

Kyoto University Global COE

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

Asian ERASMUS Pilot Program for Next Generation Researchers and Students from Overseas Partners Institutions

Name (First, Middle, Last)	Björn-Ole Frederik KAMM	City/Country of the Home Organization Heidelberg, Germany
Home Organization (University/Institute, Dept./Faculty, Position/Status)	Doctoral Candidate Cluster of Excellence “Asia and Europe in a Global Context” Ruprecht-Karl University of Heidelberg	
Invitation Period	From November 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2012 to January 31 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	
Counterpart Graduate School/Center at Kyoto University	Counterpart Professor: Prof. ITO Kimio Counterpart Graduate School/Center: Graduate School of Letters	
Title of Research	Self- and Other-Labeling Processes surrounding Transcultural Public Spheres: Global networks, identity- and role-playing (games) in Japan, Germany and the USA	
1) The 5th Next-Generation Global Workshop “Social Innovation and Sustainability for the Future: Recreating the Intimate and Public Spheres” 2) GCOE International Conference “Social Innovation and Sustainability for the Future” 3) Asian Research Center for the Intimate and Public Spheres, 8 <sup>th</sup> public seminar, “The Meaning of Datsu-A“, Pekka KORHONEN 4) KYOTO LECTURES 2013 “Assembling Shinto:		

<p>Buddhist approaches to kami worship in medieval Japan”, Anna ANDREEVA</p>	

**Report (ERASMUS researcher Björn-Ole KAMM; Nov. 2012 – Jan.2013)**

Since 2011 I am conducting doctoral research at one of the Kyoto GCOE’s overseas partners, the Cluster “Asia and Europe” in Heidelberg. My three-month stay as an ERASMUS researcher began with the 5<sup>th</sup> Next-Generation Global Workshop and International Conference on “Social Innovation and Sustainability for the Future”. I took part in the workshop as a panelist and presented a paper on “Ethics of Internet-based Research on Japanese Subcultures” in the Session on Media and IT (Nov 6th, 2012). The panel and the workshop provided me with great opportunities to discuss methodologies of Internet related studies and further collaboration with other young researchers. In conjunction with the workshop and the subsequent conference, I also attended a business meeting of Prof. FUESS (Heidelberg), Prof. ITŌ (Kyoto) and Prof. SANO (Nichibunken) concerning a Kyoto EAJS conference in September 2013.

Directly after the proceedings in Kyoto I went to Singapore to give a presentation on project based teaching at the first “Teaching Japanese Popular Culture Conference” at the National University of Singapore (Nov. 11-12 ,2012).

After my return to Kyoto I undertook several trips to the National Diet Library (Kansai), to screen microfilms of several newspapers, including *Nikkan Gendai*, *Yūkan Fuji*, *Tokyo Shinbun*, and *Kanagawa Shinbun*. The main focus of my research during my time in Kyoto was the qualitative

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content analysis of articles concerning the *Tokyo-Saitama Serial Child Murder Case* of 1988/89 published in these newspapers as well as weekly and monthly journals. This murder case features prominently in the discourse on the use of popular media and I wanted to study the particulars of the mass medial portrayal. I spent the remainder of November as well as the first weeks of December doing appropriate archival work, making use of the collections of the Kyoto University Library, Osaka Prefecture Library and interlending services. In December I moreover began with the analysis of these articles, employing the analysis software MaxQDA. I also aimed at analyzing news and wide show broadcasts concerning the child murder case of 1989 but my endeavors to contact TV broadcasters, such as NHK, TBS, or Fuji, however, were not fruitful.

Following the advice of Prof. ITŌ who kindly supervised my research in Kyoto, I went to the private collection *Oya-bunko* in Tokyo to gain access to most of the journal articles I wanted to analyze but could not access via the other libraries mentioned above. During my trip to Tokyo I also met a number of informants I had interviewed on a prior fieldwork stay at the German Institute for Japanese Studies (DIJ). I was additionally able to make contact with organizers of workshops and conventions pertaining life-action roleplaying in Japan. They allowed me to participate in one such workshop on Jan. 27, 2013, where I conducted further observations.

On the basis of my first analysis I scripted an overview of my findings during early/mid January. I gratefully accepted the chance to present these findings by giving a seminar in the GCOE's lecture series (Jan. 18, 2013). I particularly enjoyed the discussion of this seminar as I was able to further detail my overall doctoral project and received very helpful comments.

Directly after my talk I was able to conduct more fieldwork in Kyoto and also made contact with new informants in Osaka. On the days before and after my trip to Tokyo I thus went to Osaka to conduct fieldwork and interviews. I was also fortunate to also meet with designers and authors based in Osaka/Kobe.

As I will take up the position as proposal coordinator for a joint training group of the universities Kyoto and Heidelberg after my return to Germany I met with Prof. MORI, vice president for international relations, in January. We also discussed possible collaboration between the two universities on the M.A. level. Related to these endeavors I furthermore met with Prof. OCHIAI, designated speaker of the planned training group, and Prof. ITŌ to talk about our joint proposal.

After my great experience at Kyoto University I am very much looking forward to further collaborations between our universities. My gratitude thus goes to Prof. ITŌ, Prof. OCHIAI, Prof. ASATO and all members and staff of the GCOE who made my fruitful stay in Kyoto possible.

Attached Materials:

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- Draft of findings (“Making-up the Otaku”), not for distribution
- Photo of seminar and business meeting