The opportunity offered by Professor Sebastien Lechevalier and the European Association of Japanese Studies made my stay in Paris in 2016 offered me a most memorable experience, although I have stayed in Paris a number of times. My assignments were to deliver the keynote address in the evening of July 4 and be a discussant for four Ph.D. students during the following two days.

For the key note address, I was asked to introduce my last book, Flowers that Kill, using a powerpoint. It was to drive home how communication through symbols can be opaque and thus at times dangerous, especially when symbols are beautiful. The examples are Japanese cherry blossoms and European roses. Flowers are beautiful. People often communicate their love, sorrow, and other feelings to each other by offering flowers, like roses. Flowers can also be symbols of collective identity, as cherry blossoms are for the Japanese. But, are they also deceptive? Do people become aware when their meaning changes, as when the roses they offered to Stalin and Hitler became a propaganda tool? Or were they like the Japanese, who, including the soldiers, did not realize when the state told them to fall like cherry blossoms, it meant their own deaths?

Flowers That Kill urges to understand the danger of seemingly innocent looking quotidian symbols can lead people, if indirectly, to wars, violence, and even self-exclusion and self-destruction precisely because symbolic communication is full of ambiguity and opacity.

July 5 and 6 were spent fully for the presentations and discussions of twenty-two Ph.D. students selected for the workshop. I was truly impressed both by the quality of their presentations and the detailed feedbacks which the discussants offered. The historical periods ranged from the Heian period to contemporary. The topics were equally wide-ranging. But, I found every one of them solidly based on the research for which the presenter had a firm grasp of the Japanese, written and oral.

(...) The workshop offered me an invaluable experience. Not only did I learned a great deal from the young scholars and discussants, but I was reassured that Japanese studies are robust with bright future.

Emiko Ohnuki-Tierney, William F. Vilas Professor, University of Wisconsin

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La Lettre de la Fondation France-Japon de l’EHESS

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執筆・編集：セバスチャン・ルシュヴァリ・アリエ、アモノア・アルベリエ、暮月隆、山本繭子

Éditeur / Editorial / 論説
12th EAJS Workshop for Doctoral Students / 「ヨーロッパ日本研究協会 (EAJS)大学院生研究ワークショップ」 Emiko Ohnuki-Tierney, University of Wisconsin

The entire version is available on our website: http://ffj.ehess.fr/lettre_2016_3.html
Since few decades, Innovation, mainly derived from technological advancement, has been considered as a driving force of economical and societal development and prosperity. This conference is, while reconsidering the relations between science, technology, innovation (STI) and society, to clarify the importance of non-technological factors in innovation to cope with complex societal issues these days. It also indicates an additional new key element for innovation, which is “Mutual Trust”.

Date: September 12th, 2016
Venue: Yayoi Auditorium, The University of Tokyo

Keynote Speeches:
Yoichiro MURAKAMI (Univ. of Tokyo / International Christian Univ.), Yuko HARAYAMA (Council for Science, Technology and Innovation (SCTI) / Tohoku Univ.), Leonidas KARAPIPERIS (Delegation of the European Union to Japan)

Participants (In order of appearance): Shinichí KOIZUMI (Toray Industries, Inc., / KEIDANREN), Christophe LÉCUCYER (Pierre and Marie Curie Univ.), Sébastien LECHEVALIER (EHESS / FFJ), Robert BOYER (CNRS / EHESS), Shintaro SENGOKU (Tokyo Institute of Technology), Jean-Paul GAUDILLIERE (Institut national de la santé et de la recherche médicale / EHESS), Tomohiko FUJIYAMA (Mitsubishi Corporation / JST), Alexander KRITIKOS (German Institute for Economic Research (DIW) Berlin), Yukio MIYATA (Kwansei Gakuin Univ.), Yoshinori HIROI (Kyoto Univ.), Susanne BRUCKSCH (Deutsches Institut für Japanstudien), Takehiro OHYA (Keio Univ.), KUSAGO (Kansai Univ.), Dominique CARDON (Univ. of Marne-la-Vallée), Brice LAURENT (MINES ParisTech), Masahiro MATSUURA (Meiji Univ.), Stéphane RUPHY (Pierre Mendès-France Univ.), Sayaka OKI (Nagoya Univ.), Sandra LAUGIER (Paris 1 Univ. / INSHS-CNRs), Yuko FUJIGAKI (Univ. of Tokyo), Dominique PESTRE (EHESS), Pierre-Benoît JOLY (Institut national de la recherche agronomique), Atsuo KISHIMOTO (Univ. of Tokyo), Tatsuhiro KAMISATO (Chiba Univ.)

Day 1 Keynote speeches, Open Forum
Date/Venue: 12th September, 12:30pm, Yayoi Auditorium, Univ. of Tokyo (Yayoi campus)

Day 2: Semi-closed Workshop
Date/Venue: 13th September, 9:30am-17:30pm, KKR Hotel Tokyo (Otemachi)
Session 1 ‘Innovation and its Modalities’
Session 2 ‘Designing the process of Social Innovation’ (Part1)

Day 3: Semi-closed Workshop
Date/Venue: 14th September, 12:30am-18:00pm, KKR Hotel Tokyo (Otemachi)
Session 2 ‘Designing the process of Social Innovation’ (Part2)
Session 3 ‘Protests and Refusals --a Driving Force of Innovation’
Plenary Discussion

For more information: http://ffj.ehess.fr/20160912.html

15-17 September, 2016, Tokyo / 2016年9月12日 東京
Understanding institutional change in Asia: A comparative perspective with Europe

Date : 15-17 September, 2016
Venue: Waseda University, Waseda Institute for Advanced Study, 1-6-1 Nishiwaseda, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 169-8050

Institutional members of the JSPS Core to Core program and INCAS project: Waseda University, Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Science Sociales, Maison franco-japonaise, University of Oxford, Free Universitat Berlin, University of British Columbia

Participants (In order of appearance): Aleksandra Schoetz Sobczak (European Research Executive Agency Representative), Anetta Caplanova (Univ. of Economics in Bratislava), Sébastien Lechevalier (EHESS), Gregory Jackson (FUB), Mari Sako (UOXF), Hideaki Miyajima (Waseda), Angelo Riva (EHESS), Hugh Whittaker (Oxford), Julia Bartonch (FUB), Yoko (Katataka) Sotomatsu (Waseda), Julia Bartonch (FUB), Yong Huang (Kyushu Univ.), Konari Uchida (Kyushu Univ.), Kenichi Yoshida (Waseda), Nguyen Thanh Thi Phuong (Waseda), Anja Kirsch (FUB), Nam Lee (Chung-Ang Univ.), Nguyen Giang Duc (Waseda), Agata Kapturkiewicz (Oxford), Ryo Ogawa (Waseda), Ayaka Sasagawa (JSPS), Leonidas Karapiperis (Delegation of the European Union to Japan), Robert Boyer (EHESS), Haegun Sun Kim (EHESS), Yasuo Goto (RIETI), Hiroshi Teruyama (Kyoto Univ.), Nobuhiko Hibara (Waseda), Mari Sako (Oxford), Masahiro Kotosaka (Keio Univ.), Nam Lee (Chung-Ang Univ.), Pauline De Banes Gardonne (EHESS), Susanne Brucksch (German Institute for Japanese Studies), Elizabeth Motta (Kyushu Univ.), Konari Uchida (Kyushu Univ.), Kazunari Suzuki (Waseda), Shinichi Hirota (Waseda), Jérome Ducros (EHESS & Paris School of Economics), Angelo Riva (European Business School-Paris, Paris School of Economics), Kohei Kawamura (Waseda), Yves Tiberghien (The University of British Columbia), Kurt Huebner (The Univ. of British Columbia), Taekyun Kim (Seoul National University), Masaru Kohno (Waseda), Shinichi Hirota (Waseda), Antoine Reberiou (Univ. Paris Diderot-Paris 7), Katsuyuki Kudo (Waseda), Norimasa Morita (Waseda)

For more information: https://incas.hypotheses.org/213
The 12th EAJS (European Association for Japanese Studies) Workshop for Doctoral Students was held from 4th to 7th of July 2016 at the EHESS, Paris, with the generous support of the Toshiba International Foundation, the Japan Foundation and PSL Research University. This workshop is held each year in a different city in European country aiming to create a European multidisciplinary network of graduate students and senior scholars working on Japan. This year, it brought together 20 doctoral students as well as 16 junior and senior advisors from 26 different universities and 21 European countries. The Workshop began with the keynote speech by Emiko Ohnuki-Tierney, University of Wisconsin (See the Editorial, page1). In the informal environment, the students presented their on-going thesis projects, ranging from the History on Medieval Japan to the recent Fukushima catastrophe. The comments made by advisors and the following intense discussion provided a unique opportunity to deepen their quality of projects.

For more information on EAJS Workshop: http://www.eajs.eu/index.php?id=307&L=0%25
Entretien avec / Interview with /インタビュー
Nobuhiko KOGA / 古賀 伸彦
General Manager, Frontier Research Planning Dept. Frontier Research Center, Toyota Motor Corporation トヨタ自動車（株）未来創生センター 未来開拓室長

Toyota Motor Co. and the FFJ started a new research program «The social implications of artificial intelligence and autonomous car in France and Japan» in April 2016.

The automobile has contributed to the economic growth of the world by moving goods and people with outstanding comfort and speed since more than 100 years ago. Also, each component of a vehicle (more than 30,000 in total) requires deep expertise in technology, such as materials, kinematics, combustion engineering, fluid dynamics, or computing science. As a result, a wide-ranging industrial structure, producing large-scale employment in the market, has been developed, which in turn continuously drives a positive market cycle. This structure has penetrated widely into markets worldwide, from developed countries to emerging countries. But there is a question-mark. Will this mechanism be sustainable?

TOYOTA MOTOR CORPORATION was established in 1937, by Kiichiro TOYODA, who was strongly motivated with the mind, “We should manufacture automobile by ourselves”, at the time when all automobiles were imported from US or Europe. Kiichiro was the son of Sakichi TOYODA, the inventor and founder of auto-loom manufacturing business. Kiichiro succeeded his father’s discipline and started up an automobile manufacturing business by overcoming several difficulties during and after World War II.

Sakichi and Kiichiro’s visions have been successfully transferred to successors till now as ‘Guiding Principles at Toyota’, such as ‘to be a good corporate citizen of the world’, ‘contribute to economic and social development through corporate activities in their respective communities’, or ‘create and develop advanced technologies and provide outstanding products and services that fulfill the needs of customers worldwide’. Toyota has now become a global enterprise, with 340 thousand employees, producing 10 million units per year worldwide. Toyota’s core values and competitive advantages allow the company to provide vehicles known for their quality/reliability or technological leadership, such as hybrid or fuel-cell vehicles. (...)

The entire version is available on our website: http://ffj.ehess.fr/lettre_2016_3.html

Entretien avec / Interview with /インタビュー
Kotaro FUKUHARA / 福原弘太郎
Air Liquide Fellow at CEAFJP, Graduate School at the University of Tokyo エアー・リキッド研究フェロー、東京大学大学院

- Can you explain about your current researches at the EHESS?
I am currently working on a research project attempting to elucidate the main driving force(s) of so-called “dietary transition”, which is usually described as a dramatic transformation of dietary habits in accordance with economic growth and globalization: from mostly grain-based, self-sufficient and subsistence diet to diversified and commercialized diet with abundance of animal products and processed food. In particular, I focus on edible fats and oils and make comparative study on consumption trends of them between France and Japan in the 20th century.

- Please let us know about your career as a researcher
After graduating with my master’s from Graduate School of Agricultural and Life Sciences, the University of Tokyo, I spent seven years working at Mitsubishi Research Institute, Inc., a private think tank in Tokyo, Japan. In this institute I had been involved in various research and consulting projects on agriculture and forestry commissioned by Ministries and public organizations of Japan. While I have developed an academic career as PhD candidate after deciding to go back to the University of Tokyo, I have obtained the Air Liquide Fellowship and came to France.

- Can you share with us your experiences during your stay in France, and in particular your relationship with Air Liquide and your colleagues?
I am really having a wonderful experience during the stay in France: having discussions with professors and colleagues, attending interesting symposiums and seminars, visiting farm fields as well as tasting a variety of French food. I have had several meetings with Air Liquide so far to discuss the progress of my project and receive their feedbacks, every of which is very much fruitful and suggestive. Also, since my colleagues at the EHESS have diverse academic backgrounds and disciplines such as history, sociology, economics and anthropology, I have been truly impressed with and learned a lot from the discussions with them.

- Could you give some advices for young scholars?
In addition to what you do and how you do it in your research, how you explain it to others is also critical. It would be great if you could briefly (e.g., just in a minute if required) explain your research project anytime to anyone. Also, effective utilizing of charts (figures and tables) can be quite powerful tool in your paper or presentation to convince others.

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