

Kyoto University Global COE

“Reconstruction of the Intimate and Public Spheres in 21st Century Asia”

Asian ERASMUS Pilot Program for the Teaching Staff from Overseas Partners Institutions

Name (First, Middle, Last)	Patricia Mary Thane	City/Country of the Home Organization
		London, UK
Home Organization (University/ Institute, Dept./Faculty, Position/Title)	Professor of Contemporary British History Centre for Contemporary British History Kings College, London.	
Invitation Period	From Nov 8 to Dec 13 2010	
Counterpart Graduate School/ Center at Kyoto University	Counterpart Professor: Professor Emiko Ochiai	
	Counterpart Graduate School/Center: Global COE, Reconstruction of the Intimate and Public Spheres in 21 st century Asia	
Title of Research	Comparisons of responses to the ageing population in Japan and UK.	
<p>1) Title of the lecture if you gave any: The Intimate and Public Spheres in Britain and Europe since 1900. 4 lectures: The changing roles of women and men in Britain. C.1900-2010 Patterns and explanations of demographic change in Britain: c.1900- 2010, British and European Welfare States c.1900-2010 Civil society institutions /NGOs and their roles in British and European societies.</p> <p>2) Title of your presentation if you made any at seminar/symposium/conference; Date and Place; Number of participants (approx.); Organizer 'Unmarried Motherhood in modern Britain'. Dec 3 2010. Graduate School of Letters, Kyoto University. C. 25 people. Organized by Global COE Program.</p>		

Please attach a written report of evaluating your results/achievements of our GCOE Asian Erasmus Pilot Program.

(1) Submit two separate reports written from each aspect of “Education” and “Research”. In 350 words each. (2) Attach reference materials if any. (3) Also, email a digital photo to show your education or research activities if available. (A photo must be within 3000KB in size and shall not

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infringe on portrait rights.)

The submitted materials will be posted on the web page of this program.

*Please submit the written report within one month after the end of the invitation period to the GCOE office (intimacy@socio.kyoto-u.ac.jp) by email.

ERASMUS REPORT. TEACHING.

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I gave three sets of lectures to graduate students, as follows:

Title The Intimate and Public Spheres in Britain in and Europe 20th and 21st Centuries.

Description of Lectures To examine the current situation in Britain concerning gender, the demographic regime, the welfare state and civil society from the perspective of their historical construction in the 20th century and comparisons with other European countries.

Syllabus.

1st week. Gender. The changing roles of women and men in Britain.

Lecture 1: 1900-1950.

Lecture 2: 1950-2010

2nd week Demography.

Lecture 1: Patterns and explanations of demographic change in Britain: c/1900-1945.

Lecture 2: 1945-present

3rd week British and European Welfare States.

Lecture 1: to 1945.

Lecture 2: since 1945.

4th week Civil society institutions /NGOs and their roles in British and European societies.

About 10 students attended each week. I held a discussion period after each lecture. The students were attentive and asked good questions. They submitted written assignments at the end of each course. The lectures are accessible on the Global COE website.

ERASMUS REPORT: RESEARCH

Title of Research

Comparison of the responses of Japanese and British societies to the ageing of their populations.

Description of Research

Building on my already extensive knowledge of the ageing of British society, pensions and welfare provision, family relations of older people, retirement patterns, attitudes to older people including ageism, age discrimination, and attempts by the European Union, the British government and civil society organizations to combat discrimination, I aimed to make comparisons of all these aspects of the ageing of Japanese society. I wished to compare pensions and welfare provision, including whether in Japan as in Britain women are less favoured by the pension system. To compare family relations, in particular asking whether it is true that in Japan families take more care of older people than in Britain (in my view the extent of family care in Britain is much underestimated). Also to examine attitudes to older people in Japan: are they more respected than in Britain? Is ageism and age discrimination a problem? If so, what attempts are there to combat it?

I discussed the situation in Japan with experts, having carried out extensive reading in advance. I visited care homes in Kyoto and Ogaki (Gifu Prefecture) and held discussions with their managers (through a translator). I concluded that, as in Britain, older women tend to be less favoured by the pension system than men. Families in Japan are required to provide for older members more than in Britain but this is often beyond their capacities when the older people are very frail, physically or mentally, and the families are less supported by public health and welfare services especially if they have low incomes. Provision for low-income older people in the community and in care homes seems often to be inferior. There are some very imaginative and supportive residential and day-care schemes but it is hard to judge how many people benefit. There are very long waiting lists for care homes. Voluntary action to support older people is encouraged through the ‘care credit’ scheme but coverage is limited and untrained volunteers cannot substitute for professional health and welfare services. In both countries there is a great deal of hidden need among older people. I was concerned that doctors transferred older people to permanent feeding via tube too readily (this was criticized by care managers) and perhaps diagnose dementia too readily.

Relevance to GCOE Highly relevant to its concerns with demography, relations between generations, welfare, gender and civil society. Deals with important aspects of both public and private spheres.