

## FINAL REPORT ON THE ITP-AA POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH

Researcher: Maja VODOPIVEC, TUFs

Supervisor: Prof. Minoru IWASAKI, TUFs

Institution: Leiden University Institute for Area Studies – LIAS. The Netherlands

Supervisor at Leiden University: Prof. Chris GOTO-JONES

Period: March 28~October 31, 2012 (7 months)

Research field: Japanese postwar intellectual history

Research theme: On the possibility of the postwar thought – Continuities and discontinuities in the thought of Katō Shūichi (transforming doctoral dissertation into a publishable manuscript)

Contents of the report:

1. Research summary
2. Research achievements
3. Future research tasks

### **1. Research summary**

During seven months of my research at LIAS, I attended several courses on international relations, critical thought and postmodern/postcolonial issues which helped me in various ways – I gained new and relevant information and inspiration for my own research, I built a scholars' network and established a certain cooperation. I was asked to contribute a chapter for a book for Leiden University College, about global challenges (about the Asia-Pacific War). I was also asked to participate (7 weeks, twice a week per two hours) in the team teaching of the Global Challenges: Peace subject which indeed was a valuable experience for me, very much related to my own graduate study at Peace and Conflict Course at TUFs.

I got to know many distinguished scholars in Asian studies here, and besides being able to do research in intellectually stimulating environment, I consider those contacts as valuable outcome of my stay here, important for future work. I had an access to excellent online library and was able to find any article/book I needed. For my PhD I almost exclusively used materials in Japanese language, and here, naturally, I was more oriented to the sources of the Western scholars – the combination of both was very meaningful for my work.

I re-read most of the Japanese sources I used and shipped from Japan to Holland, plus some relevant that I did not use while writing the dissertation (such as Kato's *Tokyo Nikki*, or writings on Tominaga Nakamoto whose thought was based on three pillars that resemble the pillars of Kato's thought as well: historical development – evolution of ideas, language function relative to the time and speaker's possibilities, and national characteristics or habits of nations), and while (re)reading it in different academic environment from the Japanese one, my perspective has considerably broadened. The advices of my supervisor here, Prof. Goto-Jones, as well as the comments of his graduate students were thought-provoking and inspirational.

I brushed up my paper presented at the conference held at SOAS, University of London, (Making a Difference: Representing/Constructing the Other in Asian/African Media, Cinema and Languages; Annual Conference for the Consortium for African and Asian Studies in the period 16-18 February, 2012) – where I presented under the auspicious of the the OFIAS-TUFS short-term program. I did more research on possible theoretical frameworks for the discussions on the “other” and “translationism” in Japan, in other words - how and where in contemporary social and political theory to position Kato's concepts of hybridity and translationism, which in my opinion was a significant contribution to my work.

By thoroughly analyzing different Katō's writings from the '50s and the '60s, I was trying to define more legitimate arguments in favor of my hypothesis on continuities and discontinuities in Katō's thought.

In September, I co-organized (together with Ph.D. student at Leiden University, and TUFS Prof. Iwasaki Minoru's former research student, Martin Roth) two events about post-Fukushima Japan. The first was held on September, 12 in Leiden University College in the Hague. We showed Leipzig University's students' film “Radioactivists” and after the screening had a discussion with Leiden University students. On September 17, we organized a whole-day-workshop: “Sōteigai: Alternative Politics and Academic Intervention after 3.11”, as a part of VICI Project by Prof. Chris Goto-Jones. Among prominent guests were Prof. Dr. Steffi Richter from Leipzig University (that I had an honour to be introduced several years ago by Prof. Iwasaki, and Dr. Manuel Yang, a writer and activist – who was invited to WINC at TUFS in 2011, and chaired my panel at Kobe Cultural Typhoon in 2011. (For details of the workshop, refer to <http://www.asiascape.org/soteigai.html>).

Prof. Richter is an influential scholar in the field of the Japanese intellectual history. She knew Katō Shūichi personally and she translated his *Hitsuji no uta* to German language.

For the mentioned workshop, I analyzed Katō Shūichi's writings on *manga* and *anime* (from the book *Nihon sono kokoro to katachi* (Ghibli Library, 2005) – a part I did not cover in my Ph.D. dissertation. It also prompted me to pay attention on Kato's writings on “gensō” and “bakemono”, as well as on “yūrei” (I watched DVD “Shikashi soredake dewanai. Katō Shūichi – yūrei to kataru” (Ghibli gakujutsu library, 2009. by Sakurai Hitoshi, last documentary made with Katō).

On September 30<sup>th</sup>, in Leiden, I presented at traditional monthly gathering of Japanese academic community. My topic was Thought of Katō Shūichi, and it was a good opportunity for me to present my research and receive comments from audience.

In the last month of my stay, I tried to summarize all Kato's writings on the 1960 Anpo struggle in Japan, and 1968 movements in Japan and the world. I also tried to view it in the light of the writings on the same topic of other Kato's contemporaries, such as Hidaka Rokuro and Oda Makoto. I was trying to answer the question in which way Katō saw the end of the Cold War and its heritage in Japan and in the world. How did Katō's activism look like, what kind of actions he advocated and why such a change in his view of role of intellectual occurred? In what way we can read Katō during the Cold War, after the Cold War, and after the 3.11? In other words, what is the possibility of his thought?

## **2. Achievements**

a. I prepared about 70% of my Ph.D dissertation for publication, and I am in a search for a publisher here in Leiden. I have 5 completed chapters and 3 more partly completed. I still need to do the proofreading.

b. I completed an article requested for the proceedings of the CAAS conference I attended in London in February 2012.

c. I contributed a chapter for a book (edited by Lucie Cerna from Oxford and Jay Hwang from LU) to be published in January 2013 by Brill-Nijhoff Writing Institute with title "Global Challenges:Peace".. My chapter was on the Asia-Pacific War, and I extensively used my knowledge acquired through my study of Kato Shuichi and memory studies in general.

d. I was asked by Leiden University College (LUC) in The Hague to be an instructor for 7 weeks, twice a week per two hours (first block of the first semester - Sept-mid.October) on the subject "Global Challenges:Peace". It made me very happy since it is related

both, to my Ph.D research and my study at PCS-TUFS department. It was also a valuable opportunity to get teaching experience and add it to my CV.

e. I presented my research at study group of Japanese researchers in Leiden University - “Siebold-kai”, on September, 30th.

f. I organized (and presented) an international symposium on post-Fukushima Japan at Leiden University College in The Hague on September 17, together with Martin Roth, a former TUFS researcher (now Prof. Goto-Jones’s Ph.D student at Leiden). Our guest speaker was renowned Prof. Steffi Richter from Japanese studies in Leipzig University.

### **3. Future tasks**

Since I was awarded a 2,5 months more (short-term AA stay at LIAS) for my research, I plan to spend that time in conducting the research I proposed (on the genealogy of the theory of peace in the Japanese intellectual history and Katō’s peace theory) and through that to finalize my postdoctoral research project.

I would like to extend my affiliation to the Leiden University in the future through some research projects or teaching position which may be possible from August 2013. I am also following any vacancies/fellowships in Europe regarding Japanese studies or/and Peace and conflict studies/International relations.