

## GREETINGS FROM THE DIRECTOR - "NOT A VESSEL"

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The Analects of Confucius (Master Kong) includes the passage, *jun zi bu qi* (君子不器) meaning "An exemplary person is not a vessel" in the chapter on the government principles. Shibusawa Eiichi, a Japanese industrialist who knew the Analects well, interpreted the passage as "Just as chopsticks are best used for eating and brushes for writing, mediocre persons have their own unique skill and not general abilities applicable everywhere. However, extraordinary and knowledgeable individuals transcend the limitations of a single skill; they possess an inexhaustible depth akin to a vessel, befitting of a leader." He recalled Ōkubo Toshimichi, who had opposed him regarding the financial policies of the Meiji government, as such a person. This ideology is manifested in the imperial examination, known as the "keju" held widely in the Imperial China. It evaluated moral virtues based on literary cultivation rather than specific vocational aptitudes or abilities, thereby influencing the structure of society.

Management of the Hasekura League always reminds me of this

passage. This is not just because its activities address the "one skill" problem inherent in the specialization of the humanities and social sciences (SSH). This is rather because I find the network is becoming a space where researchers and young graduate students, often confined to small, isolated spheres, engage in dialogue about the invisible aspects of each other's thinking, sensibilities, and values. These dialogues make possible new kinds of mutual growth and refinement through continuous interaction. There, the passage "not a vessel" seems to teach us a lesson that we have to grow without being confined to a predetermined size. Of course, we are not "exemplary persons (君子)," except for a few among us. One plausible reason why this passage has been passed down to the present day is that such challenges are difficult to overcome. Yet, I believe that this is an ideal for us to pursue without stopping.

Here we are delighted to deliver the fourth issue of THE HASEKURA BULLETIN. We are pleased to convey to you the recent activities of the network, which continues to grow with each new event.

## NEWS

- November 2023 - Hasekura League Network Reaches 30 Universities!  
The Hasekura League expanded to include the University of Warsaw (Poland) and Cambridge University (UK) in 2023.
- March 26, 2024 - Two GPJS Graduates Have Obtained PhDs!  
Congratulations to the young Drs. Yoko Kagami (Linguistics) and Tomoya Masuda (History of Thought) on their success!
- March 2024 - Prof. Emer. Hiroo Sato of TU Retire  
After his long-standing contributions to the establishment and development of the Hasekura League in supporting the research of younger generations, Prof. Emer. Hiroo Sato is retiring from the GPJS. During the last GPJS summer camp in the southern area of Miyagi, he led the way to Kosai Castle, which has a strong connection with. Please see the report of the last Tohoku Conference of Global Studies (p. 4) highlighting his lecture (S. Kiyama).



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 3-5, 2024 - The 4th International Doctoral Symposium on Studies at the Ca' Foscari University of Venice (Italy)
- April 18-19, 2024 - International Symposium: Literature and Ecology at Grenoble Alpes University (France)
- July 2025 - The 9th Annual Hasekura Symposium at the University of British Columbia (Canada)

The next Hasekura Symposium will be held in July 2025 at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. Marking the first of our annual symposiums to be held in North America, it will have the tentative theme of "Embodied Discourse, Embodied Practice: The Body as Text, Medium, and Testimony in Asia." After the extraordinary success of this year's symposium in Rome (p. 6), we have high hopes that the Vancouver event will bring together scholars from North America, Europe, and Japan to continue taking the Hasekura League to new heights. (C. Craig)



ACTIVITY REPORTS (July 2023 - March 2024)

🌀 August 1 (Thu.), 2023 - The 14th Hasekura Seminar (TU)  
 “Secrecy in Early 18th-Century Freemasonry”  
 Speaker: Prof. Henrik Bogdan (University of Gothenburg, Sweden)

🌀 August 27 (Tue.) - 29 (Thu.), 2023 - GPJS Annual Summer Camp (The southern area of Miyagi, Japan)

🌀 October 24 (Tue.), 2023 - The 15th Hasekura Seminar (TU)  
 “Japanese Language Education in Kenya”  
 Speakers: Ms. Njeri Kagema (Doctoral Student, Graduate School of International Cultural Studies, TU / Chairperson, Japanese Language Teachers’ Association of Kenya), Ms. Satone Komoriya (GPJS student, TU)

🌀 November 8 (Wed.), 2023 - Inaugural Curtin Japan Engagement Event (Curtin University, Australia)  
 “Japan in the World: Past, Present, Future” (p. 3)

🌀 November 10 (Fri.), 2023 - Workshop on Japanese Studies (Jagiellonian University, Poland)  
 “East Meets East” (p. 3)

🌀 November 14 (Tue.), 2023 - Workshop on Japanese Studies (University of Warsaw, Poland)  
 “University of Warsaw and Tohoku University Joint Workshop” (p. 3)



🌀 November 17 (Fri.), 2023 - The 16th Hasekura Seminar (TU)  
 “Disciples of Hell: The History of Satanism”  
 Speaker: Assoc. Prof. Per Faxneld (Södertörn University, Sweden / Visiting Assoc. Prof. at TU)



🌀 November 30 (Thu.), 2023 - The 17th Hasekura Seminar / The 4th GPJS Research Cluster Meeting (TU)  
 “The Soseki Bunko as Research Commons: Rethinking Property in Modern Literature”  
 Speaker: Prof. Michael K. Bourdaghs (University of Chicago, USA)

🌀 December 9 (Sat.) - 10 (Sun.), 2023 - 5th Tohoku Conference on Global Studies (TU) (p. 4-5)

🌀 January 25 (Thu.) - 26 (Fri.), 2024 - 8th Hasekura Annual International Japanese Studies Symposium (Sapienza University of Rome, Italy)  
 “Embodied Discourse, Embodied Practice: The Body as Text, Medium, and Testimony in Japan” (p. 6)

🌀 March 4 (Mon.), 2024 - The 18th Hasekura Seminar / The 29th Meeting of Narrative Media Research Group (TU)  
 “Experiencing Manga: Creation, Interpretation, and Visual Imitation”  
 Speakers: Prof. Berndt Jaqueline (Stockholm University, Sweden), Prof. I-yun Lee (National Chengchi University, Taiwan), Assist. Prof. Miho Takeuchi (Seisa Dohto University, Japan), Ms. Dalma Kálovics (Researcher at Yokote Masuda Manga Museum, Japan), and Assist. Prof. Olga Kopylova (TU)

🌀 March 21 (Thu.), 2024 - GPJS Symposium (TU)  
 “Small to Medium-sized Enterprises and Areas: Past and Present”  
 Speakers: Prof. Shuichi Sone (Shizuoka University of Art and Culture, Japan) and Prof. Masayuki Tanimoto (University of Tokyo, Japan)

🌀 March 29 (Fri.), 2024 - The 19th Hasekura Seminar  
 “Representation and Reception of the “Medieval”- Examples from Japan and Europe”  
 Speakers: Assoc. Prof. Taku Kuroiwa (Vice Director, GPJS, TU), Ms. Marine Massenzio (Doctoral Student, Rennes 2 University, France), and Sr. Assist. Prof. Chloe Bellech (TU)

## EVENT HIGHLIGHT

### Inaugural Curtin Japan Engagement Event

"Japan in the World: Past, Present, Future"

November 8 (Wed.), 2023 at Curtin University, Australia

In the morning session on "Energy Transition and Critical Minerals," Prof. Kazuyo Matsuyae (TU) presented online. In the afternoon session on "Japan and Australia in Global History," Prof. Hiroaki Adachi (TU) and GPJS students Mr. Takuma Hosoi and Mr. Zibo Chen presented in person. Despite being their first English presentations overseas, the students' talks on Japan's and the world's economy were successful and well-received by the participants. Assoc. Prof. Lorenzo Marinucci (TU) joined, enriching the exchange with faculty members of Curtin University's Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, which recently joined the Hasekura League (H. Adachi).



### Workshop on Japanese Studies (Jagiellonian University)

"East Meets East"

November 10 (Fri.), 2023 at Jagiellonian University, Poland

Prof. Toshiya Ueki, the Executive Vice President of TU, and members of GPJS visited Jagiellonian University, one of the main hubs of the Hasekura League. They paid a courtesy visit to the Vice-Rector and the Director of the International Cultural Studies Institute, followed by a workshop. In the keynote speech entitled "Natural Disaster and Religious Culture in Japan," Prof. Toshiaki Kimura (Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Letters) discussed the role of religion in overcoming disasters. Other talks included those by Assoc. Prof. Sachiko Kiyama and Ms. Sang-yun Han from TU, as well as Prof. Ewa Kamińska, Ms. Sophia Plażuch, and Ms. Margarita Saran from Jagiellonian University, followed by fruitful discussions with a multidisciplinary audience. This visit allowed us to reunite with Prof. Franciszek Czech, who spoke at the Hasekura Summit in 2022 to solidify the exchange between the Japanese studies of both universities (S. Kiyama).



### Workshop on Japanese Studies (University of Warsaw)

"University of Warsaw and Tohoku University Joint Workshop"

November 14 (Tue.), 2023 at University of Warsaw, Poland

Prof. Hideo Ohno, the President of TU, was awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Warsaw, and GPJS members attended the ceremony. To commemorate this occasion, workshops in spintronics, international law, and Japanese studies were held. In the Japanese studies workshop, presentations were given by Prof. Agnieszka Kozila, Prof. Iwona Kordzińska-Nablotzka, Ms. Monika Nawrocka, and Ms. Urszula Zongue-Mach from Warsaw. From TU, after an introduction to the Hasekura League by Assoc. Prof. Christopher Craig, Prof. Kimura, Assoc. Prof. Kiyama, and Ms. Han gave presentations. In addition, Prof. Kozila led a tour through the new library and tea room. The Japanese Studies Department at the University of Warsaw boasts the longest tradition of Japanese studies in Poland, and this workshop became a memorable day of exchange for the future of GPJS. We are pleased to have the University of Warsaw join the Hasekura League (H. Yokomizo).



 5th Tohoku Conference on Global Studies

December 9 (Sat.) - 10 (Sun.), 2023 at TU

Organizer: Assoc. Prof. Taku Kuroiwa (Vice Director, GPJS, TU)

We were honored to invite experts in various fields to the conference, which included five sessions on the first day. The second day featured a student session, where GPJS students had oral examinations for the completion of their master's and doctoral degrees. Invited speakers also joined the Q & A session. The "Hasekura Award," given for outstanding presentations in the master's program, was awarded to Ms. Shiori Kato (T. Kuroiwa).

Main Session: "Empathy and The Unseen"

Moderator: Prof. Ryusaku Nagaoka (GPJS, TU)

Speakers: Prof. Emer. Hiroo Sato (GPJS, TU)

Prof. Makoto Hayashi (Aichi Gakuin University, Japan)

Assoc. Prof. Ioannis Gaitanidis (Chiba University, Japan)

The three keynote speeches discussed the role of religion in different ways, to examine the fundamental purpose of GPJS in considering how SSH can contribute to addressing global issues. Prof. Sato explored how Japanese people have endeavored to build relationships and seek harmony with others from ancient times to the present, offering condolences to the deceased as an example. Prof. Hayashi then examined attempts by Japanese people to perceive the unseen within Buddhism, using the Shumisen diagram as a key to insight. Prof. Gaitanidis raised methodological issues concerning interdisciplinary knowledge sharing on the relationship between the world and religion. These lectures and the following discussion can be viewed on GPJS's YouTube channel (S. Kiyama).

Part 1: Greetings, Lecture by Prof. Sato

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t-TJXgsYN8E&t=2991s>

Part 2 : Lecture by Prof. Hayashi

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xv4raYDOjjo&t=0s>

Part 3 : Lecture by Prof. Gaitanidis, Discussion

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OFUTwD1Hlek&t=0s>

Session 1: "Luther Goes East: Reformation Narratives in Modern China and Japan"

Organizer: Assoc. Prof. Orion Klautau (GPJS, TU)

Moderator: Prof. Seiji Hoshino (Kokugakuin University, Japan)

Speakers: Assoc. Prof. Orion Klautau (GPJS, TU)

Ast. Prof. Peoyap Wi (Shanghai Normal University, China)

Dr. James C. Ungureanu (The Stony Brook School, USA)

The session explored the transnational influence of Reformation tropes on the religious and intellectual landscapes of late 19th and early 20th centuries in China and Japan. Prof. Klautau highlighted how figures like Kitabatake Dōryū and Takahashi Gorō regarded Martin Luther's Protestant Reformation, suggesting a similar transformative potential for Japanese Buddhism. Meanwhile, Dr. Peiyao focused on the Confucianism Reform Movement led by Kang Youwei, considering how it became a symbol of religious and political reform. Presided over by Prof. Hoshino, with a response by Dr. Ungureanu, this session illuminated how the Reformation's legacy, characterized by calls for religious renewal and critique of established doctrines, found resonance in the East (O. Klautau).



## Session 2: "Empathy and Language"

Organizer/Moderator: Assoc. Prof. Sachiko Kiyama (GPJS, TU)

Speakers: Sr. Asst. Prof. Toshiki Iwabuchi (Hamamatsu University  
School of Medicine, Japan)

Assoc. Prof. Sachiko Kiyama (GPJS, TU)

Asst. Prof. Kexing Xiong (TU)

Ms. Lewei Tan (GPJS student, TU)

Discussant: Prof. Masatoshi Koizumi (TU)

This session, conducted in person as well as online, focused on the neurocognitive basis of empathy required for language communication. Prof. Iwabuchi's lecture introduced the latest findings and methodologies on the developmental processes of empathy and its individual and cultural differences. The three presentations following reported on experimental results demonstrating the roles of empathy in understanding Japanese empathetic sentence-final particles, poetry, and indirect speech acts. The session concluded by highlighting that empathy is essential in diverse societies (S. Kiyama).

## Session 3: "Indigenous Way of Knowing"

Organizer/Moderator: Assoc. Prof. Yosuke Washiya (GPJS, TU)

Speakers: Prof. Bevan Erueti (Massey University, New Zealand)

Prof. Hsu Pei-Hsin (Taiwan Forestry Research Institute)

Mr. Ryota Kawasaki (NHK Fukuoka, Japan)

The session centered on the concept of indigeneity with particular attention to one of the Japanese equivalent words, which contains the meaning "soil." The speakers introduced Maori knowledge and methodology, Taiwan's indigenous people and tourism and the intertwined identity and land issues in New Zealand. The session provoked new understandings of indigeneity and groundedness. The session closed by discussing possibilities and impacts connected with tackling taking on the concepts in the context of Japan, under the current academic climate (Y. Washiya).



## Session 4: "Historiography on Standards of Living and Family"

Organizer: Assoc. Prof. Takenobu Yuki (GPJS, TU)

Moderator: Assoc. Prof. Kazuho Sakai (TU)

Speakers: Assist. Prof. Tingting Zhang (TU)

Dr. Yuzuru Kumon (Norwegian School of Economics)

Prof. Miyuki Takahashi (Rissho University, Japan), Prof.


Satomi Kurosu (Reitaku University, Japan), and Atsushi

Nagaoka (Chiba University of Commerce, Japan)

Prof. Shoko Hirai (Kobe University, Japan)

All presentations were set between the early modern period and the Meiji period, using primary historical documents containing individual-level information, such as religious records and employment contracts, to clarify the demographics, standards of living, and the reality of the "family," the basic structure of Japanese society at that time. Since each presentation deployed a variety of methods such as historical demography, historical sociology, economic history, and econometrics, the issues were presented from different perspectives. The common viewpoint was that we should be cautious about generalizing the facts because they are primary historical documents, and that the overall picture will emerge through the accumulation of empirical analyses (T. Yuki).



 The 8th Annual Hasekura International Japanese Studies Symposium

“Embodied Discourse, Embodied Practice: The Body as Text, Medium, and Testimony in Japan”

January 25-26, 2024 at Sapienza University of Rome (Italy)

The School of Oriental Studies at the Sapienza University of Rome including Profs. Matilda Mastrangelo and Stefano Romagnoli hosted the 8th Annual Hasekura International Japanese Studies Symposium, co-organized by the University of British Columbia (Canada) and TU. Researchers in Japanese studies from around the world gathered in the city of Rome where history is embodied, for lively discussions of the embodiment associated with Japanese studies. From TU, eight faculty members (Profs. Akihiro Ozaki, Mitsuru Haga, Hiroaki Adachi, Hiroshi Yokomizo, Christopher Craig, Sachiko Kiyama, Lorenzo Marinucci, and Airin Izumi) and four graduate students (Ms. Eelena Fabretti, Ms. Chisato Makishima, Ms. Ding Shuwen and Ms. Asumi Suzuki) attended the conference to give presentations or moderate sessions.



The symposium aimed to explore how the human body, as a physical object or in imagination, interacts with the world, either from the individualistic or collectivistic perspective. The researchers reconsidered the concept of “embodiment” across various fields including literature, philosophy, history, linguistics, anthropology, and art (S. Kiyama).



## GPJS ALUMNA HIGHLIGHT

# 2

Yoko Kagami, Ph.D. (Letters / Asian and African Studies)

Department of Japanese Studies, Graduate School of Arts and Letters, TU

Department of Asian and North African Studies, Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Italy



Q1. Kagami-san, why did you apply to GPJS, and how was your experience as a GPJS student?

—I wanted to take full advantage of the resources at TU to learn across national and academic borders, and I thought GPJS would allow me to do that. I was also attracted to the fact that GPJS was a new initiative, the first International Joint Graduate Program of TU in SSH. At first, I struggled with presenting my research to people in other fields and with connecting my research to social issues from a broad perspective. I was always concerned that it was a reckless challenge for me. However, after observing the methodologies of others at international conferences and trying various approaches, I am beginning to find my own way.



Q2. Why did you choose the University of Ca' Foscari in Venice for your one-year study abroad program? And please share how you look back on those days.

—I aimed to conduct research on Japanese linguistics to apply it to language education, and I wanted to study Japanese language education in my study abroad destination. When I was searching for information on Japanese language education overseas, I found that the then president of the "Association of Japanese Language Teachers in Europe" was a professor at the Ca' Foscari University of Venice, and I was so impressed by her research that I decided to study at the university. In Venice, while I also became a language learner of Italian, I participated in Japanese language classes and seminars on Japanese language education, and I conducted a survey for my research. That was a greatly fulfilling time. I was able to communicate with professors and students on a daily basis, and everything from the comments they gave me about my research to casual conversation was a good stimulus that has led to my current attitude toward my research.

Q3. You achieved a double degree between TU and Ca' Foscari. This is definitely a big challenge. What difficulties did you face in pursuing your double degree, and how did you tackle them?

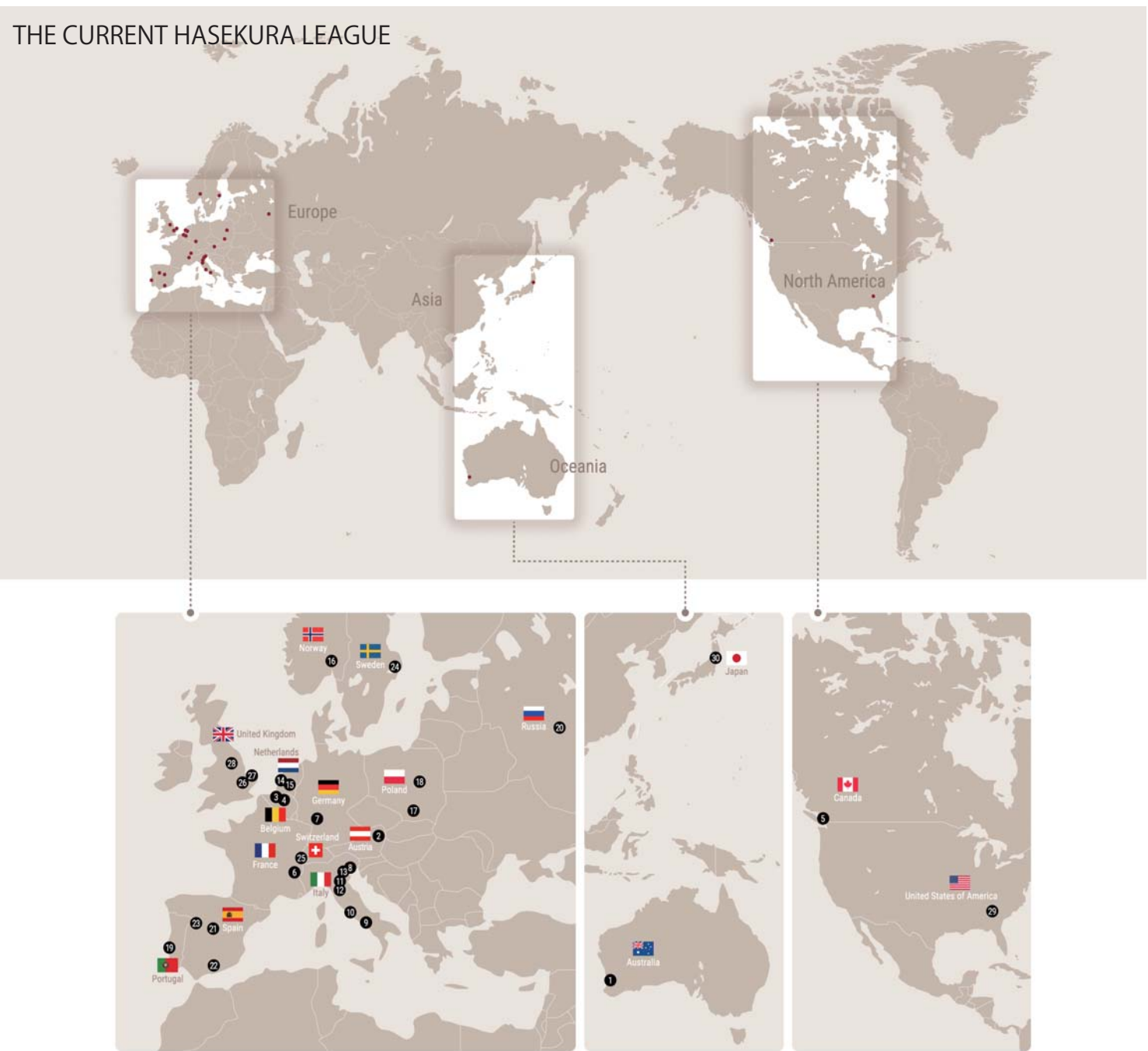
—As I studied at Ca' Foscari, my idea changed and deviated from the research plan I initially envisioned, so I got confused about what I should do. It was painful to feel that time was passing without any progress in my research. A proverb says, "Can't see the forest for the trees." However, in my case, I often frustrate myself by looking too much at the forest, which I also experienced at that time. It is a state where I am trying to make the whole thing perfect first, but failing and not even being able to do what was in front of me. Then, I decided to start with what I could do in front of me, and as I read articles and produced ideas, I found myself breaking away. I learned that while it is important to have some overall perspective, it is necessary for me to be conscious of planting the trees in front of me first, without looking too much at the forest.

Q4. Looking back over five years, what do you consider the strengths of GPJS? How do you anticipate these strengths will benefit your future life?

—The best thing about the GPJS is that it allows us to see things from multiple perspectives. I had many opportunities to see a variety of research at international conferences, to develop English proficiency to access information from around the world, and to interact with professors and students from other fields, which helped me broaden my perspective and acquire the ability to approach issues from various viewpoints. This ability is essential not only for a researcher but also for a human living in a contemporary society. That is because many things in the world are very difficult to evaluate as right or wrong, good or evil, and require considering various standpoints and situations. What I learned at GPJS will be highly beneficial to me in my future work in research and education, as well as in all other aspects of my life.

Thank you so much. Again, congratulations on your big success! We deeply appreciate your persistent efforts.





Member Universities (As of March 2024)

- |  |                                      |   |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Curtin University, Australia            | 11. University of Bologna, Italy     | 21. Autonomous University of Madrid, Spain          |
| 2. University of Vienna, Austria           | 12. University of Florence, Italy    | 22. University of Granada, Spain                    |
| 3. Ghent University, Belgium               | 13. University of Padova, Italy      | 23. University of Salamanca, Spain                  |
| 4. KU Leuven, Belgium                      | 14. Leiden University, Netherlands   | 24. Stockholm University, Sweden                    |
| 5. University of British Columbia, Canada  | 15. Utrecht University, Netherlands  | 25. University of Lausanne, Switzerland             |
| 6. University of Grenoble Alpes, France    | 16. University of Oslo, Norway       | 26. University of Cambridge, United Kingdom         |
| 7. Heidelberg University, Germany          | 17. Jagiellonian University, Poland  | 27. University of East Anglia, United Kingdom       |
| 8. Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Italy | 18. University of Warsaw, Poland     | 28. University of Sheffield, United Kingdom         |
| 9. L'Orientale University of Naples, Italy | 19. Nova University Lisbon, Portugal | 29. University of Georgia, United States of America |
| 10. Sapienza University of Rome, Italy     | 20. Moscow State University, Russia  | 30. Tohoku University, Japan                        |

Letter from the Editor: I hope the fourth issue showcased the thriving period of growth for the Hasekura League and the return to activity with resumed face-to-face interactions without masks after the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. Now I am grateful to those who supported the league's research activities especially in its early years. The next issue will introduce publications by researchers from the league. We welcome submissions for information of your own or your colleagues (Assoc. Prof. Sachiko Kiyama, GPJS committee member for public relations).

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