

Ochanomizu University— USC JOINT SEMINAR

Date	July 19 th (Wed.), 2009
Place	Ochanomizu University (2-1-1 Ohtsuka, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 112-8610, Japan) Faculty of Letters and Education, Bldg. 1, 1 st Floor, Main Conference Room (Rm107)
Subject	Toward a Global Ancient History of Japan

Schedule	
10:30~	Opening Remark Joan R. PIGGOTT (USC) “Teaching and Researching Japanese Premodern History Outside of Japan.”
12:00~	Lunch
13:00~	GAO Dandan (Doctoral student, Beijing University; Special research student, Tokyo University) “The Whole Tale of the Area Command of Xiongjin” FURUUCHI Eriko (Master student, Ochanomizu University) “The great king's palace and residential evaluations of the 7th century” MENG Jing (Master student, Ochanomizu University) “Study on the Japanese Diplomats to Tang Dynasty in the history of cultural interaction between China and Japan” SOMEI Chika (Doctoral student, Ochanomizu University) “Martial Arts in Heian era” SHIGETA Kasumi (Doctoral student, Ochanomizu University) “The Word of " <i>Seiri</i> " in <i>Sekkan</i> Period” YAGOSHI Yoko (Doctoral student, Ochanomizu University) “The honorific titles of officials in the Shōsōin Documents”
15:30~	NODA Yukiko (Research Fellow, Ochanomizu University) “Letter-writing by housewives and their social roles during Heian period” Rieko KAMEI-DYCHE (Doctoral student, USC) “Rethinking the Role of Women in Medieval Courtier Society: A Study of the Saionji Family” Closing Remark

Though it was during the summer vacation, we held a joint seminar on the ancient history of Japan on August 19th (Wednesday), 2009, inviting Professor Joan R. PIGGOTT (ancient history of Japan) from the University of Southern California (USA) who is visiting Japan now, and Ms. Rieko KAMEI-DYCHE studying as a doctoral student at the University of Southern California and now receiving training at the Historiographical Institute The University of Tokyo.

After an opening remark, Professor Joan R. PIGGOTT delivered his speech “Teaching and Researching Japanese Premodern History Outside of Japan.” His lecture included many interesting subjects such as the significance to teach Japanese premodern history in the US and his methodology for the researches on royal authorities and gender. He made quite stimulating remarks: that it was necessary to see Japanese history in a wider geographical contexts or in a global perspective rather than keeping it within the country of Japan; the idea that Japanese history was not only for the Japanese but also part of the world history must be reflected on the researches and education of Japanese history. His research method itself integrates socio-historical anthropological ideas and theories to analyze issues in Japanese history. It is very different from the generally accepted methods in Japan. I found his talk very enlightening.

After the lecture, some graduate students in Japanese ancient history from Ochanomizu University made presentations — master students on their plan for their master's thesis, doctoral students on their dissertation —, when Professor PIGGOTT and a guest participant, Professor Charlotte Von Verschuer (Japanese ancient history, l'Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes) made comments on them.

After lunch and tea time at a school cafeteria, the seminar ended with presentations “Letter-writing by housewives and their social roles during Heian period” by NODA, Yukiko (Research Fellow, Ochanomizu University), and “Women in Court Noble Society in the Middle Age: Focusing on the Saionji Family” by Rieko KAMEI-DYCHE, both of which discussed the aristocratic circles after the Heian Period. Professor HIRANO, Yukiko (Japanese literature) joined the discussion. The seminar thus became more interdisciplinary.

In Japanese ancient history, people have been interested in the relations with China and the Korean Peninsula and have various academic exchanges with them in that regard. But we have learned that the researches on the subjects in the US and Europe are making a progress at an amazing pace, and there is much to learn from their methodology and awareness of the issues.

We had a very fruitful and productive moment that day. I would like to express my appreciation to all who participated in the seminar; we had a large attendance — besides the participants, we had in the seminar Professor Charlotte Von Verschuer, Ms. KAMEI’s husband, Ms. MORI Yaeko who graduated History Department at Ochanomizu University and is now working for Rikkyo School in England, a teacher at high school in Ibaragi prefecture, foreign students and many others who joined us in the midst of summer vacation.

On the final note, incidentally that day, they held a funeral wake for Professor AOKI, Kazuo who was a Japanese ancient history Professor of History Department at Ochanomizu University, and Professor PIGGOTT who had close relationship with him in the Japanese Society for the Study of Wooden Documents, gave us words of condolence and sympathy.

I hope that we continue the exchanges like this.

(Professor, Ochanomizu University, FURUSE, Natsuko)