

Report on the International Symposium/Workshop in Japanese Literary and Visual Studies  
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First of all, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all the faculty and staff at both Waseda University and Columbia University for organizing the International Symposium/Workshop and allowing me to attend it. It was my first visit to the United States and Columbia University. I enjoyed the two-day event very much, and I am pleased to write a report on it and to share this invaluable experience.

The symposium/workshop consisted of presentations by professors and round table discussions by graduate students. I participated in the round table discussion on the first day to give a talk on my current research about the English translations of Tanizaki Jun'ichirō's work. It was a great honor to present my work in English in front of the audience at Columbia University. Although I found it difficult to answer the questions in the discussion part, I was glad to receive the feedback that stimulated my research. The theme of the event on the second day was Japanese visual studies. The talks on the art and its history, which I was not familiar with, were inspiring and engaging for me. Since the scholars of literary studies and visual studies gathered together in one place, the comments from those with different backgrounds had a wide variety, and they led to animated discussions.

After the sessions, I got a chance to interact with the Ph.D. students at Columbia University. The truly excellent quality of their Japanese language skills impressed a lot, which encouraged me to learn languages harder. Besides, their interest in Japan was not only specialized but also extensive, and, therefore, talking with them significantly expanded my horizons. I guess the reason for this might be that they are conducting their research on Japanese literature or art as part of area studies of Japan. It was fortunate that I was able to interact with them through this opportunity. I hope that I can maintain a good relationship with them.

All these experiences offered me a new and broader perspective on my study. Above all, one of the most important things for me is that I was able to realize the importance of considering the difference between Japanese literary studies in Japan and the United States. It has led to a reconsideration of how I should develop my dissertation and why I am going to write it in English in Japan. So, it will be a primary motivation for my further research. I believe that the attendance at the symposium/workshop and the interaction with the graduate students at Columbia University in the first year of my Ph. D. program will be a great treasure in my academic career. I hope that this type of event will be held again in the future.