

Report of the Academic Organizer

The 12th EAJS PhD Workshop was held at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, France on 4-7 July 2016. The main objective of this workshop was to give PhD students an opportunity to discuss their projects and receive feedback from scholars specialised in their fields as well as their fellow PhD students. It also provided all the participants with a chance to network and exchange ideas with other scholars in Japanese studies. This three-day workshop was a successful one, fulfilling its objectives and contributing to the further development of Japanese studies in Europe.

The workshop attracted applications from 63 PhD students and twenty promising projects were selected by the senior scholars participating at the workshop and the board of the EAJS based on the quality of the project, a balance among the students' disciplines, countries, and affiliations. The participants included students from University of Cambridge (UK), University of Oxford (UK), University of Bonn (Germany), University of Manchester (UK), Free University Berlin (Germany), University of Geneva (Switzerland), Ludwig Maximilians University of Munich (Germany), University of Heidelberg (Germany), University of Zurich (Switzerland), Vienna University (Austria), Humboldt University Berlin (Germany), University of Edinburgh (UK), Ca Foscari University of Venice (Italy), INALCO (France), Warwick Business School (UK), Science Po Paris (France), and University of Haifa (Israel).

As senior academic advisors, we had the honour of inviting the following scholars to discuss the PhD projects by giving the participating students feedback and advice.

Reiko Abe Auestad (University of Oslo)

Guibourg Delamotte (INALCO)

Eddy Dufourmont (Bordeaux-Montaigne University)

Masayo Fujimoto (Doshisha University)

Hélène Le Bail (Science Po)

Sébastien Lechevalier (EHESS)

Estelle Leggeri-Bauer (INALCO)

Emiko Ohnuki-Tierney (University of Wisconsin / Institut d'Études Avancées de Paris)

Thomas Pellard (INALCO)

Mary Picone (EHESS)

Cécile Sakai (Paris Diderot University)

Daniel Struve (Paris Diderot University)

Bernard Thomann (INALCO)

In addition, the following scholars were invited to participate as junior academic advisors to give students advice from the perspective of those who have recently completed their doctorate.

Sophie Buhnik (Paris 1 University)

Naoko Hosokawa (CNRS)

Yannick Bardy (INALCO)

The workshop started on 4 July, 2016 with a keynote lecture by Prof. Emiko Ohnuki-Tierney, *Why and How Did I Write Flowers that Kill?: Some Future Directions of Japanese Studies in Academia and beyond*. This talk included Prof. Ohnuki's anecdotal stories surrounding her latest book *Flowers That Kill: Communicative Opacity in Political Spaces*. Subsequently, Prof. Sébastien Lechevalier, President of the Fondation France Japon de l'EHESS, introduced nine sessions of students' presentations and advisors' feedbacks. In each session, one to three PhD students presented their project for about 15 minutes and received constructive comments from a senior scholar and a junior scholar. The floor was then open for a discussion of the project with all PhD students and other advisors.

In order to prepare discussions and feedback, each PhD student had submitted their dissertation summary that consists of their project abstract and a report of around 5,000 words to explain the current state of research, research question, theoretical framework and methodological approach, hypotheses, preliminary results, and possible difficulties in their research projects. These themes for the nine sessions included: 1) Japan in its international context 1, 2) Japan in its international context 2, 3) Japan in its international context 3, 4) Literature – Ancient and modern, 5) History of media, 6) Ancient history & religions, 7) Language, 8) Cities & Society, and 9) Fukushima disaster and its aftermath. All the presentations were followed by many inspiring comments and discussions.

Apart from the above nine sessions, there was time for a general discussion at the end of each day. PhD students had a chance to ask questions to advisors or raise any concerns or issues related to their research projects, such as publication, funding, fieldwork, and so on. These general sessions allowed participants to share ideas and experiences and was appreciated by the participating students. The workshop concluded with a cultural activity to visit the Musée National des Arts Asiatique Guimet that had an exhibition of Japanese art.

The participants and advisors actively engaged in the discussions throughout the workshop. It is thus our pleasure to report that the 12th EAJS PhD Workshop was a great success, taking the tradition of the preceding EAJS workshops while introducing some new ideas. The discussions from this workshop gave a lot of new insights to PhD students while senior scholars had a chance to know about the projects of upcoming scholars in their fields.

Finally, but not least, we would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to Toshiba International Foundation (TIFFO), the Japan Foundation as well as PSL Research University for their generous financial support which made this workshop possible. We are also grateful to the EAJS Office at Freie Universität Berlin, particularly Prof. Verena Blechinger-Talcott and Mr. Tim Herbort, for their kind advice and assistance in organising this event.

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**T o s h i b a
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