

Bill M. Mak 麥文彪 B.A. Hons (McGill), Ph.D. (Peking)

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## Academic Networks and Public Engagement

### I. Major International Workshops and Conferences (Organiser)

1. International Workshop on Traditional Sciences in Asia
2. Cosmos, East and West: Astral Sciences in South and East Asia and their Interaction with the Greco-Roman World
3. International Conference on Traditional Sciences in Asia (ICTSA 2017) -- East-West Encounter in the Science of Heaven and Earth,"  
京都大学国際シンポジウム：天と地の科学—東と西の出会い
4. China, India, and Iran – Scientific Exchange and Cultural Contact through the First Millennium CE (Forthcoming).

### II. Academic Conference Panels (Organiser)

### III. Public/Media Engagement

1. Yunnan Uṣṇīṣavijayadhāraṇī Inscription (佛頂尊勝陀羅尼).  
Newspaper interview and article in Belgium [in French]
  2. Hakubi Newsletter. Kyoto [in English / Japanese]
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#### Membership -

- International Association of Buddhist Studies, 2010-
- International Association of Sanskrit Studies, 2012-
- Royal Asiatic Society (Hong Kong Branch), 2012-
- インド思想史学会 Association for the Study of the History of Indian Thought (Japan), 2012-
- 日本印度学仏教学会 The Japanese Association of Indian and Buddhist Studies, 2013-
- History of Science Society of Japan (2015-)
- Association for Asian Studies, 2016-
- American Oriental Society, 2018-

## I. Major International Workshops and Conferences (Organiser)

### 1. International Workshop on Traditional Sciences in Asia (IWTSA 2015) / アジア伝統科学国際ワークショップ 2015 . Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan. Jun 17 - 19, 2015.



#### Speakers

Tansen SEN (Baruch College, CUNY): "Beyond Science: Indian-Chinese Astronomy in the Popular Realm"

Yoichi ISAHAYA (University of Tokyo): "Tallying with Heaven: the Fu-tian 符天 in the naturalization of a "western" astral science in China"  
Eric HUNTINGTON (Princeton University): "Buddhist Cosmology

in Bhutanese Murals: An Iconographic Understanding of the Negotiation between *Kālacakra* and *Abhidharmakośa* Cosmologies"

Katsuji KOYAMA (Kyoto University): "A Supernova in the Heian Period - the Historical Record and Modern Astronomy

Hisashi HAYAKAWA (Kyoto University): "Ancient solar activities recorded in literature"

Ellen VAN GOETHEM (Kyushu University): "Fengshui Protection: The Four Mythical Beasts and Shinto Shrines"

Cynthea, J. BOGEL (Kyushu University): "Representing the Unknown: The Eighth-Century Pedestal of Yakushiji's Master of Medicine Buddha"

Bryan LOWE (Vanderbilt University): "Poeticized Cosmologies: Post-Mortem Realms and Dedicatory Prayers in Ancient Japan"

Anna-Alexandra FODDE REGUER (Saint Joseph's University). "Tortoise Shells as Cross-Cultural Compass: Chinese and Tibetan Similarities"

Cindy POSTMA (King's College, Pennsylvania). "How a Confucian World-View Integrated New Knowledge of Europe and Southeast Asia within a Traditional Framework"

Daniel P. MORGAN (Project SAW, CNRS-Paris VII): "A Sphere Unto Itself: the Death and Medieval Framing of the History of Chinese Cosmography"

Peter SKILLING (Ecole française d'Extrême-Orient): "Cosmology at the Crossroads: the Harvard Traibhumi Manuscript"

### Public lectures (in Japanese):

KAIFU, Norio (President, International Astronomical Union): 宇宙にまつわるアジアの神話・伝説と宇宙観 [Myths and Legends on Stars, and Universe of Ancient Asia]

YANO, Michio (Professor Emeritus, Kyoto Sangyo University): 宿曜道にみられるインドの天文学と占星術 [Indian astronomy and astrology as seen from the Japanese Buddhist astral school *Shukuyōdō*]

The poster features two circular diagrams side-by-side. The left diagram, labeled 'Past' in white, shows concentric circles with '天' (Heaven) at the top, '地' (Earth) at the bottom, and '人' (Human) in the center. The right diagram, labeled 'Present' in white, shows similar concentric circles with '天' at the top, '地' at the bottom, and '人' in the center. Both diagrams include various symbols and text in Japanese. Below the diagrams, the text reads '時空を超えて交差する宇宙観' (Cosmology crossing time and space) and '自然学者と人文学者が語る宇宙観' (Cosmology spoken by natural scientists and humanists). At the bottom, there is event information: '2015.6.18 (木) [17:00-18:30] | 参加費: 無料 (定員50名)' (June 18, 2015, Thursday, 17:00-18:30 | Free admission (50 seats)), a map of Kyoto University, and a URL: <https://iwtsa.wordpress.com>.

## 2. Cosmos, East and West: Astral Sciences in South and East Asia and their Interaction with the Greco-Roman World. Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, New York University. New York, U.S. February 27, 2017.

Speakers (see poster for details)

Bill Mak (Kyoto University)

Randolph Kloetzi (University of Chicago)

Michio Yano (Kyoto Sangyo University)

David Pankenier (Lehigh University)

Kenneth Zysk (University of Copenhagen)

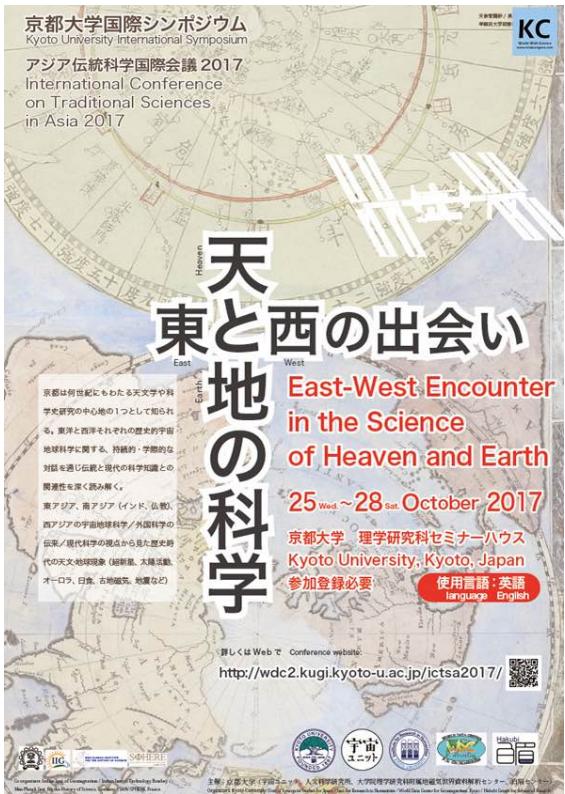
The poster has a teal background. At the top, it says 'Cosmos, East and West' and 'Astral Sciences in South and East Asia and Their Interaction with the Greco-Roman World'. Below this are three small images: a relief sculpture of a person on a horse, a circular seal with a figure, and another circular seal with a figure. The text 'Sacrificium' is written vertically next to the first image. In the center, there is a list of speakers with their titles and institutions:

- Bill Mak (Associate Professor, Kyoto University)  
"How Greek was Greco-Indian and Greco-Chinese Astral Science?"
- W. Randolph Kloetzi (Ph.D., University of Chicago)  
"Ptolemy and the Indian Religious Cosmologies"
- Michio Yano (Professor Emeritus, Kyoto Sangyo University)  
"The Size of the Universe in Indian Astronomy"
- Marko Geslani (Assistant Professor, Emory University)  
"Omens in Late-Vedic Rituals: Early Evidence"
- David Pankenier (Professor Emeritus, Lehigh University)  
"Astrological History in the 'Treatise on the Celestial Offices' in Han China"
- Kenneth Zysk (Professor, University of Copenhagen)  
"Greek and Indian Physiognomy"

At the bottom, it says 'February 27, 2017' and 'Institute for the Study of the Ancient World New York University 15 East 84th Street Conference starts at 9:30 am. No admission charge. RSVP required at [isaw.nyu.edu/rsvp](http://isaw.nyu.edu/rsvp) or 212.992.7800'. There is also a small logo for NYU ISAW.

**3. International Conference on Traditional Sciences in Asia (ICTSA 2017) –  
East-West Encounter in the Science of Heaven and Earth,” Kyoto University International  
シンポジウム：天と地の科学—東と西の出会い, Kyoto University, Kyoto,  
Japan. October 26, 2017.**





Keynote speakers:

### Christopher CULLEN

Emeritus Professor and Director, Needham Research Institute and Darwin College, University of Cambridge, UK

### How astral science crosses cultural and social boundaries: The Geneva sphere as an astronomical consumer item in early Edo Japan

### Krishnamurti RAMASUBRAMANIAN

Professor, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, India

### The role of culture in shaping scientific concepts

Panel speakers

#### John STEELE

Professor and Chair, Department of Egyptology and Assyriology, Brown University, USA  
A re-evaluation of some claims for Mesopotamian influence on East Asian astral science

### Yasuyuki MITSUMA 三津間康幸

Postdoctoral Fellow, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, University of Tokyo, Japan

### Unusual Babylonian astronomical diary -99C in the light of *The Book of the Laws of Countries*

### Taro MIMURA 三村太郎

Associate Professor, Graduate School of Integrated Arts and Science, Hiroshima University, Japan

### Scholarly exchanges in the Marāgha Observatory: reassessment of 'Urdī's impact on Marāgha associates

### Dror WEIL

Postdoctoral Fellow, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin, Germany

### The forgotten transmission - Arabic and Persian cosmological knowledge in late imperial China

### Krishnamurti RAMASUBRAMANIAN

Professor, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, India

### The perception of heaven and earth in Indian astronomy and its sequel in the conception of planetary models

### R. Venkateswara PAI

Assistant Professor, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune, India

### *Mandalavākyas*: an intermediate numerical table used in the computation of planetary longitudes

### Sho HIROSE 廣瀬匠

Postdoctoral Researcher, Department of Humanities, Social and Political Sciences, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich, Switzerland

### Analysing the sine computations in an anonymous commentary on Paramesvara's *Goladīpikā* 2

**Noémie VERDON**

Teaching Fellow, School of Buddhist Studies, Philosophy and Comparative Religions, Nalanda University, India  
**Religious festivals of Indian and Persian calendars as transmitted by al-Bīrūnī**

**Bill MAK 麥文彪**

Associate Professor, Hakubi Center and Institute for Research in Humanities, Kyoto University, Japan  
**Greco-Babylonian astral science in Asia: patterns of dissemination and transformation**

**Sonja BRENTJES**

Research Scholar, Max Planck Institute for History of Science, Berlin, Germany  
**Visualization of the heavens**

**Adrian PIRTEA**

Research Assistant, Institute of Greek and Latin Languages and Literatures, Free University of Berlin, Germany  
**The eclipse dragon in medieval Syriac and Manichaean sources**

**Yoichi ISAHAYA 講早庸一**

Postdoctoral Researcher, Faculty of Humanities, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel  
**Geometrizing Chinese astronomy?**

**SHI Yunli 石雲里**

Professor, Department of History of Science and Scientific Archaeology, University of Science and Technology of China, Hefei, China  
**Stars in colors: the *Song of the Sky Pacers* and its star charts revisited**

**Daniel P. MORGAN**

Researcher, CNRS, SPHERE, University Paris Diderot, France  
**Remarks on the foreign/expatriate leadership of the Tang Astronomical Bureau**

**Catherine JAMI**

Professor and Research Director, CNRS, EHESS, Paris, France  
**Managing heaven and earth: imperial mathematics in early Qing China**

**CHU Pingyi 祝平一**

Research Fellow, Institute of History and Philology, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan  
**Western learning, examinations, and Neo-Confucianism: a study of the astronomical section in Ying Huiqian's *Xingli Dazhong* (性理大中)**

**LIM Jongtae 林宗台**

Professor, College of Natural Sciences, Seoul National University, Korea  
**Heaven vs. empire: the calendrical reform of Chosŏn Korea in the mid-seventeenth century**

**JUN Yong Hoon 全勇勳**

Associate Professor, Faculty of Humanities, Academy of Korean Studies, Seongnam, Korea  
**A reception history of the Western Calendrical System (*Shixianli* 時憲曆) in Korea**

**Ryuji HIRAOKA 平岡隆二**

Associate Professor, Faculty of Letters, Prefectural University of Kumamoto, Japan  
**Deciphering Aristotle with Chinese medical cosmology: *Nanban Unkiron* 南蛮運氣論 and the reception of Jesuit cosmology in 17th century Nagasaki**

**Matthias HAYEK**

Associate Professor, Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations, University Paris Diderot, France  
**Reading heaven's mind: discourses on astral and meteorological portents in early-18th century Japan**

**ZHU Haohao 朱浩浩**

Postdoctoral Researcher, School of Philosophy, Wuhan University, China  
**From Taiyi 太一 to Heaven天 : a comparison of the astronomy systems of Xing Yunlu 刑雲路 and Xue Fengzuo 薛鳳祚**

**Javier PEREZ-JARA**

Assistant Professor, International Business School, Beijing Foreign Studies University, China  
**Deciphering earth and heaven during the Edo Period**

**Keizo HASHIMOTO 橋本敬造**

Professor Emeritus, Kansai University, Osaka, Japan  
**The encounter and crossover of astronomical knowledge from east and west in late Ming China**

**FUNG Kam-Wing 馮錦榮**

Professor, Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Hong Kong, China  
**Mapping East Asia: transmission of Western surveying in China, Japan and Korea (1580-1740)**

**Vera DOROFEEVA-LICHTMANN**

Researcher, CNRS, EHESS, Paris, France  
**'Cosmograph'-tailored maps in late East Asian cartography**

**WANG Qianjin 汪前進**

Professor, School of Humanities, University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China  
**Two newly discovered ancient Chinese globes in Europe**

**Kazuyuki ITO 伊藤和行**

Professor, Graduate School of Letters, Kyoto University, Japan  
**Seismology in Meiji Japan: emergence of historical earthquake studies**

**Motohiro TSUJIMOTO 辻本元博**

Member, Japan Cartographers Association, Sakai, Japan  
**Analyzing the early 19th century's geomagnetic declination in Japan from Tadataka Inoh's *Santou-Houi-Ki***

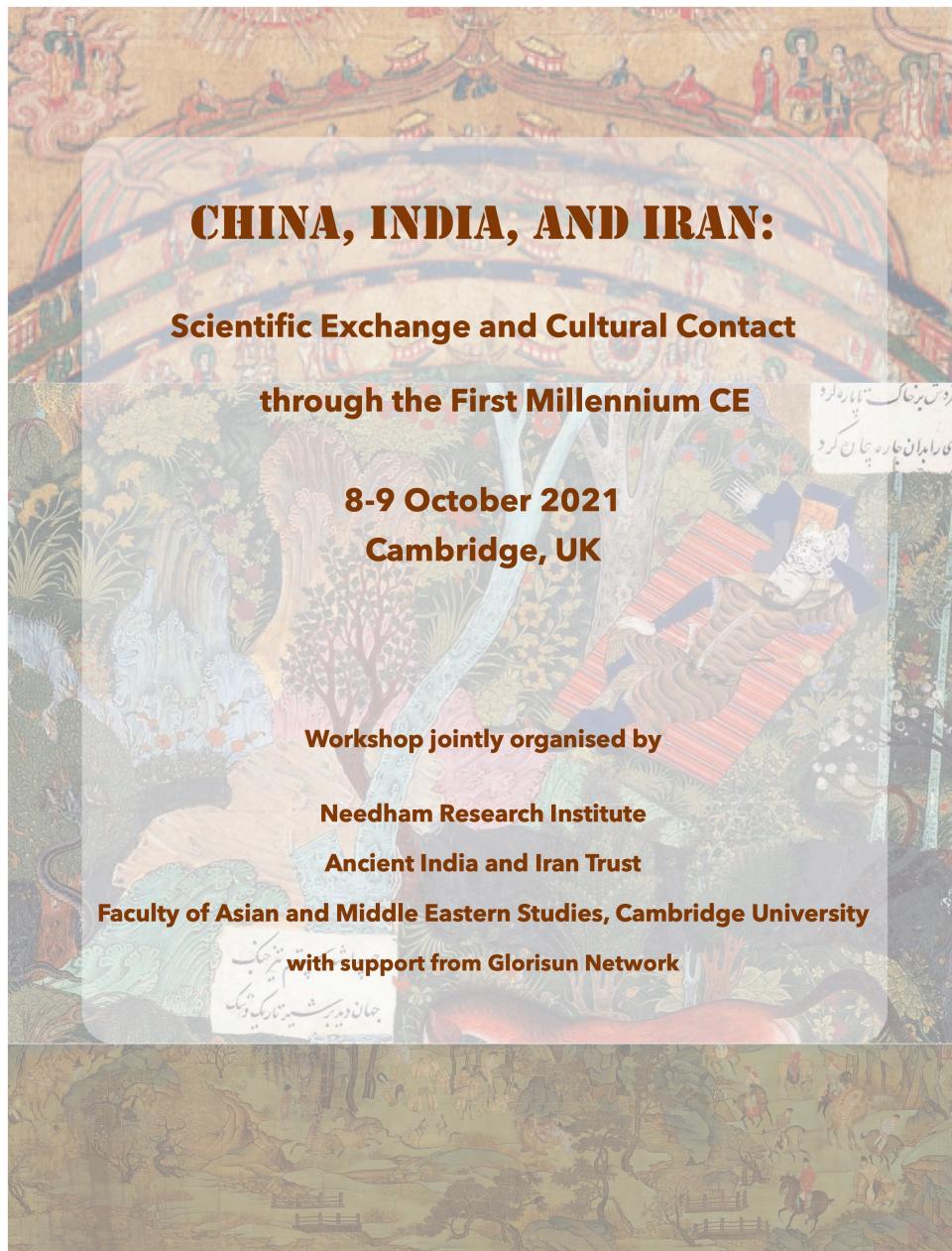
**Bhaskara VEENADHARI**

Professor, Indian Institute of Geomagnetism, Navi Mumbai, India  
**Extreme space weather events as seen in the historical geomagnetic records of Colaba, India**

**Hisashi HAYAKAWA 早川尚志**

JSPS Research Fellow, Graduate School of Letters, Osaka University, Japan  
**Great auroral displays during the Carrington Magnetic Storm: a crossroads of East Asian history and Western geoscience**

**4. China, India, and Iran – Scientific Exchange and Cultural Contact through the First Millennium CE (Forthcoming).** Workshop jointly organised by the Needham Research Institute (NRI), the Ancient India and Iran Trust (AIIT), and the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies (FAMES), Cambridge University. October 8-9, 2021.



UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE  
Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies



## Speakers

Keynote speaker: Samuel Lieu (Macquarie University)

From Qin to Cathay - Names for China and the Chinese on the Silk Road

1. T. H. Barrett (SOAS, University of London)

The Ultimate Goal of Daoism: An Iranian State of Mind?

2. Sally K. Church (Needham Research Institute)

Interplays and Interactions on the Maritime and Overland Silk Roads in the First Millennium CE

3. Erica C D Hunter (SOAS)

Cam. Mm-6-29 and the transmission of metallurgical recipes

4. Imre Galambos (Cambridge University)

From palm leaves to paper: The pothi book form in 10th century Dunhuang

5. Bill M. Mak (Needham Research Institute, Cambridge University)

Gautamasiddhārtha and Luqa – Two foreign astronomers in the Tang Astronomical Bureau and their works

6. Raymond Mercier (Cambridge University)

Āryabhaṭa's astronomy and the underlying observations

7. Daniel J. Sheridan (Cambridge University)

The Sogdians and Chinese Materia Medica

8. Nicholas Sims-Williams (AIIT, SOAS, University of London)

Manichaean calendar fragments in macaronic language

9. Vincenzo Vergiani (Cambridge University)

The introduction of writing in Achaemenid Gandhāra and the birth of Pāṇini's grammar

10. Ronit Yoeli-Tlalim (Goldsmiths College, University of London)

Exploring Indo-Persian medical connections in the Hebrew Book of Asaf

11. François de Blois (Cambridge University)

Exchange of astronomical knowledge between India and the Near East (TBC)

12. Fabrizia Baldissera (Università degli Studi di Firenze)

Echoes of travels of people and ideas across the Indian seas and beyond

13. Flavia Xi Fang (Cambridge University)

The trade of aromatics along the Silk Road during the Tang dynasty

14. Feng Jing (Cambridge University)

Ruling techniques of codices from the Dunhuang library cave and their non-Chinese Origins

## **II. Academic Conference Panels (Organiser)**

- 1. “Overlapping cosmologies and cosmographies in pre-modern Asia,” The 19<sup>th</sup> Asian Studies Conference Japan. Meiji Gakuin University, Tokyo, Japan. Jun 20, 2015.**

Bill M. Mak (Kyoto University); Kristina Buhrman (University of Florida); Eric Huntington (Princeton University); Daniel Patrick Morgan (CNRS-Paris VII); Yoichi Isahaya (Tokyo University); Cynthea Bogel (Kyushu University); Bryan D. Lowe (Vanderbilt University); Anna-Alexandra Fodde-Reguer (Saint Joseph's University); Cindy Postma (Columbia University)

- 2. “The Ritualization of Astrology in Pre-modern Asia,” 2017 Annual Conference of the Association for Asian Studies. Toronto, Canada. March 16, 2017.**

Bill M. Mak (Kyoto University); Kristina Buhrman (University of Florida); Kristina Buhrman (Columbia University); Marko Geslani (Emory University)

- 3. “Buddhist Cosmology and Astral Science,” XVIIIth Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies. Toronto, Canada. August 21, 2017.**

Satomi HIYAMA-KARINO (Ryukoku University); Eric HUNTINGTON (Princeton University); Cosmology as a Framework for Expression in Text and Image; Ruth SATINSKY (University of Lausanne); Bill MAK (Kyoto University); Masahiko OKADA (Tenri University); Michio YANO

- 4. “Astrology and magic in Thai Buddhism,” SEASIA 2017. Chulalongkorn University. Bangkok, Thailand. December 17, 2017.**

Bill M. Mak (Kyoto University); Fumihiko Tsumura (Meijo University); Arthid Sheravanichkul (Chulalongkorn University); Prasirt Math (Thammasat University); Baas Terwiel (Hamburg University)

- 5. “Eurasian Astral Science,” Eurasian Connections - Annual Conference of the Center for Global Asia, Shanghai New York University. Shanghai, China. August 19-23, 2018.**

Bill M. Mak (Kyoto University); Shi Yunli (University of Science and Technology of China); Lisa Raphals (University of California Riverside); Yoichi Isahaya (Tokyo University)

- 6. “Frontier research on the *Gargīyajyoitīsa*,” The 17<sup>th</sup> World Sanskrit Conference. Vancouver, Canada. July 12, 2018.**

Bill M. Mak (Kyoto University); Marko Geslani (Emory University); Koji Kumagai (International College for Postgraduate Buddhist Studies, Tokyo)

### **III. Public/Media Engagement**

1. "Les mystères de la stèle sacrée -- Une incantation magique déchiffrée du sanskrit," *La Libre Belgique*. 4 Mai 2016, pp. 20-21.

## 2. "Hakubi Dialogue 11 - Truth." *Hakubi Newsletter*, 2016.

シリーズ白眉対談

シリーズ白眉対談⑩「Truth」

司会・編集: ニューズレター編集部

**登場人物と研究課題**

**Bill Mak** Program-specific Associate Professor, "Historical transmission of India astral science in East and Southeast Asia"

**Hemant Poudyal** Program-specific Assistant Professor, "Role of gut hormones in type-2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease"

**Marcus Christian** Program-specific Assistant Professor, "Modified general relativity and gravitational lensing tests"

**Jennifer Coates** Program-specific Assistant Professor, "Re-writing History: Women and War Memory in Japanese Film 1945-1979"

**Toshihiro Higuchi** Program-specific Assistant Professor, "The making of a "global environmental crisis": International politics on radioactive fallout nuclear weapon testing, 1945-63"

**Kiyokazu Okita** Program-specific Assistant Professor, "God as Paramount: Ethic and Aesthetic of Emotion in Early Modern South Asia"

(Mak) My name is Bill Mak, associate professor at the Institute for Research in Humanities here at Kyoto University. My field is history of science, focusing on historical Indian and Chinese astronomy. I will be the moderator for today's dialogue. Should we introduce ourselves?

(Poudyal) I am Hemant Poudyal, biomedical scientist. My research interests include heart diseases and their risk factors such as diabetes.

(Christian) My name is Marcus Christian. I'm a theoretical astrophysicist working at the Yukawa Institute. I'm interested in the fundamental theory of gravity and space time.

(Coates) My name is Jennifer Coates. I work on alternative cinema histories, mostly from the perspective of oral history.

(Higuchi) I'm Toshihiro Higuchi. I'm assistant professor of the Graduate School of Law. My research is in the field of environmental history. I'm working on the beginning of the global environmental age since the mid 20th century.

(Okita) My name is Kiyokazu Okita, assistant professor at the faculty letters, department of

Indological Studies. In terms of my research interest, I mainly look at the South Asian religions. I'm interested in how emotion is discussed in religious contexts, especially poetry and drama.

(Mak) Welcome, everyone! Some months ago at a meeting, we came up with this topic of truth. The idea is that researchers from science and humanities had a very different understanding of truth as well as the ways to convey it. So I have invited you all today to look at the various challenges we face in our pursuit of knowledge in our respective fields. Perhaps we can enlighten each other with our experiences.

To start with, let me pose a very simple question. How do we know something is true? As we all generate a lot of information on a daily basis, obviously we want to tell the world what we believe to be true.

(Christian) In science, one relies on experiment and observation as the arbiter of any theory. While other factors may play a certain role in shaping these theories initially, they must ultimately stand up in that test.

(Okita) I think the scientific approach is to look for something universal. A scientific truth is not partial to anyone. It is verifiable to everyone. This is the theory, and this is the evidence. If you are doubtful, you can do your own experiment and prove it.

But for humanities, the truth is very much dependent on perspective, and depending on which context and in which period.

(Poudyal) It's the same with medical science. It's really a matter of perspective. Also, some of it may be geographically influenced; for example, the definition of diabetes in Japan and in the US is very different.

(Mak) But the perspective does not change the facts about the disease. Why do you need to define it in the first place? A disease is just the way it is, right?

(Poudyal) Not always. There are cultural aspects to diseases that you need to consider. There are the nature-nurture aspects. Particularly with Japan, there is a different definition or cause for every disease. There has also been some historical influence, I would say.

(Mak) If the definition of a certain disease is different, does that affect the way a researcher approaches or conducts the research? And what kind of consequence does that have?

(Poudyal) I think the treatment and possibly knowledge is very local. For example, for diabetes you have different regulatory bodies in America and Japan, and they have their own framework and guidelines.

(Christian) In the physical sciences, too. There is the issue

シリーズ白眉対談

Hakubi Dialogue

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