

GREETINGS FROM THE PROGRAM DIRECTER

Prof. Koji Ono

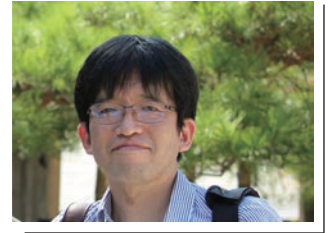
Director of the International Graduate Program for Japanese Studies (GPJS)

Tohoku Univeristy (TU)

After the last issue of THE HASEKURA BULLETIN in July 2020, our in-person activities in the Hasekura League were greatly restricted due to the unprecedented pandemic. However, we have not stopped moving forward. In September of last year, we successfully held the Hasekura Summit and Hasekura Symposium as part of the 115th anniversary of TU's founding and its 100th anniversary as a comprehensive university. During the event, researchers and graduate students from 22 universities in 12 countries gathered in Sendai to give research presentations and discuss the future of the social sciences and humanities (SSH).

Furthermore, member universities of the Hasekura League presented a Hasekura Statement announcing its role in enhancing SSH. As of June 2023, the Hasekura League as a global community in the SSH has grown to encompass 28 universities, including schools from Australia and the U.S.

This year, the Hasekura League resumed in-person activities



after the long pandemic. We members here at TU are organizing a variety of research workshops and lectures based on GPJS, which was established in 2019, together with researchers from the Hasekura League. GPJS has recently accepted its 5th generation of graduate students, and many students use the network to pursue overseas studies and gain international and interdisciplinary experiences. We are also currently planning the Hasekura Symposium, an annual general meeting, at the end of the academic year.





We are pleased to present the third edition of THE HASEKURA BULLETIN to share widely the current state of the league and its activities. Since the Hasekura League was established in 2015, this network has relied on the active initiative and passion of individual researchers rather than institutional agreements. We hope that this issue of THE HASEKURA BULLETIN will showcase the vibrant activities of our league members.

NEWS

-  March 2023 - GPJS Received the Tohoku University Presidential Award for Education
The GPJS received this award in recognition of its contribution to educating internationally active students and its central role in the international expansion of research and education in SSH at TU, as demonstrated at the Hasekura Summit.
-  April 2023 - GPJS Welcomed 5th Generation Students
In this academic year, four students joined GPJS. They will advance their research with guidance from their main advisor and mentor instructors at GPJS. After gaining experience at international conferences and other opportunities, they will travel overseas for their studies for six months or more.



UPCOMING EVENTS

-  November 2023
Workshop for Japanese Studies at Curtin University (Australia)
Theme: "Japan in the World: Past, Present, Future" (subject to change)
-  November 2023
Symposium for Japanese Studies at the University of Warsaw and Jagiellonian University (Poland)
Theme: "East meets East: Japanese Studies in Poland and Japan"
-  December 9-10, 2023
GPJS International Conference at TU
Theme: "Soul and Empathy"
Keynote Speech: Prof. Emer. Hiroo Sato (TU/GPJS)
-  February 2024
8th Annual Hasekura Symposium at Sapienza University of Rome (Italy)

ACTIVITY REPORTS (April - June 2023)

 April 28 (Fri.), 2023 - The 12th Hasekura Seminar

“Representation and Uses of Asia on the French Stage in the 17th and 18th Centuries”

Speaker: Mr. Julien Dubruque (Centre de musique baroque de Versailles, France)

Moderator: Assoc. Prof. Taku Kuroiwa (Vice Director, GPJS) (Room 208, Building of Faculty of Arts and Letters, TU)

We were honored to have Mr. Dubruque talk about the representations of Asia in 17th- and 18th-century French opera using multiple iconographies and musical examples. He described how, in these repertoires, scenes with Asian characters sometimes provided an opportunity to introduce new styles of music, and argued that we can find more Chinese than Japanese representations. The latter appears in a more tragic context than the former and often bears comic effects. Accurate observations of Asian countries can also be made in costume details. This lecture was rich with exciting suggestions for Asian representation in Western Europe.



 May 12 (Thu.), 2023 - The 1st GPJS Research Cluster Meeting

“Event Reports of GPJS During the Previous Academic Year”

Moderator: Prof. Hiroaki Adachi (Chief, GPJS Research Cluster) (Main Conference Room, Building of Faculty of Arts and Letters, TU)

The participants and organizers of the conferences held in the last academic year (GPJS Profs. Hiroshi Yokomizo, Taku Kuroiwa, and Sachiko Kiyama; Ms. Yoko Kagami, Mr. Takuma Hosoi, and Ms. Elena Fabretti) shared their experiences at the “3rd International Doctoral Symposium on Asian and African Studies” held at Sapienza University of Rome, and the GPJS International Workshop on “Oceans as Places of Exchange and Imagination: Pacific, Atlantic, and the Indian Ocean” held at TU. We reaffirm our confidence in our continuous efforts to offer international mobility and experiences through such exchanges. The meeting marked a promising start to GPJS activities in the new academic year.



 June 1 (Thu.), 2023 - International Workshop: “Student

Movements During the Cold War Era and Digital Archives”

Moderator: Prof. Hiroaki Adachi (Chief, GPJS Research Cluster) (Main Conference Room, Building of Faculty of Arts and Letters, TU)

This Workshop was co-organized by the GPJS, TU Library and TU Archives. It aimed to provide an overview of the TU Digital Archives and propose its possible use in collaboration with the Hasekura League. Profs. Marco del Bene and Stefano Romagnoli (Sapienza University of Rome), Prof. Takashi Miyamoto (Osaka University), Prof. Satoshi Kato (TU Archives), and Ms. Tomoe Hanzawa (TU Library) appeared as invited guests. With about 30 participants on the floor, the speakers discussed the significance of materials concerning student movements in the TU Digital Archives, and compared these with those of the University of Tokyo. Speakers from Sapienza presented their educational and research activities with the TU digital archives at the university, suggesting the possibility of future international use.



 June 29 (Thu.), 2023 - The 2nd GPJS Research Cluster

Meeting/The 13th Hasekura Seminar

“Origins of Modern Literature in East Asia”

Speaker: Prof. Satoru Hashimoto (Johns Hopkins University)

Moderator: Prof. Hiroaki Adachi (Chief, GPJS Research Cluster) (Audio-Visual Room, Building of Faculty of Arts and Letter, TU)

It was our great pleasure to invite Prof. Satoru Hashimoto of Comparative Literature at Johns Hopkins University to discuss the origins of modern literature, mainly in Japan and Korea, by considering cross-border cultural traditions in East Asia. About 60 participants from multiple disciplines (literature, history, linguistics, economics, etc.) were on the floor to freely discuss the cross-cultural traditions within East Asia, as well as the future directions of the GPJS. Along with the moderator Prof. Adachi who taught Prof. Hashimoto as a junior high school student, we were excited to learn a lot from his brilliant international career and his interdisciplinary perspectives.



GPJS ALUMNA HIGHLIGHT

Peiyao Wu, Ph.D. (International Studies)

- Assistant Professor, College of Humanities, Shanghai Normal University, China
(First-generation GPJS graduate)



New issues of THE HASEKURA BULLETIN will highlight the voices of the students and alumni of the GPJS. First, we would like to feature Dr. Peiyao Wu, who completed her graduate studies with excellent abilities and passion during her time at TU. She obtained an assistant professorship in her home country of China in June of this year, immediately after earning her PhD. Our first GPJS PhD. discusses what she gained from GPJS/TU, her current life, and her future prospects.

Q1. Congratulations on your new appointment! Please share your feelings at the beginning of the new position.

— On June 1 this year, I was appointed as a faculty member in the Department of World History” at the College of Humanities at Shanghai Normal University. I am working for the course of “Modern and Contemporary World History in the upcoming semester, and organizing the newly established Asian Civilization Research Center. My long-cherished dream finally came true, and I am now able to devote myself to my academic research interests. Once again, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my professors and colleagues, who have always encouraged me throughout my six years at TU. In the future, I intend to use the skills I developed at TU to communicate with Japanese-, Chinese-, and English-speaking audiences. I am eager to address the new challenges in my workplace and contribute to the study of Japanese culture in China from a global perspective.

Q2. While enrolling in the Graduate School of International Studies as well as in GPJS, you received many honorable prizes including the Fujino Memorial Award and the President Award upon graduation. How would you describe the TU?

— When I began my career in Sendai as an undergraduate research student six years ago, I studied modern Japanese Buddhism. I was always impressed with the university's founding principles 'Research First' and 'Open Door' throughout the six years. I learned a lot not only about religious studies but also about possibilities of language, thanks to the guidance of Prof. Orion Klautau and other professors at the seminar of Modern Japanese Studies in graduate school. I was fortunate to join the newly established GPJS as one of the first students in the second year of my master' s course, where I was able to cultivate interdisciplinary skills and an international perspective.

Q3. Please share your experience at GPJS.

— First, GPJS utilizes a well-developed education system that allowed me to receive input from professors in other fields, bringing new possibilities for my studies. So far, in the context of Japanese studies, it seems that the whole research field has been separated depending on the languages researchers speak, since each group of English, Japanese, other East-Asian languages (excluding Japanese) has their own different audiences for providing their findings. However, GPJS gave me the opportunity to participate in international symposiums and workshops each year and I spent about a year at Heidelberg University, where I could interact with international scholars like Prof. Hans Martin Krummacher who broadened my perspectives.

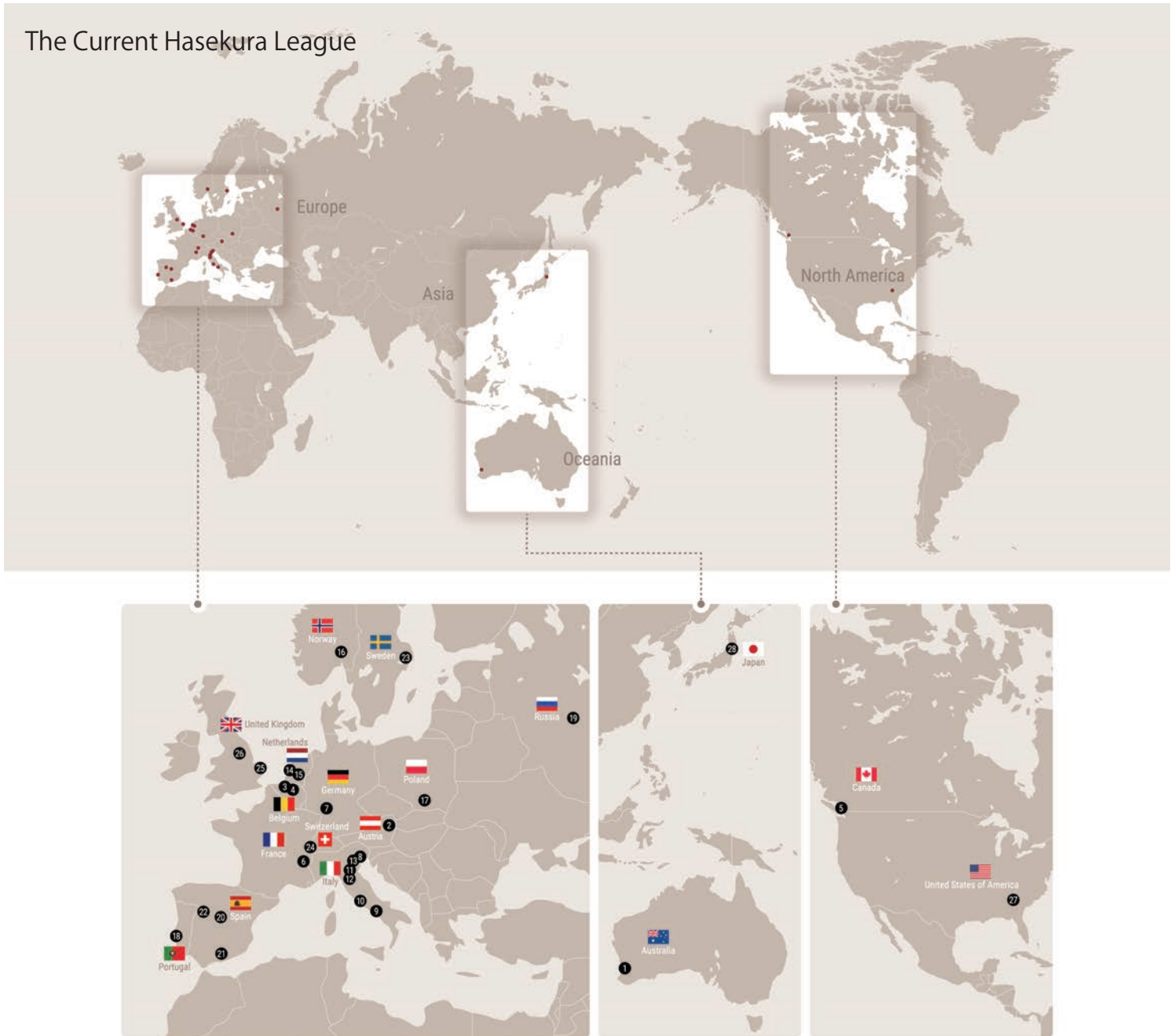
Q4. What kind of researcher and educator do you want to be in the future?

— I aspire to become a researcher capable of presenting and discussing my findings internationally. First, I must establish a solid foundation in the field of religious studies and then conduct interdisciplinary studies that incorporate methodologies from other fields into my own research field. Further, my goal for education is to actively engage in teaching the Japanese language as well as Japanese thought and culture in order to contribute significantly to the entire research field, which will be achieved based on my own academic contribution. In doing so, I will try my best to nurture students' logical thinking abilities and intercultural understanding, rather than simply memorizing textbook knowledge.

Thank you so much. We wish you the best for continued success and health, and we hope you keep in touch with TU!



The Current Hasekura League



Member Universities (As of June, 2023)

- | | | |
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| 1. Curtin University, Australia | 11. University of Bologna, Italy | 21. University of Granada, Spain |
| 2. University of Vienna, Austria | 12. University of Florence, Italy | 22. University of Salamanca, Spain |
| 3. Ghent University, Belgium | 13. University of Padova, Italy | 23. Stockholm University, Sweden |
| 4. KU Leuven, Belgium | 14. Leiden University, Netherlands | 24. University of Lausanne, Switzerland |
| 5. University of British Columbia, Canada | 15. Utrecht University, Netherlands | 25. University of East Anglia, United Kingdom |
| 6. University of Grenoble Alpes, France | 16. University of Oslo, Norway | 26. University of Sheffield, United Kingdom |
| 7. Heidelberg University, Germany | 17. Jagiellonian University, Poland | 27. University of Georgia, United States of America |
| 8. Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Italy | 18. Nova University Lisbon, Portugal | 28. Tohoku University, Japan |
| 9. L' Orientale University of Naples, Italy | 19. Lomonosov Moscow State University, Russia | |
| 10. Sapienza University of Rome, Italy | 20. Autonomous University of Madrid, Spain | |

Letter from the Editor: In the academic year 2023, we have already held four lectures as of June, and have more diverse events scheduled for the future. Many TU students are currently attending overseas universities for various academic purposes. We are continually updating our website, so please take a look. In upcoming newsletters, we plan to highlight researchers from the Hasekura League member universities. Lastly, our sincere thanks go to the members of Rivana Inc. who have always provided dedicated support for promotional activities. (Assoc. Prof. Sachiko Kiyama, GPJS Committee Member for Public Relations)

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