

The University of Tokyo Global Japan Studies Summer Program 2016 (Report)

AN INQUIRY INTO JAPAN'S POSTWAR

Aug. 24-Sep. 2, 2016



Program Organizer:

The Global Japan Studies (GJS) Network

Program Host Institution:

Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia, the University of Tokyo

Global Japan Studies at the University of Tokyo is an interdisciplinary and multilingual network of research and education on Japan. It seeks to bring together Japanese studies overseas and studies of Japan within Japan. This summer program is a short-term education project in pursuit of this goal.



Introduction to the Global Japan Studies Summer Program (2016)

Japan's postwar period is most often described in terms of four decades of high economic growth followed subsequently by the recent recession dubbed "the lost two decades" (1990-present). Japan's postwar, however, points to a far more complicated and ongoing process of social, cultural, and political changes, which this program set out to explore.

Participants were immersed in a ten-day intensive program of interdisciplinary academic lectures (in humanities, social sciences, and engineering) as well as carefully planned fieldtrips in the Tokyo metropolitan area. Through a well-designed combination of on- and off-campus study, the program challenged participants to both critically analyze and actually experience specifically identified sociological and technological issues, such as sustainable urban planning and social stratification. These issues are key for understanding not only Japan's postwar itself but also the larger world to which Japan is closely connected and of which Japan is intrinsically a part.

Program requirements:

participants were required to conduct group research projects and give presentations on the final day of the program. Project topics were decided in consultation with program faculty members. Participants also were asked to complete a program evaluation.

While the program lecture and fieldtrip did not count toward course credits, participants received a University of Tokyo summer program certificate upon successfully completing the program.



Day 1: Ice Breaker

Program Schedule 2016

	9:00-10:20	10:40-13:00 (10:40-12:10 Lecture; 12:10-13:00: Lunch and Discussion)	13:30-17:30 (field trip, time may vary slightly everyday)	Evening	Lodge
8/23 (Tue)	Arrival at Tokyo, check-in at Hotel Graphy Nezu				Hotel Graphy Nezu
8/24 (Wed)	Guidance, Campus tour / Main Conference Room (MCR), IASA / Atten: Profs. Nakajima, Zhong, Nii, TA (Ms. Handa Yuri)		Grouping and group orientation, program group photo taking / Atten: Profs. Sonoda, Zhong, Nii, TA	Free activity	
8/25 (Thu)	Japanese /Center for Japanese Language Education (CJLE)	Lecture (1) Prof. Kobayashi Yasuo “<body> as Thought – A Perspective toward Postwar Japanese Culture” /Lunch & discussion / MCR	Fieldtrip (1) Tokyo Metro Ginza Line: Sensoji Temple – Ginza – Shibuya / Attn: Prof. Zhong, TA	Free activity	
8/26 (Fri)	Japanese / CJLE	Lecture (2) Prof. Yoshimi Shunya “Visualizing Postwar Tokyo” /Lunch & discussion/ MCR	Fieldtrip (2) Tokyo Shitamachi Walk / Attn: Profs. Zhong, Nii	Free activity	
8/27 (Sat)	Japanese / CJLE	Lecture (3) Prof. Murayama Akito “Urban Diversity and Transformations of Tokyo” / Lunch & discussion / MCR	Fieldtrip (3) Toshima City Office, Minami-Ikebukuro Park, Tokyo Metro. Gov. Observation Tower /Attn: Prof Murayama, Zhong, TA	Free activity	
8/28 (Sun)	Free activity (optional trip to the Edo-Tokyo Museum)				
8/29 (Mon)	Japanese / CJLE	Lecture (4) Prof. Uno Shigeki “Democracy and Conservative Politics in Postwar Japan” /Lunch & discussion / MCR	Fieldtrip (4) Yasukuni Shrine, Parliamentary Museum (Kensei kinenkan) / Attn: Prof. Zhong, TA	Group work	
8/30 (Tue)	Japanese / CJLE	Lecture (5) Prof. Honda Yuki “Poverty in Japan” /Lunch & discus/ MCR	Fieldtrip (5) Trip to Sanya area, led by NPO Moyai / Attn: Mr. Oonishi, Prof. Zhong, TA	Free activity	
8/31 (Wed)	Japanese/ CJLE	Group work	Free activity		
9/1 (Thu)	Japanese / CJLE	Lecture (6) Prof. Tanaka Akihiko “Japan’s Postwar Foreign Policy” / Lunch & discussion / MCR	Fieldtrip (6) /(2:30 – 6:00 PM) Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Diet, Liberal Democratic Party headquarters / Attn: Profs Tanaka, Zhong, TA	Free activity	
9/2 (Fri)	Group presentation (9:00-12:00)/ MCR / Attn: Profs. Zhong, Nii, TA,		Lunch & farewell party (13:00-16:00)/ MCR / Attn: Profs. Sonoda, Zhong, Nii, TA		

Day 4: Visiting the Minami-Ikebukuro Park and talking with Mr. Hiraga Tatsuya, the park designer



Program Lecturers 2016

Yuki HONDA (Professor of Sociology of Education, the Graduate School of Education, the University of Tokyo)

Yasuo KOBAYASHI (Professor of Philosophy, Aoyama Gakuin University in Tokyo; Professor Emeritus, the University of Tokyo)

Akito MURAYAMA (Associate Professor of Urban Planning, Department of Urban Engineering, School of Engineering, the University of Tokyo)

Akihiko TANAKA (Professor of International Politics, the Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia (IASA), the University of Tokyo)

Shigeki UNO (Professor of Political Thought, the Institute of Social Science, the University of Tokyo)

Shunya YOSHIMI (Professor of Sociology, Cultural Studies, and Media Studies, the Graduate School of Interdisciplinary Information Studies, the University of Tokyo; Vice-President of the University of Tokyo)

Total Number of Participants: 16 (University of Tokyo students: 7)

Place of Origin: Leiden University, Peking University, Shanghai Jiaotong University, University of Hong Kong, University of Melbourne, University of Southampton, University of Tokyo

Final-day Group Presentation Topics:

- Poverty and Social Awareness: Japan, Singapore, Shanghai, Melbourne
- Shibuya: (Re)development and (Re)imagining
- Unapologetic Narratives about WWII in Postwar Japan as Embodied by Yasukuni Shrine
- Tokyo Transportation Hystography

Day 7:
discussion with
NPO Moyai on
poverty in Japan



Participants' Feedback:

-The program schedule was quite intense. That being said, I thoroughly enjoyed every field trip and lecture, so I am strongly against reducing the number of lectures/field trips; in fact, I would even suggest increasing the amount of activities. ...The content of the lectures were wonderful in that they were both broad enough to be understood by those who did not necessarily have much knowledge of Japan, but at the same time filled with the professors' personal insight, which was valuable and new for those who have already studied Japan in depth.

-The breadth of the program was very impressive. The program was an eye-opener for me, since it would have never occurred to myself to look at Tokyo and our society from perspectives such as poverty or urban development.

-I enjoyed the fact that it was tightly packed and the whole day was spent learning. The Japanese lessons were made fun, lectures were informative, and fieldtrips were full of information and were made hugely enjoyable.

-I was very impressed by the content of the lectures, as well as the field trips. ...I felt enlightened by many of the lectures and the insights given by all of the professors, and the field trips also left a very strong impression on me. ...I hope to apply what I learned in this program to my academic career, as I dive deeper into understanding the complexity of Japanese society.

-The logistical support was extremely thorough and allowed for the program to run very smoothly. I did not have any problems or inconveniences during this program.

-The schedule was well organized and the itinerary was carefully planned. The program itself was a bit intense but at the same time it was challenging. I thought the field trips was just right as it really enhanced the learning experience. The content of the program including lectures and field trips were all very interesting and are important issues in the current world we live today. ...I learned a lot more both academically & intellectually from this program, even more than I did in my University.

-The field trips, although most tiring, I think were the highlight of the program. ...It was a way to see Tokyo in a completely new light. More than simply visiting locations, though, the best trips were ones that included people involved in the building/community/purposes of that location – for example, the architect who built the Minami Ikebukuro Park, ...Moyai and Sanyukai members who showed us Sanya and the situation of poverty in Japan. I found these to be most memorable.



Day 9:
Visiting the
National Diet



Day 10:
Program
participants
and faculty
at the
farewell
party

Thank all the summer program participants of 2016! It is YOU who made the program a success.

Latest information of the 2017 Summer Program is available at gjs.ioc.u-tokyo.ac.jp

We look forward to your participation in 2017!

Program Committee Advisers: Profs. SONODA Shigeto, NAKAJIMA Takahiro

Secretariat: Prof. NII Yoko, Prof. ZHONG Yijiang

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