuclear Safety in East Asia”

Victor Konrad (Charleton University, Canada), Paul Ganster (San Diego State University, USA), Jussi Laine (University of Eastern Finland), and Paul Richardson (University of Manchester, UK) “Border Studies: A Compass towards a New World Politics? (Round Table)"

2) Museum Exhibition


The latter exhibition is a compilation of all exhibits and materials collected and created by members of the GCOE project in the last five years. The exhibition catalogue Illustrated Borders in Eurasia and Japan (Hokkaido University Press, 2014) has just been published.

3) Summer School

The fourth-but-last summer school program, “Borders in Eurasia,” took place from July 29 to August 3, 2013. Young researchers from China, India, Russia, and Tajikistan joined this program. The lectures consisted of talks on Japan’s borders and various border issues, such as the Arctic region and the EU’s external borders as well as theory of border studies.

Throughout the four (2010–2014) summer school programs, we had participants from 23 countries, or 41 young researchers from abroad. Some of them

Showpieces of one of the museum exhibitions

A scene from the program of the summer school “Borders in Eurasia”
have already established themselves in the international border studies community and this achievement serves one of our aims—to create a core of young and promising graduate students and researchers on border studies by bridging and integrating our overseas networks and communities.

Fujimori Shinkichi

**WINTER INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM 2013**

**“CATASTROPHE AND RESURRECTION: NEW APPROACHES TO A CHANGING SLAVIC EURASIA”**

On December 12–13, 2013, the Slavic Research Center organized an annual winter symposium entitled “Catastrophe and Resurrection: New Approaches to a Changing Slavic Eurasia.”

We put the perspective of not only natural disaster but also the turmoil accompanying social disaster and in the aftermath of the “3.11” or Tohoku earthquake and Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster into this title. In other words, we could also consider wars and revolutions to be “catastrophes” and focus on how people’s memories overcome these catastrophes.

The equation of wars and revolutions with natural catastrophes means that there is no “friend or foe” and no “winner or loser,” but only survivors who share the harsh memory of disaster and create a future in a renewed relationship together. Six sessions were held based on the abovementioned common problem—“Crisis and Revival of Muslim Society in the Russian Empire,” “Twenty Years of Transformations in Post-Soviet Central Asia,” “Resurrection of People and Land through Folklore in Chernobyl and Fukushima,” “Border Tourism: Comparative Studies beyond the Continents,” “Remembering World War II in Russia and the Far East,” and “Images of the Others in Russian-Soviet Culture.” The symposium was made up of researchers from eight nations: the Russian Federation, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Mexico, the United States, the United Kingdom, and Japan.

We appreciate the financial support offered by the funds of Hokkaido University’s Executive Office, the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS), the Hokkaido University Global COE Program “Reshaping Japan’s Border Studies,” and the Toyota Foundation.

Ieda Osamu

**Speakers at the Symposium (December 12–13, 2013)**


**Marsil Farkhshatov** (Ufa Scientific Center, Russia) “Orenburg Muslim Spiritual Assembly and Its Resolution Records as a Source of Historical Study of Muslims of Russian Empire” (in Russian)

**Bakhtiyor Islamov** (Tashkent Branch of Plekhanov Russian Economic University, Uzbekistan/SRC) “Central Asian States Twenty Years After”
Erlan Karin (Kazakhstan) “The Development of Political Systems in Central Asia: An Issue of Power Transfer”
Bhavna Davé (University of London, UK) “Kazakhstan: From a Nationalizing to a Migrant-Receiving State”
Ozawa Shoji (Environmental journalist, Japan) “Villagers Deprived of Their Lives and Livelihood by the Fukushima Nuclear Disaster”
Rostislav Omeliansko (State Scientific Centre for Cultural Heritage Protection from Technogenic Catastrophes, Ukraine) “The Experience of Preservation of Traditional Cultural Heritage of Poles’e, Ukraine, in the Area of the Chernobyl Disaster” (in Russian)
Serghei Golunov (University of Tartu, Estonia) “Tourism across the EU-Russian Border: Official Strategies vs Unofficial Tactics”
Tomás Cuevas Contreras (Autonomous University of Ciudad Juárez, Mexico) “The Pink Store: A Unique Tourism Enterprise at the US-Mexico Border”
Tamura Tsuji Keiko (University of Kitakyushu, Japan) “Border Tourism in Southeast Asia: Thailand-Myanmar and Singapore-Malaysia Borders”
Serguei Oushakine (Princeton University, USA) “Re-enacting Russia’s War: On the Affective Management of History”
Philip Seaton (Hokkaido University, Japan) “War Memories in Hokkaido: Local vs National Remembering”
Arai Yukiyasu (Asia University, Japan) “Mongolia at War in the 20th Century: The Khalkhyn Gol (Nomon Khan) War and Its War Memory”
Konstantin Bogdanov (Institute for Russian Literature, Russia/SRC) “Blacks in the Soviet Union: The Ethnography of Imaginary Diaspora” (in Russian)
Hasegawa Akira (Akita University, Japan) “Images of Extraterrestrials in Soviet Films” (in Russian)
Boris Lanin (Russian Academy of Education) “Jews in Slavic Worlds according to Friedrikh Gorenstein” (in Russian)

GRANT-IN-AID FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ON INNOVATIVE AREAS “COMPARATIVE RESEARCH ON MAJOR REGIONAL POWERS IN EURASIA”

1) OUR PROJECT HAS ENDED
The project named “Comparative Research on Major Regional Powers in Eurasia” for Scientific Research on Innovative Areas, which started in December 2008, ended in March 2013. We would like to express our deepest gratitude to each member and to those who participated in our seminars.

The achievements of this project have been published in several domestic/international journals, as well as in the discussion paper entitled “Comparative Studies on Regional Powers.” From the entire collection above, we will publish a total of six books in the series Regional Powers in Eurasia, in Japanese.

Furthermore, publication of the project achievements in English by Routledge is under preparation. In addition, the proceedings of the international symposium that we conducted at the Slavic Research Center will soon be published.

Fortunately, this Scientific Research on Innovation Areas is provided with research funds for project results in the year following the project’s ending. By using these funds, we plan to maintain our publication activities. Therefore, our administration and the website will be kept throughout this year.

Last but not least, the Slavic Research Center intends to continue comparison of Slavic Eurasia and various global regions now and onwards, so please give us your continuous cooperation from now on.

2) On the Result of the Project Evaluation of the Scientific Research on Innovative Areas (Research Area Proposal Type)

In the project evaluation in 2013, “Comparative Research on Major Regional Powers in Eurasia” for Scientific Research on Innovative Areas, with a Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research, received the following evaluation:

A− (It was mainly achieved as expected under the research proposal, but has seen a partial delay.)

We regret to see a minus in the results, but this may be due to the fact that most of the subjects are under the category of “natural sciences” in this Scientific Research in Innovative Areas, so that a new basis of theories and a concrete perspective were strictly required.

On the other hand, the fact that a new research community crossing the targeted regions has been created in the course of this project, and that the achievements of this project have been energetically presented through the publication of journals and books, as well as at conferences, were highly evaluated. The high evaluation we received has made me believe that we fulfilled our responsibility while we started from building an unprecedented framework and tackled many difficult themes. I appreciate your cooperation with all the past activities.

3) Award of the Third (Year of 2013) Japan Consortium for the Area Studies Award for Research Planning

The research project entitled “Comparative Research on Major Regional Powers in Eurasia” (2008–2012) for Scientific Research on Innovative Areas (project leader: Tabata Shinichiro) has been awarded the third (year 2013) Japan Consortium for Area Studies Award for Research Planning.

The Japan Consortium for Area Studies (JCAS) consists of research and educational institutes along with learned societies, which are engaged in studies on various global regions, in line with the original purpose of promoting information exchanges and joint research activities across organizat...

From the review of the screening committee, the following achievement of the project was highly evaluated: “By comparing the economically highly presented countries of Russia, China, and India, which are placed as regional power countries in the contemporary world, the researchers in area studies, experts in finding the specialization and characterization of these individual areas whose commonality and universality are particularly challenging to clarify, have attempted to present another economic and political model as a new yardstick comparable to leading (advanced) countries’ views. Their endeavor has had an impact while expanding world recognition of Japan, which is undergoing a big transition.”

Goto Masanori

THE FIFTH EAST ASIAN CONFERENCE ON SLAVIC EURASIAN STUDIES WAS HELD AT OSAKA UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMICS AND LAW

MATSUZATO Kimitaka (SRC/Representative of the JCREES to the ICCEES)

On August 9–10, 2013, the Fifth East Asian Conference on Slavic Eurasian Studies entitled “1913–2013 for Eurasia: A Great Experiment or a Lost Century?” was held at Osaka University of Economics and Law. This event started in 2009, according to the decision of the “summit” of representatives of Slavist associations in East Asia (the Chinese Association of Russian, East European, and Central Asian Studies, the Japanese Council for Russian and East European Studies, and the Korean Association for Slavic Studies), and was held at Seoul National University in February 2008. The first conference was held in Sapporo (2009), the second in Seoul (2010), the third in Beijing (2011), and the fourth in Kolkata (2012). The first cycle was completed and, this year, the second cycle started in Osaka.

The President of Osaka University of Economics and Law, Professor Emeritus of Osaka University, Wakio Fujimoto, served as chairperson of the Organizing Committee of the Fifth East Asian Conference on Slavic Eurasian Studies. The General Secretary of the Organizing Committee was Professor Takayuki Yokota-Murakami of Osaka University. Members of the committee were Professor Noriko Igarashi of Tenri University, Professor Atsushi Ogushi of Keio University, and Professor Kimitaka Matsuzato of Hokkaido University. Osaka University of Economics and Law generously supported this event.

A total of 37 panels were organized and 111 papers were presented at this conference. The total number of participants was 153. Paper presenters are divided by country as follows (according to where they work, not their citizenship).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>49</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kazakhstan</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Korea</td>
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<td>US</td>
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<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
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<td>Sweden</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>5</td>
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Besides, there was one paper presenter each from Mongolia, Canada, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Poland, Belarus, Australia, Taiwan, and Kyrgyzstan.

Conference papers were uploaded online before the conference so that the participants could choose panels and be ready for them.

At the opening ceremony, Organizing Committee Chair Professor Fujimoto, Professor Mitsuyoshi Numano of Tokyo University (JCREES Chairperson), Professor Graeme
Gill of University of Sydney (ICCEES President), and Nail Latypov, General Consul of Russia in Osaka gave greetings. The General Secretary of the conference, Yokota-Murakami Takayuki, reported on organizational matters.

Before the conference dinner, Professor Numano and Professor Testuo Mochizuki of Hokkaido University gave special lectures entitled “The Seagull Goes to the Cosmos, and Haruki goes to Sakhalin: Border Crossing and Cultural Interactions between Russia and Japan,” and “Comparing the Incomparable: What We Learned from the Eurasian Regional Powers Project,” respectively.

The success of the Osaka Conference, which was of the largest scale in the history of East Asian conferences, will mark an important step towards the Makuhari World Congress in 2015. The program and abstracts of the Osaka Conference can be downloaded from: http://src-h.slav.hokudai.ac.jp/jcrees/text/2013OSAKAProgramLastall.pdf.

The next East Asian Conference for Slavic Eurasian Studies in 2014 will be hosted by the Korean Association of Slavic Studies in June. A Call for Proposals will soon be published online.

FOREIGN VISITORS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM


Name: Zaynabidin Abdirashidov
Position: Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Uzbek Philology, National University of Uzbekistan
Research Topic at the SRC: The Idea of Freedom in Fitrat’s Reformist Thought: From “Freedom through Islam” to “Freedom through Atheism”
Term of Stay: July 1, 2014 – March 31, 2015

Name: Sergey Golunov
Position: Research Fellow, Centre for EU-Russian Studies, University of Tartu (– January 31, 2014)
Research Topic at the SRC: Communicating Border Crossing Issues: The Cases of the EU’s Borders with Russia and Ukraine
Term of Stay: June 1, 2014 – February 28, 2015

Name: Thomas Lahusen
Position: Professor, Department of History and Centre for Comparative Literature, University of Toronto
Research Topic at the SRC: Theme Park Manchuria: Memories of the Global Age
Term of Stay: June 1, 2014 – August 31, 2014
Name: **David Marples**  
Position: Distinguished University Professor, Department of History and Classics, University of Alberta  
Research Topic at the SRC: Responses to the “Holodomor” in Eastern Ukraine and Russia: Historical Memory and Identity Politics  
Term of Stay: June 1, 2014 – August 31, 2014

Name: **Irina Papkov**  
Position: Fellow, Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs, Georgetown University  
Term of Stay: September 1, 2014 – October 31, 2014

Name: **Diliara Usmanova**  
Position: Professor, Department of History, Kazan Federal University  
Term of Stay: June 6, 2014 – October 5, 2014

_Osuga Mika_

**Our Current Staff**

_IDEA Osamu_: Professor, Economic History of Eastern Europe; Modern Hungarian History; Environment in Slavic Eurasia  
_IWASHITA Akihiro_: Professor, Eurasia Border Studies  
_KOSHINO Go_: Associate Professor, Russian and Belarusian Literature  
_MATSUZATO Kimitaka_: Professor, Politics in Post-Communist Countries; Imperial History of Russia  
_MOCHIZUKI Tetsuo_: Professor, Russian Literature  
_NAGANAWA Norihiro_: Associate Professor, Modern History of Central Eurasia; Islam in Russia  
_NOMACHI Motoki_: Associate Professor, Slavic Linguistics; General Linguistics  
_TABATA Shinichiro_: Professor, Russian Economy and Comparative Economic Studies  
_UYAMA Tomohiko_: Professor, Central Asian History and Politics; Comparative Imperial Studies; Director of the SRC  
_Wolff, David_: Professor, Russian, Soviet, and Emigre; Siberia and the Far East; The Cold War; Northeast Asian Region Construction  
_YAMAMURA Rihito_: Professor, Comparative Economics; Agrarian Economy in Slavic-Eurasian Countries

_Assistant Professors:_

_FUJIMORI Shinkichi_: Ukrainian Politics; CIS Relations  
_GOTO Masanori_: Historical Formation of Scientific and Religious Knowledge, and Economic Activity of People in Post-Socialist Countries  
_KIYAMA Katsuhiko_: Archaeology of Northeast Asia  
_TAKAHASHI Sanami_: Russian Orthodoxy in Soviet Culture

**Foreign Visitors Fellow 2013 (June) – 2014 (March)**

_Konstantin Bogdanov_: Understanding of Human Rights in Soviet and Post-Soviet Language Culture: Between the Key Concepts and Key Emotions
Jane Burbank: The Legal Life of the State: Russian Sovereignty in the Kazan Judicial District, 1890–1917
Bakhtior Islamov: The Central Asian States Twenty Years After: Achievements and Failures
Oleg Manaev: Peculiarities of Post-Soviet Authoritarianism and Its Influence on the Region (the case of Belarus in comparison with Russia and Ukraine)
Ilya Zaytsev: The Russian State and the Muslims of European Russia and Siberia in the Sixteenth to Nineteenth Centuries: Imperial Indifference or Orthodox Tolerance?

Research Fellows:
Chida Tetsuro: Soviet History
Hanamatsu Yasunori: International Law
Hirayama Akihiro: Modern and Contemporary History of Vietnam
Honda Akiko: Soviet Art and Architecture
Inoue Takehiko: Kalmyk Buddhist Monks in the Russian Empire
Itani Hiroshi: Architectural History of Sakhalin and Karafuto
Karashima Hiroyoshi: Anthropology; Study of Mongolian Pastoral Society
Kikuta Haruka: Cultural Anthropology; Muslim Society in Central Asia; Saint Worship in Uzbekistan
Nakayama Taisho: Migration History of Northeast Asia; Modern and Contemporary History of Sakhalin/Karafuto
Morishita Yoshiyuki: Central and Eastern European History
Takahashi Minoru: International Relations; Area Studies (Denmark, Greenland, and the Arctic)

Library and Information Service Staff:
Osuga Mika: Research Associate, Publications
Tonai Yuzuru: Associate Professor, SRC Head Librarian

Ongoing Cooperative Research Projects
Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, excluding “Grants-in-Aid for JSPS Fellows” and “Grants-in-Aid for Publication of Scientific Research Results (Scientific Literature)”

Scientific Research A
Headed by Uyama Tomohiko: “Comparative Colonial History: Colonial Administration and Center-Periphery Interactions in Modern Empires” (2013–17)

Scientific Research B
Headed by Hara Teruyuki: “Modern History of the Sakhalin Island (Karafuto), as a Borderland Colony” (2013–16)
Headed by Matsuzato Kimitaka: “Comparing Competitive Authoritarianisms” (2012–14)
Scientific Research C

Grants-in-Aid for Young Scientists A

Challenging Exploratory Research
Headed by Koshino Go: “Comparative Study on War Narratives in Belarus, Ukraine, and Sakhalin” (2012–14)

Grants-in-Aid for Young Scientists B
Headed by Inoue Satoko: “A Comparative Study of the Polish Literature in the Polish-German Borderlands and the Polish Migrant Literature in Germany” (2011–14)
Headed by Maeda Shiho: “Gender Studies on the Representations of War Memory in Russian Culture in the Latter Half of the Twentieth Century” (2012–14)

Research Activity Startup

VISITORS FROM ABROAD
Andriy Danylenko (Pace University, USA), June–August 2013: Balkanisms, Carpathianisms and Carpathian Balkanisms, or Can we Speak about a Carpathian-Balkan Linguistic Macroarea?
Asima Ishanova (L. N. Gumilyov Eurasian National University, Kazakhstan), July–August 2013: Постмодернистские тенденции в современной казахской литературе
Natal’ia Loktionova (Sh. Ualikhanov Kokshetau State University, Kazakhstan), July–August 2013: Диалог культур в творчестве Бахытжана Канапьянова
Amanzhol Altai (L. N. Gumilyov Eurasian National University, Kazakhstan), September–October 2013: Казахская литература в XV–XVIII веках
Azat Babashov (Karaganda University “Bolashak,” Kazakhstan), September–October 2013: Литература «Алаша» начала XX века
GUEST LECTURERS FROM ABROAD

Feng Anquan (Heilongjiang Provincial Academy of Social Sciences, China), “Экономическое сотрудничество между Провинцией Хэйлунцзян КНР и Дальним Востоком в сфере сельского хозяйства: настоящее положение и будущие задачи,” January 24, 2013.


Iurii Leving (Dalhousie University, Canada), “Водолаз в русской поэзии,” May 2, 2013.


Undivided Attention: Scholarship and Life in Sapporo

Jane Burbank (New York University, USA/Foreign Fellow, SRC, 2013)

Part way through my all-too-short stay at the Slavic Research Center, I posted two pictures on my Facebook site—one on the top of cloudy Mount Monbetsu, the other in sunshine by a Noguchi pyramid in Moerenuma park—with the caption, “Two views from my happy life in Japan.” A former graduate student responded, “Jane, this requires an explanation, for me at least.” In this short essay, I’ll try to explain what has made me so happy here.

First, of course, all the conditions are fulfilled for scholarly creativity and, if you work at it, productivity. In my view, a fellowship at the Slavic Research Center is best used for the creativity part: you have time to think and rethink what you were working on, to mull over papers your colleagues draw your attention to, to wander around in the fabulous library stacks, to read the articles you received by email but didn’t have time for earlier. I made only slight progress on a book manuscript, but I wrote three separate pieces that helped me see where my bigger projects—two books in fact—are going. This was made possible by the SRC—its astounding staff, its library, its faculty and students, its visitors, its building, and its special location at Hokkaido University and Sapporo.

I don’t want to draw a sharp contrast between creativity and productivity; they should work together. Scholars tend to draw contrasts, divisions, to come up with categories, to divide people, activities and cultures into types—Asian/Western, rural/urban, professional/personal. One effect of my time in Sapporo was help me develop a challenge to these classifications in my writing on Russian law and governance. Some of my inspiration came from seeing these divides as not descriptive of daily Sapporo life, either—to my delight.
As for the classifications that obfuscate rather than clarify research and writing, my favorite candidates for questioning this summer were “bureaucracy” vs. “personal” ways of rule. I was working on a study of Russia’s “land captains” (zemskie nachal’niki)—officials who were supposed to oversee peasant affairs in most provinces of the empire. While doing research in Kazan earlier, I had found a set of inspections conducted in 1909 of these officials. My stay at the SRC gave me the time to construct a data base using these reviews of intermediaries of imperial government and to look at it systematically. I did not want to rely on my impressions of what was salient in these documents. A statistical approach, while it took time to attain, let me have a better look at the qualities of zemskie nachal’niki’s performance of their tasks, in the eyes of their reviewers. This internal reviews, designed for other officials to read, give us insight into how the inspectors themselves wanted to represent the qualities of a good or a bad administrator.

What turned out to matter to the state’s inspectors were both bureaucratic and personal factors. The most important topics of the reviews of the zemskie nachal’niki were record-keeping, supervision of township institutions and officials, promotion of a complicated land reform, speed and completeness of work, accuracy in applying the law, and oversight of the regional economy. But the inspectors also cared about the individual qualities of these civil servants—were they interested in their work, were they energetic, were they trying to learn how to improve their performance? This analysis provoked me to challenge both the usual myths about Russian governance—arbitrary, lawless, backward, etc.—but also to think how we misuse Weberian categories. They do not describe two distinct modes of government: modern bureaucracies vs. personalized old regime power. Governance can be both bureaucratic and personal. In fact, how can you have a “bureau” without a “bureaucrat” to run it?

How does thinking such thoughts relate to the Slavic Research Center and life in Sapporo? Well, there are other dichotomous categories that we use regularly to describe everyday life. East/West and rural/urban are examples of classifications that can become challenged if you live and work in Sapporo. For one thing, where is the east really? How do we get our sense of direction here in Japan? Especially when most of us are working on Russian empire, where both east and west are used, but differently and with their own multiple meanings. My sense in Sapporo was that neither scholarship or daily life could be described in east/west terms: everywhere there were creative blends and takes on insights and inventions from all over the globe. Connections, diversity, pleasure in differences, easy appreciation of tradition and novelty, kimonos and the coolest socks, not to mention so many delicious cuisines—all these defy classification and all of them belong to Japanese culture in its many expressions.

Rural/urban is a divide that has irritated me for a long time, both in my work as a historian of Russia and as a person who grew up in the countryside. Perhaps it’s one reason I write about peasants: I want to show that they are individuals, not just a backward collectivity. Before coming to Sapporo I lived in New York and Paris, both places where people can’t
understand why anyone would live elsewhere than in the best city... Set against this relentless urbanism, life in Sapporo and work on the Hokkaido campus offered the best medicine: country and city were blended. Corn grew in urban backyards! I planted and harvested tomatoes outside the foreign residents’ apartments. The air smells deliciously of the fields, spring, summer, fall. The laundry can be hung up in the sunshine. The campus has its streams, fields, even cows! So here country and city, academy and farm were put together, lived together, in ways that made me, a historian of Russian peasants, once a girl who grew up with a garden and mountains in the background, very happy.

Finally, art and sport. Here is another pairing that people in Sapporo put together with verve. The stunning aesthetics of both daily life and civic architecture (Kitara concert hall, the Museum of Modern Art) can be enjoyed in the same city, even on the same day, where you can climb a mountain. Tonai-san, the SRC librarian with his fabulous collection led me up three impressive peaks. I listened to extraordinary performances of Mahler and Brittain in Sapporo; I learned to adore volcanoes. I will not even mention the culinary arts, the quality of products that Hokkaido’s citizens produce and prepare. I will not allow myself tears about not being around for the snow and the skiing. I will bicycle home through the mobs of student runners and think that here life comes together in happy variety. It doesn’t deserve categories, just love.

Искусство нюансов: несколько вещей, которых мне не хватало в Японии и будет не хватать в Москве после поездки в Японию

Ilya Zaytsev (Institute of Oriental Studies, Russia/Foreign Fellow, SRC, 2013)

Когда мы с женой готовились уезжать в Японию, нас предупреждали: «Смотрите, там вам много будет не хватать!». Под «многим» понимались черный хлеб, сало, борщ, картошка с селедкой и прочие прелести восточноевропейской кухни. Поэтому черный хлеб, сало, свеклу и прочее мы взяли с собой. Борщ, приготовленный из свеклы, заботливо помытой таможенниками в международном аэропорту «Chitose», сильно скрасил наше кулинарное одиночество. Мыли свеклу затем, чтобы полностью удалить остатки подмосковной земли, которая к ней припала. Тут мы удивились первый раз.

Чего нам действительно иногда не хватало, так это японского языка. Например, только в начале пятого месяца мы узнали от своих друзей, что жидкость, которую мы считали соевым соусом и ели с ней рыбу, оказалась приправой для мяса (правда соевый соус в ней тоже был!). Купили как-то странный продукт, похожий на потерявшую цвет мидию. Долго спорили, что это—мольюск или рыба. Оказалось (после осмотра
специалиста), что это желе из картошки с помидорами. Однажды в ресторане (там не было английского меню) заказывали еду через компьютерный переводчик: официант писал по-японски вопросы, компьютер переводил на английский, мы писали по-английски ответы, компьютер опять переводил. Неплохо поужинали.

Прошло уже почти пять месяцев, как мы живем в Саппоро. Немного попутешествовали по Японии, мы, во-первых, поняли, что Саппоро—это лучшее место на островах: и с точки зрения приветливости и улыбчивости окружающих, и с точки зрения климата, бытовых удобств и проч. А во-вторых, теперь я отчетливо осознал, что многое мне будет не хватать на Родине, в Москве. Предложенный список не претендует на полноту. Я даже думаю, что это скорее минимальный набор того, к чему очень быстро привыкаешь в Японии, но от чего придется отвыкать в России. Самое любопытное, что все это в России есть, но немного другое. Итак, не хватать будет:

1. велосипеда. Не то, чтобы в Москве не было велосипедов. Они есть. Но ездить на них на работу не принято. И несколько небезопасно.
2. криков теннисистов (и особенно теннисисток!) на кортах под окнами кабинета.
3. библиотеки. Всегда под рукой. Не то, чтобы в Москве не было библиотек. Может быть, даже некоторые московские библиотеки и богаче. Но расстояние между вами и желаемой книгой в Саппоро на порядок короче.
4. воронов. Я успел к ним привыкнуть, несмотря на украшенный один раз из велосипедной корзины (см. пункт 1) обед и виртуозно сворованый кусок жареного кальмара (прямо из моих рук! Еле вырвал). Вороны в Москве тоже есть. Но не такие наглые. Их роль с успехом выполняют бродячие кошки и собаки. Которых совсем нет в Саппоро.
5. onsenov. Не то, чтобы в Москве не было бань. Они есть. Но вот onsenов нет совсем.
6. детских парков. Они в Москве тоже есть. Но в Саппоро их больше, а сами парки разнообразнее.
7. людей, которые всегда готовы тебе помочь. Например, подсказать дорогу (даже если и сами не знают, куда идти).

Одним словом, жизнь у нас в семье разделилась на то, что было до Саппоро и то, что будет потом. Посмотрим.
PUBLICATIONS (2012–2013)

*Slavic Studies* no. 60, 2013, refereed journal of the SRC (in Japanese with summaries in English or Russian).


Publications by the project “Comparative Research: Major Regional Powers in Eurasia”


The 12th issue of “Regional Powers, Cross-Disciplinary Studies,” a non-periodic publication, was published in February 2013. This issue contains seven articles based on reports at the international round-table conference “Imagining the Landscape” held on September 12, 2012 at the Russian-Armenian (Slavic) University in Erevan, Armenia, in which researchers from Armenia, Russia, and Japan participated. A heated debate took place at the conference, the results of which are reflected in this issue. The themes of the articles are: transformation of the city landscape and collective memory in Armenia; literary expeditions by Russian writers along the Volga in the pre-reform period; images of captivity by Armenian and Japanese artists; and so on. We can say that this issue is a place where various scientific views on various cultural objects intersect. The contents of the issue can be downloaded from the Slavic Research Center website.


The 13th issue of “Comparative Studies on Regional Powers,” a non-periodic publication, has been published. “Orient on Orient: Images of Asia in Eurasian Countries,” edited by Tetsuo Mochizuki and Go Koshino, is a collection of 14 papers from the international symposium with the same title held by the Slavic Research Center and the Scientific Research on Innovative Areas “Comparative Studies on Major Regional Powers in Eurasia” (Group 6) from July 7 to 9, 2010. Contributors from various regions mainly discuss self-identification and representation of Asia in China, India, Russia, and other former Soviet countries. The collection covers a wide variety of topics ranging from music, cinema, literature, and art, to city planning, colonial policy, ideology, and religion. We observe diversification and convergence at once in the transformation process of Asian images among major Eurasian regional powers.


THE LIBRARY

PHOTO ALBUMS OF PETROLEUM EXPLORATION IN NORTHERN SAKHALIN

The SRC Library purchased three old photo albums from a participant in two petroleum explorations in North Sakhalin in 2011 and we were fortunately able to identify the owner and his team last year.

His name was Kimio Uemura (1893–?). He was born in Tokyo, and graduated from the Faculty of Sciences, Department of Geology, Tokyo Imperial University in 1918. He was appointed as an engineer at the Geological Survey of the Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce in 1919 and participated in its petroleum explorations in North Sakhalin in 1919 and 1921.

In the Great Kanto Earthquake, the Geological Survey was burnt and most of its materials are lost. So this is a very rare material concerning petroleum exploration in Northern Sakhalin by the Japanese around 1920.

Images from the photo albums will soon be added to our website and open to the public. The URL is: http://srcmaterials-hokudai.jp/.

Tonai Yuzuru

The Excursion after the Winter International Symposium (December 14)

At the factory of the Nikka Whisky Distillery

The participants look curiously inside the Old Yoichi Fukuhara Gyoba
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