

(For JSPS Fellow)

Form B-5

Date (日付)

23.08.2014 (Date/Month/Year: 日/月/年)**Activity Report -Science Dialogue Program-**  
(サイエンス・ダイアログ事業 実施報告書)- Fellow's name (講師氏名): Kamilla Pawlikowska \_\_\_\_\_ (ID No. P 13731 )- Participating school (学校名): Nanao High School \_\_\_\_\_- Date (実施日時): 23.08.2014 \_\_\_\_\_ (Date/Month/Year: 日/月/年)- Lecture title (講演題目): (in English) Visions of Japan in Poland and England \_\_\_\_\_(in Japanese) \_\_\_\_\_

- Lecture summary (講演概要): Please summary your lecture 200-500 words.

## Visions of Japan in Poland and England 1860-1930

Powerfully attracted to Japan since its 'reopening' in 1858, European writers frequently attempted to capture its magnetic charm. This fascination, most notably reflected in modernist art and the phenomenon of *japonisme*, is well-documented. However, cases where depictions of Japanese culture are manufactured to serve external goals – be they political, social, ethical or aesthetic – have not as yet received adequate critical attention. The aim of this lecture is to examine how Polish and English 'japonist' authors of the period 1860-1930 used Japan and 'Japanese culture' to support their personal and national agendas.

In order to demonstrate that 'Japanese culture' was deployed as a flexible concept to which authors attributed convenient meanings, I will examine texts produced in very different socio-historical contexts. In the period 1772-1918 Poland was partitioned and occupied by Austro-Hungary, Prussia and Russia. Polish writers and social reformers customized their visions of 'Japanese culture' to their pro-nationalist discourse. Bolesław Prus, for example, insisted that the Japanese population, who not long before were 'eating rats', suddenly 'civilised themselves' due to their congenital vigour and cleverness. He extolled Japan's progress in order to expose what he saw as the Polish lack of initiative and apathy. At the time of the Russo-Japanese war, Prus identified the Japanese as a 'military nation' in order to stress the absence of military zeal in Polish society. Another Pole, Feliks Jasieński, endorsed a utopian vision of Japan as a 'society of artists' in order to encourage the development of Polish national art. In Britain, on the other hand, writing about Japan had different goals. For example, Arthur Sullivan's and W.S. Gilbert's opera *The Mikado* (1885) used the stereotype of Japan as cruel and 'uncivilised' in order to endorse a social critique of English public institutions. While Prus admired 'Japanese militarism', some British diplomats (for example, Algernon Bertram Freeman-Mitford)

promoted 'Old Japan', thereby contributing to the public image of Japan as a feudal, fairy-tale-like 'enchanted' land. Altogether, Japan, perceived as a mythical island, intriguing yet undetermined, served Polish and English commentators as a screen onto which they projected social concerns and national ambitions. Using close reading and stylistic and comparative analysis I will explain how writers manipulated the public image of Japan and Japanese culture.

- Language used (使用言語): English

- Lecture format (講演形式):

◆Lecture time (講演時間) 120 min (分), Q&A time (質疑応答時間) 20 min (分)

◆Lecture style (ex.: used projector, conducted experiments)

(講演方法 (例: プロジェクター使用による講演、実験・実習の有無など))

Lecture with the use of the projector, handouts and a handout with questions which the students were working on in groups after the lecture

◆Interpretation (ex.: assistance by accompanied person, provided Japanese explanation by yourself) (通訳 (例: 同行者によるサポート、講師本人による日本語説明))

Explanations provided by myself

◆Name and title of accompanied person (同行者 職・氏名)

◆Other note worthy information (その他特筆すべき事項):

Please could JSPS check the questionnaire given to the students. There are grammatical mistakes in this questionnaire.

- Impressions and opinions from accompanied person (同行者の方から、本事業に対する意見・感想等がありましたら、お願いいたします。):