

Waseda／Strasbourg TAIISI International Symposium "The Borders of Nation-States: Mobility of Persons and Citizenship in Asia and Europe"

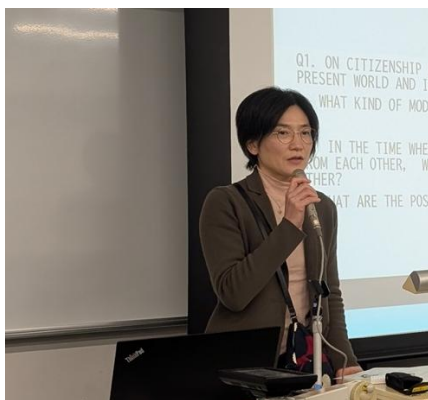
◆ Report

On Friday, 17 January 2025, TAIISI International Symposium "The Borders of Nation-States: Mobility of Persons and Citizenship in Asia and Europe" was held at the Waseda Campus.

The symposium was co-organized by Institute for Advanced Social Sciences, Waseda University and Centre for International and European Studies (CEIE), University of Strasbourg, and lively discussions took place in hybrid style of physical and online accommodating over 30 participants from not only Japan but also from Strasbourg in France. In the first half of the session, three researchers and two graduate students delivered presentations on their respective research areas based on the keywords "Citizenship," "Identity," "Regional integration," "Immigration," and "Nation-state." In the second half of the session, two facilitators joined the presenters from the previous session to exchange opinions, and a comprehensive discussion was realized with a comparative perspective between Europe and Asia.

Below is the report and feedback from the two graduate students who contributed to the symposium.

【Opening & Introduction】 Professor Kei Yoshida, Associate Director of the Institute for Advanced Social Sciences (Professor of Faculty of Social Sciences, Waseda University) made an opening remark. Then, introduction of symposium was given by Professor Noriko Suzuki, Faculty of Social Sciences, Waseda University/Visiting researcher, CEIE, University of Strasbourg who was the organizer and moderator of the symposium.



Noriko Suzuki

【Presentation 1】 A presentation was given by Professor Hideki Tarumoto, School of Culture, Media and Society, Waseda University, who spoke on the subject of "A Comparative Study of Migration and Citizenship in Asian and in Europe." He mentioned that in a globalizing society, interaction with people of different nationalities is increasing, and the diversity of way of thinking is sometimes form a barrier to the regional integration. He pointed out that citizenship may be one of the solutions. He defined the members in a nation and suggested a way of governing a nation with the framework of citizenship that can include immigrants that are on the outer side of the framework. He then explained that while there is a global trend of restricting the social rights of citizens and strengthening the rights of minorities such as immigrants, this is not necessarily the case in Asia, citing the immigration statistics and immigration systems in Japan, South Korea and Taiwan.

【Presentation 2】 Chihiro Sato, a graduate student at the Graduate School of Social Sciences gave a presentation titled "The Practice of Religious Education for the Realization of Multicultural Society: The Case of Belgium," in which she talked about religious education in the multicultural society of Belgium. She focused on the Dutch-speaking community in Belgium and clarified the practice of religious education in schools in a country of people with multi religious backgrounds through interview surveys. Based on the results of survey, she introduced that religious education provides an opportunity to deepen understanding of one's own and others' religions in a multicultural society and that it could be an effective mechanism for easing social divisions.



Chihiro Sato

【Presentation 3】 Mitsuo Watanabe, a graduate student at the Graduate School of Social Sciences gave a presentation titled "Comparison of free movement of people in ASEAN and EU – Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) on professionals." He explained that of the

four basic elements of free movement (People, Goods, Capital, Services), free movement of people is most closely related to the recognition of qualification, and its system is facilitating the movement of people in a region. He pointed out that the recognition of qualification of the European Union (EU) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) share a common goal of regional integration, but there are differences in the foundations of the system, core norms, and models of recognition.



Mitsuo Watanabe

【Presentation 4】 Professor Jun Inoue, Faculty of Comparative Culture, Otsuma Women's University delivered a presentation titled "Market citizen, citizenship and national borders: an implication of healthcare professionals' mobility between the EU and the UK," in which he discussed the movement of nursing professionals to the UK and the impact of Brexit. He began by outlining the history of free movement of people in Europe and elaborated on the UK's strong border control. He then argued that the proportion of people migrating based on EU citizenship has fallen, and migration of nursing professionals to the UK has also decreased since Brexit, and that the UK is failing to secure nursing professionals.



Jun Inoue

【Presentation 5】 Professor Birte Wassenberg, Institute of Political Studies of Strasbourg (Sciences po Strasbourg) gave a talk entitled "Perceptions of Europe at the Franco-German Border: key witnesses from the Border Region Alsace" in which she introduced the testimonies of people living in Alsace, located on the French-German border, obtained from historical documents and interview surveys, to discuss how a sense of European citizenship is fostered. In Alsace, where there is a strong memory of the border being violated by war, the consciousness of the people as European citizens is an important element in realizing a borderless Europe for the sake of peace, and she indicated how such a European identity is perceived by its people.



Birte Wassenberg

【Discussions】 Associate Professor Tomoya Kuroda, School of Law, Senshu University and Professor Seiko Oyama, School of Global Studies, Tokai University joined in the second half of the session of the exchange of opinions where each speaker gave a comment. The questions from the participants covered a wide range of topic, and it brought a fruitful outcome for a mutual reflection.



Presenters (from left to right, M.Watanabe, J.Inoue, C.Sato, B.Wassenberg and H.Tarumoto)



Tomoya Kuroda



Seiko Oyama

【Comment from M.Watanabe】

The symposium was organized just before I was to submit my master's dissertation. The opportunity to present what I had been researching was an exciting occasion and I am grateful to my supervisor for creating the opportunity. However, despite my hardest efforts with a certain degree of confidence in my research findings, the symposium ended up leaving me with a sense of unsatisfaction to my performance. I realized that while it is absolutely necessary to go deep into the topic of expertise, in order to discuss with others, one must also need to have the ability to develop relevant overall picture and to go wide concerning the topic. I also felt that a symposium is not necessarily a place to find an answer, but rather its best part is to gaining insights from the reactions by interacting with experts each sharing their own understandings.

【Comment from C.Sato】

When my supervisor offered me to make a presentation at the symposium, I was full of tension and anxiety, knowing that I would be presenting in front of experienced professors and that there would be participants from overseas. However, I decided to participate because I felt that I might never have another opportunity to present at such an academic symposium, as I chose to work after graduating from my master's program. Although I am far behind professors in terms of knowledge, I thought that I could introduce my own interpretation based on the results from my interview surveys. It seemed like a challenge for me who is a non-religious person that grew up in Japan to understand the "European view in religion" and add an original argument, but I am very grateful of my professor's valuable guidance to the final end. I was also honored to have the opportunity to think about social issues from an

international perspective while still a student, and to have the experience of presenting at a symposium.