



# AGST NEWSLETTER

## Fall 2017



In this fall issue, the newsletter focuses on the special seminar by Prof. Claudia Neu, University of Göttingen held at the Division of Natural Resource Economics, Graduate School of Agriculture.

The Graduate School of Letters hosted the 10th KUASU Next Generation Global Workshop.

We report the entrance and degree conferment ceremony as well as the Graduate Dissertation Workshop of the International Graduate Programme for East Asia Sustainable Development Studies, Graduate School of Economics.

Find out about the International Collaborative courses arranged by the

Graduate School of Economics for winter 2017/2018

Opportunity for the Students of the Graduate School of Economics: AGST Overseas Challenge Programme call for application.



**The Asian Platform for  
Global Sustainability &  
Transcultural Studies**

**“RURAL SOCIOLOGY: TRANS-  
FORMATION IN POSTINDUS-  
TRIAL SOCIETIES”  
BY PROF. CLAUDIA NEU  
FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF  
GÖTTINGEN.**



The Asian Platform for  
Global Sustainability &  
Transcultural Studies



GEORG-AUGUST-UNIVERSITÄT  
GÖTTINGEN



Prof. Claudia Neu

Credit to Graduate School of Agriculture, Division of Natural Resource Economics



**Module #1**

**Environmental Policy & Rural  
Development Studies**

This is a brief report of the course named “Rural Sociology: Transformation in Postindustrial Societies” taught by Prof. Claudia Neu from the University of Göttingen.

The seminar, starting from July 25th to 28th, was taught by Prof. Claudia Neu from the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Development of the University of Göttingen. This four-day seminar was held at the Graduate School of Agriculture (GSA) as part of the AGST Module #1 Rural Development Studies Lecture Series. It was composed of eight sessions and was designed to be worth one credit. Seven graduate students and researchers from the Division of Natural Resource Economics in the GSA attended the lecture course.

The four-day course introduced the general principles and key concepts of rural sociology by focusing on the demographic change, socioeconomic developments, and social problems in rural areas of Germany and the U.S. On the first day, Prof. Neu started the lecture with a brief introduction to the basics of sociology through five aspects: culture, social structure, social action, power, and function integration. By using the introduced concepts as basis, the concepts of rurality and urbanity were introduced and discussed. Following the previous lectures, the inequality of rural and urban areas were then introduced in the third lecture through providing an overview of the territorial inequality and polarisation in Germany. Before starting the fourth lecture, Prof. Neu had the students give a brief show and tell on the demographic change of the rural areas in Japan. Soon after, Prof. Neu introduced the demographic change of the rural areas under a global scale. After dealing with the past, the fifth lecture allowed the students to peek into the future of the rural societies by conducting brief research on the numbers of agricultural holdings as well as the number of persons that were employed in the holdings provided by the social media. The results of German, Japanese, Chinese, and Taiwanese rural areas were contrasted. In the sixth lecture, rural poverty of the U.S. and Germany that was induced by inequality between rural and urban

areas was discussed. While in the seventh lecture, Prof. Neu talked about the pros and cons of social innovation in rural and urban areas that helped erase the boundaries between urbanity and rurality. Due to the fact that one of the participants was currently working as a small-scale I-turn farmer, Prof. Neu had her share her own experience. Finally, the eighth lecture was devoted to an in-depth discussion of agriculture from a gender perspective; in which, the gender inequality in the rural areas of East Asian countries were brought up and discussed by the participants.

Not only did the four-day seminar introduce the participants to the general principles and the latest debates in rural sociology, but it also allowed the participants to learn about the transformation in the rural areas of the U.S., Germany, and the rest of the world.

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# 10<sup>TH</sup> KUASU NEXT-GENERATION GLOBAL WORK-



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Transcultural Studies



KYOTO UNIVERSITY ASIAN STUDIES UNIT  
京都大学アジア研究教育ユニット



In light of the establishment of a new master level joint degree program in Transcultural Studies between Kyoto University and Heidelberg University, this year's Next-Generation Global Workshop (NGGW) engaged with the topic of un-/making of borders in a globalized world.

Organized annually by the Kyoto University Asian Studies Unit (KUASU) since 2008 the NGGW seeks to provide an opportunity for early-career scholars to present their research and to have feedback from an international audience. It has served as a forum for scholars of different generations from various regions to build a common academic foundation by redefining Asia in the global context. This year, too, the workshop provided invaluable opportunities for all participants to learn from their fellow participants with different perspectives and to deepen the understanding of the tension between rapidly emerging new borders and a supposedly borderless, globalized world.

The workshop presentations covered various phenomena, ranging from a rising prominence of (neo-) nationalism, increasing protectionism and militarism, crises in multi- or trans-national governmental entities, to the relationship between minorities and majorities, between locals and migrants in past and present, as well as historical linguistics, issues of networking technologies, and question of gender and sexual violence. Engaging with the making and unmaking of cultural, political, social, linguistic and aesthetic borders, and by tracing the "global" as a connection of "locals," the participants confronted the often unruly and contradictory trends generated by mobility and extended contacts through the lens of transculturality to shed light on interaction and collaboration as well as dissonance, asymmetry, conflict, and border-making. The workshop proceedings will be published on the KUASU website.

This year's workshop also marks a further step in the ongoing collaboration in education and research of Kyoto University and Heidelberg University. Many commentators and discussants are scholars active in the field of Transcultural Studies and came to Kyoto to advise the workshop participants and prepare for the opening of the new joint degree program between the two institutions. In April 2018, the first cohort of students will enroll in this program to study Transcultural Studies in Kyoto and Heidelberg, supervised by professors from both universities.

## Sidebar: Joint Degree Master in Transcultural Studies

This new study program is situated at two partner institutions, the Graduate School of Letters (GSL) of Kyoto University and the Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies (HCTS) of Heidelberg University. Students enrolled in the program begin their studies at one of these two partners, their home institution, but spend an equal amount of time at the other university. Supervised by international faculty of both, the GSL and the HCTS, students submit a single master thesis to receive a Master of Arts degree jointly awarded by both universities upon completion.

The transregional outlook of the JDTS is based on the perspective that cultures are not contained within ethnically closed, linguistically homogenous and territorially bounded spheres. Instead they are constituted through transformations and entanglements that follow from contacts and relationships between various agents, concepts and institutions. Transcultural Studies combine methodological and theoretical approaches from a broad spectrum of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences.

The application window for students who seek to enroll at Kyoto University as their home institution is between December 18 and 21, 2017. Please visit the program's application website (<https://www.cats.bun.kyoto-u.ac.jp/jdts/application/>) for detailed information on requirements and procedures.

Contributor:

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## Module #6

## Asian & Transcultural Studies



# #Brief News

Graduate School of Economics—Class of 2017, The Degree Conferment Ceremony of the International Graduate Programme for East Asia Sustainable Economic Development Studies and Tips for Writing a Graduate Dissertation Workshop



The eight graduates from the ‘International Graduate Programme for East Asia Sustainable Economic Development Studies’ were honored on Monday, September 25, 2017, at the Degree Conferment Ceremony held at Mizuho hall. The ceremony was held to mark and celebrate the successful completion of studies and research for M.A. and Ph.D. graduates. The programme for the ceremony contained ceremonial and commencement speech, graduates’ presentation and distribution of degrees.

The eight graduating students, including five from the Master's in Economics Degree Program, three from Doctoral Program in Economics, received degrees. The degree certificates were presented by Dr. Se-il, Mun, a dean of the graduate school of economics and faculty of economics. At the degree conferment ceremony, he congratulated the graduates and gave his commencement speech as their senior scholar, colleague, and potential competitor.

After the degree conferment ceremony, the event titled “Tips for Writing a Graduate Dissertation Workshop” took place for current and incoming students, which was co-organized by Dr. Steven Iving (GSE), Dr. Ai Hisano (GSE), and Dr. WooJin Kim (GSE). The workshop consisted of two different sessions that were actually linked to each other in a way or other. The session I was “Student Presentation”. In this session, master thesis / doctoral dissertation presentations were conducted by Mr. Dengwei Qi, Mr. Shinichi Takeshita, Mr.

Chenxiao Xia, Ms. Yingying Fang, and Ms. Fary Akmal Osman. After their presentations, the presenters and audiences had a “Roundtable Discussion on Writing a Graduate Dissertation” in the session II. Through this session, the audiences were expected to share the presenters’ experiences, focusing on how they went about doing their research project, what advice they would give other students, etc.

Contributor :

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# #Brief News

## Graduate School of Economics—The 2017 Fall Entrance Ceremony of the International Graduate Programme for East Asia Sustainable Economic Development Studies



The Graduate School of Economics held the 2017 Fall Entrance Ceremony for new students of “International Graduate Programme for East Asia Sustainable Economic Development Studies” at the Mizuho hall, Kyoto University on Monday, October 2, 2017.

With a history of 9 years, International Graduate Programme for East Asia Sustainable Economic Development Studies has become one of the most famous International Graduate Programmes of Kyoto University. For the 2017 entrance, the graduate school of economics received more than 100 applications. And finally, this fall, a total of 16 new students (13 in Master's Program, 3 in Doctoral Program) from 8 countries (USA, Uzbekistan, China, Indonesia, Germany, Taiwan, Philippines, and Japan) grabbed an opportunity to attend the 2017 Fall Entrance Ceremony and open up a new chapter in their lives.

At the ceremony, Dr. Se-il, Mun, a dean of the graduate school of economics and faculty of economics, gave a welcome address on behalf of the staff and faculty members of the graduate school of economics. Further, Dr. Shuji, Hisano, a director of the International Graduate Programme for East Asia Sustainable Economic Development Studies, gave

a brief report of EA Programme for new students and encouraged the new students to develop a multidimensional, multidisciplinary, multicultural perspectives, and also a critical sense of reality, through their learning experiences at Kyoto University.

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# Graduate School of Economics

## ***International Collaborative Courses***

### (国際共同実施科目) in 2017-2018 Autumn/Winter



Course title	<b>Economic Development in Asia: Sustainable Industrial Development</b> 【Code:7064000】	
Instructor	<b>Mr. Edward Clarence-Smith</b> (Former regional director in East Asia and SE Asia United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO))	
Date	9:00 AM – 12:00 AM on 3, 6, 10, 13, 16, 20, 21 October, 2017 (for 2 credits)	

Course title	<b>Sociology of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Crisis</b> 【Code: 7103000】	
Instructor	<b>Dr. Hugh Campbell</b> (University of Otago)	
Date	9:00 AM – 12:00 AM on 24, 27, 31 October & 7, 10, 11* November, 2017 (for 2 credits) *...whole day	

Course title	<b>Historical Approaches to Business and Economics B</b> 【Code: 7107000】	
Instructor	<b>Dr. Marcelo Bucheli</b> (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)	
Date	9:00 AM – 12:00 AM on 8, 9, 13, 14 November, 2017 (for 1 credit)	

Course title	<b>Comparative Development Studies</b> 【Code: 7024000】	 
Instructor #1	<b>Dr. Raymond Jussaume Jr.</b> (Michigan State University)	
Date	9:00 AM – 12:00 AM on 18, 19, 20, 21, 22 December, 2017	
Instructor #2	<b>Dr. Maria Fonte</b> (The University of Naples Federico II)	
Date	9:00 AM – 12:00 AM on 22, 23, 24, 25, 26 January, 2018 (for 2 credits, in conjunction with Prof. Jussaume's class)	

Course title	<b>International Business and Nation States</b> 【Code: 7091000】	 
Instructor	<b>Dr. Ben Wubs</b> (Erasmus University Rotterdam), <b>Dr. Takafumi Kurosawa</b>	
Date	9:00 AM – 12:00 AM on 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 March, 2018 (for 1 credit)	

Course title	<b>Historical Approaches to Business and Economics A</b> 【Code: 7106000】	 
Instructor	<b>Dr. Peter Miskell</b> (University of Reading), <b>Dr. Takafumi Kurosawa</b>	
Date	(Period to be announced) 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 March 2018 (for 1 credit)	





## 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.

#### [Contact]

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Photo: AGST/Pexel

## The Asian Platform for Global Sustainability & Transcultural Studies (AGST)



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