

【Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research(S)】
Humanities and Social Sciences (Humanities)



Title of Project : A Japan-Based Global Study of Representations of Race

Yasuko TAKEZAWA
(Kyoto University, Institute for Research in Humanities,
Professor)

Research Area : Cultural Anthropology / Folklore

Keyword : Race, Racism, Discrimination, Differences, Representations, Scientific discourse

【Purpose and Background of the Research】

This project is designed to further evolve the preceding studies of "representation and social reality of race," conducted in the form of collaborations among researchers in diverse disciplines with research interests in diverse regions. Its ultimate goal is to transmit new research findings and theories to be shared with the global academic community. Major objectives of this research program are as follows:

- 1) in addition to the analyses of "visual representation" of race, which are often based on Western experiences in external and internal colonization, it also spotlights "non-visual representation" of "invisible races" in Japan and other Asian countries, "scientific representation," and "self-representation to counter dominant representation". It also attempts to verify the ways in which these different forms of representation interact with each other to construct social reality;
- 2) It focuses on the global spread of racial representation, transformation in local areas and places, and trans-national solidarity among resistance movements. The word, "Japan-based," in the title is intended to clarify its agents, that is, researchers who are based in Japan, and to exploit the characteristics of collaborative research projects in Japan where researchers frequently meet face to face to conduct a joint project.

【Research Methods】

The major activities of this project will comprise joint workshops to be held at least 10 times a year by the program's representative (Prof. Yasuko Takezawa) at the Institute for Research in Humanities, Kyoto University (including open workshops, information on which will be offered on the website concerned; in principle, two reports will be presented at each workshop, which will take about five hours.) In addition, at least two large international symposiums are planned in the five-year program period. Annually, several smaller international conferences will be held, along with several open seminars. All co-researchers and collaborators are expected to attend these meetings. The project members must engage in field work, data collection, DNA analyses and

other research activities to present their research results, including findings and problems identified for resolution at workshops and open seminars. At the same time, greater efforts than ever before will be made toward publishing research results and making academic exchanges with the international academic communities. As one such means, overseas specialists who collaborated in our previous studies will be invited again to hold even deeper discussions.

【Expected Research Achievements and Scientific Significance】

One of the largest issues that we face in the 21st century is "invisible racism," a different type of racism from that which existed in the 19th century or in the first half of the 20th century. In addition to the Africans and other indigenous peoples who had been the primary subjects of previous studies of race, this project will shed light on representations of "invisible races" including burakumin (former outcasts in Japan) and Koreans in Japan. Such studies will reveal further implications by illuminating, from the reverse angle, the representation of invisible races in regions outside of Japan and Asia. Through collaboration with overseas researchers, this project will integrate results of conventional studies on race (studies based on Western colonization experiences) and results of racial studies from viewpoints based on experiences in Japan and other Asian regions. The outcomes of this project, a global collaboration based in Japan, will be shared internationally.

【Publications Relevant to the Project】

Results of this project will be presented at the above-mentioned international symposiums, conferences, and open seminars. Other initiatives for sharing research results include publication of academic books both in Japanese and English, release of a database, and provision of open lectures via open courseware (OCW) during the five-year period.

【Term of Project】 FY2010-2014

【Budget Allocation】 165,000 Thousand Yen

【Homepage Address and Other Contact Information】

<http://kyodo.zinbun.kyoto-u.ac.jp/~race/>