

## Research Project Report

Program for Asia-Japan Research Development, Asia-Japan Research Institute

April 2016 - March 2019

# The “Great Divergence” and the “Great Convergence”: Reconstructing World History with Asian Perspectives

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## 1. Background and Significance of this Research

The modern disciplines of social science were constructed with the fundamental idea of “modernization” which was formulated on the basis of the historical experiences of European nations in the nineteenth century. Since the mid-twentieth century, the concept of “modernization” has been increasingly criticized for its uni-linear perspective of world history. While the recent developments of Asian societies urge scholars to adopt a more pluralistic view of modernity, the fundamental grammar and conceptual framework of the social sciences is still dominantly Eurocentric, into which the non-European experiences of modernization do not really fit.

This project attempts to re-define the historiographical foundation of the social sciences in a fundamentally more pluralistic and global perspective, connecting two distinct research trends across historical studies and social sciences: the trend of global history which emphasized the horizontal continuities on a global scale in the human history and the post-human turn in social sciences which contextualizes the peculiarly modern idea of the “human” so deeply embedded in the foundation of social sciences.

## 2. Objectives

The objective of this research project is three-fold: to update the historiographical foundation of social sciences by redefining the concept of modernity/modernization especially to incorporate the historical experiences of Asian societies, to draw implications of the updated historiography for basic questions of social sciences, and to provide a new platform of teaching “historical literacy” for social scientists, especially by publishing a new textbook of the historiography of world history to be used across the disciplines of social science.

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### 3. Actual Activities

#### 2016

- August 3, Initial Meeting to launch the project
- September 20, Project Meeting for drafting the framework of the textbook
- December 21, Special Workshop on “The Discourse of “Rise of Asia” and history of Eurocentrism” with Prof. Shogo Suzuki (Manchester University) as guest speaker

#### 2017

- January 9, Project Meeting for cross reviewing among taskforces and Book Review Workshop on *The Logic of China* (Takashi Okamoto) and *An Anthropology of “Hand-to-Mouth” Life* (Sayaka Ogawa) with Prof. Hiroyuki Ogasawara (Kyushu University) as guest reviewer and Sayaka Ogawa as guest discussant
- March 22, Project Meeting for cross reviewing among taskforces and exchanging the spin-off researches of project members
- July 28, Book Review Workshop on “Institutionalist Approach to Multiple Modernity” with Prof. Carsten Hermann-Pilath (Erfurt University) as special guest speaker, Prof. Shigeki Uno (The University of Tokyo) and Dr. Shintaro Tamate (The University of Tokyo) as guest reviewer
- July 29, Special Workshop on “Producing Textbook of the World History” with Prof. Naoki Odanaka (Tohoku University) as special speaker
- September 27, Taskforce Meeting for finalizing the framework of Part 2 of the textbook
- November 22, Taskforce Meeting for finalizing the framework of Part 3 of the textbook
- November 23, Project Meeting for reviewing the synopses of chapters of Part 2

#### 2018

- February 6, Special Workshop on “Historiography and Cartography” with Dr. Joseph MacKay (Australian National University) as guest speaker and Kazutaka Shimamoto (Kyoto Prefectural University) as guest discussant
- March 24, Project Meeting for reviewing the first drafts of chapters of Part 2 and the synopses of chapters of Part 3
- May 27, Project Meeting for reviewing the first drafts of chapters of Part 3

#### 2019

- March 10, Final Workshop for reviewing the textbook produced by the project with Prof. Ken Endo (Hokkaido University), Prof. Atsushi Shibasaki (Komazawa University), Kota Suetika (Ritsumeikan University), Naoki Odanaka (Tohoku University), Ryuto Shimada (The University of Tokyo), and Katsuji Nara (Ritsumeikan University) as guest panelists

### 4. Result and Perspectives

The project successfully produced a textbook on historical literacy for social sciences and published it as *Historical Literacy in the Age of Post-Globalization* with Toyokeizaishinposha publishing company. The textbook provides a mapping of historiographical strategies with which to unthink the Eurocentric/teleological perspectives of modernity, especially through critical analysis of our

spatial imagination in world history and the transhistorical concepts used in various disciplines of social science. As a textbook, our product should be tested in actual pedagogical use and this project should be succeeded by a more comprehensive project of developing the educational program of historical literacy for the social sciences. While the textbook has attempted to incorporate multiple civilizational contexts in world history, it should also be tested in multiple civilizational contexts when actually being used. For this purpose, editions in other languages including English should be produced.

### Project Members and Roles

The Project is organized into three taskforces, that is “Historiography”, “Asian Studies” and “Meta-theoretical Studies”

- Norihisa YAMASHITA, College of International Relations, Ritsumeikan University, historical sociology; manager of the entire project and the unit leader of the “Historiography” taskforce
- Miwa HIRONO, College of International Relations, Ritsumeikan University, international relations and Chinese foreign relations; unit leader of the “Asian Studies” taskforce
- Wooja KIM, College of International Relations, Ritsumeikan University, sociology; member of “Asian Studies” taskforce
- Takashi OKAMOTO, Faculty of Letters, Kyoto Prefectural University, Chinese history; member of “Historiography” taskforce
- Kai KAJITANI, Faculty of Economics, Kobe University, Chinese Economy; member of “Historiography”, “Asian Studies”, and “Meta-Theoretical Studies” taskforces
- Masato KARASHIMA, Faculty of International Studies, Kobe University, Japanese history; member of “Historiography” taskforce
- Hirokazu TAKIZAWA, Faculty of Economics, Chuo University, Economics; member of “Meta-theoretical Studies” taskforce
- Takafumi ISHIKAWA, Faculty of Letters, Teikyo University, American history; member of “Historiography” taskforce
- Mie OBA, Faculty of Engineering, Tokyo University of Science, International Relations; member of “Asian Studies” taskforce
- Takahiro NAKAJIMA, Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia, The University of Tokyo, Chinese philosophy and comparative philosophy; member of “Asian Studies” and “Meta-Theoretical Studies” taskforces
- Satoru HASHIMOTO, Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, University of Maryland, Chinese literature and comparative literature; member of “Historiography” taskforce

### Selected List of Publications

- Yamashita, Norihisa, “World-System Analysis” in Shigeru Akita et al (eds.) *The World History of the “World History”*, Minerva Shobo, 2016, pp.345-67 (山下範久「世界システム論」、秋田茂ほか編『「世界史」の世界史』ミネルヴァ書房、2016年9月、pp.345-67.)
- Okamoto, Takashi, “‘East Asia’ and ‘Eurasia’: on the research history of ‘kinsei’ and ‘kindai’”, *Rekishihyoron*, #799, 2016, pp.37-46 (岡本隆司「『東アジア』と『ユーラシア』——「近世」「近代」の研究史をめぐって」『歴史評論』第799号、2016年11月、pp.37～46)
- Nakajima, Takahiro. January, 2017. Conditional Universality and World History in Modern Philosophy in East Asia. In *The ‘Global’ and the ‘Local’ in Early Modern and Modern East Asia*. Eds. Benjamin A. Elman and Chao-Hui Jenny Liu. Leiden & Boston: Brill. pp. 39-51.
- Nakajima, Takahiro, *Language as Thought*, Iwanami Shoten, 2017 (中島隆博『思想としての言語』、岩波現代全書、2017年9月、全272頁)
- Takizawa, H. (2017), “Masahiko Aoki's Conception of Institutions, Evolutionary and Institutional Economic Review, (online first).
- Hashimoto, Satoru, “Civilization in Transformation: Liang Qichao’s Theory and Practice of Translation, 1890s-1920s,” *Translation and Modernization in East Asia in the Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries*, ed. Lawrence Wang-

Chi Wong, Hong Kong: The Chinese University Press, March 2018, p.219-252.

Okamoto, Takashi, *Introduction to World History: a Perspective from Asia*, Chikuma Shobou, 2018 (岡本隆司『世界史序説 — アジア史から一望する』ちくま新書 1342、2018年7月10日 (全 265 + iv 頁))

Takizawa, Hirokazu, *Contemporary Economics: Game Theory, Behavioral Economics, and Institutionalism*, Chuokoronshinsha, 2018 (瀧澤弘和 (2018)『現代経済学 ゲーム理論・行動経済学・制度論』中公新書)

Kjitani, Kai, *Lectures on Chinese Economy*, Chuokoronshinsha, 2018 (梶谷懐『中国経済講義』中公新書、2018年)

Nakajima Takahiro (ed.), *How to Discuss the World (2 vols.)*, The University of Tokyo Press, 2018 (中島隆博編『世界の語り方』(2冊)、東京大学出版会、2018年9月 (『世界の語り方1 心と存在』、全 272 頁、『世界の語り方2 言語と倫理』、全 309 頁))

### Selected List of Research Funding/Grants

Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research “Kakenhi” (C), 2016-18, ¥4.29m, “Social Democrats and American Philanthropy in the Post-War Japan”, Principle Investigator: Masato Karashima. (辛島理人 (代表者)、日本学術振興会・科学研究費 (基盤研究 C) 「戦後日本の社会民主主義とアメリカのフィランソピー：1960年代の政治経済史」2016-2018年度、4290千円 (直接経費：3300千円、間接経費：990千円))

Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research “Kakenhi” (C), 2016-19, ¥2.21m, “Royalist Interpretation and Constitutionalist Redefinition of American Revolution”, Principle Investigator: Takahumi Ishikawa. 石川敬史 (代表者)、日本学術振興会・科学研究費 (基盤研究 C) 「アメリカ革命の王政的解釈と立憲主義再定義」(2016年度～2019年度)、62210千円 (直接経費 1700千円、間接経費 510千円)

Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research “Kakenhi” (C), 2017-20, ¥4.68m, “Comprehensive Research about “Kourin” Diplomacy over Korea in the “Opening Port” period: a Reinvestigation of East Asian World Order”, Principle Investigator: Takashi Okamoto. (岡本隆司 (代表者)、日本学術振興会・科学研究費 (基盤研究 C) 「「開港期」朝鮮を中心とする「交隣」の総合的研究：東アジア世界秩序の再検討の試み」2017～2020年度、4680千円 (直接経費 3600千円、間接経費 1080千円))

Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research “Kakenhi” (C), 2017-20, ¥4.29m, “China’s Roles in International Conflicts: Realities of the Principle of Non-Interference”, Principle Investigator: Miwa Hirono. (廣野美和 (代表者) 科研費、日本学術振興会 (基盤研究 C) 「中国の国際紛争における役割：「不介入政策」の現実」(2017～2020年度) 4290千円 (直接経費 3300千円、間接経費 990千円))

Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research “Kakenhi” (C), 2017-19, ¥4.03m, ‘(Re-)defining Historical Sociology: Meta-analysis of Global History’, Principle Investigator: Norihisa Yamashita. (山下範久 (代表者) 日本学術振興会・科学研究費 (基盤研究 C) 「歴史社会学の (再) 基礎づけ：グローバル・ヒストリーのメタ分析」(2017-19年度) 4030千円 (直接経費 3100千円、間接経費 930円))

Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research “Kakenhi” (B), 2018-21, ¥15.86m, ‘Research on Tokyo School’, Principle Investigator: Miwa Hirono. (中島隆博 (代表者)、日本学術振興会・科学研究費 (基盤研究 B) 「東京学派の研究」(2018～2021年度) 15,860千円 (直接経費：12,200千円、間接経費：3,660千円))