

| Japan-UK JOINT SEMINAR | |
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| Intersecting Looks(Gazes) — Then and Now, the East and the West | |
| Dates | March 15 th (Sunday)–22 nd (Sunday), 2009 |
| Place | School of Oriental and African Studies (London, UK) |
| Participants | TAKASAKI, Midori (Professor, Ochanomizu University) KAN, Satoko (Professor, Ochanomizu University) WADA, Hidenobu (Associate Professor, Ochanomizu University) ITO, Satomi (Associate Professor, Ochanomizu University) EZAWA, Mitsuki (Doctoral Student, Ochanomizu University) OHDO, Haruko (Doctoral Student, Ochanomizu University) KAWAHARAZUKA, Mizuho (Doctoral Student, Ochanomizu University) NISHIBATA, Aya (Doctoral Student, Ochanomizu University) HOSHINO, Yuko (Doctoral Student, Ochanomizu University) LEE, Namkeum (Doctoral Student, Ochanomizu University) |

The Joint Seminar between Ochanomizu University and School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) was held in the last half of March. Luckily, it was fine every day during one week we stayed there — quite unusual for London which is well known for its rainy weather. From the window of a taxi that we took from and to the airport, in the warm spring sunlight, we saw cherry trees in full bloom — much earlier than in Tokyo.

The Joint Seminar started with a lecture by Associate Professor ITO, Satomi, titled ‘A Contrastive Analysis of Japanese and Chinese Comparative Construction.’

The research presentation was divided into five sessions: Visual Culture, Literature, Linguistics, Mothers and Stars on Page and Screen, and Writing and Performance beyond the Archipelago. Dr. Angus Lockyer, chief of the Japan Research Center, made this arrangement in scheduling and designing the programme so that the presentation topics would relate to each other and generate lively discussions. As he wished, the participants in each session enjoyed a very active exchange of ideas and had fruitful time.

It noteworthy that there were as many as fourteen, excellent presentations during the seminar, and that some of them were delivered in English just as Associate Professor ITO's. Many of the themes concerned Japan or its related issues; it will be more desirable to communicate these themes to the world in English or other foreign languages in future. This time seminar was a first opportunity for us to explore that possibility, and gave us precious experience to prepare for the operation and organization of coming seminars.

On a final note, I must emphasize that the Joint Seminar had a great success thanks to the full cooperation by SOAS and the Japan Research Center, and would like to express my gratitude to Dr. Angus Lockyer who willingly spent his time to help the seminar despite his tight schedule at the end of the semester.

(Associate Professor, Ochanomizu University, WADA, Hidenobu)