



AGST NEWSLETTER

Summer 2017



In this summer issue, the newsletter focuses on the Agreements between **Kyoto University and Heilderberg University** for the Joint Degree Master of Arts Programme in Transcultural Studies.

In the featured discussions, our conversations with Dr

Patrick Mooney, University of Kentucky; Dr Jessica Duncan, Wageningen University, and Dr Duncan Ross, the University of Glasgow will be highlighted.

Short-term Exchange Programme: Globalised Economy in Kyoto

Dr Steven Ivings and Dr Hisano Ai are new faculty members who joined the Graduate School of Economics.

Call for application:
AGST Overseas Challenge programme



The Asian Platform for Global Sustainability & Transcultural Studies

AGST & University Partners

Kyoto University - Heidelberg University



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Joint Degree Master of Arts Programme in Transcultural Studies

On June 27, 2017, the Kyoto University Graduate School of Letters received the authorization from the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) to establish a “Joint Degree Master of Arts Programme in Transcultural Studies” with its partner, the Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies (HCTS) at Heidelberg University, Germany. Complementing the accreditation of an international variant of the HCTS Master in Transcultural Studies (MATS), this new major will be opened in October 2017 to enrol its first cohort of students in April 2018. Students enrolled in the Heidelberg MATS since October 2017 will be the first who can change to the international, joint degree variant upon successful application. Made possible by a new ordinance of MEXT, an international joint degree programme refers to a study course that is collaboratively created and realized by two cooperating universities, one of which is located in Japan, the other abroad. Students who graduate from such a programme will receive an M.A. degree that is jointly conferred by both partners. The new Master programme with Heidelberg University is the first joint degree established by Kyoto University and the very first such programme in the humanities and social science with an international partner in all of Japan.

Building on the strengths of both institutions, this jointly conducted English-language graduate programme offers students access to an interdisciplinary field in the humanities and social sciences to study and research transcultural dynamics between and within Asia and Europe in a global context. After a basic introduction to the theories and concepts of a transcultural approach, students will choose one of three study foci “Knowledge, Belief and Religion” (KBR), “Society, Economy and Governance” (SEG), or “Visual, Media and Material Culture” (VMC). Students enrolled in this programme will spend one year at their home institution, the university where they enrolled in first, and one year at the partner university, while being supervised by academic staff from both institutions. The programme completes with the successful submission of a master thesis in English in accordance with international academic standards.

Features of the programme

As a research-oriented degree programme, the “Joint Degree Master in Transcultural Studies” is primarily designed to train its students for a successful career in international academia. Consequently, the programme endeavours to equip academic researchers with an excellent balance of the knowledge and the applied skills that facilitate a critical understanding of concepts and enable contributions to new notions of globality and transcultural dynamics. Accordingly, it is the goal of this programme to foster students who excel in their specialist knowledge of the various fields of the humanities and social sciences, respective language skills, and further develop their disciplinary, regional and methodological expertise. Jointly conducted at two leading research institutions in Asia and Europe, the programme also seeks to advance their intellectual capacity to bridge boundaries of discipline and borders of academic systems.

This programme is the result and a continuing project of international collaboration and cooperation in research and education between the two partners, which are founding members of the German- Japanese university alliance HeK-KSaGOn.



Dr Patrick Mooney at the GSA

AGST Featured discussions

with

Dr Patrick Mooney

Dr Jessica Duncan

Dr Duncan Ross

Dr Patrick Mooney, of the University of Kentucky, shared his experiences at the Graduate School of Agriculture, about Social Movements and the U.S. Agrifood System,

A brief report on the course on “Social Movements and the U.S. Agrifood System” taught by Prof. Patrick Mooney from the University of Kentucky

From June 26th to 28th, 2017, a three-day seminar taught by Prof. Patrick Mooney from the Department of Sociology at the University of Kentucky was held at the Graduate School of Agriculture (GSA). The course, entitled “Social Movements and the U.S. Agrifood System,” was organized as part of the AGST Module #1 Environmental Policy & Rural Development Studies Lecture Series. The course comprised eight sessions and was designed to be worth one credit. It was attended by a total of 17 graduate students and researchers coming mainly from the Division of Natural Resource Economics in the GSA, but also from the Graduate School of Economics (GSE).

The course provided a sociological interpretation of the history of the U.S. agrifood system through the lens of farmer-initiated mobilizations that have responded to changing social and political conditions. On the first day, Prof. Mooney started the course with an introduction to some of the basic concepts and models for the sociological study of social movements, elaborating two approaches broadly relevant to the course participants’ research areas, namely: the political process model explaining the build-up of mobilizations, and the tool of framing for understanding how mobilizations are understood and strategically positioned. With these tools, he outlined how the diverse history of agrarian mobilizations in the U.S. has fol-

lowed from consistent background factors that often elude economic and historical accounts. The second day’s lectures focused first on giving an overview of the anti-capitalist movements in the agricultural history of the U.S., with a particular focus on cooperatives and their ideological origins. By drawing on experiences from student discussions, the trends between U.S, Japanese, Taiwanese and Chinese farmer mobilizations were contrasted. The third and final day was devoted to introducing ‘field theory’ and applying it to an examination of new social movements that have centred on the issues of food (in)security in the U.S. and the divergent ways in which community, hunger, and risk are framed. Here a particular focus was placed on the most recent manifestation of this movement in the form of “food policy councils.”

Not only did the three-day lecture course introduce the participants to the history of agrarian mobilizations in the U.S., a context that might not be familiar to most East Asian students, but it also provided them with the opportunity to become familiar with some basic concepts and latest theoretical approaches used in the field of sociology of rural social movements.



Module #1

Environmental Policy & Rural Development Studies



Dr Jessica Duncan with the faculty members and students of the Graduate School of Economics at the end of the Global Food Security Governance lecture series.



On June 2nd, the course on Global Security Governance taught by Dr Jessica Duncan, from the Rural Sociology Group of Wageningen University in the Netherlands was completed. This course was organised as part of the AGST Module 1 Environmental Policy & Rural Development studies. More specifically, the course was designed to provide students with a deeper understanding of the politics of global food security governance. While the course was deeply rooted in sociological perspectives, it also drew from other disciplines, such as International Relations, Public Administration, and International Political Economy, to provide students with a more holistic and multidisciplinary perspective encompassing with adequate disciplinary focus. Course participants also had the opportunity to appreciate the educational talents of Dr Duncan who just received the award of Wageningen University's 2017 Teacher of the Year.

During the nine sessions, Dr Duncan engaged with Kyoto University's students who came from the Graduate School of Economics, the Graduate School of Agriculture, and the Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies, covering various concepts related to food security and governance, the key issues and actors, theories for analysing the problem of governance, and finally, practical methods for collecting data on this subject.

In a nutshell, Dr Duncan elaborated on the implications of the rising global food prices in 2007-2008 which drastically transformed the architecture of global food security governance and suggested, among other things, the importance of looking at these issues as a complex phenomenon. Taking into account the difficulty of talking about global governance in a comprehensive manner, she presented methods and approaches for framing sustainability and food security.

Regarding the key issues and actors, classroom discussions covered the role of international trade and its compatibility with the goals of food security. Equally important is the recent emergence of multi-stakeholder platforms, on which

Dr Duncan underlined the context of "Post-Political era". On this topic, Dr Duncan stressed on the complexity of governance under the new configuration in which the old political apparatus of major Western democracies of "Right and Left" lost its meaning giving way to extremes (Far-left and Far-right) and their enormous ideological differences. Bearing these disruptions in mind, the rest of the sessions focused on theories and practical methods for doing research in this area, allowing students to benefit from guided readings and tutorials led by Dr Duncan. PhD students also benefited from constructive feedback on their thesis, particularly those who are researching on the topic of global food security.

At the end of the course, we asked Dr. Duncan a few questions.

1) How was your experience in Japan?

I very much enjoyed the experience. First of all, I always enjoy talking and teaching about food security governance and it was great to be able to discuss the topic with such an active and diverse group.

The range of experiences and interests of the participants was at first a bit daunting! I wondered "how I would be able to teach in a way that could meet all of their needs?" In the end, I think it worked out because we were all able to draw from our own experiences to enrich the conversation and advance our collective thinking on the topics. It was great getting to speak with many of the students, one-on-one. They are taking on such interesting and important research and it is great to listen and learn from them as well.

I also really appreciated the time I got to spend with the faculty, to test ideas, debate ideas, reflect on the state of the art. Through these interactions, I feel I was able to learn a little bit more about Japan and the direction it is going when it comes to food and agriculture.

my Western bias. Most of my examples and the literature I draw from comes from Europe and North America. When speaking to students and asking for feedback, it was clear that more Asian examples would have helped to promote more discussion and greater understanding.

2) What are the things you found different here compared to students in Europe?

I found the students here to be very active. I dare say that they prepared for class better than most of my Dutch students! There was a clear effort on their part to not only understand what we were discussing but also to apply it. As a result, one of the challenges I faced was addressing my Western bias. Most of my examples and the literature I draw from comes from Europe and North America. When speaking to students and asking for feedback, it was clear that more Asian examples would have helped to promote more discussion and greater understanding.

3) What is your message for students who are interested in studying food governance?

Go for it! Food governance is a complex, dynamic and important field. It allows researchers to ask big questions and to study them across a range of sites with a diversity of approaches and methods. I would also encourage them to identify what about food governance interests them. For example, I am interested in how different groups of people participate in food security governance. For others, this will be different. Once you have a clear problem in mind, it is easier to develop research questions and methods.

Module #1

Environmental Policy & Rural Development Studies



Dr Duncan Ross at the GSE

the students are leaving Glasgow on the 4th of June, and they will be here for three weeks. They will take part of the classes and will do some research for their own dissertations while they are here. Moreover, UoG is receiving and thinking another of Dr Kurosawa's PhD student and will provide some supervision and discussion with the student. During the interview, Dean Duncan Ross repeatedly emphasized that the UoG is very keen to develop this relationship.

As for the question about what does MOU this time mean to UoG, Dean Ross said:

"Well. I think it means a lot. Because it formalizes these relationships and establishes that two universities will work together in the future whenever we can. So, I think it means a lot to us that KU is willing to enter into the formal agreement with us. We are very pleased to be working with a great university like KU. I know it is important for KU to be thinking to internationalize its student body, staffs, and strategies. That's something perhaps we've been doing in Glasgow a little bit longer, but it is still important to us. So, we are very happy to be building this relationship."



Dr Duncan Ross, Dean of Social Sciences College Senior Management at University of Glasgow (UoG), visited Kyoto University (KU) to discuss key issues in Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with KU and UoG. The main purpose of this visit was to exchange views on the development of academic cooperation between KU and UoG and of mutual interests in the field of education and research. Further, through his official visit to KU, both universities actually framed a rough draft of Memorandum of Agreement. After the agreement of MOU, students from UoG and students from KU will be able to participate in a reciprocal exchange at each institution. Soon enough, many students will get a great chance to promote and expand international understanding and to enhance educational opportunities at both institutions.

In a short interview with Dean Duncan Ross stated,

"We are very happy to be working with a really great university like KU. We are very comfortable with the intellectual approach. There are always difficulties in working through the regulations of two different institutions. And trying to make the match, but there is nothing so far. I've been here a week to be talking about these issues. For a week though, we really don't see any fundamental problems. There is always the possibility that someone high level will find the problems. But these things happen, I think we're very confident about this and that. The two universities see the opportunities of course collaboration and see the very valuable programme that we can build together for students."



In spite of a short interview with Dean Ross, he did not forget to leave messages for KU students and faculty members:

"It is great to be working in a partnership with KU. I will advise KU students to come and spend some times in Glasgow. It's a good opportunity to be in and study in. If we can develop, let's build this relationship. And if we can develop further and other areas, we'd be very happy to look at those possibilities as well. I think we can do for the next three or five years. I hope very much that we will be able to develop in another area. The other thing I have to say to students and faculty members here in Kyoto is thank you for being so welcoming while I've been in here. It's been a very good trip."

Module #2

Business History & Industrial Policy Studies

In order to build an intimate collaboration and a lasting relationship with KU, UoG is planning to send some master's students here. According to Dean Ross,

Short-term Exchange programme: Globalised Economy in Kyoto



Students at the Toyota Museum in Nagoya



The five students (UK: 1, Germany: 2, China: 2) from the University of Glasgow (UoG), Scotland, UK had an opportunity to participate in the Short-Term Exchange Program at Kyoto University (KU) from June 5 to 23. The program was hosted by “Asian Platform for Global Sustainability and Transcultural Studies Unit” and Dr. Takafumi Kurosawa mainly organized and coordinated the entire schedules for these students. The program was entitled “Globalized Economy in Kyoto”, which consisted of five big sessions: (i) Seminar; (ii) Lecture; (iii) Special Lecture; (iv) Presentation; and (v) Field Trip.

In the seminar session, the global economy and its related issues were deeply discussed and the students freely exchanged their opinions on the world economy, including European and Asian economy, from various perspectives. In addition, the lectures given by Dr. Kurosawa helped to provide the students with an overall understanding of “industries and global competition”. In order to help UoG students understand better Japanese industries and corporations, he also offered three field trip experiences, which were invaluable opportunities for them: (i) Shimadzu Foundation Memorial Hall; (ii) Toyota Commemorative Museum of Industry and Technology; and (iii) Noritake Museum.

Luckily, a special lecture was provided by Mr. Pierre Mourlevat, the minister counselor for Economic Affairs, the head of the regional economic department, French embassy in Japan. For the students, his lecture was a chance to think about “how to promote a rules-based trade in the wake of rising pro-

tectionism.” Furthermore, the presentation session was an ample opportunity for UoG students to share their own research ideas with other students and faculty members. And during the presentation session, KU faculty members tried to provide insightful suggestions and constructive comments on their master thesis.



In spite of its short schedule, the Short-Term Exchange Program with the passionate support from faculty members and staffs, including Dr. Kurosawa has resulted in a fruitful and meaningful outcome to both UoG and KU. We are all looking forward to the next program in the future.

Faculty News



Dr Steven Ivings is one of the new faces of the Kyoto University Asian Studies Unit (KUASU) programme; he will be working as an assistant-professor.

His PhD degree from the London School of Economics focused on colonial settlement and migratory labour in Karafuto (Southern Sakhalin). After completion of this degree, he worked at Heidelberg University, one of the partners of the AGST programme.

This is not your first time in Japan. What has brought you to study Japanese and what triggers you to continue this study?

You are right. it's not the first time. I have previously lived in Kyoto, Tokyo and Gifu studying Japanese, working as an English teacher, and conducting research. My interest in Japan was triggered during a compulsory undergraduate course I took for my BSc economic history. The lecturer (Prof. Janet Hunter) was so inspiring that it sparked my enthusiasm for Japanese economic history. When I, later, had to select optional courses I simply had to choose her advanced course on Japanese economic development. And I wasn't disappointed. From that point on really I decided to study the Japanese language and conduct research on economic history, now it is even my profession. I owe it all to an exceptional teacher really.

How would you describe your research for someone who is new to the subject?

Karafuto has been ignored by most scholars studying Japanese history or colonial empires. So this is where my interest started: why is there nothing on it? Almost half a million people moved to Karafuto, so it was not an insignificant colonial venture. The colonial government in Karafuto wanted to stimulate the establishment of farms, which it viewed as something permanent and a regenerative economic activity. However, when looking at the record of how settlement proceeded in Karafuto, we actually find the opposite to what the government was expecting. Usually the people who farmed, failed and left. In the end, the people who actually settled down did so based on a mixed economy, with fishing and forestry being particularly important sources of in-

come. Karafuto is a good case to question the effectiveness of the colonial government.

My new research also draws on the Northern regions of the Japanese empire by focusing on Hakodate which was one of the first ports to be opened to international trade in the 1850s. This makes it one of the key places to understand Japan's integration with the global economy. Scholars who have studied successful ports such as Yokohama often conclude that western capitalism and imperialism was transformative. However, at smaller ports like Hakodate, a different story can be told. Here foreign merchants struggled to operate in this particular market and the threat of foreign imperialism (very real in the mid-19th century) soon subsided with the port becoming the hub for Japanese commercial and imperial expansion in the northern reaches of East Asia.

As a scholar in Cultural Economic History, what is your advice to students interested in the same areas?

I would encourage students to pursue their academic curiosities. Sometimes it will lead to something, and sometimes it won't. But if you don't try, you'll never find out.

Just recently the news was announced that Kyoto University and Heidelberg university will facilitate a Joint Degree Master of Arts Program in Transcultural Studies. Do you have any advice for students who will visit Heidelberg University?

There may be differences in the classroom environment. I would advise students visiting Heidelberg or other places in Europe to speak their mind without reservation. It's okay to make mistakes, you can only find out if your ideas are right through interaction.



Dr Hisano Ai recently started working as a senior lecturer at the Graduate School of Economics. She completed her PhD at the University of Delaware on the history of food colour in the American food industry. Before moving to Kyoto, she worked at Harvard Business School as a postdoctoral fellow.

Could you tell me more about how you became interested in studying the history of food color as a business historian?

I had always been interested in food, in cooking and eating. But I never thought I could study food as an academic topic. I became interested in how food influences people's

living and started learning about food culture and food history during my undergraduate studies. I then found food is more than just what we eat but provides a great lens to understand different aspects of society, like politics and economy. During my research for a master's thesis on food marketing in the US, I found that food companies marketed very colorful dishes as the presentation of femininity and female creativity in the mid-twentieth century, and asked myself how something seemingly neutral like color became associated with gendered narratives. Then during my PhD I came back to this topic to study the cultural, as well as political and economic, aspects of the color of food.

How do the findings of your research compare to Japan, where you grew up?

I think there are both similarities and differences. Just as in the US people care about what food looks like, maybe even more. Also in many Japanese supermarkets you see all the colorful foods on display. Additionally, when you think of Japanese confectionery like *wagashi*, you see it displays the Japanese seasons and the natural environment. This suggests the appreciation for the natural environment in Japanese culture. Sometimes the colors are very bright and do not look like something you would eat, but to me one difference between the US and Japan would be that Japanese sweets often connote a certain meaning connected to the nature.

In my new research I want to investigate the concepts of naturalness and freshness. How people's ideas about naturalness have been culturally situated and how this related to the development of business strategies. An example is the rise of synthetic colors being used for food in the late nineteenth century. It changed what people eat, but also the ideas that people had about food and freshness. When you use the word "fresh," you would assume the food was just picked or harvested. But in fact something that has a fresh look could be a week old.

You will be teaching in several courses, one of them being the course comparatives business ethics. What do you hope to teach students during your classes?

Well, the discussion around business ethics is now what we could call a 'hot' topic, in academia but also in industry and the corporate sector. My first aim is to challenge students to explore what business ethics mean from diverse perspectives and broaden their ideas. I want them to think hard about the complexity of what is right and wrong. This is more difficult than students may think, especially in this globalized world today. What I also would like to do is to question what sustainability means. This is a key concept for the program of AGST, and therefore it is interesting to discuss what sustainability means for different countries, cultures and industries.



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Call for Application

AGST Overseas Challenge Programme 2017

The Graduate School of Economics is pleased to announce the commencement of the call for entries for Overseas Challenge Programme 2017.

The Overseas Challenge Programme aims to provide students from Kyoto University's Graduate School of Economics (GSE) with a unique opportunity to advance their research projects by spending time abroad gathering information and exchanging with experts in their field of study.

Application process & Eligibility requirements

Visit the <http://agst.jgp.kyoto-u.ac.jp/topics/news/1150>

[Application period]

From 1st August 2017 to 15th December 2017.

Applications will no longer be accepted when the number of the successful candidates reaches the capacity limit that is stated in the guideline.

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