

Exploring International Reconciliation Studies based on Universal Values and Collective Memory

	Principal Investigator	Waseda University, Graduate School of Philosophy, Politics, and Economics, Professor ASANO Toyomi Researcher Number : 60308244
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Purpose and Significance of the Research

● Deciphering the dynamics of collective memory and universal values

The case of East Asia is a key to looking into contemporary emotional conflicts in the world. This implies the need for a theory to examine the elements (collective memories, emotions, and values) that are shared within and even form a "nation". Taking clues from East Asia, which has achieved prosperity, we must examine the causes of conflict inherent in domestic populism and nationalism in current world conflicts, advancing the level of our analysis beyond the boundary of domestic and international politics.

● Weaving the dynamics of collective emotions into various studies with an awareness of the different types of "reconciliation"

"Reconciliation" is the process by which elements that make up a subject, such as an individual or a group, transform through communication and dialogue, as well as the very act of concurrently nurturing new relationships. However, such reconciliation is always subject to the distribution of goods in the "real world" and to labor and production activities. At the same time, these are also constructed through the "symbols" of institutions and organizations that signify the creation and distribution of public goods in a multilayered society.

● Social impact through collaboration with the International Association for Reconciliation Studies (IARS) and the development of agenda-setters

In collaboration with Cambridge University (UK), George Mason University (US), and Jena University (Germany), we will foster young researchers who can organize international joint research and publish research in English. Further, in collaboration with IARS (International Association of Reconciliation Studies), we will contribute to the development of human resources capable of setting agendas at international conferences.

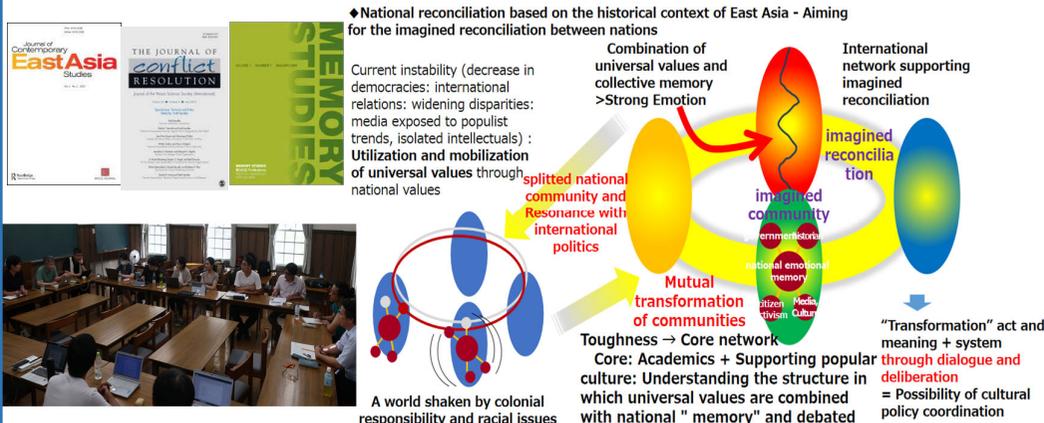


Fig.1 Basic Understandings of Problems: Structure for International Reconciliation

Organization of the Project Team

● Groups of young researchers from Waseda University and IARS

Young research collaborators from the Japanese research team will choose a place to stay, selecting Cambridge University, Jena University, or George Mason University overseas for one to three years, find counterparts, and conduct international joint research. The results of the joint research will be published in reputable academic journals in English-speaking countries.

International collaborator, **Professor Karina V. Korostelina** (George Mason University), a native of Ukraine and a 30-year resident of the United States, has been contributing to the Reconciliation Studies Creation Project since 2018. She shares an awareness of the issues that connect traditional nationalism studies and conflict resolution studies to the international reconciliation studies explored in this project. **Professor Barak Kushner** (Cambridge University) has been a visiting professor for several years, teaching intensive summer courses at Waseda University and providing area studies reflections on a wide range of topics, including philosophy, ideology, transitional justice, and sexual violence.

Professor Martin Leiner (Friedrich Schiller University of Jena) is a partner who co-organized the International Society for Reconciliation Studies, which has held four world congresses in Germany, Japan, the United States, and Rwanda.

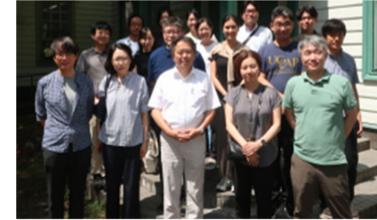


Fig.2 At the Workshop 2023

Plan for Fostering Early-career Researchers

● Training researchers with common methods and research interests

The participants will include not only political science, history, and international relations scholars, but also philosophy, intellectual history, and psychological researchers who deal in detail with the inner workings of humans and issues of morals, norms, and values; educational researchers; and local area studies and anthropology scholars in the region.

● Forming 5 teams / 3 analysis layers from the group focusing on emotional problems

The philosophical and psychological composition of the project establishes contention points that evoke five conflicts and three levels of analysis, denoted in Fig. 3.

● Collaboration and continuous discussions with overseas research and summer camps

Plans to send 18 young researchers to George Mason Univ., 17 to Cambridge Univ., and 6 to Jena Univ. for 1-2 year terms for overseas study. This program will have a plan for not only a summer camp, but also presentations in English collaborated with the IARS. New young researchers would be welcomed, if you are determined to join us.

