Panel’s title: Global Japan Studies in Summer Programs: Challenges and Prospects

Coordinator (Affiliation, University….) : Shigeto Sonoda. (Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia, Professors, University of Tokyo)

Language: Français / English
Topics: (Arts, Politics, History, Migration ….) Education

Panel presentation:

Globalization has brought about a lot of changes including research environment, fund raising scheme, and the social phenomena themselves. Japanese multinationals are doing their business all over the world with a lot of local partners. Japanese popular culture spread over Asia which makes it possible to compare how different societies consume Japanese popular culture in a different way. More and more people like tourists, degree-seeking students, and immigrants have come to visit Japan, which necessitates us to have a look at the relations between sending countries and Japan.

Thanks to the improvement of ICT and global traffic, research and educational collaboration across national boundaries has come to be easier than ever. Under such circumstances, Japan study experts out of Japan will play, and in fact are playing, a more vital role in Japan studies because local researchers have comparative advantages in understanding “Japan” in their societies with their use of local knowledge, which eventually contributes to the enrichment of the knowledge and understanding of “Japan.”

This panel will focus on emerging new type of international summer programs on "Global Japan Studies" initiated by the University of Tokyo, which tries to merge Japan studies as study of others (Japan studies out of Japan) and Japan studies as study of self (Japan studies in Japan). Program coordinators of summer programs on Global Japan Studies will be invited in the panel and the following points will be discussed: (1) What are the contents of the program? (2) What are the missions of these programs? (3) What are the challenges for the programs? (4) How can/should we connect summer programs with regular courses on Japan studies? (5) How research activities and education are connected/disconnected in the programs? (6) What implications can we draw for the development of other type of Global Asian Studies?

Key words : Global Japan Studies ; Summer Program ; Program Coordinators ; Challenges and Prospects.

Participants:

1) Name(s) (Affiliation, University….) : Shigeto Sonoda. (Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia, Professor, University of Tokyo.)

Communication’s title: GJS Joint Summer Program as an Innovative Program: A Case Analysis of UTokyo-Peking University Joint Summer Program.

Language : Français / English :

Présentation:

University of Tokyo (UTokyo) launched a new type of research/educational program called Global Japan Studies Program in 2013 after one-year discussion within the university about the
feasibility and concrete logistics of the program. Since then, this program has been run and managed mainly by Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia, aiming to combine "Japan studies in Japan" and "Japan studies out of Japan," creating synergy effects of "new combination" especially through collaboration with a variety of international partners.

UTokyo's Joint summer program’s partnership started from University of Hong Kong and National Taiwan University (2013), followed by Seoul National University and Peking University (2015). Though the details of the program are different from one another, all the programs share the same spirits and similar logistics.

In this presentation, the author, one of the initiators of GJS Programs at UTokyo, would like to focus on joint summer program with Peking University as a case to discuss (1) what philosophies are there behind the program, (2) what contribution did this joint program create to get much deeper understanding of Japan, (3) what sort of challenges were there in designing as well as carrying out the program.

Key words: Global Japan Studies; Joint Summer Program; UTokyo-Peking University; challenges

2) Name(s) (Affiliation, University…): ... Yoshiko Nakano (Department of Japanese Studies, Associate Professor, University of Hong Kong)

Communication's title: ... Exploring the Japanese Presence in Hong Kong: Hong Kong University-University of Tokyo Joint Summer Program

Language: Français / English:

Présentation:
Hong Kong provides rich experiential learning opportunities to explore Japan in a global context. Hong Kong has been Japan’s gateway to Asian markets for more than six decades. The free port was, and remains, an Asian transportation hub, facilitating the formal — and informal — flow and exchange of products, people and ideas. For example, the city of 7 million people imports more Japanese food items than any other country or region in the world. In 2005 it surpassed the United States to become the biggest international market for Japanese agricultural and marine products.

Against such background, Hong Kong University’s Department of Japanese Studies and Tokyo University’s Global Japan Studies program jointly launched a summer program in 2013. The first part of the two-week residential program includes talks given by academics and business leaders as well as field trips to stores, factories and federations. The second part of the program requires students to work on group presentations on topics that are related to Japanese products and services in Hong Kong. A student group composed of members from HKU and UTokyo identify interviewees, conduct interviews, and analyze issues from multicultural perspectives. The goal of the program is to observe and understand Japan in action through a variety of interactions.

Key words: Japanese Studies; Hong Kong; Interaction with business leaders; Japanese food; student exchange program
3) Name(s) (Affiliation): Yijiang Zhong (Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia, Associate Professor, University of Tokyo)

Communication’s title: ....Global Japan Studies Summer Program in Tokyo: Its Aims and Accomplishments

Language: Français / English:

Présentation:

My presentation will introduce a new type of summer program: Global Japan Studies summer program in Tokyo organized by the University of Tokyo. It is new in the sense that it seeks to merge Japanese studies outside Japan with Japanese studies in Japan both in terms of education and research. The student body of the GJS program consists of visiting students from outside Japan as well as full-time students at UTokyo. I will discuss the GJS summer program in relation to three specific issues: 1) in what sense it is important for Japanese studies faculty members in Japan to meet overseas students they normally would not meet but will in the summer program; 2) how teaching postwar Japan to summer program students can serve as a platform for generating new type of knowledge; and 3) by extension, what potentials Global Japan Studies has as a field of research and education.

Key words: Global Japan Studies; Japanese studies in and outside of Japan; new knowledge