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Preface

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Preface

We are pleased to present the fourth issue of *Inter Faculty* to our readers. It has been an exciting year for the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Tsukuba. Besides the Global Negotiation Program (GNP) mentioned in the preface to the third issue, the TRANS Europe-East Asia Education Program for Global Development in the Humanities and Social Sciences (TRANS) started in 2012 as one of the Re-Inventing Japan Projects supported by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science. TRANS consists of three sub programs: Japanese Language and Culture Communications Training (JLCC); Transnational European and East Asian Culture and History (TEACH); and Comparative Study of Contemporary Japanese Society (COMPAS-CJS), each of which has made remarkable progress during the 2012/3 academic year. Moreover, we have been chosen for the “Project for Promotion of Global Human Resource Development for 2012” by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science & Technology. Under this project new educational programs, such as the “Area Study Innovation Program” and the “Locally Optimized Global Human Resources”, are underway. In addition to these educational projects, our proposal for “Centre of Research for Development in Japanese Language, Culture and Society” has been selected as one of the Pre-strategic Initiatives (Research Base-building) of our university. This issue of *Inter Faculty* is the product of the stirring activities of these projects incubated and nurtured in the cradle of IFERI.

This issue presents six articles and a research note that cover diverse topics within the fields of humanities and social sciences:

- Yusuke IGUCHI (University of Tsukuba) analyzes the editing process of Michael Haneke’s movie “71 Fragmente einer Chronologie des Zufalls” and shows that it functions as a critique against not only the mass media but also the audience who watch news broadcasts produced by the mass media.
- Sanae ITO (University of Helsinki) studies Assyrian royal correspondence. In this paper, she focuses on a letter from Assurbanipal to the governor of a Babylonian city and its citizens to show how the Assyrian king used political rhetoric towards his people.

- Masashi NARA (University of Tsukuba) examines an urban Hui Muslim community in China and argues that Hui Muslims are fragmented by the contrasting trends of secularization and Islamization, yet associated via the Web for diverse social activities and Islamic revival movements.
- Keiko SAIGUSA (University of Tsukuba) focuses on the image of the human body in artwork portraying the theme of disabled veterans after World War I.
- Dr. Kousuke SAITOU (University of Tsukuba) examines the A-12 aircraft acquisition program of the U.S. Navy as a case of risk politicization, perception gap and policy trilemma.
- Ai SATO (University of Tsukuba) deals with the theme of light vs. dark spaces as proposed in the works of Eugène Minkowski, a French psychiatrist and philosopher during the first half of the twentieth century.
- In her research note, Elodie CRETIN (University of Franche-Comté) reflects upon the state of being of a person in a permanent vegetative state and raises questions of how to consider a person who does not exist or even what is living without existing.

This issue also presents the proceedings of the Second Forum of the Euro-Japan Academic Networking for Humanities Project which was held at Venice International University in October 2012 and finally, a review of Joseph E. Stiglitz's book *The Price of Inequality: How Today's Divided Society Endangers Our Future* (New York, 2012) by Professor Abu Girma MOGES (University of Tsukuba).

It was intriguing for me to find a common denominator among several entries in this issue. Saigusa touched upon fragmentation of the body and Sato that of the mind. Nara's article and Moges' book review dealt with fragmentations of society in terms of religion and economy respectively. Besides, the title of Iguchi's paper happened to contain the word "Fragmente" and various forms of the word peppered the lectures and discussions of the Venice forum. For these reasons, this issue of *Inter Faculty* is entitled FRAGMENTATIONS. It also symbolizes the fact that IFERI has successfully incubated the many educational and research projects mentioned above and this journal has become the common ground where these "fragments" fit together to constitute a larger picture of our interfaculty initiatives.

Inter Faculty is an interactive journal and we welcome reactions from our readers. If you would like to post your comments or questions on specific articles or to open a discussion thread on any of the related themes, please go to the Comments and Discussion section of this journal and simply follow the instructions.



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