

SUZUKI, Sadahiro

The Cultural Sciences Division, Faculty of Human Life and Environmental Sciences

<http://www.aesthe.ocha.ac.jp/profs/suzuki/>  
<http://researchers.ao.ocha.ac.jp/5445568976.html>

**HUMAN LIFE  
AND  
ENVIRONMENT**

Counter-Industrial  
Revolution

■ Researcher information

Contact

Email: [suzuki.sadahiro@ocha.ac.jp](mailto:suzuki.sadahiro@ocha.ac.jp)

Major

Comparative Literature and Culture, Theory of Arts and Crafts.

■ Research topics

## A Comparative Study of “counter-Industrial Revolution” in the Twentieth Century

Keywords

Bernard Leach, Muneyoshi Yanagi, Studio Crafts Movement, Mingei Movement, Modern Crafts.

Contents

This research aims at revising the history of modern crafts of Britain and Japan in terms of “counter-Industrial Revolution”, taking the activities of Bernard Leach (1887-1979) and Muneyoshi Yanagi (1889-1961) as examples. B. Leach, an artist-potter, attempted a production style called “studio craft” and encouraged a modern crafts movement in the 20<sup>th</sup> century Britain, while M. Yanagi established a crafts movement under his newly coined word, “mingei (folk crafts)”. Their activities are usually argued in the history of crafts, and has been highly estimated both in UK and Japan. However, there seems to be few study that focuses the philosophical implications that their movements bear in their time. This research focuses on the impact those movements had against the major cultural trend leading the modern age, and points out that the crafts can be a means to protect diversity of cultural values, which enables new generations to criticize their cultural and social surrounding and conceive a new vision for the future.

Intellectual properties (Patents, computer programs), productization, publications and social/industrial contributions

- “Historiography of the Mingei Movement: Conditions and Possibilities”. The 6th International Conference of Design History and Design Studies, Osaka University Nakanoshima Center (Verbal Presentation, 2008).
- “An Attempt at a “Counter-Industrial Revolution”: Bernard Leach’s Interpretation of the Mingei Movement”. SISJAC, British Museum, TrAIN, Embassy of Japan, UK, <Workshop>Craft in 20th-Century Japan and the UK: Reassessing the Impact of Mingei, Bernard Leach and the Concept of ‘Craft’. The Stevenson Lecture Theatre, British Museum, London (Verbal Presentation, 2006).

Potential of social/industrial contribution

■ Joint research