2017 Summer International Symposium “Northeast Asia’s Faultline: One Hundred Years of Sino/Russian/Soviet Competitive Cooperation”

The SRC hosted the annual summer symposium in Sapporo on 13–14 July 2017 under the Orgkomitet composed of David Wolff, Iwashita Akihiro, Aburamoto Mari, Kato Mihoko and Jonathan Bull. Fifteen exciting, scientifically-detailed papers were presented in five sessions, delivered by citizens of nine countries. The conference was co-sponsored by several National Science Grants administered by center members, including: Kaken A: “Comparison of Development Models for Major Regional Powers in Eurasia: Russia, China and India” (Tabata Shinichiro); “National Institutes for the Humanities (NIHU) Areas Studies Project for Northeast Asia” (Iwashita); Kakenen B: “Russo-Chinese Relations: Researching Rapprochement” (Wolff). Additional contributions came from the Unit for Border Research Japan (UBRJ) and the Schlaikjer-McIntyre Fund administered by the National Philanthropic Trust (London).

Deliberations were overshadowed by the first successful North Korean test launch of an intercontinental missile on July 4. It gave a special urgency to our discussion about why Northeast Asia has failed to find successful regional identity or effective security mechanisms. One knowledgeable Chinese insider fully expressed the desperate situation by saying that we must all get used to having a nuclear North Korea, for China already has resigned itself to this reality. At 810 kilometers from Pyongyang, Beijing is fully in range of Korea’s very accurate short-range missiles, should Beijing ever do anything to threaten Kim Jong-un’s regime, so it will not. Soon Tokyo (and Washington) may feel the same way, just as Seoul has lived with this Sword of Damocles for a long time already.
This is regional knowledge and regional learning from a Chinese perspective and our conference was filled with many such multi-directional learning moments of collegial communication. In order to analyze Northeast Asia better, we used interdisciplinary approaches to the Russo-Chinese relationship from local, central, regional and outsider perspectives. Studies of Russian military and political moves in the region showed how China’s rise as an economic, political and military power has driven some Russian decisions, while preventing others from being considered. Russia’s pivot to the east after the 2014 annexation of Crimea was judged decisive in increasing Russian dependence in several areas: oil and gas markets, investment credits and tacit support in international fora. In return, Putin has had the place of honor in Beijing, standing in the front row at Chairman Xi Jinping’s right-hand in all photographs of the One Belt, One Road (OBOR) Conference in May 2017.

Notably, both Russia and China have shown strategic long-term vision in preventing tensions along their long border, the unhappy scene of bloody past conflicts. Forbearance has reached the point of greatly limiting interaction across that border. Several papers provided insights from economic and population data, while Russian participants voiced the Russian Far East’s perennial complaint of Moscow’s neglect, attendant depopulation and brain drain. Although Vladivostok or Khabarovsk might welcome a little more Chinese investment in the Far East, from a strategic point of view, Moscow can only be content to see the rising giant move south and east to challenge the US, Japan and even India. There are still no signs that Russia considers Chinese inroads in Europe a threat to Russia’s priorities in the West.

Although the Russian Far East might have wished for additional massive Chinese investment to supplement Moscow’s meager budget, it has not materialized. Neither Beijing, nor Shanghai has found attractive opportunities on either side of the Russo-Chinese border. Beijing’s disinterest in investing in the Chinese Northeast has driven Heilongjiang’s provincial rank by GDP from sixth in 1985 to twenty-second in 2016. Although China is building bridges, roads and railroads all over Asia on an unprecedented scale, the international bridge across the Amur has remained in the planning stage for over thirty years. Nonetheless, whatever cross-border trade and traffic takes place is often of decisive economic significance for the bordering areas themselves.

On other issues, historical analysis helped factor in India’s importance for Northeast Asia both in the past and present, Russia’s historic role as political model for China’s revival, and Northeast Asia’s regional alliance systems. Historical perspective also aided us to focus looking forward on the shape of things to come. One wise observer suggested that Northeast Asia needed a common song.

David Wolff

Speakers at the Symposium (July 13–14, 2017)

YAMAZOE Hiroshi (National Institute for Defense Studies, Japan): “Russia’s Military Policy and the China Factor.”

KATO Mihoko (SRC): “Sinocentrism in Russia’s Reorientation to the East: Constraint or Stabilizer?”

MASUO Chisako (Kyushu University, Japan): “Russia’s Weight for China in the Global Context: Is the China-Russia Partnership Long-lasting?”

Andreas Hilger (German Historical Institute Moscow, Russia): “Regional Configurations and Global Problems: India, Northeast Asia, and the Cold War.”

IZUMIKAWA Yasuhiro (Chuo University, Japan): “Alliance Politics in East Asia during the 1950s: A Perspective from Dynamic Theory of Alliances.”

David Wolff (SRC): “Great Octobers: Russia’s Revolutions, the Russo-Chinese Borderlands and the Rise of China.”


HORIE Norio (University of Toyama, Japan): “Soybeans and Chinese Farmers in the Borderlands of the Russian Far East.”
Motomura Masumi (Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation): “Russo-Chinese Economic Cooperation in Oil and Gas Development.”

Viktor Larín (Institute of History, Archaeology and Ethnology of the Peoples of the Far East, Russian Academy of Sciences): “Russia-China Economic Relations in the 21st Century: Unrealized Potential or Predetermined Outcome?”


Nyamdoljin Adiya (Institute of International Affairs, Mongolian Academy of Sciences): “Mongolia’s View on Sino-Russian Relations.”

Ajay Patnaik (Jawaharlal Nehru University): “Russia-China Relations: An Indian Perspective.”

Ulises Granados (Instituto Tecnologico Autonomo de Mexico): “Sino-Russian Competition/Cooperation in Latin America.”

2017 Winter International Symposium “The Russian Revolution in the Long Twentieth Century”

East Asia still seems to be living in the long shadow of the “short twentieth century.” Or, indeed, the “short twentieth century” does not even seem to have passed here. In his book *The Age of Extremes*, Eric Hobsbawm defines his “short twentieth century” as the years from the outbreak of the First World War to the collapse of the Soviet Union. He recognizes the lasting impacts of the October Revolution on this whole era. In contrast, we framed our annual winter symposium by “the long twentieth century” so as to elaborate and expand historical inquiries beyond the Cold War (or obsession that continues to shape our twenty-first century).

Beginning the twentieth century with the 1870s has become common practice in history writing, particularly about imperialism and violence. Yet we should not forget that it was in the same period that democratic ideals resisting imperial dominance, such as socialism, constitutionalism, nationalism, and Islamic reformism, thrived. While the First World War witnessed colonial violence flow back to European metropoles, the expectation of decolonization, or dreams of emancipation, emerged from the ruins of the Romanov, Habsburg, and Ottoman Empires and spread reversely to colonized and dependent countries, as Soviet Russia attempted to ride on the tide of anti-imperialism. Our two-day symposium tried to capture this dimension, exploring the enduring impacts of revolutionary Russia not only on the territory of the former Soviet Union, but also on the world beyond borders. The first day was dedicated to placing Russia in the waves of constitutional revolutions of Eurasia and then detecting the role of Soviet Russia in the interwar and Cold War world order, particularly in terms of economy and culture. The second day addressed more directly the Revolution and Civil War as well as their consequences that shaped Soviet society after the Second World War and continue to affect the peoples of the former Soviet Union. The participation of specialists of the Ottoman Empire, Iran, South Asia, China, and the British Empire enabled us to discern the depth and limits of Russia’s revolutionary reach, which Russian historians still have difficulty in fully gauging. In short, we had a very good exercise of a transnational history of revolutionary Russia.
Our meeting was supported by JSPS Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research: “Comparative Colonial History: Colonial Administration and Center-Periphery Interactions in Modern Empires” headed by UYAMA Tomohiko. We had a hundred and thirty participants including forty-three overseas guests. Our symposium was preceded and supplemented by a junior scholars’ session “Wars and Transformation of Social Order: Russia’s Conquest of Central Asia and the Caucasus.” Although our symposium’s timeframe ended with the 1980s, “the long twentieth century” is likely to be ending now, given a recent second boom of literature on the twentieth century triggered by the crisis in the EU and US (the first boom came, of course, at the end of the Soviet Union). We do hope to continue in the future the exploration of the place of Slavic Eurasia on the globe in this long twentieth century.

NAGANAWA Norihiro

Speakers at the Pre-symposium Workshop “Wars and Transformation of Social Order: Russia’s Conquest of Central Asia and the Caucasus”

NAGANUMA Hideyuki (JSPS/Kazakh National University, Kazakhstan): “Kenesary Revolt and Its Consequences, 1837–1868: Reconfiguration of Kazakh Society and Russian Rule.”

NOSAKA Sahara Junko (Bilkent University, Turkey): “‘Divide and Conquer’ in the North Caucasus under the Imperial Russian Rule, 1850s–1860s.”


Speakers at the Symposium (December 7–8, 2017)

Houri Berberian (University of California, Irvine, USA): “Bound by Revolution: The Caucasus, Iran, Ottoman Anatolia, and Armenians.”

Fujinami Nobuyoshi (Tsuda University, Japan): “Constitutions In-Between: Crete, from the Ottoman Privileges to a Greek State.”

David Brophy (University of Sydney, Australia): “Containing the Crisis: Xinhai, the World War, and the Western Response to ‘Pan-Islamism’ among the Muslims of China.”

Samuel Hirst (Bilkent University, Turkey): “Soviet Oil for Turkish Oranges: Anti-Imperialism, Bilateral Trade, and National Development.”

NAGANAWA Norihiro (SRC): “Making an Anti-Imperialist Empire: Soviets’ Entanglements with Central Asia, Iran, and the Red Sea in the 1920s.”

William Chase (University of Pittsburgh, USA): “Restoring Democratic Centralism to Communist Parties: USSR, Spain and Mexico, 1935–1940.”

Maekawa Ichiro (Soka University, Japan): “Cold War and Decolonization: British Response to Extension of the East in Africa in the 1960s.”

Kamran Asdar Ali (University of Texas, Austin, USA/Lahore University of Management Sciences, Pakistan): “Towards a People’s Literature: Soviet Cultural Politics and the Progressive Writers Movement in South Asia.”

Zbigniew Wojnowski (Nazarbaev University, Kazakhstan): “Pop Music from Stagnation to Perestroika: How Economic Reform Broke East European Cultural Networks and Why That’s a Good Thing.”

UYAMA Tomohiko (SRC): “Research Trends in Japan on the Russian Revolution and the Soviet Union from the Perspective of Imperial History.”

Ikeda Yoshiro (University of Tokyo, Japan): “The Crisis of Representation of the Sovereign in the Russian Revolution.”

Peter Holquist (University of Pennsylvania, USA): “Occupation as Revolution: 1917 in Territories Occupied by the Russian Army (Eastern Anatolia and Austrian Galicia).”

Sean McMeekin (Bard College, USA): “The Russian Revolution and the War, 1917–1918.”


Oliver Bast (Université Paris III - Sorbonne Nouvelle, France): “Grand Designs and Unintended Consequences: An Attempt at Gauging the Impact of the October Revolution on Iran.”

Yaroslav Shulatov (Kobe University, Japan): “Transition from Imperial to Soviet: Russia’s Policy Towards Japan after the Revolution.”

Nikolay Mitrokhin (Bremen University, Germany): “Another Restart of the Unfinished Civil War: Ideological Groupings among the Soviet Elite and Their Family Connections, 1960s to 1970s.”

Anna Sokolova (Institute for Ethnology and Anthropology, Russian Academy of Sciences, Russia): “From Socialist Equality to Class Differentiation: Funeral Management in the Early Soviet Union.”
The International Symposium on Environment, Development and International Relations in the Arctic was held on December 11–12, 2017 at the Centennial Hall of Hokkaido University. The Symposium was organized through Theme 7 of the ArCS Project, “People and Community in the Arctic: Possibility of Sustainable Development,” for the purpose of promoting the three pillars of its research agenda. The program consisted of three sessions, each of which was applied to the research agenda.

At the beginning, Ambassador in Charge of Arctic Affairs in Japan, Ide Keiji, made a keynote speech. He showed what role is expected of Japan in international governance over the Arctic, and what orientation Japan should take in its Arctic policy.

In the first session, the presenters made an analysis of the recent trend of international relations around the Arctic from the viewpoint of international cooperation and military deployment in the region. The second session was composed of presenters with different specialties, who discussed the present situations of resource development, as well as issues of environmental conservation for the livelihoods of the indigenous people in the Yamal Peninsula. In the third session, three anthropologists exchanged views on multispecies in the Age of Anthropocene, and on reciprocal co-habitation of humans and animals, as well as on the possibility of collaboration between indigenous knowledge and scientific knowledge.

The participants of this Symposium were in total more than sixty people, including not only scientific researchers but also industrialists and decision makers. These people from different fields exchanged views on common issues concerning the Arctic. As a result, the Symposium proved to be not only a common ground for interdisciplinary academic discussion, but also a place for debate in order to step further into a more practical dimension. Looking back from that point, the researchers in the humanities and social sciences could obtain a clearer vision of their role in this research project, that is, to connect different spheres of lives to develop the possibility of mutual understanding.

Speakers at the Symposium (December 11–12, 2017)

Sebastian Knecht (Berlin Graduate School for Transnational Studies): “Making the Game or Changing the Rules? Networks of Power and the Power of Networks in Arctic Governance.”


OHNISHI Fujio (Hokkaido University): “Arctic Concert System and Its Challenges in the Age of Climate Change.”

MOTOMURA Masumi (JOGMEC): “Perspectives of Oil and Gas Development in the Yamal Peninsula, Russian Arctic.”

Andrei Golovnev (Peter the Great Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography [Kunstkamera], Russia): “Yamal Nenets: Nomadism vs. Industrialism.”

Arbakhan Magomedov (Ulyanovsk State University, Russia): “Arctic Resources, Aborigine Land and Political Economy of Current Russian Political Regime: National and Local Dimensions.”

KONDO Shiaki (Hokkaido University): “Multi-Keystone-Species Ethnography Anthropocene and Salmon-Human Entanglements in Alaska”

OMURA Keiichi (Osaka University, Japan), “The Earth Multiple: Toward Sympoietic Development of Multiple Worlds in Post-Anthropocene”

Florian Stammler (University of Lapland, Finland) and Aytalina Ivanova (North-Eastern Federal University, Russia): “Diversity for Sustainability: Human-Animal Partnerships as Base for Resilient Arctic Societies.”
On January 27, 2018 (Sun.) Kyushu University hosted the final symposium for its Center for Asia-Pacific Future Studies (CAFS). The English title—Crisis in Northeast Asia—indicated the dominant theme of the day which was assessing the challenge to the region posed by North Korean missile testing. The Japanese title, however, offered an alternative nuance by including the word kiro—suggesting a critical turning point. The difference between the two titles reflected the variety of arguments put forward: some speakers emphasized the high level of danger in Northeast Asia while others were more sanguine about the future.

In their opening remarks, Watanabe Koichiro (Vice-President, Kyushu University) and Chang Jekuk (President, Dongseo University) praised the work done by CAFS during the previous three years. Following his remarks, Professor Chang took his place on the Special Symposium panel to discuss the “North Korean problem.” Skillfully chaired by Izumi Kaoru (Faculty of Law, Kyushu University), the other participants included Mimura Mitsuhiro (Economic Research Institute for Northeast Asia), Park Jong Seok (CAFS) and Ko Il (Shimane University). The four panelists outlined to what extent they thought that a “threat” existed. Views diverged over merits of American foreign policy in the region and the long-term causes of North Korean actions. Drawing the panel’s attention to factors other than diplomacy, Professor Izumi encouraged lateral thinking. He warned of the risks of strident Japanese media coverage and asked about how civil society might respond to current events. Encouraged by the Chairman’s opening up of the discussion, the panel received many questions from the audience. Some of the most interesting focused on what role China and Russia might play in influencing North Korean policy.

After the Special Symposium, the first panel tackled the question “The US-Japan-China-Russia Security Nexus?” David Wolff (SRC, Hokkaido University) began with a critique of the state of foreign policy making under President Trump. Noting that special counsel Robert Mueller’s investigation into Russian interference had already made considerable progress uncovering evidence of wrongdoing, Professor Wolff warned that Trump might be tempted to instigate a conflict over North Korea to distract from events at home. The second speaker, Serghei Golunov (CAFS), analyzed Russia’s “eastern pivot” to China, Japan, South Korea and Turkey. He argued that this move had partly rebalanced the respective economic importance of the EU and China. Nevertheless, it had failed to lead to an economic breakthrough with several important Asian partners. Masuo Chisako (Graduate School of Social and Cultural Studies, Kyushu University) then discussed the role of North Korea in Sino-Japanese relations. In her opinion, over the last five years Sino-Japanese relations had improved because of the need to engage over the North Korean issue. When North Korea is a global level issue such cooperation becomes increasingly necessary. As a result, Professor Masuo explained, there was now a chance for Japan to improve its bilateral relations with China but this opportunity would not last for long. Iwashita Akihiro’s (CAFS/SRC) paper concluded the session. His
point was that Russia was able to take a relatively flexible role in Northeast Asia in a way that was not possible in Europe. Consequently, although Russia is often missing from analysis of the region, the country frequently has an important role to play in international issues.

CAFS final contribution to academic debate was the panel “Future-proofing Northeast Asian Security.” Chairman YABUNO Yuzo (Kyushu University) encouraged a disciplined approach to a topic that proved tricky for the panelists to explain. SHIN Beom-Shik (Seoul National University) spoke of the need to look for solutions to the Northeast Asian security problems by using academic theory that takes the region on its own terms. Too often, he suggested, academics use theory based on European experience to analyze Northeast Asia. Paul Richardson (Birmingham University) outlined how he saw the main players in Northeast Asia dealing with future security threats. SATO Takeshi (Shimane University) invited the audience to consider the role civil society might play in improving the security situation and MIYAWAKI Noboru (Ritsumeikan University) linked the discussion to current debates in Mongolia. Several incisive interventions from the audience improved the panel’s coherence.

Professor Iwashita delivered the closing remarks by thanking the CAFS staff and the translators for their hard work. He reflected on the achievements of CAFS and explained that he was going to carry the Center’s main achievements with him in his future research.

Jonathan Bull

O U R  S T A F F  (F Y 20 1 7)

IWASHITA Akihiro: Professor, Eurasia Border Studies; Russian Foreign Policy and Sino-Russian Relations
KOSHINO Go: Associate Professor, Russian and Belarusian Literature
NAGANAWA Norihiro: Professor, Modern History of Central Eurasia; Islam in Russia
NOMACHI Motoki: Professor, Slavic Linguistics; General Linguistics
SENGOKU Manabu: Professor, Comparative Politics and Political Economy; Welfare Politics; Director of the SRC
TABATA Shinichiro: Professor, Russian Economy and Comparative Economic Studies
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; Siberia and the Far East; Cold War; Northeast Asian Region Construction
YAMAMURA Rihito: Professor, Comparative Economics; Russian Industry and Agriculture

ASSISTANT PROFESSORS

ABURAMOTO Mari: Comparative Politics; Contemporary Russian Politics
Jonathan Bull: Decolonization and Migration History; Sakhalin/Karafuto History
GOTO Masanori: Cultural Anthropology; Economic Activity in Russia
KATO Mihoko: International Relations; Russia’s Foreign Policy; Regionalism in East Asia
KIKUTA Haruka: Contemporary Social Changes in Central Asia; Emigration and Gender
TAKAHASHI Minoru: International Politics; Contemporary Greenlandic and Arctic Studies
TAKAHASHI Sanami: Russian Orthodoxy in Soviet and Post-Soviet Russian Culture

FOREIGN VISITING FELLOWS 2017 (JUNE) – 2018 (JULY)

Jarosław Jańczak: Construction and Deconstruction of Integration Projects’ Borders in Eurasia: The Case of Western and Eastern “Edges” of Russia
Sergei Kuznetsov: Russian-Japanese Relations: Diplomacy and Diplomats of XIX–XX Centuries
Danko Šipka: Lexical Layers of Slavic Cultural Identity
Mikhail Suslov: Cross and Cosmodrome: Religious Science Fiction in Contemporary Russian Literature
Ilja Viktorov: Russia’s Monetary Power Autonomy and Its Limits

RESEARCH FELLOWS

KAMITAKE Kieko: Russian Music History from the End of the 19th Century to the Early 20th Century
MATSUZAKI Hideya: Comparative Politics in Deeply Divided Societies; Contemporary Moldovan and Ukrainian Politics
Edward Pulford: Chinese Consumers in Northeast Asia and their Geopolitical Entanglements
SAITO Keiko: History of Japanese and Russian Ballet Exchange
SOUNO Fumoto: Cultural Anthropology; Bazaar Trade in Uzbekistan
UEDA Akira: Economic History in Central Asia; Historical GIS

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 NOMACHI Motoki: “Multi-hierarchical Approaches to Kashubian Grammar on the Basis of a Newly Devised Corpus” (2017–21).

Scientific Research B
Challenging Exploratory Research
Headed by KOSHINO Go: “Mixture of Russian and Chinese Cultures in North-East Eurasia: Memory and Representation” (2016–18).

Challenging Research

Grants-in-Aid for Young Scientists A

Grants-in-Aid for Young Scientists B
Headed by KATO Mihoko: “Russia’s Asia Policy after the Annexation of Crimea: Sinocentrism and/or Diversification” (2017–20).

Research Activity Start-Up

VISITORS FROM ABROAD

ASSEL BEKEBASSOVA (Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Kazakhstan): “Comparative Research of the Relationship between Education and Modernization in Kazakhstan and Japan in the Late 19th and Early 20th Century” (June 2017 – February 2018).

Aisulu KhaIruldayeva (Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Kazakhstan): “Kazakhstan’s Relations with the Central Asian States in the 18th and the First Half of the 19th Century in Local Historiography” (September–November 2017).

Yaroslav Lopukhov (Far Eastern Federal University, Russia): “Transformation of Values in the Modern Family in Russia and China: Cross Disciplinary Approach” (September 2017 – March 2018).


SHANG Yue (China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations): “Russian Diplomacy, the Development of Siberia and the Far East, Sino-Russia Relations and Energy Diplomacy” (October 2017 – January 2018).

Kuanysh Murzakhayev (Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Kazakhstan): “Cultural and Educational Activities of Jadids in Kazakhstan in the Late 19th – Early 20th Century” (October–December 2017).


GUEST LECTURERS FROM ABROAD

SRC/IREEES Joint Symposium “Otherness in Russian and Eurasian Contexts”

KIM YONNI (Seoul National University, Korea): “A Study of Nabokov’s Triadic List”; Hwang Chul
Hyun (Seoul National University, Korea): “A Semantic Analysis of Loanword Adaptation in Russian: A Case of Russian Suffixes čik, ščik, nik, ik”; JEOG Tae Jong (Seoul National University, Korea): “Natasha: Is She ‘the Other’ in the Chekhov’s Play The Three Sisters?”; LEE Sun-Woo (Daegu Gyeongbuk Institute of Science and Technology, Korea): “A Subtle Difference between Russia and China’s Stances toward the Korean Peninsula and Its Strategic Implications for South Korea”; CHO Kyoo Yun (Seoul National University, Korea): “Visualization of ‘Own’ and ‘Alien’: Book of V. Mayakovsky as Poetic Genre”; BYUN Hyun-Tae (Seoul National University, Korea): “Toward Materialistic Esthetics: Evolution of Russian Avant-garde”; ELMIRA Alexandrova (Institute of Russian Literature, Russia): “An Evening with Claire’ by Gaito Gazdanov as a Novel-Reminiscence: From Commentaries on Certain Images of Acoustic Memory” (January 30, 2017).

Evgeny Golovko (Institute for Linguistic Studies, RAS, Russia): “Русский язык и следы русского культурного влияния на Аляске сегодня” (February 17, 2017).

Felix Herrmann (Bremen University, Germany): “Centralization vs. Socialist Competition: Soviet Computer Experts and the Shaping of a New Industry in the 1960s and 1970s”; ALEXANDER Titov (Queen’s University Belfast, UK): “‘From Ethnos to Eurasia’: How Much Academic Freedom Was Allowed in the USSR under Early Brezhnev” (February 27, 2017).

Felix Herrmann (Bremen University, Germany): “The Discuss Data Online Platform: Sharing and Discussing Research Data on the Post-Soviet Region as a Collaborative Effort” (February 28, 2017).


Timothy Colton (Harvard University, USA): “Is the Latest US-Russia Reset Dead on Arrival?” (May 16, 2017).


Natal’ia Klobukova (Moscow P. I. Tchaikovsky Conservatory, Russia): “Путешествие по православной Японии” (August 2, 2017).


Paul Wexler (Tel Aviv University, Israel): “The New Field of Afro-Eurasian (Silk Road) Linguistics and the Benefits for the Reconstruction of Eastern and Western Slavic Languages” (October 12, 2017).

Camillo Breiling (University of Vienna): “The Lipovans: Russian Old-Believers as a Religious, Cultural and Linguistic Minority in the Romanian and Ukrainian Part of the Danube-Delta” (November 30, 2017).

Li Yonghui (Institute of East European, Russian and Central Asian Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences): “Cooperation under the One Belt One Road and the Eurasian Economic Union” (December 1, 2017).

North Sea Road to the Human Heart
Danko Šipka (Arizona State University, USA/Foreign Fellow, 2017)

Humbled by the opportunity to share my thoughts with the associates, fellows, and friends of the Slavic-Eurasian Research Center, I would like to commence with extending my profound gratitude to Nomachi-sensei, my host in Sapporo, for his most generous professional and private help throughout my stay. I am furthermore indebted to the most efficient and kind staff of the Center for their support.

I was attracted to the Center by its fine scholarly reputation. Equally importantly, the cultural pull of Japan was pivotal professionally and privately. I was lucky enough that my modest application was selected—for that, I am grateful to those who made that decision and to Hokkaido University for providing the necessary funds.

Having rather unusual and generally not so important interests in linguistics, I study not the features that are shared by various languages and cultures, but rather what makes each of them unique. My current research project, the one I was pursuing in Sapporo, was about lexical layers of Slavic cultural identity, i.e., about the words that culturally define speakers of Slavic languages. The center was a perfect research environment for my project because of its rich library collections and its most knowledgeable scholars. Getting some insight into Japanese perspectives of studying Slavic languages was equally important broadening of my horizons. Just like in many other matters, Nomachi-sensei was instrumental in connecting me with numerous colleagues throughout Japan, for which I am most grateful to him and no less indebted to them. I had a chance to meet in person and have productive conversations with professor Mitani in Tokyo and professor Hattori in Kyoto. I also received feedback to my research in two lectures that were organized for me in Tokyo and Sapporo, which was a most rewarding experience. We are normally incarcerated in our own research tradition and being able to stand in another researcher’s shoes was most valuable for the project making it less parochial. The stay gave a jolt to my project (which was on the back burner before that) and I was able to complete the first draft of the book three months upon my return home.

I believe that man’s professional and private life are always intertwined, even when we are not aware of these connections. When reflecting about my time in Sapporo, I have a
holistic picture in my mind’s eye. Life in Sapporo was transformative not only professionally, but also personally. At that personal level, my stay was even more enjoyable because I was lucky enough to share it with my wife Lily, with whom I have been sharing everything since we were high school sweethearts. She was initially somewhat apprehensive about living in a different culture, but very soon after her arrival she turned into an avid enthusiast of life in Japan, writing about it in her Facebook entries, to the pleasure of many of our friends at all four corners of the Globe. I was no less enthused about Japan.

Those who haven’t lived in Japan yet and those who live there but take their environment for granted may be puzzled by our excitement, so I will try to synthesize the background of our infatuation with the country.

Let me start with the nature—from swimming in the Sea of Japan, to hiking Mt. Asahidake, the highest peak of the island. Our weekends were enriched by wonderful sights of volcanos, hot springs, and lakes, one more impressive than the other. Not less impressive are human interventions in the nature: Noguchi’s Moerenuma Park with its gigantic proportions, Tadao Ando’s Hill of Buddha with its divine lavenders, and many other parks throughout the city and its surroundings. Even most prosaic constructions such as Okura-yama ski jump stadium are so gracefully integrated into the nature as if they are sculptures.

To continue, rich cultural heritage is omnipresent—seeing temples, palaces, and castles in Kyoto and Tokyo was most inspirational, but our visits to Ainu museum or Hokkaido shrine, most notably during the colorful 7-5-3 ceremony, were no less fascinating. Not being elitists, we were also fascinated by new cultural traditions, from bullet trains to vending machines for everything to anime and manga. It was such a pleasure to see on several occasions young people dressed up as manga characters gathering in Otaru and other places throughout the island.

This brings me to the society and its people. It was such a privilege to live in the society where crime, violence, and poverty practically do not exist. It seemed to us that kindness to fellow man is the leading and overarching principle around which the society is organized. It is demonstrated at every corner—from not using your cellphone on public transportation to making sure not to burden your interlocutor with criticism and unpleasant choices. Kindness, courtesy, and humility seemed to be genuine, present in the spirit, not just in the letter.

Let me finish with the food. Had Japanese culture not been profoundly non-violent, I would have said that it was so good to both die and kill for. Its freshness and deliciousness (thankfully, Japan has not succumbed to the practice of producing GMOs and I hope it will hold the fort for many years to come) was unparalleled by anything we have tasted anywhere in the world (and we travel a lot). We have tried everything: from fugu to shabu-shabu, from takoyaki to sukiyaki, from yakisoba to yakitori. The elegant manner of food preparation, the diversity and richness of various restaurants and joints was just overwhelming. Among other things, we were most pleasantly surprised that at the airports (infamous for overpriced hardly comestible food of limited choices everywhere else in the world) you could eat as good and as inexpensive and have the same choice of various restaurants as anywhere else.

All in all, my stay in Japan meant more to me than a boost to my research project. It was a life-altering experience for me and my wife. It has opened our eyes toward civilized ways of organizing societies and toward graceful co-existence of people with people, and people with nature. Seeing that unique cultural practices are upheld against the formidable wave of globalization, threatening to put us into the straight jacket of just one way of thinking, was most inspiring. We hope to come back and to hike Fuji-san, among other things. In the meantime, we are enjoying to look at Hokusai’s 36 most elegant views of it.

I also have some regrets. Not of something that I did or did not do in Sapporo, but because I had not studied Japanese much harder prior to my arrival to Sapporo (I only learned the Kana, some basic Kanji and some basic words and phrases—in other words close to
nothing). I intend to rectify that by enrolling into a Japanese language class in the fall of this year. However, even with my most basic and inadequate knowledge of the language, I was able to read the name of the magnificent island where my wife and I were privileged to live (North Sea Road is quite a fitting name for it) and the island was our road to kindness as human nature and spirit (or human heart, as the sign for one of many words for this central Japanese concept literally says). Hence the title of this text.

**Slavic-Eurasian Research Center as a Knowledge Hub for Specialists on Post-Communist Countries**

*Ilja Viktorov (Stockholm University, Sweden/Foreign Fellow, 2017)*

In July–September 2017, I spent three months at the Slavic-Eurasian Research Center as a Foreign Fellow. It was a wonderful time full of interesting meetings, new research contacts, and a great variety of professional activities. I have always had a great interest in Japan and its traditional culture; this stay was my fifth visit to Japan. As a participant of the ICCEES World Congress in Makuhari in 2015, I witnessed the Japanese academic community having a lot to offer in terms of research on the post-Communist world, not least regarding Russian studies. This was the main reason that I applied for the Foreign Visitors Research Program at the SRC. Before coming to Sapporo, I had great expectations regarding the possibilities of my professional development as a specialist on Russia’s political economy. All these hopes were fully materialized during my stay at the SRC.

The working conditions provided for foreign fellows by the SRC have been excellent in terms of working space, computers, and the entire research infrastructure. Any practical problems I met during my stay, not least related to my lack of knowledge of the Japanese language, were addressed by the SRC administrative staff in a very effective way. In particular, I am fully indebted in this respect to the Foreign Fellowship Program Manager Osuga Mika-san. The university accommodation for families provided by Hokkaido University was also excellent. I highly appreciated it.

More importantly, I witnessed that the SRC has been a real meeting point for researchers with interest in Russian and other post-Communist countries. To begin with, I was happy to attend the annual summer symposium organized by the SRC. In 2017, this memorable event was devoted to Sino-Russian cooperation and its uneasy historical background. Researchers from Japan, Russia, China, India, and other countries met to discuss this issue, making it an unforgettable experience in terms of providing a fresh perspective compared to how we tend to look at the matter in Western Europe. As a specialist of Russian political economy, I found the meetings and talks with researchers who represented regions in the Russian Far East to be very helpful. It was a unique chance to be updated about what was happening in this part of Russia, which remains almost unknown for researchers in Europe and Moscow-based research centers in Russia itself. The SRC had an intensive schedule of activities in terms of seminars.
and presentations in various areas; there was always something happening at the center. I myself delivered two presentations on the political economy of Russia as a part of my stay at the SRC. Each foreign fellow receives an academic advisor who is a member of the SRC staff and introduces a fellow into the SRC’s academic life. I highly appreciated the hospitality of Professor Tabata Shinichiro-san as my advisor, and Dr. Tabata Tomoko-san, whose help was indispensable during my stay at the SRC. Academic discussions with Dr. Aburamoto Mari-san on Russian politics and Professor David Wolff on all thinkable aspects of modern Russian and American history made my stay at the SRC an enjoyable experience.

My special thanks should go to the excellent SRC library and its helpful staff headed by Tonai Yuzuru-san. No doubt, this is one of the best well-maintained specialized libraries in the world with expertise in Eastern Europe and post-Soviet space. I admire the efforts that Hokkaido University and the SRC devote to preserving this store of knowledge in our area, especially in comparison with the current negative trend of neglect of such specialized libraries so common in both post-Socialist and Western European universities. I wish I could have spent at the SRC library not only my working but also my free time, enjoying reading all the excellent literature and journals collected there, if the library had been open during holidays.

Another additional benefit I appreciated was communication with other foreign fellows that were at the SRC during my stay. Hours of interesting talks, exchange of ideas, sharing of news, and simply coffee breaks were spent with Professor Sergey Kuznetsov from Irkutsk State University, Dr. Mikhail Suslov from Uppsala University, Dr. Jaroslav Janczak from Adam Mickiewicz University, and Professor Danko Šipka from Arizona State University.

I fully used opportunities to visit other Japanese universities to meet researchers who study Russia’s political economy. I went to Sophia University in Tokyo to meet Professor Adachi Yuko and gave a lecture on recent trends in Russia’s economy at her Department of Russian Studies. I was also able to become acquainted with the Institute of Economic Research at Kyoto University where Professor Mizobata Satoshi was kind enough to host my research seminar. All these contacts will be of great importance for my future research plans and will hopefully lead to joint research projects with my Japanese colleagues hosted by Swedish universities. Japan possesses a fantastic academic culture where one can share one’s research results and where one can be listened to and be heard with the greatest attention.

Sapporo and Hokkaido also has plenty of opportunities during holidays. Sapporo is a vibrant metropolis with all thinkable modern amenities typical of any large Japanese city. Compared to Kyoto and Tokyo, it is a very young city, but still it can suggest numerous alternatives for sightseeing such as landscape parks, Hokkaido Shrine, Hokkaido Historical Village, and museums with excellent temporary exhibitions of world class. The Hokkaido University campus is itself a great sight and a place to relax after long working hours. The seaside port of Otaru, situated just a short train ride from Sapporo, has been my real favorite. Its historical streets and buildings, charming channels, excellent seafood, and unique culture of coffee...
shops make it a very attractive destination. I have been there four times but still cannot claim I have seen everything in Otaru I wished to experience. In addition, all tourist signs in Otaru are equipped with information in Russian, a very welcoming service for any Russian who would like to pay a visit to this pleasant town situated at the Sea of Japan. Hokkaido is famous for its beautiful natural parks available to visit as a part of convenient bus excursions from Sapporo. Neither is the legacy of traditional Ainu culture to be missed, by paying visits to Ainu villages and a number of interesting museums. One of such museums is actually located within the Hokkaido University Botanical Garden.

Would I recommend other specialists on Russia and Eurasian space to consider an opportunity to visit the SRC and Hokkaido University? Definitely, yes. Japan should be proud of creating and maintaining such a fantastic interdisciplinary center in our professional area. It serves well as a real meeting point for the international community who study the economy, politics, culture, and history of our regions in the post-Communist realm.

Япония в моей жизни и моя жизнь в Японии

Sergei Kuznetsov (Irkutsk State University, Russia/Foreign Fellow, 2017–18)

Весной 2017 г. мне посчастливилось оказаться среди тех, кто был избран Центром славяно-евразийских исследований университета Хоккайдо для долговременной научной командировки в Японию. Целых 10 месяцев спокойной кабинетно-библиотечной жизни, возможность завершить множество когда-то начатых и по разным причинам заброшенных текстов, всерьез, а не на бегу углубиться в написание давно задуманного текста о судьбах японских дипломатах в России. Об этом можно было только мечтать! 1 июня я уже летел в Саппоро. Я люблю приезжать в Японию весной или в начале лета — кажется, что с ожившей природой и у тебя начинается новый период жизни и все самое интересное и важное еще впереди.

Как любой историк, я привык фиксировать события, как в окружающем мире, так и в своей жизни. Подсчитал, и оказалось, что теперешний мой приезд в Японию уже двадцать пятый. Своеобразный юбилей! Конечно, кто-то может усомниться — эка невидаль. Для меня же каждый приезд сюда, даже краткий — очень важен.
Когда я впервые узнал о Японии? Трудно сказать. Наверное, это было в 1964 году — учительница в школе рассказала нам, что в далеком и неведомом нам Токио, состоятся Олимпийские игры. Заинтригованный я пришел домой и схватил Большую Советскую Энциклопедию на букву «Т». Сухая, официальная статья о Токио мне не понравилась, да и что в ней могло быть кроме извечных классовых сражений между «трудом и капиталом». Надо сказать, что информации об Японии тогда в Советском Союзе было ничтожно мало. Интернета еще не было, а государственное телевидение и государственные газеты выдавали только официальную пропагандистскую версию событий. Продолжалась холодная война и на слуху кроме Токио были лишь два других японских города — Нагасаки и Хиросима. Лишь спустя много лет мы узнали, что к Олимпиаде 1964 г. в Токио была построена самая высокая в мире телебашня, впервые велась трансляция игр через спутник, впервые в мире была открыта ветка скоростной железной дороги — синкансэн. Также спустя много времени мы осознали, что олимпиада 1964 г. стала рубежом, символом возрождения Японии и стремительного движения стран вперед. Впрочем, те годы, полные драматических событий, давно скрылись за поворотом, хотя какие-то аналогии с нашим временем все же напрашиваются. Например, тогда в Токио 1964 года Восточная и Западная Германия выступали объединенной командой. Она и в Токио 2020 года будет выступать объединенной, только представлять уже будет одну страну.

Это удивительно, но и первая моя поездка в Японию была связана с Олимпиадой — московской 1980 году. Как известно, Япония, как многие другие страны бойкотировала московскую Олимпиаду в связи с военным присутствием СССР в Афганистане. Пропагандируя Олимпиаду, советские власти направили несколько молодежных кружков в Западную Европу и один, в составе которого я и оказался, — в Японию. В мае 1980 г. мы вышли на теплоходе из Находки, за две недели побывали в Нагасаки, Токио, Осаке, Хиросиме, Симидзу, Отару. Тогда же я впервые побывал и в Саппоро. Впечатления от той поездки до сих пор живы в моей памяти. Вернувшись домой, я продолжил учебу в университете, затем поступил в аспирантуру в Ленинградском университете. И, наверное, неудивительно, что темой моего исследования стала Япония — диссертацию я написал об истории англо-японских отношений после Второй мировой войны. Так Япония вошла в мою жизнь, стала не только объектом научного интереса, но и увлечением, своеобразным магнитом, который с невероятной силой притягивает к себе. Все же до середины 80-х годов современной, актуальной информации о Японии было крайне мало, особенно в российской провинции. Из печатной продукции — только журнал на русском языке «Фото Японии», да газета социалистов «Сякай симпо», которые можно было купить в газетных киосках. Другую японскую прессу, не говоря уже о серьезных монографиях можно было получить лишь в столичных — московских или ленинградских библиотеках. Советская пресса изредка публиковала информацию преимущественно негативного или спорного содержания. Исключение составляли, пожалуй два журналиста — В. Овчинников и В. Цветов, которые умудрялись в своих репортажах показать советским людям совершенно иную, реальную Японию. Показать страну и людей в позитивном свете.

Известно, что до середины 80-х годов в Советском Союзе в области исследования новейшей истории Японии и международных отношений гласно или негласно, был очерчен круг приоритетных для исследования проблем: ремилитаризация Японии, межимпериалистические противоречия Японии, США и стран Западной Европы, кризисные явления в японской экономике на фоне общего кризиса капитализма, борьба японских трудящихся за свои права («весенние» и «осенние» наступления) и т. д. Разумеется, этому курсу следовали и провинциальные истории. При этом перед нами стояли определенные препятствия: трудности с публикацией результатов своих исследований и малодоступность источников. Возможность публикации в центральных
изданиях была ограничена в силу жесткой конкуренции, особенно для аспирантов. Любая попытка опубликовать в провинции какой-либо материал, касающийся зарубежных стран требовала обязательного согласования с соответствующим подразделением Министерства иностранных дел. Что касается источников, то, как выше уже было сказано, они были сосредоточены исключительно в столичных библиотеках. Все это сдерживало творческий рост провинциальных исследователей проблем всеобщей истории, затягивало сроки подготовки ими диссертаций.

Вторая половина 80-х годов принесла невероятные изменения во внутренней жизни Советского Союза, то, что вчера еще казалось фантастикой, стало реальностью. Строгое редактирование наших контактов с японскими коллегами, открывалось архивы и рождались новые исследовательские темы. В конце 80-х такой стала тема о японских военнопленных, интернированных в СССР и Монголию в 1945 г. Так получилось, что я стал одним из первых российских историков, взявшихся за эту тему. Конечно, в этом был элемент случайности, но и исследовательское чутье тоже кое-что значит. Еще до того, как М. Горбачев весной 1991 г. вручил Кайфу Тосики списки японцев, умерших в СССР, мы уже обладали информацией о почти всех местах захоронений бывших военнопленных в СССР. Еще живы были многие очевидцы и десятки интервью с ними значительно обогатили нас фактическим материалом. Мы проехали по тем местам в Иркутской и Читинской областях, Бурятской Республике, где в 40-е годы были лагеря, а значит, — и их неизбежные спутники — кладбища интернированных. Многие из них оказались в густой тайге, так, например, в районе «ГУЛАГовской столицы» — Тайшета, другие и вовсе ушли под воду после строительства Иркутской и Братской гидроэлектростанций. Впервые я почувствовал, что мои исследования приносят ощутимую, реальную пользу, когда к нам в Сибирь поехали многочисленные японские делегации в едином стремлении — посетить кладбища их родных и близких, погибших здесь в 40-х годах. Приезжали они, часто не имея никакой информации о местах захоронения. В 1992 г. я подготовил и выпустил на английском языке карту «Graveyards of Japanese war prisoners in Irkutsk Region», годом позже опубликовал в Канадзаве книгу и список японцев, похороненных в Иркутской области. Надеюсь, что эти публикации помогут многим разыскать родные могилы. Так в результате соединения архивных поисков с поездками по всей Сибири, общении с многочисленными японскими делегациями сложилось серьезное научное направление. В 1994 году я защитил докторскую диссертацию по теме японского интернирования в СССР в 1945–1956 г. и она оказалась первой в России диссертацией по этой проблеме. Как-то я попробовал подсчитать научную продукцию российских исследователей, занимающихся темой плена. Оказалось, что к настоящему времени в России выпущено 14 сборников документов и материалов и фотографий, 41 фундаментальная монография, защищено 29 кандидатских и докторских диссертаций, опубликовано более 210 научных статей, сделано свыше 300 докладов на конференциях и симпозиумах, опубликовано более 400 публицистических и газетных материалов о японском интернировании. Разумеется, сейчас проблема бывших
военнопленных и интернированных в СССР в 1945–1956 гг. японцев уже потеряла прежнюю остроту. Осталось не так много живых свидетелей тех событий, сменились поколения. Отчасти она была снята и после визита первого Президента СССР М. Горбачева в Токио, а несколькими годами позже — после извинений Президента России Б. Ельцина за несправедливость в отношении японских интернированных. С другой стороны, память о пропавших в Сибири и на Дальнем Востоке тысячах японцев сохраняется в истории как неосознанный феномен и продолжает беспокоить и современное поколение. Вероятно, эта трагическая часть истории двусторонних отношений окончательно уйдет в прошлое только когда в ней не останется незаполненных страниц.

Незабываемая и удивительная Япония: заметки исследователя

Azim Malikov (Institute of History, Academy of Sciences of Republic of Uzbekistan/ Foreign Fellow, 2017–18)

В далекие 1980-е годы мои представления об Японии складывались на основе кинофильмов, мультфильмов и телепередач. Япония казалась страной-сказкой — далекой и недостижимой.

Эпохальным событием стало провозглашение независимости Узбекистана в 1991 году. Состоявшийся 26 января 1992 года обмен письмами между министрами иностранных дел Узбекистана и Японии положил начало сотрудничеству наших стран. В настоящее время в Узбекистане открыты представительства 12 японских компаний, успешно действуют десять совместных предприятий. В частности, налажено сотрудничество между АК «Узавтосаноат» и японской компанией «Isuzu Motors Ltd.», благодаря которому в Самарканде производятся десятки тысяч автобусов и грузовиков.

Ярким проявлением взаимного уважения японского и узбекского народов явилось установление в Токио памятника выдающемуся поэту Алишеру Навои и создание в Ташкенте Японского сада. Огромный вклад в изучение древнего наследия узбекского народа внес известный ученый-археолог Като Кюдзо.
В 1993–1995 годах я читал студентам исторического факультета Самаркандского государственного университета имени А. Навои курс лекций по истории стран Азии в новое время и, в частности, несколько лекций были посвящены истории Японии. Я помню, как на семинарах мы дискутировали со студентами вопросы, касающиеся сёгуната Токугава, революции Мэйдзи, японском обществе и удивительной японской культуре.

Я много лет изучаю историю моего родного Самарканда — бывшей столицы древнего государства — Согд (Согдианы). Согдийцы, будучи очень предприимчивым народом, вели торговлю на обширных трасах Великого Шелкового пути. В VIII веке один из них даже добрался до Японии.

Будучи на научных стажировках в разных странах и работая в библиотеках Австрии, США, Франции и Германии я изучал публикации, посвященные истории и культуре Средней Азии. Из японских ученых наибольший интерес у меня вызывали исследования профессоров Комацу Хисао, Уяма Томохико, Моримото Казуо, Кавахара Яёи, Обия Чики.

Между Узбекистаном и Японией расширяются культурно-гуманитарные связи. После независимости Узбекистана были созданы условия, чтобы наши студенты стали учиться и работать в Японии, а японские студенты вести исследования в Узбекистане.

В 2017 году благодаря поддержке администрации Центра славянско-евразийских исследований Университета Хоккайдо, мне представилась возможность приехать в Японию и обменяться опытом с коллегами.

В японских вузах обучаются десятки узбекистанских студентов. В настоящее время в Университете Хоккайдо по специальности «экономика» обучаются два студента из Узбекистана. После приезда в Саппоро я встретился с ними, мы обсуждали открывшиеся огромные возможности для профессионального роста и познания богатой многовековой японской культуры. Собрав других коллег, мы кушали традиционное узбекское блюдо — плов.

Я благодарен профессору Уяма Томохико за научную поддержку моего исследования и научную организацию моих поездок в Университеты Токио, Цукуба и Кито, где я выступил с докладами по разным проблемам истории и современности мусульманских «святых сословий» Центральной Азии. Особенна продолжительной и плодотворной была презентация по теме коллективной памяти «святых сословий» Бухарского оазиса в современный период и обсуждение, длившееся более часа в Университете Цукуба. Состоявшиеся дискуссии обогатили мои исследования, как в методологическом плане, так и выявили новые подходы, которые весьма помогают мне в написании будущей монографии по теме «Святые группы» Центральной Азии в прошлом и настоящем (под святыми группами понимаются потомки пророка Мухаммада, первых халифов и суфийских лидеров).

После лекции в Университете Цукуба я по дороге в гостиницу зашел в небольшую магазинчик купить продукты. Каково было мое удивление, когда я узнал, что продавцы были родом из моего родного Самарканда. Я вспомнил древних согдийцев, их стремление познавать другие культуры, способность находить общий язык с самыми разными народами. Высокая толерантность и предприимчивость согдийцев сохраняется в их потомках и в настоящее время.

Подводя итог 26-летним связям между Японией и Узбекистаном можно заметить появление целого поколения японских источниковедов, историков, антропологов, которые свободно владеют узбекским языком, прекрасно знают узбекскую историю и культуру. Некоторые из них на протяжении многих лет вели полевые исследования в разных областях Узбекистана или изучали архивные материалы, рукописи, хранящиеся в библиотеках и архивах. Я имел возможность общаться с такими талантливыми исследователями как Уэда Акира, Соно Фумото, Вазаки Сейка, Кикута Харука, Сайто Риота. Для моих исследований были очень полезны ценные консультации профессора Наганава Норихиро.
Центр славянско-евразийских исследований при Университете Хоккайдо является прекрасной площадкой для встреч и обсуждений различных проблем истории и современности с коллегами из разных стран, включая Китай, Россию, Казахстан, Кыргызскую Республику и т. д.

Меня сильно впечатлила богатая библиотека SRC, в которой я нашел десятки книг, научных сборников, недоступных на моей родине. Доступ к электронным изданиям, журналам также облегчил мои исследования. Я открыл для себя имена новых японских исследователей, ознакомился с их публикациями. В библиотеке находится важнейшая литература по национальной идентичности, нациеформированию, истории России и Центральной Азии, а также современные и досоветские периодические издания.

В Японии существуют самые разнообразные музеи. В каком бы уголке страны вы не находились, у вас есть возможность посетить художественные музеи и галереи, где экспонируются произведения искусства с местным колоритом и из других стран. В одном из музеев хранятся согдийские изделия далекого VIII века. Одним из богатых музеев считается музей Михо — любимое детище госпожи Кояма Михоко (1910–2003). В музее хранятся сокровища, принадлежащие всему человечеству. Меня особенно заинтересовали экспонаты, привезенные из Среднего Востока. Музей приобрел знаменитые золотые изделия древней Бактрии, найденные в Афганистане. К сожалению, я не успел побывать в этом знаменитом музее, но надеюсь, сделать это в следующий раз.

Пять месяцев пребывания в Японии были насыщены работой и интересными событиями. Меня поразили высокая культура поведения японцев, их взаимная учтивость и любезность, доброжелательность и открытость. Я благодарен госпоже Осуга Мика и госпоже Накаджима Канако за помощь при решении административных вопросов.

В Киото на меня сильное впечатление произвел замок Нидзё, укрепленная резиденция сёгунов рода Токугава. Когда я ходил по залам замка, перед моими глазами вставали картины средневековой Японии, дворцовые церемониалы. Когда-то я читал лекции про сёгунов, и, наконец, я здесь, прикасаюсь к истории...

Я всегда любил блюда японской кухни и где бы я ни был: в Париже, Берлине, Нью-Йорке, Вене везде я искал японские рестораны. Японская кухня отличается разнообразием оттенков вкуса, богатством выбора, и полезностью. Самое вкусное суши, конечно, оказалось в Саппоро.

Особое впечатление у меня оставили экскурсии по достопримечательностям Саппоро и окрестностей. Удалось побывать в городе Отару, увидеть его колоритные улочки, старинные паровые часы. По всей Японии есть много популярных храмов, куда ежегодно приходит множество людей. В Саппоро находится самый большой на Хоккайдо синтоистский храм Хоккайдо Дзингу, излучающий необычайную духовную, проникающую мистическую энергию.

Быстро пролетело время, и хотелось бы вновь вернуться в эту удивительную страну, являющуюся прекрасным примером сочетания трудолюбия, высокой культуры, развитого чувства эстетики и технического прогресса.
In 2016, the Slavic-Eurasian Research Center celebrated its 60th anniversary by hosting an international symposium on December 10–11, 2015 at which we examined the history of our Center, with special emphasis on the period of its birth. Now a volume has been published in English “SRC at 60: New Historical Materials and Perspectives,” including some of the important presentations at that symposium.

A first section documents findings from the research carried out by David Wolff and Chida Tetsuro on the Center’s origins. Many new and very interesting details and perspectives have emerged, including the SRC’s transnational origins, visits by Rockefeller Foundation representative C. B. Fahs and then John D. Rockefeller, III to Sapporo, as well as visits of Hokkaido University professors to the United States.

These exchanges culminated in a September 22, 1951 application by Hokkaido University to the Rockefeller Foundation asking for initial support for a “Slavic Institute.”

A second section includes essays by SRC emeriti Akizuki Takako, Hasegawa Tsuyoshi and Ito Takayuki. Akizuki and Ito addressed the centrality of library resources for the SRC’s role as a national center of Slavic-Eurasian area studies, as well as the path of “nationalization” by which the SRC acquired this role in 1990. Ito’s essay, as well as Hasegawa Tsuyoshi’s, also covers the parallel, if somewhat paradoxical, process of internationalization, both in the final phases of the Cold War and under Gorbachev’s perestroika. If section one focuses on research about the 1940s and 1950s, section two provides personal recollections from the 1960s to 1980s. In the third section, a roundtable of scholars, senior and junior, foreign and Japanese, evaluated the changes that have come to the profession in recent years, especially after the hosting of the ICCEES conference at Makuhari Messe in August 2015. Here top collaborators from China, Korea and Russia spoke of the profession’s evolution in their home countries, as well as their personal and institutional intersections with Japanese area studies’ academia.

At the SRC itself, two of the major events in the 2000s included the start of the graduate school in 2000 and the renaming of our Center from Slavic Research Center to Slavic-Eurasian Research Center in 2014. These two reforms have meant that in the last 17 years, we have approved 21 doctoral dissertations and 73 master’s theses. Now, students who graduated from our program are working at universities and other research institutions, in media and private companies, in Japan and abroad. Given the realities of education in Japan today, the SRC is no longer growing, but its influence continues to grow as its alumni move out and up in the world.

Takata Shinichiro and David Wolff


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