



HIROSHIMA RESEARCH NEWS

Hiroshima Peace Institute

Vol.26 No.2 March 2024

HPI Public Lecture Series AY2023

Thinking about the War in Ukraine from Hiroshima

Chie Shijo

From October 20 to November 23, 2023, the Hiroshima Peace Institute (HPI) held its public lecture series AY2023. As in the previous series, the lectures were pre-recorded and made available online so as to allow people of all ages, and as many people as possible, to access them. Under the common theme of “Thinking about the War in Ukraine from Hiroshima,” and following on from the G7 Hiroshima Summit, which was held in May 2023, five lecturers offered participants an opportunity to re-examine the war in Ukraine and nuclear issues from Hiroshima, where an atomic bomb was dropped 78 years ago.

1st lecture: Oct. 20-Oct. 26, 2023, in Japanese

“An Overview of the History of Nuclear Weapons: From the Manhattan Project to the War in Ukraine”

Yasuhiro Yamada, Professor at HPI

This lecture reviewed the approximately 80 years of history of the science, technology, and international relations surrounding nuclear weapons, from the discovery that atomic nuclei could actually be split to the Manhattan Project, the goal of which was to develop an atomic bomb, and through to the present day. The aim of the lecture was to explore clues for examining the historical significance of the announcement by the leader of the country that started the war in Ukraine in 2022 that the use of nuclear weapons was a possibility.

To achieve that objective, the lecture took the form of an overview of developments involving nuclear weapons, providing a chronological breakdown of about 80 years of history. This approach provided viewers with an opportunity to think about the current state of international relations concerning nuclear weapons from a historical point of view.

There were two turning points in the history of nuclear weapons,

and these milestones divide that history into three major eras. The first was the use of the atomic bomb by the United States in 1945, while the second was the emergence of the “mutually assured destruction” scenario and the establishment of a framework for nuclear nonproliferation around 1970. Yet while such developments have occurred, the reality is that international relations concerning nuclear weapons have continued largely unchanged since the days of the Cold War. These relations are characterized by the maintenance of policies that seek to rely on nuclear deterrence as a means of security, and declarations of readiness to use nuclear weapons by states that possess them.

The lecture therefore attempted to place the war in Ukraine within the historical context of international relations involving nuclear weapons.

2nd lecture: Oct. 27–Nov. 2, 2023, in Japanese

“Collapse of the Empire and Secession of New States: The Search for National Identity”

Yoko Aoshima,

Associate Professor at Slavic-Eurasian Research Center, Hokkaido University

The Russian Federation and Ukraine are emerging states that came into being with the collapse of the Soviet Union, and each has continuously searched for a new national identity. Immediately after its independence, Ukraine took a relatively neutral position, but it gradually began to forge its own path, distancing itself from Russia. Russia, meanwhile, made a brief attempt at liberalization and Westernization during the Yeltsin era, but with the advent of the Putin administration, it began to emphasize continuity with the Russian Empire and the Soviet Union. In the course of these developments, frictions between Ukraine and Russia increased, leading to Russia’s annexation of Crimea and the outbreak of war in the Donbass region following 2014 Euromaidan protests. Since 2014, Ukraine has increasingly identified itself as part

of “Europe,” while Russia continues to search for its own distinctive anti-“Western” identity as the successor state to the Soviet Union. With the start of Russia’s full-scale invasion in 2022, Ukraine becomes increasingly aware of itself as a victim of Russian imperial rule as it passed a “decolonization” law. In response, Russia insists that in fact the Western powers, not Russia, are the “colonialists,” claiming that Russia is a unique “multiethnic nation” in which various ethnic groups work side by side to develop the country under strong state authority. The lecture thus discussed the circumstances underlying the two countries’ identities, which changed after the collapse of the Soviet Union and continue to change, with a particular focus on their recent developments.

Contents

HPI Public Lecture Series AY2023	
Thinking about the War in Ukraine from Hiroshima	Chie Shijo 1-2
Dissolution of Nagorno-Karabakh (Artsakh), a Phantom State	Gen Kikkawa 3-4
Reflections on My Work at HPI and Stay in Hiroshima	Narayanan Ganesan 5-6
HPI International Workshop: “Hiroshima, the Origin of Antinuclear Activism” 7
The Second Online Briefing Session on Admission to the Graduate School of Peace Studies 2023	Makiko Takemoto 7
Diary 8

3rd lecture: Nov. 3-Nov. 9, 2023, in Japanese

“The Logic of President Vladimir Putin’s War in Ukraine”

Gen Kikkawa, Specially Appointed Professor at HPI

In February 2022, Russia began its invasion of Ukraine in present times when the use of force against countries is prohibited. Russia, a nuclear superpower, resorted to a war of aggression. What is the logic of Russia’s justification for the war, or, the “Kosovo precedent”?

Russia, which had tried to position the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) as the cornerstone of a European security regime, has distanced itself from OSCE for its use as a mechanism for assisting with democratization in former Soviet Union countries. Russia became geopolitically isolated within the CSCE/OSCE, partly because its democratization had stalled, and also owing to the United States’ “dual strategy” toward Russia. The U.S. set a medium- to long-term strategy of building a European security regime that excluded Russia, while promising the Soviet Union that NATO would not expand to the east and become politicized. Contrary to those pledges, both NATO and the EU

expanded eastward, strengthening Russia’s perception that it faces a crisis in terms of security. Compounding this situation, the OSCE, which was pursuing democratization, transitional justice, and lustration (expulsion of public officials), posed a threat to Putin’s government.

Russia launched its war against Ukraine to keep Ukraine in its circle of influence at all costs. Following the “Kosovo precedent” of using force to liberate people facing a humanitarian crisis and recognizing their independence as an exercise of people’s right to self-determination, ethnic Russian residents vote in a referendum, thereby exercising their right to self-determination, and becoming independent. What comes next is territorial annexation to reunify them with their ethnic compatriots. This new method of territorial expansion informs the logic for the justification of the war in Ukraine.

4th lecture: Nov. 10-Nov. 16, 2023, in Japanese

“The War in Ukraine and Attacks on Nuclear Facilities”

Shinsuke Tomotsugu, Associate Professor at the Center for Peace, Hiroshima University

In Ukraine, three nuclear facilities - the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, and the Kharkiv Institute of Physics and Technology - came under attack by Russia. These assaults are highly likely to have been violations of Protocol I of the Geneva Conventions, under which it is forbidden to attack installations containing dangerous materials. The Chernobyl nuclear power plant was eventually recaptured from Russia by Ukraine, but external power to the spent nuclear fuel storage facility was lost during the period of Russian control. The Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, meanwhile, remains under the control of the Russian military as of September 2023. The plant has reportedly been rigged with explosives, so considerable caution will be required to retake it. At the Kharkiv Institute of Physics and Technology, an experimental accelerator-driven subcritical reactor built with support from the United States was destroyed.

When contemplating this series of attacks, it is worth recalling

that Ukraine has long been a heavy user of nuclear power. Western countries such as the U.S. and Japan, had been providing money and technology to Ukraine to expedite the cleanup of Chernobyl and the construction of new nuclear power plants to replace it. Just prior to the military invasion, the plan was for even Russian-designed reactors to be supplied entirely with nuclear fuel from the U.S. company Westinghouse. As if to buck this trend, after the seizure of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, the Russian government announced that from now on it would be loaded with nuclear fuel from Russia. There are pro-Russian politicians in Ukraine who value the country’s links to Russia and have resisted the growing influence of Western nations in its nuclear energy industry, but the influence of these people declined in the wake of the Euromaidan Revolution. Russia’s invasion of Ukraine also reflects Russia’s frustration with Ukraine that has been severing its traditional ties and moving closer to the West.

5th lecture: Nov. 17-Nov. 23, 2023, in Japanese

“The War in Ukraine and Energy”

Tadashi Okimura, Professor at HPI

This lecture examined the impact of the war in Ukraine on Japan, a country with a low level of energy self-sufficiency.

Japan’s primary energy self-sufficiency rate (as of 2020) stands at 11.3%, which is considered low by international standards. Energy security is therefore a key issue for Japan as it relies on imports for energy. Europe, especially Germany, has been highly dependent on Russia for energy, while Japan has been much less reliant, and the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) imports is supplied under long-term contracts. Therefore, the war in Ukraine has not put as much pressure on Japan’s energy supplies as it has on Europe’s. Furthermore, the spike in fossil fuel prices has now passed its peak. The war, however, has presented a new challenge: the risk of attacks on nuclear power plants. The U.S.-China relationship is also a variable that will need to be closely monitored, as the war in Ukraine has heightened the risk of the world economy splitting into rival blocks and becoming more

exclusionary. Short- to medium-term measures being taken by Japan include the ending of fossil fuel imports from Russia and creating a system to enable energy firms with surplus raw fuel to supply it to others that are experiencing shortages. The Ukraine war has also spurred a rethink on nuclear energy policy, marking a possible break from the tighter regulatory standards that were imposed after the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear accident. However, it will be necessary to devise and implement measures to deal with potential attacks on nuclear power plants, a new risk highlighted by the war in Ukraine.

As a medium- to long-term direction for Japan, promoting energy saving and renewable energy will help address the energy crisis triggered by the Ukraine war, and will also be beneficial in the shift toward decarbonization. Therefore, GX (Green Transformation) policies and energy-centered diplomatic policies to develop and diffuse next-generation energy will also be vital going forward.



Titles and affiliations of lecturers are as of the time of the lectures.

The lectures were successfully delivered this year as well, thanks to the support of many participants, with 303 applicants. I would like to express my immense gratitude to all the lecturers and participants.

(Associate Professor at HPI)

Dissolution of Nagorno-Karabakh (Artsakh), a Phantom State

Gen Kikkawa

1. What attracted me to Nagorno-Karabakh

A state is about to disappear, although it is an unrecognized one that has never appeared on any world map. The announcement of the government of the Republic of Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh Republic) that it would dissolve all its organizations from January 1, 2024 has triggered a mass exodus of its inhabitants to neighboring Armenia. Nagorno-Karabakh, which has not been recognized even by Armenia, a state governed by the same ethnic group, is very small for a state, with a population of just 150,000 and an area nearly equal to that of Yamanashi Prefecture, Japan. After 30-plus years of existing “neither in war nor in peace” while retaining 50,000 troops (many of whom were mercenaries from Armenia or from among the overseas diaspora) stationed along the border with Azerbaijan to protect its territory, the state finally declared that it would dissolve itself.

This republic was founded at the foot of the Caucasus Mountains in the territory of Azerbaijan about 30 years ago. In the early 1990s, two socialist federal republics—the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia—were each split into multiple republics that declared their independence. They included “autonomous republics” and “autonomous provinces or oblasts” governed by indigenous ethnic minorities based on a government guarantee. Among them were, in Yugoslavia, the Autonomous Province of Kosovo within the territory of the Republic of Serbia, the Republic of Serbian Krajina within the territory of the Republic of Croatia, and in the Soviet Union, the Autonomous Republic of Crimea within the territory of the Republic of Ukraine, the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia within the territory of the Republic of Georgia, and the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast within the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Despite their declaration, most of these self-proclaimed sovereign states have not been recognized by the international community and have therefore remained phantom states that no world maps legitimate. Before the outbreak of the First Nagorno-Karabakh War (1988–1994), the population of Nagorno-Karabakh was 190,000, including 145,000 Armenians (76%) and 40,000 Azerbaijanis (21%). During this war, the 40,000 Azerbaijanis were the target of ethnic cleansing.

When I read the memoir of Mikhail Gorbachev, the first and last president of the Soviet Union, I learned that one of the causes of the First Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict was a university issue, which caught my attention. That was because I was interested in the relationship between ethnic conflict and universities, knowing that the ethnic conflict between Albanians, concentrated in the northeastern part of Macedonia, which had become independent from Yugoslavia, and the Macedonian government had been triggered by an attempt to establish an Albanian university. That interest made me visit this “state” up to seven times. My first visit to Nagorno-Karabakh was in September 2004. After obtaining an entry visa in Yerevan, the capital of Armenia, I hired a Yerevan State University student as my guide and headed to Nagorno-Karabakh by taxi. On our way, we went through the newly built Lachin corridor while looking at Mt. Ararat on the right and entered the former territory of Azerbaijan. While viewing partly ruined villages through the taxi window, I imagined the lives the village residents had led before suffering from ethnic cleansing. When we approached Stepanakert, the capital of Nagorno-Karabakh, we found traces of the war everywhere, including tanks, armored vehicles, and other kinds of military vehicles abandoned on the roadside. The nine-hour taxi ride cost me \$60 (when the average monthly income of Nagorno-Karabakh residents was \$10).



“Lachin Corridor” by the author



“Stepanakert suburbs” by the author

2. Three different fates of three “unrecognized states”

Why has Nagorno-Karabakh never existed on any world map? There was a reason for it. When the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia each split up into republics in the early 1990s, the European international community had agreed on two basic principles regarding the recognition of their independence. One of those principles was that recognition would be given only to the constituent republics of the two former federal republics and would be denied to autonomous entities governed by ethnic groups, such as autonomous republics, provinces, and oblasts. The other principle was that recognition would be denied to national entities that had achieved de facto independence using armed force. Since then, the European international community has repeatedly issued statements that it does not recognize the independence of Nagorno-Karabakh, which became independent from Azerbaijan with military support from Armenia. Two other entities were also treated in the same way as Nagorno-Karabakh: the Autonomous Province of Kosovo, which had achieved de facto independence from Yugoslavia as a result of NATO’s

armed offensive against Yugoslavia (1999), and Abkhazia, which had achieved de facto independence from Georgia as a result of the Russo-Georgian War (2008).

Since then, however, the three “unrecognized states” of Kosovo, Abkhazia, and Nagorno-Karabakh have followed different paths. When Kosovo declared independence again in 2008, Western countries immediately recognized it as a state. To date, Kosovo has received recognition from 113 countries. While Abkhazia has been effectively annexed by neighboring Russia, Nagorno-Karabakh will dissolve in January 2024 after more than 30 years of existence as an unrecognized state, as mentioned above. Not only the name of the state but also its government organizations and people will soon disappear completely. This is because this region will be integrated into Azerbaijan, with Azerbaijanis going to settle there to replace Armenians.

3. Ethnic identity and university issues

3.1 Official language issue at university

Although the three unrecognized states of Kosovo, Abkhazia, and Nagorno-Karabakh met different fates, the three ethnic conflicts in which they were involved had the same reason behind them: university issues. University issues as a trigger for ethnic conflicts can be generally classified into the following three types according to the time of their occurrence.

The first type of university issue occurs when oppression of ethnic minorities intensifies. More specifically, it occurs when the use of an ethnic minority’s language at a university is suddenly banned, and the university staff and students are forced to use the language of the majority in its place. During the Kosovo War, as one of the measures to oppress the Albanian ethnic group, the use of Albanian was suddenly banned at the University of Pristina in the capital of the Autonomous Province of Kosovo, with the forced use of Serbian in place of Albanian. In response to the ban, Albanian professors and students all left the campus, resulting in the de facto closure of the university. This caused Albanians in Kosovo to suffer a crisis over their ethnic identity, accelerating the ethnic conflict. That was also the case with the university issue in Abkhazia. In 1988, when perestroika was underway in the Soviet Union, Abkhazians began to demand that the status of the Soviet Socialist Republic of Abkhazia be restored, which meant that the Abkhaz Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic would be upgraded to a constituent republic of the federal republic. In that situation, the Georgian government formulated a new Georgian-language policy program, and in December 1988, as part of this program, the government announced a plan to establish the Sukhumi Branch of Tbilisi State University in Sukhumi, the capital of Abkhazia, and use Georgian as the medium of instruction there. This measure triggered sporadic armed clashes between Abkhazians in opposition to the establishment of the Sukhumi Branch and Georgians. At almost the same time, the Georgian Supreme Soviet resolved to enact an official language law that positioned Georgian as the sole national language of the Republic of Georgia, which made the ethnic conflict more intractable.

3.2 Establishment of a new university

The second type of university issue occurs when an ethnic group to which the status of an ethnic minority is attached in a new sovereign state faces an identity crisis. One example is the issue of the establishment of a new university by Albanians positioned as an ethnic minority in Macedonia. One of the factors behind ethnic conflict between Albanians and Macedonians was the issue of whether or not a university would be approved. After Macedonia became independent from Yugoslavia, Albanians living there were positioned as an ethnic minority and had no university that provided education in Albanian, their own language. When Macedonia was part of Yugoslavia, they were able to receive education in Albanian at the University of Pristina in Kosovo. However, Macedonian independence made Kosovo a province of a foreign country. Albanian Macedonians then made several attempts

to establish a university using Albanian as a medium of instruction in Tetovo, where Albanians were concentrated—all in vain due to the Macedonian government’s intervention. After this failed attempt, the issue of the establishment of a new university for Albanians became a major trigger of ethnic conflict in Macedonia. At that time, newly independent states faced the urgent challenge of establishing ethnic universities using minority languages as media of instruction because universities were institutions that would hand down ethnic culture and literature and foster an ethnic elite. Subsequently, demand for the establishment of a university using Albanian as a medium of instruction was fulfilled with the establishment of South East European University with the support of the EU.

3.3 Upgrading to a university

The third type of university issue is related to the upgrading of an educational institution to a university at the time of the transfer of an autonomous republic, province, or oblast from one federal republic to another. One example is a university issue in Nagorno-Karabakh. In the late 1980s, when perestroika was in progress, Nagorno-Karabakh saw a surge of ethno-nationalism, with public demand for transfer of the autonomous oblast to Armenia. At the same time, Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh also demanded that a pedagogical institute in Stepanakert, the capital of the oblast, be upgraded to a university. This was because they believed that ethnic self-determination and self-government required the development of ethnic leaders and an ethnic elite, and a university serving that purpose. Behind the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict was the memory of the history of genocide. The memory of the Armenian massacre in Baku in 1905 and the Armenian genocide in Turkey in 1915 has been passed on together with the historical ethnic hatred of Armenians toward Turks and Turkish Azerbaijanis. In the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast, Armenians’ attempts to protect their own cultural rights have triggered ethnic conflict, including repairs made by them to Christian churches, their reception of Armenian-language broadcasts from Yerevan, the capital of Armenia, their publication of Armenian books, and the establishment of an Armenian-medium university by them. Immediately after Nagorno-Karabakh achieved de facto independence, the new government established Artsakh State University with the highest priority.



“Artsakh State University” (Stepanakert) by the author

Nagorno-Karabakh has striven to shape itself into a full-fledged modern nation state by establishing a university, a constitution, a presidential system, a parliament, and even a ministry of foreign affairs in anticipation that it would receive international recognition someday. Nevertheless, it is now on the verge of ending its ephemeral existence like dew in the Caucasus in only 30 years.

(Specially Appointed Professor, HPI)



Reflections on My Work at HPI and Stay in Hiroshima

Narayanan Ganesan

I joined the Hiroshima Peace Institute (HPI) as a researcher specializing in Southeast Asia in January 2004. Prior to the appointment I was teaching in the Department of Political Science and the Southeast Asian Studies Programme at the National University of Singapore from 1990 to 2003. Acceptance of the job also meant that I had to relocate from Singapore to Japan. It was a rather big decision and my wife strongly supported me which made the move much easier. Previously I had spent three months in Tokyo at the Japan Institute for International Affairs (JIIA) as an ASEAN research fellow from November 1997 to February 1998. Hence, I was somewhat familiar with Japan and to some extent Tokyo but not Hiroshima.

The HPI was initially located on the 10th Floor of the Mitsui Bank Building in Otemachi before its relocation to the Heiwa Building across from the city government some 6 months later. Professor Fukui Haruhiro who had retired from the University of California at Santa Barbara was the Director of HPI then. He was a renowned scholar on party politics in Japan and had been at Tsukuba University before he was recruited to head HPI. As Director, he was responsible for recruiting many of the staff then and was helped by an international advisory panel for personnel matters, from appointments and promotions to the awarding of tenure.

In the period prior to HPI's corporatization as part of the Hiroshima City University (HCU) in 2013 when it was relocated again to the HCU's campus, it served primarily as a research institute. During that time, staff were focused on research activities and the publication of their results. Some staff had expertise in geographical areas or individual countries like South Korea or China while others were experts in themes like nuclear issues, war crimes and genocide.

Administrative support for HPI came from the city government which was complemented by a number of part time staff. They performed both general duties and provided support for workshops and other scholarly activities. From the time of its inception HPI had a strong relationship with the city's hibakusha community and publicizing findings on nuclear issues was an important mission. Similarly, issues related to peace and conflict, especially in Asia, were also regarded important. Several activities were central to the dissemination of staff research with a view to engaging the public. Such activities included an annual International Symposium that served as the highlight of activities and a public lecture series that drew strong public participation.

HPI staff were also extremely helpful in aiding incoming

foreign scholars for essential services like housing, the arrangement of utilities and banking. Such assistance was critical to those who were unfamiliar with local norms and unable to communicate in the Japanese language. All staff at the HPI were fluent in English and could easily deal with the international scholars who joined it. Professor Fukui himself was a liberal internationalist who provided good leadership at the intellectual and social levels. He was also an old friend of Mayor Akiba Tadatoshi and the good relationship between them also meant that we had strong support from the city government at the highest levels. In fact, in the early days we sometimes had annual social gatherings at the Mayor's residence or would meet him at Fukui sensei's apartment during Christmas.

My research interest is in sources of interstate and intrastate tensions and conflict in Southeast Asia. With my relocation to HPI I was free to focus purely on research. Previously in Singapore, I had to teach mainstream undergraduate and graduate classes over and above research, publications, and administrative work. Consequently, the breadth of my research expanded substantially. Whereas much of my earlier research was on maritime Southeast Asia and in particular Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore, I began to research more on mainland Southeast Asia and in particular the domestic politics and foreign policies of Myanmar and Thailand. This development was aided and abetted in no small measure by the important changes that were taking place in the domestic politics of both countries.

In the case of Myanmar, the slow transition towards an elected government in 2010 yielded opportunities for both research and direct involvement with the domestic political process. Some of my academic colleagues from Singapore became influential during the transition period. Additionally, opportunities for academic training also presented themselves. As a result of this confluence of events and the availability of German funding through my own contacts in the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS), I became deeply involved in designing and leading the Social Science Summer School for academics at Yangon, Mandalay and Yadanabon Universities from 2015 up until the time of the military coup in 2021.

Funding was also made available to enhance public sector capacity building during the time of transition towards democratic governance from 2010. KAS generously supported up to 6 training sessions a year that were held across all the major cities in Myanmar. From 2015 that training became centralized in the administrative capital Naypyitaw. These sessions were also terminated after the military coup albeit my research and publications on Myanmar has continued.

The political changes in Thailand that altered the domestic template of politics and policy making was the success of Thaksin Shinawatra's Thai Rak Thai party in the 2001 elections and his subsequent entrenchment in Thai politics. His populist policies and displacement of traditional elite from the monarchy, military, bureaucracy, and business community led to military coups against him in 2006 and his sister Yingluck Shinawatra in 2014. These dramatic developments led to the polarization of politics and society in the country and provided ample opportunities for research and publications as well.

Southeast Asian international relations were also confronted with broad changes resulting from the collapse of the Cold War in the late 1980s, the expansion of ASEAN in the 1990s, the Asian Financial Crisis in 1997 and the emergence of an Asia Pacific community led by the United States. Hence, at the broader regional level, there were also tremendous opportunities for research and publications. Hence, all in all, the region that I specialized in offered tremendous opportunities for scholarship after I joined HPI. From 2011 to 2013 I was invited by Professor Shiraishi Takashi to teach a graduate course on the Government and Politics of Southeast Asia at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) in Tokyo.

Institutional and funding support from HPI and HCU after 2013 was very helpful in organizing international workshops and then publishing the research findings. Such collaboration helped build strong international linkages and recognition for HPI. The leadership at HPI had also undergone changes over the years. After Fukui Haruhiro, the next Director was retired diplomat Asai Motofumi who joined us from Meiji Gakuin University. He was also very kind and supportive of the staff.

The third Director during my term was Kikkawa Gen who joined HPI from Sophia University in Tokyo. Under him there were several important changes to HPI. The first and perhaps most important of these was the setting up of a Graduate School of Peace Studies in 2019. At the outset the School offered Masters degrees and two years later in 2021, it began offering doctorate degrees as well. Other activities that have been added on are the publication of an annual Journal with articles in English and Japanese and an English Language Lecture series for public at the HCU Satellite campus in Otemachi. Professor Oshiba Ryo from Aoyama Gakuin who specializes in international governance succeeded Kikkawa sensei in 2019. By this time HPI had become firmly established in the HCU campus and operated as part of the University.

Apart from the academic staff HPI administrative support is provided by staff from the city government who are complemented by long serving part time staff as well. Just like how all the Directors have been extremely kind and supportive of the academic staff, the administrative staff are also very competent and supportive. In fact, a good number of them have served through the entire term of my employment and they include Yoshihara Yukiko who retired in 2023, Nomura Miki who will also retire like me in 2024 and Yamashita Yoshie. Hence, we have been fortunate to have had many long serving part time staff who are knowledgeable

about HPI and its institutional culture and demands. They are all equally familiar with the bureaucratic rigours and demands of the HCU and the public sector in general as well.

Outside of teaching and research at HPI I have been fortunate with housing arrangements and live in the suburb of Mitaki Honmachi which is famous for its many temples. It is an old neighbourhood that also boasts a large number of sakura trees that attract crowds during the hanami season in early spring. The first house where I stayed was one made available for HCU Faculty near the Mitaki Golf Course. Subsequently, and at the urging of my supportive wife we invested in purchasing a mansion in the same area near the Seiganji Buddhist Temple. The mansion provides a spectacular view of the Ota River and the city behind it and is conveniently located a short walk away from Yokogawa Station.

Just like the staff at HPI my neighbours in Mitaki are also very kind and helpful. My close neighbour Sadamori Satoru used to be an oyster farmer in Miyajima Island and took an early and keen interest in me and HPI. Together with his wife Nobuko we dined together frequently, and they also visited Singapore and stayed at my home there. Sadamori san even joined me in a trip to the remote areas of Myanmar and Chiangmai in Thailand. In the early days they used to host oyster parties for HPI staff too.

Another couple who lives across the road from my building are Shinagawa Katsuzo and his wife Keiko who are also good family friends. Shinagawa san who is an established landlord in the area was very kind to offer use of a large plot of land without charge to grow vegetables. Hence, I have acquired a new hobby since moving to Hiroshima which is vegetable farming and have learnt much on growing a variety of vegetables based on the season. The plot regularly provides a bountiful harvest that I share with my office colleagues and neighbours. In the past we also used to occasionally travel to Kaminoseki in Yamaguchi prefecture to charter a boat to fish in the inland Sea of Japan. Species of fish that we regularly caught included mebaru or rock cod, tai or red sea bream and hamachi or yellowtail kingfish. Finally, the neighbours are also very generous in sharing the fruits that they grow which include figs, oranges, persimmons, and yuzu lemons.

Vegetable farming is a good way to stay physically fit and healthy so there are benefits that go beyond a good harvest. It is a very engaging hobby and one that will certainly take up a lot more of my time post-retirement. The neighbourhood is special in a number of other ways as well. It is home to a wide variety of flowers that include azaleas, magnolia, narcissus, peach and plum blossoms and hydrangea to name a few. Spring is a time when the air wafts with the sweet smell of these flowers and the chirping of many birds. Some of the animals and birds like the tanuki or racoon dog and ravens can be loud and damage crops in the garden. They are both fond of cucumbers and tomatoes and quite skillful in getting them notwithstanding the use of nets.

In reflecting on the past two decades my wife and I agreed that moving to Hiroshima, working at HPI, and sinking roots in Mitaki Honmachi are perhaps the best decisions of our lives.

(Professor at HPI)



HPI International Workshop: “Hiroshima, the Origin of Antinuclear Activism”

On December 8 and 9, 2023, the Hiroshima Peace Institute (HPI) held an international workshop, “Hiroshima, the Origin of Antinuclear Activism” at the International Conference Center Hiroshima. The workshop was organized within the research project “Current Research Trends of Antinuclear Movements” (project members: Makiko Takemoto and Robert Jacobs) and co-organized by the Global Peace Research Network, based at the Open University and the University of Sheffield, and funded by the UK Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC). It forms part of a project to establish a research network on the history of global antinuclear activism, initiated by Luc-André Brunet (senior lecturer at the Open University) and Eirini Karamouzi (senior lecturer at the University of Sheffield).

This workshop re-examined the meanings of Hiroshima in the history of the antinuclear movement and from the perspective of the global hibakusha. About 20 people participated in the workshop on both days. On the first day, after the participants visited the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and Park, Luc-André Brunet gave an overview of the network on the history of antinuclear activism, followed by Keiko Ogura’s A-bomb testimony in English. In the session of “Global Hibakusha 1,” Robert Jacobs (Professor at HPI), Maika Nakao (Associate Professor at Hiroshima University),

and Peter Blow (Documentary Filmmaker) gave presentations, and Kyoko Matsunaga (Associate Professor at Hiroshima University) offered comments.

On the second day, after Luc-André Brunet’s presentation on the project of a digital peace archive on global antinuclear activism, Makiko Takemoto, Toshiya Umehara (Doctoral Candidate, Graduate School of Peace Studies, Hiroshima City University), Chie Shijo (Associate Professor at HPI) and Yuko Takahashi (Research Fellow at Osaka Metropolitan University) served as the speakers and Yuko Kawaguchi (Professor at Hosei University) as the commentator in the session on “Hiroshima as the Origin of the Antinuclear Movement.” In the final session, “Global Hibakusha 2,” Jackie Cabasso (Executive Director of the Western States Legal Fund, participated online) and Pinar Temocin (Project Assistant Professor at University of Tokyo) gave presentations and Prof. Jacobs served as a commentator.

The ancillary parts of the workshop such as the reception were funded by the AHRC to promote the building of a network among researchers and activists which enabled participants to deepen their discussions on the antinuclear movements and Hiroshima.

Makiko Takemoto, Associate Professor, HPI

The Second Online Briefing Session on Admission to the Graduate School of Peace Studies 2023

Makiko Takemoto

The Hiroshima Peace Institute (HPI) held the second online briefing session of AY 2023 on the admission to the Graduate School of Peace Studies (GSPS) via Zoom on October 6, 2023. We were pleased to have four participants this time.

As in the previous online briefing sessions, an outline of the GSPS, and the entrance examination system were introduced in the beginning. Then, the possible career paths of graduates, scholarship possibilities, and the status of the acceptance of international students were explained. Three current graduate students in the master’s and doctoral programs at GSPS shared their experiences on study and research at GSPS as well as student life in Hiroshima. In the second half, the participants talked individually with faculty members, graduate students and administrative staffs using Zoom’s breakout room function.

(Associate Professor/Admission Committee at HPI)

The Forthcoming Online Briefing Session on Admission to the Graduate School of Peace Studies in 2024

The first online briefing session on admission to the GSPS for AY 2024 will be held on June 7, 2024. Everyone is welcome, not only those who would like to study at the GSPS from October 2024 but also those who would like to get information about the entrance exam for the April 2025 enrollment. We will be better able to answer your questions if you could send them in advance. English explanations are also available.

Date and Time: June 7, 2024, 6:30–8:00 p.m. (Japan Standard Time)
Meeting format: Online (Zoom meeting)
Fee for the participation: Free
Deadline of the application: May 31, 5 p.m.
Contact: office-peace@m.hiroshima-cu.ac.jp



For further information, please visit the HPI website.

- 2023
- ◆ **Jul. 18** Robert Jacobs participates in a meeting of HOPE (Hiroshima Organization for Global Peace) hosted by the Hiroshima Prefectural Government, in Hiroshima.
 - ◆ **Aug. 3** Jacobs presents the Keynote Lecture, “Nuclear Issues and the Environment,” at the 2023 Peace Forum at Hiroshima Jogakuin High School.
 - ◆ **Aug. 6** Jacobs facilitates a two-day immersive meeting of the 2023 Disaster Haggyo 2023 seminar of the Korean Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST), in Hiroshima.
 - ◆ **Aug. 17** Chie Shijo gives a presentation entitled “The Atomic Bomb Damage in Hiroshima/Nagasaki and the Unspoken Things” at the 2023 Japan-Korea Next Generation Forum, Center for Japanese Studies, Sejong Institute and Hiroshima Peace Institute Seminar on “Building Institutional Devices for Sustainable Japan-Korea Relations” held at the HCU Satellite Campus in Hiroshima.
 - ◆ **Aug. 25** Mihoko Kato contributes an article entitled, “Contemporary Russian Foreign Policy” (Chapter 11, pp. 176-192), in Mari Aburamoto and Shuhei Mizoguchi eds., Contemporary Russian Politics: First Step in Area Studies (Houritsubunkasha).
 - ◆ **Aug. 29** Narayanan Ganesan conducts a field research trip to Singapore and Thailand from 29 August to 21 September to interview academics, policy makers and members of the Myanmar diaspora for ongoing research on Myanmar politics and ASEAN responses to the 2021 military coup.
 - ◆ **Sep. 3** Kato gives a presentation entitled, “Russia and ASEAN: Background to the Strategic Partnership,” at the “2023 Study Group on Russian Issues” organized by the Japan Institute of International Affairs (JIIA), via Zoom.
 - ◆ **Oct. 6** Xu Xianfen presents a lecture, “Japan-China relations in Asia,” to students of the School of Global Humanities and Social Sciences at Nagasaki University.
 - ◆ **Oct. 20** Yasuhiro Yamada presents a lecture titled “Brief Overview of Nuclear History: From the Manhattan Project to the Present” in the public lecture series on the web AY2023 organized and given by Hiroshima Peace Institute, Hiroshima City University (online)
 - ◆ **Oct. 23** Ganesan arranges a Social Science training program for 37 trainers from Myanmar NGOs and teaches a course on Public Policy Formulation sponsored by the German Konrad Adenauer Stiftung.
 - ◆ **Oct. 27** Kato presents a paper entitled, “Lost Friendship Revived?: Decisions of Russia and Its Eastern Neighbors,” at the 2023 Aleksanteri Conference, “Decolonizing Space in the Global East,” hosted by the Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki.
 - ◆ **Oct. 28** Ryo Oshiba presents a lecture titled, “International Relations and International Interdependence,” at the Open Symposium, “Rethink on ‘Peace’” held at Hiroshima Study Center of the Open University of Japan.
 - ◆ **Nov. 3** Gen Kikkawa presents a lecture titled, “The Logic of President Vladimir Putin’s War in Ukraine,” in the public lecture series on the web AY2023 organized and given by Hiroshima Peace Institute, Hiroshima City University (online).
 - ◆ **Nov. 4** Tetsuo Sato presents the Opening Address in the International Symposium, “Accountability and Power in the Law of International Organizations,” held in a hybrid format (in-person and online via Zoom) in Tokyo.
 - ◆ **Nov. 9** Yamada and Shijo participate in interviews by students of Nagoya University Affiliated Lower Secondary School on the International Understanding and Peace Study Tour, at Hiroshima City University.
 - ◆ **Nov. 10** Tadashi Okimura presents a paper entitled, “Governance of Diversified Goals in Climate Change Issues,” at the Environmental Studies section I of the 2023 Annual Convention of the Japan Association of International Relations held at Fukuoka International Congress Center.
 - ◆ **Nov. 11** Sato presents the Keynote Lecture, “The United Nations and Security: Theory, Reality and Challenges of the Collective Security by the United Nations,” in the Sixth Public Lecture Series, “Security and International Law,” hosted by the Japanese Society of International Law, Zoom webinar.
 - ◆ **Nov. 12** Oshiba participates as a discussant in the Round Table, “The World Bank,” at the 2023 Annual Conference of the Japan Society for International Development held at the Yotsuya Campus of Sophia University.
 - ◆ **Nov. 12** Yamada serves as the chair for Session 11, “The Nuclear Taboo in International Relations,” at the 2023 Annual Convention of the Japan Association of International Relations held at Fukuoka International Congress Center.
 - ◆ **Nov. 19** Makiko Takemoto presents a paper titled, “Diffusion of Hiroshima: Focusing on the Case of Germany,” at the 20th meeting of the Research Society for Peace Sociology, via Zoom.
 - ◆ **Nov. 24** Kato contributes an article entitled, “Foreign Policy of the Fourth Putin Administration: Focusing on Asia-Pacific Policy,” in Russia & NIS Business Monthly, Vol. 68, No. 12, #1092.
 - ◆ **Nov. 27** Kikkawa presents a lecture titled, “Why President of Russia Putin Invaded Ukraine: The Inside Story of the Collapse of the Post-Cold War European International Order,” in the lecture series “Community Service and Science, and SDGs,” held in a hybrid format (in-person and online via Zoom) at Tsuruoka Campus of Tohoku University of Community Service and Science.
 - ◆ **Dec. 5** Shijo gives a presentation entitled “Possibilities for Japan-Korea History from the perspective of the Damage Caused by the Hiroshima/Nagasaki Atomic Bombings” at the Northeast Asian History Foundation, Institute for International Relations and Historical Dialogue, and Hiroshima Peace Institute Joint Seminar “The Politics of Memory: The Search for Mutual Understanding between Japan and Korea” held at the HCU Satellite Campus in Hiroshima.
 - ◆ **Dec. 8-9** HPI Research Project “Current Research Trend of History of Antinuclear Movements” (Organizer: Associate Prof. Takemoto) holds a two-day workshop, “Hiroshima, the Origin of Antinuclear Activism,” at the International Conference Center Hiroshima in collaboration with the Global Peace Research Network, the Open University and the University of Sheffield funded by the UK Arts and Humanities Research Council. Jacobs gives a presentation entitled, “How Nuclear Weapon States Choose Nuclear Test Site Locations,” Shijo gives a presentation entitled, “Yukaku (The Red-Light District) in Hiroshima City Damaged by the Atomic Bomb,” and Takemoto gives a presentation entitled, “The Antinuclear Movement in Hiroshima and its Globalization.”
 - ◆ **Dec. 10** Kikkawa presents a paper titled, “The War in Ukraine and the Future of the International Peace Order,” at the International Symposium “Confronting the Danger of Nuclear War: Hiroshima, Nagasaki, G7 Summit and the Future,” co-hosted by Hiroshima Peace Institute, Chugoku Shimbun and RECNA, held at International Conference Center Hiroshima.

※For other entries of the DIARY,
please visit our website.



HIROSHIMA RESEARCH NEWS

Vol.26 No.2 (March 25, 2024)

- Published by Editorial Committee (Narayanan Ganesan, Xianfen Xu, Mihoko Kato), Hiroshima Peace Institute, Hiroshima City University 3-4-1, Ozuka-higashi, Asaminami-ku, Hiroshima, 731-3194 Japan
Phone: +81 (0) 82 830 1811 Fax: +81 (0) 82 830 1812 E-mail: office-peace@m.hiroshima-cu.ac.jp
- Printed by Letterpress Co., Ltd.