

GPJ

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**26th Japanese Anthropology
Workshop (JAWS)**

(1-4 Sep., 2015, Istanbul)

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Japanese Studies Association of Turkey

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Editor's Note

Erdal Küçükyağın

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the first issue of the *GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES ON JAPAN* (GPJ). I am so glad to be able to come this far. The idea of publishing a journal on Japanese Studies was born about a decade ago, but a wide range of reasons had kept us away from realising it. And finally, here we are. I am honoured to be able to launch the inaugural special issue, at exactly the place it belongs, the 15th EAJS meeting in Lisbon.

Global Perspectives on Japan is a peer-reviewed, multi-disciplinary academic journal on Japan related topics. It will be published on a yearly basis, its language of publication will be English, and both hard-copy and digital versions will be distributed worldwide. It will cover all fields of Japanese Studies from history to sociology, from linguistics to philosophy and from arts to anthropology, with topics focusing on both past and the present. Our aim is to enhance our understanding of the dynamics of the complex Japanese society by providing space for alternative views, and unique opinions. We regard phrases “cross-cultural ties”, “interaction”, “inter-disciplinary approaches” as keywords that may help explain our endeavor. Therefore, the choice of using the words “global” and “perspective” in our title reflects

a deliberate, conscious attempt to emphasize, underline, and highlight the importance of diverse views, fluid stances, as well as alternate perspectives.

That's why, the 26th JAWS meeting held in Istanbul, in 2015 offered us the perfect opportunity to realize our decade-old dream to publish a journal, since it embodied many a diverse views that we were looking for.

26th JAWS Meeting in Istanbul

The annual meeting of JAWS was held between 1-4 Sep., 2015. The venue was Boğaziçi University, the campus of which for some, is arguably the most beautiful campus in the world. Located between two bridges, right on the hills of the European side of Istanbul, the campus dominates the Bosphorus Straits, and a 15th Century fortress. The refreshing atmosphere of the venue was no doubt a factor motivating the participants to engage in vivid discussions and share their diverse points of view. There were 83 scholars from all corners of the world: Turkey, Germany, Japan, USA, England, France, Canada, Australia, Romania, Israel, Switzerland, Poland, Croatia, Korea, Austria, Serbia, and Czech Republic. All had brought their perspectives with them.

The general theme of the meeting was set as "Nature and Technology", a parade of interesting presentations continued for three full days. Topics were ranging from robot technology to healthcare, from food to disasters. As the local organizers, we, with my colleagues at Japanese Studies Association, Boğaziçi University, and Ankara University, were delighted to host an event that exposed us to such a high level of intellectual exchange. Weeks of hardwork was just a small price we had to pay. I truly feel indebted to JAWS team led by Brigitte Steger, and her colleagues with ever-smiling faces, namely Cosima Wagner and Cornelia Reiher, for their warm hearts and kind collaboration.

That collaboration gave birth to the journal you are holding

in your hands now. When we opened our ideas about a yearly journal which we would dedicate to the 26th JAWS meeting, they encouraged us to do so, and offered all the assistance they had in their power. Thus, we then decided that the first issue of GPJ would consist of selected papers presented at the meeting. It was a difficult task to choose from among a long list of invaluable articles, but we came up with the ones inside this issue. I am sure this inaugural special issue of GPJ will in the near future be a collectible, a highly demanded source for anthropologists working on Japan.

This Issue

In addition to a foreword by Selçuk Esenbel, the president of the Japanese Studies Association, the sponsor of this issue; an aisatsu by Brigitte Steger, the Secretary General of the Japan Anthropology Workshop (JAWS); we have three important essays by the special guests of the meeting, namely Josef Kreiner, Noriya Sumihara, and Masashi Oguchi. Then, four selected articles by Susanne Brucksch, Fabio R. Gygi, William W. Kelly and William H. Kelly follow. The final part is a discussion by Michael Shackleton.

Prof. Kreiner (Em. Bonn University), gives us a detailed account, as well as insight on the evolution of anthropology in Japan. This authoritative text by the doyen of the field, will no doubt be in demand for the years to come. I am thankful to Prof. Kreiner, to let a newly born journal to carry this article to the future. It surely will dramatically increase citations to GPJ.

Prof. Moriya Sumihara (Tenri University, President of the Anthropology of Japan in Japan -AJJ) , offers us a unique view of contemporary Japan through a keyhole, that is the concept of *Monozukuri*. He draws our attention to one of the building blocks of Japanese society: Manufacturing.

Prof. Oguchi (Hosei University, President of the Research

Center for International Japanese Studies), in his essay, introduces Japanese Studies in Japan, and comes up with a newly growing field of research: “International Japanese Studies”. While giving a brief explanation of the activities of the Research Center for International Japanese Studies at Hosei University, he evaluates the potential for the development of this new and promising field of research.

Susanne Brucksch (German Institute of Japanese Studies (DIJ) in Tokyo), pinpoints the notion of “techno-governance” and its impact on the innovation activities in biomedical engineering in Japan. She sheds light on the relationship between Abenomics and the health sector.

Fabio R. Gygi (SOAS, University of London), through the usage of Godzilla and Space Battleship Yamato motifs in post-war Japanese popular culture, aims to provide us with an in-depth understanding of how the Japanese society tackles with the traumas of WWII.

William W. Kelly (Yale University) takes up the 2020 Summer Olympic Games together with the Summer Paralympic Games, both of which will be held in Tokyo, and states that the borderlines that have traditionally separated sexes, as well as the “able-bodied” and “disabled” participants of Olympic and Paralympic Games, are gradually converging towards a vanishing point. He wants us to think about a possible merger of Olympics and Paralympics in the future.

William H. Kelly (University of Oxford) on the other hand, sees a parallelism between *Enka* of Japan, and *Arabesk* of Turkey. For him, popular images accompanying Enka constitute a symbolic discourse mediating modernisation through a series of oppositions – rural and urban, past and present, western and Japanese, and serve as an instrument for identity construction. He finds striking similarities between the two musical traditions of Turkey and Japan, especially when urban migrant populations and their response to processes of industrialisation and

modernisation is considered.

Michael Shackleton (Osaka Gakuin University) focuses on the Great Earthquake Disaster that shook Japan in 2011. He draws the reader's attention to the role of religion and ritual in responding to disasters. He takes The Great Forest Wall project as a case-study and shows how at times, popular movements may be driven to confront governmental policies, even if they have do not intend to do so.

Editorial Policy

GPJ welcomes submissions from all areas of Japanese Studies. It especially encourages inter-disciplinary, innovative approaches and alternative perspectives. Although the inaugural issue of GPJ consists of selected articles from the 26th JAWS meeting, it is an exception, and only peer-reviewed articles will be published from now on. You can find the "Author Guidelines" at the end of this issue.

In general, GPJ will focus on content rather than format. That is to say, submitted manuscripts are expected to follow the principles set by the latest versions of Chicago Manual of Style or MLA Style, as long as they are consistent throughout.

This is 06:42 in the morning of 19 Aug. 2017. I can finally go to bed for a good sleep.

Veritas Invictus!

Foreword

Selçuk Esenbel

President, Japanese Studies Association of Turkey

It gives me great pleasure to announce the publication of the first issue of the journal *Global Perspectives on Japan* that is dedicated to the 25th International JAWS 'Technology and Nature' conference September 1-4, 2015 held in Istanbul at Bogazici University including Panels 'Facing Crisis and Rapid Social Change in Turkey and Japan' and Round Table on Japanese Studies in Turkey that was the joint organization of JAWS, the Japan Anthropology Workshop and JAD, the Japanese Studies Association of Turkey/Japonya Arastirmalari Dernegi. This first issue is dedicated to a selection of papers of the conference will be published in the first special issue of the new international *Journal of Japanese and Asian Studies in Turkey* titled *Global Perspectives on Japan* that is published by JAD in Turkey. The Conference brought together Japan anthropologists from around the world to discuss their most recent research on social issues and changes in Japan.

JAD, Japanese Studies Association of Turkey founded in 1993 is the major NGO in Turkey that has been very active in fostering academic research on Japan and strengthening Japanese Turkish intellectual and cultural exchange by organizing over 30

major events which have resulted in numerous publications. For the past 30 years, JAWS has been a very important organization, fostering particularly younger Japan anthropologists and providing a social network and 'home' for dispersed members. JAD and JAWS organized the 25th International JAWS Conference in Istanbul with the additional aim of expanding the academic exchange and network of Japanese Studies in Turkey with the global experience of JAWS.

As a result, the two organizations also agreed to support the launching of the *Global Perspectives on Japan* first international journal on Japanese Studies in Turkey that is published by the JAD organization of Japanese Studies. The conference was supported by the Asian Studies Center at Boğaziçi University, and the Japanese Studies Association in Turkey (JAD); the venue will be at Boğaziçi University, in collaboration with the Ankara University Faculty of Letters Japanese Language and Literature Program.

The Conference included a Special Panel dedicated to 'Facing Crisis and Rapid Social Change in Turkey and Japan' and a Round Table on Japanese Studies in Turkey. Notwithstanding many differences, the two countries Japan and Turkey also share a lot. Both have interesting geopolitical position between 'east' and 'west'. They are at the 'beginning' and 'end' of the silk road and both countries have an impressive historical heritage. Both have dealt with threats of earthquakes and with social and economic differences between urban and rural areas as well as with rapid social changes. The background is conducive for original comparative perspectives on facing crisis and rapid social change in Japan and Turkey in recent years.

The papers in this special issue of *Global Perspectives on Japan* reflect the complex comparative context to the Japanese and Turkish experiences in dealing with crisis and social change through the original interesting research of an international group of scholars. We sincerely hope that this special first

issue will open the way for the *Global Perspectives on Japan* in becoming the venue for Japanese Studies scholars on developing a global perspective on the study of Japan and Asia. The journal encourages interdisciplinary, inter-regional and transnational approaches, with special interest on the interaction in Turkey and Asia with a Japan focus. The Journal aims to be a venue for scholarship in Turkey and neighboring regions. It especially encourages scholars from the Middle East, Balkans, Central Asia and the Mediterranean but also welcomes scholars from other parts of the world.

Global Perspectives on Japan invites papers in the fields of history, humanities, and social sciences including topics of the past and present. In addition to articles, the journal publishes occasional article size translations, book reviews, and surveys of current trends in Japanese and Asian Studies. *Global Perspectives on Japan* is a peer-reviewed multi-disciplinary academic journal on Japan related topics, published on a yearly basis. Language of publication is English. The journal will have both hard-copy and digital versions and will be distributed worldwide.

Go-aisatsu

Brigitte Steger

Secretary General of the Japan Anthropology Workshop (JAWS)

Boğaziçi University in Istanbul is surely a contender for the title of the world's most beautiful campus. Originally founded as the oldest American college outside of the US, this Turkish university boasts generous gardens and elegant buildings in the New England style. Here, on the eastern border of Europe, you can give lectures looking over the Bosphorus and into Asia. The newly opened metro station, allowing you to conveniently travel between the city center and the university, greets you in rainbow colours. Nowhere could have been more fitting for the 26th meeting of the Japan Anthropology Workshop (JAWS), at which Japan Anthropologists and Sociologists from all over the world discuss and explore our views on Japanese society from multiple, global perspectives. With almost one hundred participants, the JAWS conference in September 2015 was the first Japan-related conference on this scale to be held in Turkey. We were greatly privileged to receive this honour, particularly as most proponents of Japanese Studies in Turkey are involved in the study of language, literature and history, rather than Japanese society.

Under the theme of 'Nature and Technology', convened by Drs Cornelia Reiher and Cosima Wagner, we explored a wide

range of topics including organic and genetically modified food, sake breweries and soup kitchens. The disasters of 3.11 formed an important focus of our discussions and we explored how technology had both contributed to the tragedy and played a positive role in dealing with the aftermath. We examined the subject of the human body and its relationships with the robot (we even witnessed the founding of the Anthropology of Japanese Robots Association), and also discussed the gendered body, the beautiful body, the sexual body, the old body, the dying body, the healthy body, the disabled body, the enhanced body, the artificial body and the body that challenges its limits. You will find a selection of the contributions in this inaugural issue of *Global Perspectives on Japan*.

Detailed reports on the conference can be found in the *JAWS Newsletter* No. 51, 2016,¹ but I would like to express our appreciation for the warm hospitality we received from Professors Selçuk Esenbel and Erdal Küçükyağın, as well as from Kiraz Perinçek Karavit and many other professors and the dean at Boğaziçi University, as well as Japanese Studies colleagues throughout the country. We would not have been able to organise the conference in this manner without the generous financial support of both the Japan Foundation and the Toshiba International Foundation. We will always remember the wonderful reception overlooking the Bosphorus, the enthusiasm of the students who ensured that the conference ran smoothly, and above all our last evening cruise on the Bosphorus, eating and dancing and enjoying the opportunity to talk with our international colleagues. Social networking to ensure the exchange of information and mutual support has always been an important part of JAWS and we could not have experienced better conditions for this than in Istanbul.

At this conference, we experimented with new formats. In

¹ http://www.japananthropologyworkshop.org/?page_id=39

order to connect JAWS with the local academic community, we (or more accurately Professors Esenbel and Nukhet Sirman of Boğaziçi University as well as Dr Tolga Özsen of Çanakkale University) arranged a panel that brought together Turkish anthropologists and anthropologists of Japan under the title 'Facing Crisis and Rapid Social Change in Japan and Turkey' to discuss issues of work relations and cultural events from both Turkish and Japanese perspectives.

The Japanese Studies Association of Turkey (JAD) also organised a roundtable to discuss the current state of development of Japanese Studies in Turkey. Japan has become very popular among young people in Turkey in recent years and there is increasing interest in learning the language and reading Japanese literature. There are *haiku* competitions in schools and more works of Japanese literature are being translated into Turkish. Boğaziçi University has recently established a Masters course in Asian history with a focus on Japan, but so far only Ankara University offers a PhD in Japanese Studies. What stood out from this discussion was the clear sense of energy and optimism about the future of Japanese Studies in Turkey.

For decades, for many of us involved in Japanese Studies and Japan Anthropology, Turkey has been simply a country over which we have flown on our trips between Japan and the West. Naturally, we have all been aware of the importance of Constantinople on the Silk Road, but the conference served to remind us that Istanbul –and Turkey as a modern-day country– stands at the crossroads of many cultures in our world today. Hence, the Turkish perspective is vital for our understanding of geopolitics and of Japan's role in the world. We need to stay connected and increase the flow of information and ideas, not only directly between Japan and Turkey, but also with the rest of the world.

I believe that the journal *Global Perspectives on Japan* will play a key role in this endeavour. Japanese Studies in Turkey is a small seedling that needs space and nurturing to grow and prosper.

We all hope that the Turkish Japanese Studies community will continue to enjoy the essential freedoms, as well as the financial and moral support that are necessary to pursue its goals and place a Turkish perspective on Japanese culture, society and politics on the map. JAWS members are proud to have been able to contribute to this first issue. We wish our colleagues and friends much success and look forward to future issues that will enrich our understanding of Japan.