

Marginal Social Groups' Experiences of Modernity Building Bridges between Historians of Asia in Japan and the West General Symposium 2019 Society, Modernization and Archives of Asian Regions

Marginal Social Groups' Experiences of Modernity – General Symposium 2019 is part of an international collaborative research program involving Osaka City University, Yale University, National University of Singapore (NUS), and Shanghai University. In bringing together in Japan participating scholars from America, Singapore, and China, our agenda for this event will be to discuss the comparative history of marginal social groups in Japan and Asia during the transition out of early modernity.

The starting point for our discussion lies at the intersection of such groups' historical structures and the characteristics of the documentary sources through which we attempt to comprehend them. We begin with a session that introduces early modern Japanese *hinin* (beggar) groups, taking the distribution and composition of the documents that they produced as a basis for comparative discussion, followed by multiple sessions centered on the work of the program's partner researchers in Indian, Ottoman, and various Asian social histories.

The relevant texts for each session will be distributed in English and Japanese. Discussion, too, will proceed in both languages, facilitated by our bilingual participants and leaving plenty of time for a careful and stimulating exchange of ideas. We warmly welcome anyone with an interest in the themes of the symposium to attend.

Date: **May 25 (Sat), 26 (Sun), 27 (Mon)**

Location: **Conference Room, Osaka City University Media Center**

■Day 1 May 25 (Sat) 9:30am-5pm

Welcome and Opening Remarks 9:30-9:50am

Hiroyuki Sakuragi (Vice President, Osaka City University)

Naoki Kobayashi (Dean of Academic Institute for Literature, Osaka City University)

Takashi Tsukada (Professor, Osaka City University)

Session I **Social Groups and Historical Documents in Japan (9:50am-12:20pm)**

Session I works off an essay by Prof. Tsukada Takashi on early modern Japanese *hinin* (beggar) groups and associated documents. Overseas guests will comment on the paper, while also introducing their research, sources, and approach. Discussion will focus on comparing Indian, Chinese, and Ottoman social groups and sources with those in Japan.

Presenter: **Tsukada Takashi**

Moderators: **Saga Ashita** (Japanese History, OCU);

John Porter (Japanese History, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies)

Discussants: **Inoue Tōru** (Chinese History, OCU); **Gyanesh Kudaisya** (Indian History, NUS);

Alan Mikhail (Ottoman History, Yale); **Annu Jalais** (Indian Cultural Anthropology, NUS);

Rohit De (Modern Indian History, Yale)

Lunch

Session II **Political Transformation and Regional Society in Modern India (1:30-3:00pm)**

Session II takes up the research of Prof. Gyanesh Kudaisya, who works on Indian socioeconomic history.

Presenter: **Gyanesh Kudaisya** (Associate Professor)

Moderators: **Nomura Chikayoshi** (Indian Socioeconomic History, OCU);

Timothy Amos (Japanese History, NUS)

Discussants: **To be determined**

Session III Human/Nonhuman Interface in South Asia (3:15-4:45pm)

Session III begins with a paper by Prof. Annu Jalais, who works in Indian Cultural Anthropology.

Presenter: **Annu Jalais**

Moderators: **Kotani Hiroyuki** (Indian History, Tokyo Metropolitan University);

Maren Ehlers (Japanese History, University of North Carolina Charlotte)

Discussants: **Tsukada Takashi**;

Morita Madoka (Ottoman History, OCU Urban-Culture Research Center)

■Day2 May 26 (Sun) 9am-5pm

Session IV Law and Society in India (9:00-10:30am)

Session IV takes up Prof. Rohit De's new book, *A People's Constitution: The Everyday Life of Law in the Indian Republic* (2018), which examines the relationship between marginal social classes and the law; discussion will focus on a comparison of India and the other fields represented at the symposium, with special attention to the use of legal documents in reconstructing marginal voices and experiences.

Presenter: **Rohit De** (Associate Professor, Yale University)

Moderators: **Nomura Chikayoshi**; **Daniel Botsman** (Japanese History, Yale University)

Discussants: **Yasutake Takahiko** (Japanese Legal History, OCU); **Morita Madoka** (Ottoman History)

Session V Ottoman Modernity and Environmental History (10:30am-12:15pm)

Session V takes a paper by Prof. Alan Mikhail as a starting point for a discussion of the interconnections between social changes that accompanied modernization in Asia and transformations in relationships between humans, animals, and the environment.

Presenter: **Alan Mikhail** (Professor, Yale University)

Moderators: **Kusabu Hisatsugu** (Byzantine History, OCU);

Iwata Kazuma (Ottoman History, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies)

Discussants: **Annu Jalais**; **Mio Shimazaki** (Japanese History, OCU Urban-Culture Research Center)

Lunch

Session VI Marginal Social Groups and Historical Documents in Modern India (1:30-2:45pm)

Session VI's discussion will revolve around a presentation by Prof. Kotani Hiroyuki of his ongoing research into people on the margins of caste society in eighteenth-century India.

Presenter: **Hiroyuki Kotani**

Moderators: **Wakimura Kōhei** (Indian History, Osaka University of Economics and Law); **Timothy Amos**

Discussants: **Maren Ehlers**; **Inoue Tōru**; **Alan Mikhail**

Session VII General Discussion (3:00-5:00pm)

Session VII offers a chance for discussion of the symposium's core aim: using Session I as a base, two commentators will reflect on the broad themes and points of comparison regarding modernization and social groups in Japan and Asia.

Comments: **Daniel Botsman**; **Timothy Amos**

Moderators: **Saga Ashita**; **John Porter**; **Kusabu Hisatsugu**

■Day3 May 27 (Mon) 10am-5pm

We have organized a field trip by chartered bus to various sites relevant to the history of social groups in early modern and modern Osaka. We will visit sites that were on the periphery of the early modern and prewar city such as Nakanoshima and the area around Osaka Castle in the north and the Dotonbori canal, Kamagasaki/Tobita area in the south. The tour will conclude with dinner downtown (Participation is limited to program affiliates and overseas guests).

Contact

All inquires may be directed to the main office of Marginal Social Groups' Experiences of Modernity (a Project for Cultivating Internationally Active Researchers by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science).

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