

# SLAVIC-EURASIAN RESEARCH

## CENTER NEWS

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### 2015 SUMMER INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM “RUSSIA AND GLOBAL HISTORY”

Historians of Russia and Eurasia have become increasingly sensitive to the role of the state ruling a vast space in generating human categories, regions, and their mutual connections. The increasing sense of connectivity enhanced by an imperial turn in historical studies, as well as globalization after the Cold War, has encouraged historians to move away from the autarkic vision of the Russian historical path and to put Russia within the broader



A scene from Session 1

context of Europe, Asia, and the world. Meanwhile, it is still historians of the Chinese, British, and American Empires that lead in the field of global history. Although they have attempted to overturn familiar conclusions, such as “the rise of the West and the fall of the rest,” Russia and Slavic-Eurasia have been largely missing.

This symposium delved into Russia’s special place in world history in a way that reveals not only the depth, but also the limits of global transformation from the 1700s to the 1980s. Based on multilingual and multi-archival sources across more than two countries, the paper-presenters addressed in particular the role of varied borderlands and multi-ethnic/confessional individuals in connecting Russia to the globalizing world in a variety of ways. Our meeting had two main features. First, it covered both imperial Russia and the Soviet Union so as to discern long-standing patterns of interplay between Russia and the world. By so doing, we could also reappraise the Cold War itself that has so strongly shaped our understanding of world history, not only among students of Slavic-Eurasia, but also beyond. Secondly, in order to avoid falling into a state of autarky, isolation, and self-satisfaction, we invited as discussants leading Japanese specialists of the British Empire and the Ottoman Empire. Indeed, they powerfully pushed us forward to elucidate global moments that would otherwise have remained obscure in papers.

Our meeting was supported by two JSPS Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research: “Comparative Colonial History: Colonial Administration and Center-Periphery Interactions in Modern Empires” and “Revolutionary Empire: A Biography of Karim Khakimov (1892–1937).” Our co-organizer was the European University at St. Petersburg: Boris Ivanovich Kolonitskii, Vice Rector of the University, kindly agreed to give his paper and Samuel J. Hirst helped us arrange the conference program at crucial moments. We had 86 participants including 31 overseas guests. It was a great honor for us to host leading scholars as paper-presenters from North America, Great Britain, Germany, Russia, and Japan, who also participated in the ICCEES World Congress in Makuhari. Our symposium was also sandwiched between a junior scholars’ session on Muslim mobility and a workshop on Russian Orthodoxy in the post-war and post-Soviet eras. We do hope to continue in the future the exploration of global/transnational history of Slavic-Eurasia with our international colleagues.

*NAGANAWA Norihiro*

### **Speakers at the Symposium (July 30–31, 2015)**

- David Schimmelpenninck van der Oye** (Brock University, Canada) “The Kashgar Question: St. Petersburg, Tashkent and Yakub Beg”
- Alexander Morrison** (Nazarbayev University, Kazakhstan) “Competitive Emulation and Anglo-Russian Rivalry in the Conquest of Central Asia”
- Paul du Quenoy** (American University of Beirut, Lebanon/SRC) “‘Showered with Privileges by Our Government’: Russian Self-Presentation to Muslim Communities in Ottoman Syria”
- Ekaterina Pravilova** (Princeton University, USA) “Not by Bread Alone: Russia and the Global Market of Cultural Goods”
- Igor Khristoforov** (Higher School of Economics, Russia) “Professors and Bankers: Russian Economic Thought and the Formation of the Modern Financial System in the Nineteenth Century”
- SAKON Yukimura** (Niigata University, Japan) “The Great Game of Tea: Russian Tea Trade in the Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries”
- Willard Sunderland** (University of Cincinnati, USA) “Built to Move: Trades and Technologies of Worldliness in the Eighteenth Century”
- Philippa Hetherington** (University of Sydney, Australia) “Laboratory of Migration: Multiple Mobilities and the History of the Black Sea”
- NAGANAWA Norihiro** (SRC) “Russia’s Place in the Global Muslim Connections, ca. 1800–1930: Sufism, Nationalism, and Anti-Imperialism”
- Marsha Siefert** (Central European University, Hungary) “Telecommunications Rivalries in the Russian Borderlands before 1914”
- Boris Kolonitskii** (European University at St. Petersburg, Russia) “The February Revolution of 1917 as a World Revolution”
- David McDonald** (University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA) “1917 in a Corner of the Russian Diaspora: Revolution and the Rebuilding of Dukhobor’e”
- TSURUMI Taro** (Saitama University, Japan) “Russian Jews after the Imperial Collapse, East and West”
- Samuel J. Hirst** (European University at St. Petersburg, Russia) “National Economics: Soviet-Turkish Trade in the Interwar Period”
- Yaroslav Shulatov** (Hiroshima City University, Japan) “Japan’s Place in Soviet Far Eastern Policy during the 1920s”
- Sören Urbansky** (Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, Germany) “‘The Border Is under Lock and Key’: Material and Ritualistic Reaffirmations of the Manchurian-Soviet Border during Times of Conflict”
- Marsha Kirasirova** (New York University Abu Dhabi, UAE) “Soviet Aftershocks of Iran’s 1953 Coup: A CIA Operation against Abdulqasim Lahuti, 1953–1954”
- Artemy M. Kalinovsky** (University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands) “‘A Torch Lighting the Way to Progress and Civilization’: Soviet Central Asia as a Model of Development”
- FUJISAWA Jun** (Waseda University, Japan) “In Pursuit of Natural Resources: The CMEA Policy of ‘Coordination’ in the Developing Countries”

### **Speakers at the Junior Scholars' Session: Russia and the USSR as Destinations for Mobile Muslim Intellectuals in the First Half of the Twentieth Century (July 29, 2015)**

**UNNO-YAMAZAKI Noriko** (University of Tokyo, Japan) "Between the Qing Dynasty and the Russian Empire: Dungans and Uyghurs in Central Asia in the 1910s"

**TORIYA Masato** (Sophia University, Japan) "Indian Muslims and the Soviet Union in the 1910s and 1920s: The Case of Zafar Hasan Āibak's Āp Bītī"

**ONO Ryosuke** (Keio University, Japan) "Turkestan as seen by an Émigré Turcologist: Zeki Velidi Togan, Yeni Türkistan, and His Letters (1927–1932)"

### **Speakers at the International Joint Workshop: Memories of Socialism and Today: Religion, Politics, and Nationalism (August 1, 2015)**

**Ulrike Huhn** (Bremen University, Germany) "Departure in the Underground? Soviet Ethnographers Explore Apocalyptic Sectarians"

**TAKAHASHI Sanami** (SRC) "Saints in Soviet Russia: Keeping and Changing the Popular Faith"

**Irina Papkova** (Georgetown University, USA/SRC) "Collaborator and/or Martyred Church: Russian Orthodoxy (mis)remembers the Soviet Past"

**Nikolay Mitrokhin** (Bremen University, Germany) "Проблемы изучения современной истории РПЦ 1940-х–2000-х годов"

## **THE SRC 60TH ANNIVERSARY SYMPOSIUM AND RECEPTION**

On December 10–11, 2015, the SRC Winter International Symposium was held in Sapporo under the title "Between History and Memory: Connecting the Generations at SRC 60." The main idea of the conference was to review the concrete circumstances of the Center's founding in 1955, as well as the Japanese conditions of that time, while putting the path and activities of Japan's Slavic-Eurasian area studies into the context of 20th century world



Opening remark

history. Six sessions were sandwiched between a kick-off session that included interdisciplinary approaches to life and text on the concrete basis of research reports from Central Asian specialists now in residence at the SRC and a final session that brought together both Japanese and foreign scholars with a long history of cooperation with the SRC to discuss future concerns and possibilities for "going beyond ICCEES 2015."

The second session dealt directly with SRC history by examining the role of the Rockefeller Foundation and its officers in reviving Slavic-Eurasian studies in Japan after World War II. One paper analyzed the creation of area studies itself as an epistemological paradigm adapted to the exigencies of World War II. A second paper introduced new documentation that revealed the SRC creation as a joint initiative of both Japanese and American scholars struggling with the administrative, financial and political constraints of the immediate postwar and occupation. A final paper put the activities of the Rockefeller Foundation into context by examining the birth of Japanese Southeast Asian studies as well. A third session included both former



Participants

employees of the SRC as well as foreign partners in an attempt to locate the Center's activities in both "time and space." Former professors and librarians spoke of the Center's growth within the bounds and opportunities posed by the university and national bureaucracy, while foreign partners spoke of the the long-term value of cooperative research and shared educational goals.

The second day began with two sessions devoted to further

contextualizing. The fourth session discussed Sugihara Chiune, a great Russianist in his day, whose applied research not only resulted in one of the great achievements of Japanese foreign policy, the 1935 sale of the Chinese Eastern Railway by Russia to Manchukuo, but also produced a humanitarian act that continues to resonate in contemporary international affairs, the 1940–41 saving of more than 2000 Jewish lives during his short term as Japanese Acting Consul in the then-capital of Lithuania, Kaunas. A second paper examined Japan's foreign policy in 1955, as it sought renewed initiative in its relations, not only with Russia, but also with the US and China. Area studies knowledge would be essential for such plans. The fifth session looked at other uses of anniversaries and memory, both as a way to mobilize multilateral research and as a means to analyze national and regional transformations.

The final session featured younger members of the profession discussing both the role of the SRC in accomplishing their training and the challenges that lie ahead. Specialists from Russia, China and Korea also approached the same issues, but from the outside looking in. A discussion session concluded the symposium. A total of 110 visitors participated in the Winter Symposium.

On the day before the symposium, two pre-symposium sessions were held:

Middle-Eastern Migration/Refugees and European Integration from Eurasian viewpoints (Organizer: Ieda Osamu)

Colonial Revolt and State-Society Relations: Russian Central Asia and British India Compared (Organizer: Uyama Tomohiko)

On the evening of the 10th, a reception was hosted at the Faculty Club Enreiso, where Hokkaido University President Yamaguchi, Ministry of Education and Science representative Ishizaki, Tokyo University Emeritus Professor Wada, and Russian Consul-General at Sapporo Fabrichnikov began the long series of toasts. The President, Board members and departmental heads joined other Hokudai faculty and staff, past and present, including SRC Research Associates from throughout the country, to make a total of over 100 guests bringing their good wishes. The commemorative reception took place in a warm atmosphere from beginning to end.

*MOCHIZUKI Tetsuo (Wolff, trans.)*

### **Speakers at the Symposium (December 10–11, 2015)**

**Daniel Prior** (Miami University, USA/SRC) "The Kirghiz Epic Tradition and Its Contexts"

**Tokhir Kalandarov** (Russian Academy of Sciences/SRC) "Анализируя среднеазиатские антропологические работы по религии: пережитки доисламских верований или между «народным» и «чистым» исламом?"

**Stefan Kirmse** (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany/SRC) "A View from Russia's Borderlands: Potentials and Limits of Studying 19th-Century Legal Texts and Culture"

- David Engerman** (Brandeis University: absent), read by **T. Hasegawa** “Knowing Friends and Enemies: The World War II Origins of Area Studies in the United States”
- David Wolff** (SRC) “The SRC and the Rockefeller Foundation, 1948–1952”
- KARASHIMA Masato** (Kwansei Gakuin University, Japan) “Between Anti-Communist Liberal and Democratic Socialism: The Rockefeller Foundation and Japan’s Asian Studies”
- TOGAWA Tsuguo** (Sophia University and Hokkaido University, Japan, emeritus) “The SRC in the Cradle: A Prehistory”
- AKIZUKI Takako** (Former SRC librarian) “Building the Slavic Collection at the SRC”
- Ito Takayuki** (Waseda University and Hokkaido University, Japan, emeritus) “Nationalization, Internationalization, Functionalization: My Twenty Years at SRC”
- HASEGAWA Tsuyoshi** (University of California, Santa Barbara, USA) “SRC in Time and Space”
- Viktor Larin** (Institute of History, Archaeology and Ethnography of the Peoples of the Far East, Far Eastern Branch, RAS, Russia) “Vladivostok Institute of History and the Slavic Research Center: Three Decades of Fruitful Cooperation”
- TABATA Shinichiro** (SRC) “SRC in the 21st Century”
- TAKAO Chizuko** (Tokyo Medical and Dental University: absent) and David Wolff (SRC) “Visas for Life: Chiune Sugihara, 1935–41”
- IZUMIKAWA Yasuhiro** (Chuo University, Japan) “Japan’s Multiple Quests for Foreign Policy ‘Independence’ and Soviet-Japanese Diplomatic Normalization Talks in the 1950s”
- John W. Steinberg** (Austin Peay State University, USA) “Russia’s Great War and Revolution: Will It Forever Be an Unknown War That Ends with a Forgotten Peace?”
- SHINOHARA Taku** (Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, Japan) “Jewish Presence and Non-presence in Memory Politics in Central Europe”
- «After ICCEES 2015: The Future of Japanese Slavic-Eurasian Studies (roundtable)» with **NUMANO Mitsuyoshi** (University of Tokyo, Japan), **OKA Natsuko** (Institute of Developing Economies, Japan), **IKEDA Yoshiro** (University of Tokyo, Japan), **Yaroslav Shulatov** (Hiroshima City University, Japan), **FENG Shaolei** (East China Normal University), **HA Yong Chool** (University of Washington, USA)

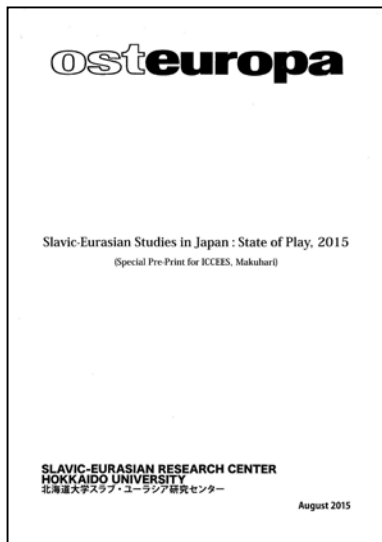
**Speakers at the Pre-Symposium: Middle-Eastern Migration/Refugees and European Integration from Eurasian viewpoints (December 9, 2015) (Organizer: Ieda Osamu)**

- KUROKI Hidemitsu** (Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, Japan) “An Inevitable Wave?: Syrian (and Lebanese) Migrants to Europe in Historical Context”
- NOSAKA-SAHARA Junko** (Bilkent University, Turkey) “Rethinking 200 Years of Refugees and Migrants on the Black Sea Coast”
- Basak Kale** (Middle East University of Technology, Turkey) “Comparing Migration Management through the Lenses of Mass Refugee Movements: EU and Turkey (online presentation through Skype)”
- ENDO Ken** (Hokkaido University, Japan) “European Integration in the Face of the Refugee Crisis”
- IMAI Kohei** (Meiji University, Japan) “The Effectiveness and Limit of Turkey’s Humanitarian Diplomacy: The Case of Response to Syrian Refugee”
- SZERDAHELYI István** (Hungarian Ambassador to Japan)
- Bostjan Beltalanic** (Josai University, Japan) “The Refugee Situation from the Slovenian and Wider Balkan Perspective”
- KUBOYAMA Ryo** (Senshu University, Japan) “Refugee Policy and Politics in Germany”
- SENGOKU Manabu** (SRC) “European Migrant Crisis and General Election in Poland”
- Hans Carl von Werthern** (Ambassador of Federal Republic of Germany to Japan)
- UMEHARA Toshiya** (The Asahi Shimbun Company) “Year 2015 for EU: An ‘Annus Horribilis’ or Beginning of the End”
- MORITA Tsuneo** (Tateyama R&D, Hungary) “Reality Seen from Hungary”
- NISHIKIDA Aiko** (Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, Japan) “The Choice to Move: Palestinian Refugees’ Migration to European Countries”
- Deha Erpek** (Minister Counsellor of Turkish Embassy)

**Speakers at the Pre-Symposium Seminar: Colonial Revolt and State-Society Relations: Russian Central Asia and British India Compared (December 9, 2015) (Organizer: Uyama Tomohiko)**

- Cloé Drieu** (French National Centre for Scientific Research) “1916 Uprisings in Central Asia: A Historic Reappraisal through the Lens of Sociology of Social Movement”
- Clare Anderson** (University of Leicester, UK) “Social Change in East India Company South Asia and the 1857 Revolt”
- Followed by a screening of *Tong Oldidan/Before the Dawn*, Directed by Suleiman Khojaev, 1933, An Uzbek film on the 1916 uprisings

# SRC ARTICLE IN GERMAN DISTRIBUTED AS ENGLISH PRE-PRINT AT MAKUHARI ICCEES 2015



In August 2015, 1300 scholars from 50 countries gathered for the International Council of Central and East European Studies (ICCEES) World Congress at Makuhari Messe in Chiba Prefecture. The event is only held once every five years and this was the first time that it came to Asia. The SRC had been deeply involved in preparations for bringing this prestigious event to Japan, starting over five years ago with the campaign to have Japan selected. The SRC also manned a booth providing materials on our field, the role of the SRC as a Joint Research Facility, and a pre-print of an article that appeared in the summer issue of *Osteuropa*, the most important German-language journal for Slavic Studies.<sup>1</sup> The article was translated into German, but the “original” English version was used for the pre-print, as English was the *lingua franca* of a deeply multilingual event.

The article concluded with the paragraph: “During the last 25 years, faced with riotous change on the international scene, the Slavic-Eurasian profession in Japan has responded boldly, embracing transnational and comparative approaches, in order to address a wide range of novel concerns. Soviet Communism is no more, but the Leninist state lives on. The command economy is outmoded, but issues regarding state intervention in the market are universally pertinent. Central Asian nations are independent, but must still struggle to avoid dependency on large neighbors. Northeast Asian regionalism, India as a BRIC, the Arctic, border studies and climate change—Slavic-Eurasian knowledge has something to offer to discussions on each of these topics and in Japan, it is called on to do so.”

Below are a few highpoints from the article prepared by the SRC multidisciplinary team, our “authors’ collective (Autorenkollektiv).”

- 1 The history of prewar Slavic Studies exhibited a sharp divide between those who introduced the general public to the wonders of Russian culture, especially literature, and the vision of Russia as an enemy or potential enemy that drove “practical studies” in the army, foreign ministry and Mantetsu (South Manchurian Railway) Research Department, at that time the largest research institute in the world. After the war, both kinds of studies were folded into the university curriculum.
- 2 Unlike American and European Slavic-Eurasian studies, in Japan the end of the Cold War created an even broader consensus about the need to study these regions of the world, leading to increased budgets and newly-trained experts on all of the new countries created by the collapse of the Soviet Union.
- 3 The complexities of analyzing and classifying the newly-created states led to a renaissance of comparative studies, both in politics and economics. Notably, the “Society for the Study of Socialist Economies” became the “Association for Comparative Economic

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1 Autorenkollektiv, “Aufbruch, Dynamik, Internationalisierung: Slavisch-Eurasische Area Studies in Japan” *Osteuropa* 65, 5–6 (2015), 175–192.

Studies” in May 1993. A recent large-scale comparison of Russia, China and India as “regional great powers” also follows this trend.

- 4 Increased emphasis on comparison and the areas “between” states has also led to the emergence of new disciplines such as border studies. Previously pursued as a part of bilateral relations within international relations, “border studies” have now taken on a life of their own.
- 5 Historical studies have been inspired by both the “imperial turn” and globalization to dig deeply into newly-declassified archives from local to national, while asking questions of the Russian materials that go beyond Russia to shed light on global phenomena, such as the rise of Islam, the East Asian economic “miracles” and the Cold War.
- 6 Literary studies and translations remain popular in Japan with Russia still the most important area within Slavic-Eurasia, but literature as a source for cultural studies has become more popular. On the other hand, Slavic linguistics has broadened to cover a wider range of distinct language groups and sub-disciplines with consequently increasing exposure on the international stage.

*David Wolff*

## **THE BORDER STUDIES SUMMER SCHOOL ON 25–28 JULY, 2016**

The SRC and the Graduate School of Public Policy (HOPS) at Hokkaido University are delighted to announce that the summer school on border studies will be hosted in Sapporo on July 25–28, 2016. This year’s summer school will be hosted as part of the Hokkaido Summer Institute, which is a program that brings together distinguished scholars and our faculty members to provide an educational experience to students from across Japan and around the world. Please see the following website of the Eurasia Unit for Border Research (UBRJ) to see the summer school program in greater detail:

<http://src-h.slav.hokudai.ac.jp/ubryj/whats-new/archives/201602/05222.html>

*CHIDA Tetsuro*

## **INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM “CONTESTING TERRITORIES: SOVEREIGNTY, TOURISM, AND AESTHETICS” (NOVEMBER 23, 2015)**

The 2015 FY is very important for the Eurasia Unit for Border Research (Japan) (UBRJ), since its leader, Prof. Akihiro Iwashita, assumed the presidency of the Association for Borderland Studies (ABS) in April 2015 for one year. UBRJ also enjoys fruitful cooperation with the Center for Asia-Pacific Future Studies (CAFS), established at Kyushu University in March 2015, which became the second core academic center for border studies in Japan. The international symposium “Contesting Territories: Sovereignty, Tourism, and Aesthetics” on 23 November at Kyushu University became the highlight event in 2015 FY co-hosted by UBRJ & CAFS. The symposium consisted of one keynote lecture and two panels. One of the most distinguished political geographers, Prof. John Agnew (UCLA), gave a keynote lecture titled “Geopolitics in the Age of Globalization.” Prof. Agnew touched upon how transnational



The main participants

fluidity and networks have been the focus of attention in the global age; however, we have yet to overcome the hierarchy of states in reality. Therefore, he emphasized the importance of geopolitics and an understanding of the world through a spatial perspective even in the age of globalization. The other two sessions were titled “Challenges to Sovereignty: Practicing Contested Territories” and “Border Aesthetics: Art at/ along the Border,” where such prominent scholars in the world

as Akihiro Iwashita, Sangjin Shim (Gyeonggi Univ.), Anne-Laure Amihat-Szary (Univ. of Grenoble), and others made reports.

Other than this event itself, the members of ABS in Japan held a special meeting before the symposium, and declared the tentative founding of the Japan Chapter of Border Studies, which will assume the mission of being the academic core of border studies in the Asia-Pacific region. Dr. Naomi Chi (Hokkaido Univ. Public Policy School) was selected as chairperson. The secretariat will be located at CAFS.

*CHIDA Tetsuro*

## THE JIBSN ANNUAL SEMINAR WAS HELD IN NEMURO CITY ON THE BORDER WITH JAPAN’S “NORTHERN TERRITORY” (FEBRUARY 13, 2016)

The Japan International Border Studies Network (JIBSN) held its annual meeting in Nemuro City on November 14, 2014. The JIBSN is an exchange network on border-related issues consisting of practitioners as well as scholars. Local administrative officials on the border gathered at the eastern edge of Japan from Wakkanai, Okinoshima, Tsushima, Goto, Taketomi, Yonaguni, and Ogasawara. The seminar was open to the public. The annual seminar consisted of two parts. The first session was titled “Living in the Borderlands: Northern Territory, Takeshima & Senkaku,” where officials from Nemuro, Okinoshima, and Yonaguni, told of the socio-economic realities of life in the borderlands in Japan, paying special attention to



A speech by Mr. Hasegawa, Mayor of Nemuro



unique and specific resources in the borderlands, which can be mobilized for their future development. The second session is titled “Border Tourism in Japan: Achievements and Perspectives,” where speakers emphasized the necessity of making a concrete “story” over conducting a transboundary tour. The organizers of the Wakkanai-Sakhalin and Tsushima-Busan transboundary tours are prospering owing to the success of their “story” making. At the same time, one speaker insisted that the tours should be seen from a “business” as well as a “feasibility” perspective, aspects that make border tourism sustainable. Nemuro City Office not only hosted the meeting, but also organized the excursion around the city and up to Shibetsu and Rausu Towns. The next annual JIBSN meeting will be held in October 2016, hosted by Ogasawara Village Office in Tokyo.

*CHIDA Tetsuro*

## OUR CURRENT STAFF

**IEDA Osamu:** Professor, Environment of Eurasia; Area Studies on Eastern Europe, Hungarian Studies

**IWASHITA Akihiro:** Professor, Eurasia Border Studies; Russian Foreign Policy and Sino-Russian Relations

**KOSHINO Go:** Associate Professor, Russian and Belarusian Literature

**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

**SENGOKU Manabu:** Professor, Comparative Politics and Political Economy; Welfare Politics of Central and East European Countries

**TABATA Shinichiro:** Professor, Russian Economy and Comparative Economic Studies; Director of the SRC

**UYAMA Tomohiko:** Professor, Modern History and Politics of Central Asia; Comparative Imperial History; Modern History and Politics of Central Asia; Comparative Imperial History

**David Wolff:** Professor, Russian, Soviet, and Emigre History; Siberia and the Far East; Cold War; Northeast Asian Region Construction

**YAMAMURA Rihito:** Comparative Economics; Russian Industry and Agriculture

### ASSISTANT PROFESSORS:

**CHIDA Tetsuro:** Russian History; Central Asian Area Studies; History of Geography

**TAKAHASHI Sanami:** Russian Orthodoxy in Soviet and Post-Soviet Russian Culture

### FOREIGN VISITING FELLOWS 2015 (JUNE) – 2016 (MARCH)

**Paul du Quenoy:** The Russian Empire and the Arab Middle East

**Tokhir Kalandarov:** Problems of Cultural Interaction of Central Asian Migrants and Russian Society

**KIM Soo Hwan:** The Russian Concept of “Everyday Life” (*Byt*) in Light of Typology

**Stefan Kirmse:** Law and Empire in Late Tsarist Russia: A New Legal Order in Crimea and Kazan

**Umut Korkut:** Re-positioning Hungary in Eurasia: Narratives, Business Networks, and Foreign Policy of Hungarian Conservatism in the 21st Century

**Daniel Prior:** The Kirghiz Epic of Manas: An Abridged Translation of a Central Asian Classic  
**Pavel Shabley:** Discourses Regarding Muslim Spiritual Administration in the Kazakh Steppe and Turkestan (End of the 19th Century to First Quarter of the 20th Century)

**RESEARCH FELLOWS:**

**AMANO Naoki:** Russian Far East Modern History, Sakhalin Island Studies  
**Anastasia Fedorova:** Japanese Cinema, Soviet Cinema, Transnational Cinematic Exchange  
**GOTO Masanori:** Cultural Anthropology; Cultural and Economic Agency in Russia  
**KANAYAMA Koji:** Soviet Science and Technology History  
**KIKUTA Haruka:** Contemporary Social Changes in Central Asian Sedentary Society  
**TAKAHASHI Minori:** 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)

Headed by IWASHITA Akihiro: “Border Tourism: Border Studies for Community Development” (2014–17)

Headed by TABATA Shinichiro: “Comparison of Development Models for Major Regional Powers in Eurasia: Russia, China and India” (2015–18)

Headed by IEDA Osamu: “Destruction and Reconstruction of Human and Natural Environments in Post-catastrophe Areas: Chernobyl, Ajka, and Fukushima” (2015–17)

**Scientific Research B**

Headed by David Wolff: “Russo-Chinese Relations: Researching Rapprochement” (2015–18)

Headed by KOSHINO Go: “Memoryscape of War in Socialist Countries: The Soviet Union, China and Vietnam” (2013–16)

Headed by NOMACHI Motoki: “A Comprehensive Study of the Slavic Micro Literary Languages after the Revolution of Eastern Europe” (2013–16)

Headed by HARA Teruyuki: “Modern History of the Sakhalin Island (Karafuto), as a Borderland Colony” (2013–16)

**Scientific Research C**

Headed by NAGANAWA Norihiro: “Revolutionary Empire: A Biography of Karim Khakimov (1892–1937)” (2013–16)

Headed by KOMOTO Yasuko: “An Examination of ‘Lamaism’ Visual Materials in Modern Japan” (2012–16)

Headed by GOTO Masanori: “Anthropological Study of Entrepreneurship in Post-Socialist Countries” (2014–16)

Headed by ITANI Hiroshi: “Characters and Social Influences of the ‘Hokushin’ (advance to the north) Theory in the Empire of Japan: In the Cases of Sakhalin and the Kuril Islands” (2014–16)

#### **Challenging Exploratory Research**

Headed by IEDA Osamu: “New Historical Approaches to Slavic Eurasia between Emerging Eastern Europe and Imperial Japan” (2015–17)

#### **Grants-in-Aid for Young Scientists A**

Headed by TAKAHASHI Minori: “Self-government and Climate Change: ‘Autonomy in External and Internal Relations’ in Greenland” (2014–17)

#### **Grants-in-Aid for Young Scientists B**

Headed by CHIDA Tetsuro: “Environmental History of the Aral Sea Basin after World War II: Human Activities and Ecological Crisis” (2013–16)

Headed by KANAYAMA Koji: “Relationship between Science and Technology in the 1940s & 1950s Japan: A Philosophical and Social History” (2015–17)

#### **Research Activity Startup**

Headed by TAKAHASHI Sanami: “Saints in Modern Times: Canonization and Veneration in the Russian Orthodox Church” (2014–15)

Headed by KIKUTA Haruka: “Glocalization of Gender through Immigrant Labors in Central Asian Muslim Societies” (2015–16)

#### **Other Project**

Headed by TABATA Shinichiro: “Russia’s Final Energy Frontier: Sustainability Challenges of the Russian Far North” (2014–2016) (Funded by Japan Society for the Promotion of Science and the Academy of Finland)

## **VISITORS FROM ABROAD**

**Elza-Bair Guchinova** (Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology, RAS, Russia), May-October 2015: Visual Memory of Japanese POWs of Socialist Culture of Stalin’s Era

**Gerard Clare** (University of Glasgow), June-July 2015: The Relationship between Local Government and Residents in Vladivostok: Residents’ Reaction to the Russian Development Project of the Far East Region

**Olga Puzanova** (Oxford University, UK), July-October 2015: The Adaptation of Orthodox Christianity to the Japanese Cultural Background in the Meiji Era

**Irina Papkova** (Georgetown University, USA), October-November 2015: The Orthodox Church in Japan Seen from the Orthodox World: Multinationality and Gender

## **GUEST LECTURERS FROM ABROAD**

«SRC/IREEES Joint Conference: Where Did Ukraine Come From? Where Is Ukraine Heading For?» **SHIN Beom-Shik** (Seoul National University, Korea) “Russia and the Ukraine Crisis”; **PARK Won-Ho** (Seoul National University, Korea) “The Ukraine Crisis from the US Perspective”; **HAHN Jeong-Sook** (Seoul National University, Korea) “Mikhail Hrushevskii’s View of Ukrainian History”; **LEE Kyong-Wan** (Seoul National University, Korea) “Christian Reflections on Ukrainian Images at Gogol’s Oeuvres and Trends of Criticism,” December 6, 2014.

**Konstantin Lifanov** (Lomonosov Moscow State University) “Язык восточнославянских публикаций в США и механизм его создания,” February 3, 2015.

**Bojan Belić** (University of Washington, USA) “To Standardize, Or Not To Standardize: That Is the Question,” February 4, 2015.

**Andrew Wachtel** (American University of Central Asia, Kyrgyz Rep.) “Nation Building in Central Asia: Kyrgyzstan between Manas and Kurmandjan-Datka,” February 26, 2015.

**Turganbek Allaniiazov** (Zhezkazgan University, Kazakhstan) “Антисоветские повстанческие движения на Мангышлаке (Казахстан) и Каракумах (Туркменистан) в апреле-сентябре 1931 г.,” March 9, 2015.

**Aleksandr Bobrov** (Russian Academy of Sciences) “The Story of Akir the Wise in the Musin-Pushkin Collection”; **Anica Vlašić-Anić** (Old Church Slavonic Institute, Croatia) “The Croatian Glagolitic Story of Akir the Wise (Slovo Premudrosti Akirovë): An Intertextual ‘literary Kaleidoscope’,” March 16, 2015.

**Marjan Markovik’** (University “Ss. Cyril and Methodius” of Skopje, Macedonia) “Macedonian Language Tendencies in Balkan Context,” March 24, 2015.

«International Workshop: Economic Growth of Economies in Transition in Comparison: from the Perspectives of Value Added Generation and Productivity» **P. Hare** (Heriot-Watt University, UK) “The Political Economy of Growth and Governance”; **P. Bhattacharya** (Heriot-Watt University, UK) “The Role of Institutions: Lessons from History”; **Kim B.-Y.** (Seoul National University) “The Performances of Chinese Firms in North Korean Trade: Evidence from Firm-Level Data,” March 28, 2015.

**Zbigniew Greń** (University of Warsaw, Poland) “Identity at the Borders of Closely-Related Ethnic Groups: the Case in the Polish-Czech-Slovak Triangle”; **Romuald Huszcza** (University of Warsaw, Poland) “Semiotics of Interlinguistic Contacts in Present-day Polish,” March 29, 2015.

**Viktor Larin** (Institute of History, Archaeology, and Ethnography of Far Eastern Nations, RAS) “Тихоокеанская Россия в контексте интересов и политики России в АТР в начале 21 век,” April 20, 2015.

**Gail Fondahl** (University of Northern British Columbia, Canada) “Indigenous Land Rights in the Russian Federation: A Quarter Century Onward,” June, 15, 2015.

**Siriporn Wajjwalku** (Mae Fah Luang University, Thailand) “Introduction to School of Social Innovation, Mae Fah Luang University”; **Wanwalee Inpin** (Mae Fah Luang University) “An Efficiency of Local Administrative Organization in Chiang Rai Province Toward a Mitigation of Earthquake Disaster”; **Yuthpong Chantrawarin** (Mae Fah Luang University) “Footloose Gem Traders and The Grey-shaded Border Space of Mae Sai Border Town,” July 13, 2015.

**Bosya Kornusova** (Kalmyk State University, Russia) “Minority Language Survival in the Globalized World: The Kalmyk,” July 21, 2015.

**Laada Bilaniuk** (University of Washington, USA) “The Martial Art of Nonstandard Language: ‘Boyovyj Surzhyk’ in the Construction of Ukrainian Identity”; **SUN Bai** (Renmin University of China) “China without Sound: Nation, Gender, and Voice’s Identity in Chinese Films of 1930s,” August 10, 2015.

**Paul Wexler** (Tel-Aviv University, Israel) “How Yiddish and Romani Can Contribute to Slavic and German Historical Linguistics?” August 13, 2015.

**Artyom Lukin** (Far Eastern Federal University, Russia) “The Russian Far East: Integrating with China or the Asia-Pacific?” August 27, 2015.

**Ryszard Zajaczkowski** (The John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Poland) “The Experience of Polish Exile: The Case of Joseph Wittlin,” September 7, 2015.

**Kamrul Hossain** (University of Lapland, Finland) “Governance of the Arctic: What Future Do We See?” September, 2015.

**Iliia Altman** (Russian Research and Educational Holocaust Center) “New Documents and Perspectives on Chiune Sugihara: Results of Russo-Japanese Cooperative Research,” November 6, 2015.

**Raja Mohan** (Observer Research Foundation, India) “India and the Asian Balance of Power,” November 19, 2015.

**Pavlo Gritsenko** (Institute for the Ukrainian Language, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine) “Язык и культура после Чернобыля: проблемы сохранения и исследования,” December 16, 2015.

## Памирская «Гармчаима» и Джозанкей в Саппоро

**Tokhir Kalandarov** (Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology, RAS, Russia/  
Foreign Fellow, SRC, 2015)



Автор

Многие, наверное, видели японскую фантастическую комедию «Римские термы», где главный герой древний римлянин — архитектор Люциус (играет японский актер Хироси Абе) чудесным образом из 128 года нашей эры попадет в современные японские горячие источники (*онсен*). Нечто подобное испытал и я, когда впервые по совету профессора Иноуэ сан побывал в горячем источнике в пригороде Саппоро — Джозанкей онсен. Затем я еще несколько раз посетил эти источники. Меня, как и архитектора Люциуса удивило, во-первых, умение японцев использовать дары природы гармонично обустроявая их в соответствии со своими человеческими потребностями и комфортом в абсолютном балансе с природой. Источник в Джозанкее (я несколько раз посетил отель Jozankei View Hotel), имеет несколько залов внутри здания (*офуро*), а также на природе (*ротенбуро*). Хочешь почувствовать себя ближе

к природе, пожалуйста, иди на улицу, хочешь почувствовать современные технологии с их удобствами, пожалуйста, заходи во внутренние термозалы. Ванны на природе, особенно были чудесны в зимнее время, когда вокруг шапками лежит искрящийся белый снег, а ты сидишь и наслаждаешься покоем в воде. Самое время подумать о величии Матери Природы, о смысле жизни, Вселенной и своем месте в ней. Люциус в том фильме по заданию императора при постройке бани должен был думать об отдыхе и восстановлении римских войск, сегодняшние источники также предназначены для отдыха и лечения, но уже не солдат, а обычных мирных людей различных профессий. Побывав и почувствовав целительное влияние источника, понимаешь, насколько они



Гармчашма на Памире

важны для восстановления сил жителей и гостей Саппоро.

Впервые в жизни я купался в горячем источнике на Памире (Республика Таджикистан), где я родился и вырос. Мне тогда было 14 лет. Горячий источник находился в несколько километрах от города Хорог — административного центра Горно-Бадахшанской автономной области Республики Таджикистан, и назывался он «Гармчашма», что в переводе с таджикского языка означает «горячий источник». До сих пор помню, как это было необычно

и в то же время забавно. Ванна была одна, и между женщинами и мужчинами всегда было некое соревнование, кто раньше поднимется на высоту, где была эта ванна, тот час будет мужским или женским (в мусульманском обществе мужчины и женщины совместно не купаются). На мой детский вопрос о том, почему не построить дальше отдельную ванну, например для женщин, взрослые люди, в том числе и мой папа не ответили. Увидев несколько залов для мужчин и женщин в Джозанкей, в том числе и онсен на 16 этаже с потрясающим видом на гору, вспомнил то детское время купания в источнике Гармчашма на Памире. Сегодня в Гармчашме, конечно, уже есть мужские и женские залы, а вот до второго этажа воду еще не подняли. Видимо, необходима помощь японских инженеров.

На мой взгляд, есть много общего между Гармчашмой и Джозанкеем. Первое сходство это, конечно ландшафт. Горы объединяют их. Во-вторых, эти источники привлекают к себе много иностранцев. На Гармчашме иностранная речь, особенно летом, слышна постоянно. Вот и в Джозанкей приезжают туристы из разных стран мира. К примеру, в прошедшую субботу я прямо в открытом онсене познакомился с туристом из Малайзии. Он оказался мусульманином, узнав, что и я принадлежу к этой религии, очень обрадовался. Я спросил его про религиозную жизнь в его родной стране. По его словам для мусульман есть исламский закон — шариа, а для остальных гражданский кодекс. Шиизм в его стране вне закона. Так же переход из мусульманства в другую религию карается смертью. Мой собеседник сторонник таких жестких законов, иначе это нарушает дисциплину, сказал он. Он очень удивился, когда я ему сказал, что в Таджикистане за смену веры людей не убивают.

Еще одно сходство этих мест в том, что они являются местом уединения человека, здесь он может побыть наедине с самим собой и с Природой. Как правило, в отличие от обычных аквапарков или общественных бань, люди в горячих источниках практически никогда не шумят. Они погружены в свой мир, они слушают тишину. Если для японцев гармония человека с природой — это часть религии, то памирцы до сих пор чтят великую зороастрийскую триаду — благие мысли, благие слова и благие дела. Время, проведенное в горячем источнике — это возможность укрепить в себе эти духовные начала жизни.

Так, на Памире считается, что особые свойства воды в источнике, их воздействие на кожу и прием внутрь балансируют человеческое тело. Пациенты, приезжающие за

исцелением, часто пьют немного воды перед погружением в ванну. По словам доктора Ширинбека, который много лет занимается исследованием горячих источников Памира, вода заряжена физической измеримой энергией, которая является физическим выражением глубинной духовной энергии *baraka* — благодать. Поскольку тело человека также заряжено энергией, когда оно соприкасается с энергией горячей воды заряд тела и нарушенное равновесие меняются и начинают приходить в состояние баланса. Вода, которая прорывается пузырьками из глубинных подземных источников проходит через бесчисленные слои энергетически заряженных элементов, которые наделяют ее целительной силой. Неся в себе земную энергию, вода становится более мощной генерирующей силой, чем слабая энергия болезни внутри человека. В этих отношениях между водой и пациентом мы наблюдаем возможности воды, как балансирующей и модулирующей силы физического тела.

В очередной раз, возвращаясь на автобусе из Джозанкей, я думал о том, как Природа равномерно распределяет свои блага человечеству. Если одним дает нефть, другим воду, одним пустыни, а другим горы. И все зависит от человечества, с какой благодарностью оно примет этот дар и как оно им пользуется. Как у природы нет плохой погоды, так и нет плохих географических мест. Как мы бережно относимся к ним, и как мы их передадим будущему поколению — это уже другой вопрос. Особая нежная любовь к тому месту, где родился человек, это, скорее всего, эмоциональная привязанность, возникающая в момент рождения. Видимо, поэтому я так полюбил эту горную часть Японии. Она напоминала мне мой родной Памир с его Гармчашмой. Вот и на этот раз в автобусе я невольно вспомнил песню незабвенного русского поэта Владимира Высоцкого «Лучше гор могут быть только горы»...



Джозанкей в Саппоро

## *The SRC's 60th Anniversary at a Time of Great Challenges for Russian-Eurasian Studies*

**Stefan Kirmse (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany/Foreign Fellow, SRC, 2015)**

On December 10–11, 2015, the fellows of the Foreign Visitors program had the opportunity to take part in the Slavic-Eurasian Studies Center celebrating its 60th anniversary. A large number of Slavic and Eurasian specialists, policymakers, and graduate students from all over Japan, east Asia, the United States, Russia, and Western Europe came together for a two-day symposium, looking back at the center's development from the mid-1950s and reflecting on the present and future of Slavic-Eurasian studies as a separate field of inquiry.

As contemporaries and historians shared their memories and stories about the center's origins, intriguing facts about the peculiarities and challenges of establishing an area studies center during the Cold War emerged, not least because it was a research center devoted to one of the Cold War's protagonists, the Soviet Union. It was the first of its kind in Japan and remains the largest to this day. The ways in which the foundation of the center, including its location in Sapporo rather than Tokyo, initially reflected American wishes and interests account for one such curious fact. The Rockefeller Foundation was perhaps the most vital actor at this time, examining potential locations and helping to find appropriate scholars for the center. That the name "Slavic Research Center" (changed to Slavic-Eurasian only very recently) was preferred to Russian or Soviet Research Center is another curious fact. Whereas the latter options might have appeared too sympathetic to the communist cause (so it was feared), "Slavic" offered the advantage that "no one really knew what it meant," as one of the contemporaries put it. Clearly, the foundation and early development of the center showed the close entanglement of academia and politics during this highly politicized period.

At the same time, with its array of fascinating contributions by historians, political scientists, international relations experts, policymakers, and scholars of literature, the symposium showcased the continued appeal of area studies as a form of academic research. To me, as an anthropologist-turned-historian with 15 years of experience in the British and German university sectors, this became all the more clear in the course of the two days. The interdisciplinary study of Russia and Eurasia has become somewhat out of fashion in the post-communist world (though, admittedly, in some countries such as Germany it was never in fashion). Narrow disciplinary approaches now tend to prevail, and funding for anything related to the Slavic and Eurasian world seems to have reached a new low. And yet, the lively discussion at the symposium reminded me that there is still a strong case to be made for area studies, and Russian and Eurasian studies, in particular. What are the current challenges?

One of the field's problems is that the general interest, and funding along with it, has moved to other areas. China, South Asia, and the Middle East, as highly dynamic regions, have moved center-stage. Yet, the Ukrainian crisis and Russia's active new role in the Middle East (for better or worse) offer first hints that expertise on the former Soviet bloc may not be as twentieth-century as some people claim. In Germany, first signs of a change of mind are already visible: several university departments of Russian history, earmarked for closure a few years ago, have been reinvigorated and staffed with young scholars since early 2014. Politics clearly matter.

A second challenge is that the field's geographical area and object of study is more unclear than ever. It is another question deeply enmeshed with politics. In Sapporo, there is a pronounced focus on Russia and Muslim Eurasia — partly reflected in the center's new name. The exploration of "Eurasia" as a concept also surfaced elsewhere, notably in Britain, where I spent several years at Oxford and London universities and witnessed the relevant debates. At Oxford's St Antony's College, the turn towards "Eurasia" was less of an embrace of a new research agenda. The change of the Russian and East European Studies program to the Russian and Eurasian Studies program reflected the determination of the central and eastern Europeans to be treated as part of Europe. They did not want to be grouped together with Russia any longer. To students of Russia, in turn, the rather amorphous category of Eurasia presented itself as a welcome new partner. Still, it was more complicated than that, as the case of the University of London demonstrates. Here, the study of Central Asia and the Caucasus, rather than the study of Eastern Europe, was detached from the purview of Slavonic studies. As the former Soviet South's cultural affiliation with the Turko-Persian world came to be stressed after 1991, the idea of studying it as part of the Soviet and post-Soviet worlds was increasingly seen as an anachronism. Like in Oxford, then, distancing from Russia was a



crucial factor in the reorganization of area studies. Unlike in Oxford, though, the result was not a reinvigorated Eurasia. With the former Soviet bloc cut into a northern and a southern half, studied at separate institutes with almost no teaching or research links between them, the notion of Eurasia was made almost meaningless. London and Oxford, of course, are only examples. What they represent is the lack of a consensus on what we study in the field of former Soviet research, and how we study it.

The third challenge is the contested nature of area studies. Here the cases of Oxford and London are infinitely more encouraging than what I have experienced in Germany. Area studies centers proliferated in the Anglo-American world after the Second World War. They never acquired the same salience at German universities. Repeatedly, I was asked at the symposium what the big questions in Russian and Eurasian studies in Germany were. The answer is simple. There are no such questions because this field of inquiry—very sadly—does not exist. Germany thinks in terms of disciplines. A large number of Soviet historians engage in projects that, at most, they share with historians working on Germany or other parts of the world. Some even claim that regionally-specific history is pointless. The same logic applies to anthropologists working on the post-Soviet space. They only operate in their own discipline. To be sure, there is a lot of money for interdisciplinary research in Germany. Alas, this money is never spent on regions. It is allocated for grand, fuzzy themes, such as war, representation, or limited statehood. What kind of multidisciplinary expertise these projects produce is unclear to most people; it certainly isn't policy-relevant regional expertise.

Given these multiple challenges for area studies in general and Russian and Eurasian studies, in particular, the discussion at the Sapporo symposium seemed refreshing and timely. Few answers were given, but many important questions were raised. For the last 25 years, the field has been self-absorbed and defensive. It is time to turn to the big questions again and to push for a broad, international research agenda. What does the Russo-Eurasian world teach us about the transformation and persistence of authoritarian rule in post-socialist society, what does its history tell us about current responses to nationhood and multiculturalism in the area and the world at large? What is this oft-cited but never fully analyzed category of the “socialist legacy”? Such questions call for sustained multidisciplinary cooperation. Area studies are as necessary and valuable now as they were forty or sixty years ago.

## *Hiyodori Days*

### **Daniel Prior (Miami University, USA/Foreign Fellow, SRC, 2015)**

My five-month stay at the Slavic–Eurasian Research Center allowed me to focus on completing the first-ever English translation of Sağımbay Orozbaq uulu's version of *The Memorial Feast for Kōkötöy Khan*, a Kirghiz (Central Asian Turkic) epic that contains more poetic lines than the *Odyssey*.

Despite my absorption in the difficult work, Sapporo and Hokkaido generously gave me many exciting and charming experiences. The bird life is particularly memorable. A casual bird watcher has many opportunities to make new acquaintances around the city, particularly on the well-wooded Hokkaido University campus. Many of the birds look more or less familiar to a visitor from other north temperate regions, though with interesting Hokkaido accents.

Like many a calling in life, my first summons to pay attention to the birds of Sapporo came in a manner not of my choosing. One morning soon after arriving, jet-lagged and sleeping too lightly, I was awakened at 4:00 by the incredibly loud sound of a bird singing its heart out not at all tunefully in the pre-dawn light of the northern summer. This was my



Brown-eared bulbuls (*hiyodori*) near the Hokudai foreign scholars' residence and the SRC (all photographs by the author)

introduction to the *hiyodori* or brown-eared bulbul (*Hypsipetes amaurotis*), a bird I was glad to be able get to know beyond the first impression. The brown-eared bulbul is about the size of thrush or small jay, long-tailed with a strong, slender bill and an upright bearing. Its feathers are gray with brownish-gray wings, light speckling on the belly, and brown “ear” patches. Its upper body feathers, especially on the head, resist smoothing and give it a sort of spiky, just-showered look. The assertive call of the *hiyodori* sounds like a squeaky toy being chewed over and over again with unceasing gusto by an excited puppy. They have no lack of interlocutors, for although they do not live in flocks they often descend together wherever



A Japanese large-billed crow with its iridescent-black body and oversized bill. This individual appears to be molting, which may help to explain why it was resting on the ground and not in the trees

a meal can be had. These birds are found all over Japan and northeast Asia and are migratory, but the migration routes are rather short, which meant that Sapporo was never without *hiyodori* from somewhere. I noticed an increase in their numbers over the course of the autumn; perhaps more of them were arriving from northern Hokkaido. From about mid-October until my departure in late December a group of about half a dozen *hiyodori* came daily between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. to the ginkgo trees outside my office window on the east side of the SRC building, and fed noisily on the overripe, cherry-like fruits. They were jolly, endlessly interesting neighbors with an air of optimism about

them. I found myself opening up the window despite the cold to snap pictures and even listen in on their amazingly unmusical racket. This is why I have come to look back on the period of my SRC fellowship as my *hiyodori* days.

The *hiyodori* are one thing, but by far the most raucous residents of Sapporo are the abundant *hashibuto-garasu* or Japanese large-billed crows (*Corvus macrorhynchos japonensis*). These huge birds are seemingly everywhere in and around the university, cawing to each other with hoarse, human-like voices. On campus they enjoy hanging



Two Japanese large-billed crows in a tree outside the window of my SRC office

around the beautiful Central Lawn as much as people do. They prefer to scavenge garbage for their food, and do so quite brazenly and socially. The netting placed over neighborhood refuse collection points seems to be no obstacle to their turning a normally neat and clean Sapporo townscape into a litter-strewn picnic ground.



Outside the front door of the SRC

The SRC itself provides a peculiar comment on life in Sapporo with the crows. Upon my first arrival, having traversed a gauntlet of low-flying crows that brought to mind scenes from Hitchcock's *The Birds*, I reached the front door of the SRC building and was greeted by a sign: "Watch out for the crows!!" Just when I thought I was about to enter the safety of the building, the sign seemed to be warning visitors that the crows would be even more bothersome on the inside. Fortunately the well-intentioned sign is merely misplaced. You can go anywhere inside the building and you won't be disturbed.

The *suzume* or Eurasian tree sparrow (*Passer montanus*) is a close relative and near twin of the ubiquitous house sparrow of Europe and North America. These lively, aerobic sparrows are probably the second most easily-seen birds in Sapporo after crows. They take great advantage of the conveniences of living around human habitation.

The *gojūkara* or Eurasian nuthatch (*Sitta europaea*), common across Eurasia, is expert and tireless in its hunt for bark-dwelling grubs and insects, for which its compact body and needle bill are perfectly adapted. With its slate-blue back, white and chestnut underparts, and black eye stripe, this vivid ball of energy often caught my eye as it made its rapid yet methodical way along the trunks of trees, upward and downward with equal ease. Its song is a pleasantly varied, high-pitched trill.



Two tree sparrows struggling over a berry while clinging to the wall of the main library

In behavior the *shijūkara* or Japanese tit (*Parus minor*) resembles its relatives the various Eurasian tits and the North American black-capped chickadee, the latter being also a near look-alike and sound-alike. I often saw groups of these feisty little birds in the branches of Sapporo’s many spruces, pines and yews.

The *yamagara* or varied tit (*Sittiparus varius*) is a striking bird I glimpsed only seldom. Small and active, with gray wings, a chestnut breast and back, and a black head banded by a broad, horizontal white “mask” with yellow accents, this little bird made for a memorable though fleeting scene on a hike in the thick woodland surrounding the Sapporo Peace Pagoda. One later showed up by the balcony of my apartment in the foreign scholars’ residence.

Waterfowl such as *oshidori*, the mandarin duck (*Aix galericulata*) raised families and drew lots of human admirers in the lovely lily pond on campus known as Ono Pond. In late summer and autumn when I was there, the male mandarin ducks were already wearing their eclipse plumage, looking like the dusky females, rather than their magnificent multi-colored mating attire. Mandarin ducks are native throughout Japan, but on Hokkaido they stay only to breed in the summer.



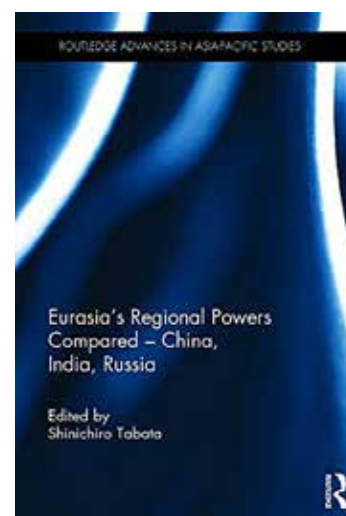
A Eurasian nuthatch tweezing a live insect from under the bark of a tree not far from the SRC on a freezing morning

I did not get to see famous feathered icons of Hokkaido such as the endangered Japanese cranes (*Grus japonensis*) in their reserve near Kushiro, or the Steller’s sea eagle (*Haliaeetus pelagicus*; apart from one in Sapporo’s Maruyama Zoo). Maybe next time. But I did discover a vibrant avian city alongside the human one, which rewarded a little curiosity and patient scouting with a lot of diverting color, sound, and activity. The partly meditative, partly thrilling quest with eyes, ears and camera nicely counter-balanced my brain’s main tasks. The birds also gave me an appreciation for the opportunities that came with my SRC fellowship along with the friends I made and the satisfactions of intense scholarly work.

## PUBLICATIONS (2015)

Shinichiro TABATA, ed., *Eurasia's Regional Powers Compared: China, India, Russia* (Abingdon, Oxfordshire, UK: Routledge, 2015) (in English)

Taking a long view, and a wide perspective, this book by Japan's leading scholars on Asia and Eurasia provides a comprehensive and systematic comparison of the three greatest powers in the region and assesses how far the recent growth trajectories of these countries are sustainable in the long run. The book demonstrates the huge impact on the region of these countries. It examines the population, resource and economic basis for the countries' rise, considers political, social and cultural factors, and sets recent developments in a long historical context. Throughout, the different development paths of the three countries are compared and contrasted, and the new models for the future of the world order which they represent are analyzed.



*Slavic Studies*, no. 62, 2015, refereed journal of the SRC (in Japanese with summaries in English or Russian).

*Acta Slavica Iaponica* vol. XXXVI, 2015, refereed journal of the SRC (in English and Russian).

KOSHINO Go, ed., "History and Perspective of Russian Science Fiction" [*Slavic Eurasia Papers*, no. 7] (Sapporo: SRC, 2015).

Ljudmila Popović and Motoki NOMACHI, eds., "The Serbian Language as Viewed by the East and the West: Synchrony, Diachrony, and Typology" [*Slavic Eurasian Studies*, no. 28] (Sapporo: SRC, 2015) (in English and Russian).

Osamu IEDA and Susumu NAGAYO, eds., "Transboundary Symbiosis over the Danube: II" [*Slavic Eurasian Studies*, no. 29] (Sapporo: SRC, 2015) (in English and Russian).

YAMANE So and NAGANAWA Norihiro, eds., "Borderlands and Minorities across Eurasian Regional Powers" [Series: *Comparative Studies on Regional Powers*, no. 5] (Tokyo: Minerva Shobo, 2015) (in Japanese).

*Japan Border Review*, no. 5, 2015, refereed journal in Japanese.

## THE LIBRARY

### Microfilm of "Československý denník"


In 2014 and 2015, the SRC Library purchased four reels of "Československý denník," which cover whole issues. The newspaper began to be published by the Czechoslovak National Council, after the October Revolution in Russia, in December 1917 in Kiev. It was the organ of the Czechoslovak Legion, so its place of issue transferred along with the movement of the Legion. From March to April 1918, it was issued in Penza and, after that, moved to Omsk, Chelyabinsk, Omsk again, Ekaterinburg, Irkutsk, Manchuria, and finally Vladivostok from April to July 1920.

It is well known that the Czechoslovak Legion was a very important actor in the Russian Civil War, and the newspaper provides us with invaluable insider information.

TONAI Yuzuru

## Contents

2015 Summer International Symposium “Russia and Global History” .....	p. 1
The SRC 60th Anniversary Symposium and Reception.....	p. 3
SRC Article in German Distributed as English Pre-Print at Makuhari ICCEES 2015 .....	p. 6
The Border Studies Summer School on 25–28 July, 2016 .....	p. 7
International Symposium “Contesting Territories: Sovereignty, Tourism, and Aesthetics” (November 23, 2015) .....	p. 7
The JIBSN Annual Seminar Was Held in Nemuro City on the Border with Japan’s “Northern Territory” (February 13, 2016).....	p. 8
Our Current Staff.....	p. 9
Ongoing Cooperative Research Projects .....	p. 10
Visitors from Abroad .....	p. 11
Guest Lecturers from Abroad.....	p. 11
Essay: Памирская «Гармчашма» и Джозанкей в Саппоро <i>by Tokhir Kalandarov</i> .....	p. 13
Essay: The SRC’s 60th Anniversary at a Time of Great Challenges for Russian- Eurasian Studies <i>by Stefan Kirmse</i> .....	p. 15
Essay: Hiyodori Days <i>by Daniel Prior</i> .....	p. 17
Publications (2015).....	p. 21
The Library.....	p. 21



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