

PREFACE

This proceedings volume contains the fifteen papers presented at the fifth international conference of the Consortium for Asian and African Studies. The conference, entitled “Asia and Africa across Disciplinary and National Lines,” was held on 3rd and 4th of October 2014 at Columbia University in New York.

The Consortium for Asian and African Studies (CAAS) was initiated in March 2007 by five higher educational institutions worldwide that lead Asian and African Studies, in order to strengthen collaboration in research and education activities. The original member institutions are Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales (INALCO, France), Leiden University (Netherlands), Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences of National University of Singapore (FASS-NUS, Singapore), School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London (SOAS, UK), and Tokyo University of Foreign Studies (TUFS, Japan). Columbia University (USA) and Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (HUFS, South Korea) joined the CAAS in 2010 and 2011 respectively.

One of the major objectives of the CAAS is to train researchers of the younger generation within the framework of international collaboration. To facilitate this objective, in conjunction with an annual symposium, a workshop for young researchers has been planned to give them an opportunity to demonstrate their research activities, to enhance their academic skills, and to develop a fresh network of international researchers.

In the first CAAS conference held in Leiden University in 2009, the workshop for young researchers was organized separately from the symposium itself. In the second conference at INALCO in 2010, the third conference at SOAS in 2012, and the fourth conference at NUS in 2013, presentations by young researchers were combined with those by senior researchers, providing a stimulating academic environment for the young researchers. The fifth CAAS conference was held in the same vein in October 2014 at Columbia University.

The conference, aptly entitled “Asia and Africa across Disciplinary and National Lines,” consisted of seven panels: I. Narrating Nation, Ethnicity, Identity, II. Environmental and Ecological Histories, III. Language, Politics, and History, IV. Strategies of Economic and Political Development, V. Migration, Expulsion, and Exile, VI. Social Networks Then and Now, VII. Colonial/Postcolonial Experience, and VIII. Transgressive Personhood in Modern Japan and Korea. A total of twenty-one papers were scheduled to be presented in this two-day conference. Unfortunately, one speaker could not attend the conference due to the visa problem, but his paper was also mentioned by one of the speakers. The conference program is attached at the end of this proceedings as a reference.

As it was the case in previous conferences, TUFS is in charge of editing and publishing the

proceedings of the symposium. This proceedings volume includes fifteen papers submitted by the speakers. We have confined the length of each article to about five pages so that the speakers are able to submit their full papers to peer-review academic journals later. In this volume the papers are arranged in the order of presentation in the conference. The papers cover quite diverse topics. Two papers from Panel I tackle topics related to ethnicity such as the Post-war Japanese Eugenics and their background, and the ethnicity and educational reform in Central Asia. One paper from Panel II discusses the impact of pre-colonial institutions in Nigeria. Two papers from Panel III compare narratives in multiple languages, such as Arabic/French and Portuguese/South Asian languages. Three papers from Panel IV deal with various topics relating to the economic and political strategy; the informal sector in Lagos, “Collective Farms” of Wartime Singapore, and the petition boxes in early Modern Iran and Japan.

Two papers from Panel V on an Asian diaspora in Uganda and on Arab migration to Jordan and Sweden discuss an aspect of globalization, a major topic that transcends disciplinary and national boundaries. Another aspect of globalization, the social networks was examined in two papers from Panel V; one discusses the role of social networks in Tunisian Revolution, and the other analyzes various factors behind the national branding. Two papers from Panel VI tackle colonial and post-colonial experiences in Taiwan and Korea; one examines the fate of Japanese new religion after the WW II, and the other discusses identities of settlers and residents in colonial rural area of Korea. One paper from Panel VII focuses on Tanizaki Junichro’s motives for becoming the so called “criminal artist”.

We are pleased to have at least one paper from each panel represented in the proceedings. This volume will certainly serve as a record of fascinating presentations in the conference, which as a whole constitutes a valuable contribution to the cross-disciplinary research in the Asian and African Studies.

I would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to all of those who have made this conference so successful. I am particularly grateful to Professor Carol Gluck from Columbia University for organizing this conference.

I also would like to congratulate all of the young researchers who have contributed to this conference bringing in the fruits of their diligent research activities.

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