

PREFACE

This proceedings volume contains twenty-five papers presented at the seventh international conference of the Consortium for Asian and African Studies. The conference, entitled “Crossing the Boundaries: Asians and Africans on the Move,” was held on October 22 and 23, 2016, at Tokyo University of Foreign Studies.

The Consortium for Asian and African Studies (CAAS) was initiated in March 2007 by five higher educational institutions that lead Asian and African Studies worldwide, in order to strengthen collaboration in research and education activities. The original member institutions are Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales (INALCO, France), Leiden University (Netherlands), Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences of National University of Singapore (FASS-NUS, Singapore), School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London (SOAS, UK), and Tokyo University of Foreign Studies (TUFS, Japan). Columbia University (USA) and Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (HUFS, South Korea) joined CAAS in 2010 and 2011 respectively.

One of the major objectives of CAAS is to train researchers of the younger generation in the framework of international collaboration. To facilitate this objective, in conjunction with an annual symposium, a workshop for young researchers was organized to give them the opportunity to demonstrate their research activities, to enhance their academic skills, and to develop a fresh network of international researchers. At the first CAAS conference held at Leiden University in 2009, this workshop was held separately from the symposium itself. At the second conference at INALCO in 2010, the third conference at SOAS in 2012, the fourth conference at NUS in 2013, the fifth conference at Columbia University in 2014, and the sixth conference at HUFS in 2015, presentations by young researchers were combined with those by senior researchers, providing a stimulating academic environment for the young researchers. The seventh CAAS conference in October 2016 was held in the same vein.

The conference consisted of nine panels and two lectures: 1A Culture; 1B Language; 2A Literature; 2B Economy and Development; 3A Gender, Identity, and Society; 3B Migration; 4A Law and Institution; 5A Migration and Travel; 5B International and Global. The keynote lecture on the borders in the Middle East was delivered by Prof. Sabri Ates, while Prof. Jeffrey Lesser’s special lecture focused on Brazilian National Identities. A total of thirty-five papers were presented during this two-day conference. As a record of the conference, the program is attached at the end of the proceedings.

As with the previous conferences, TUFS is in charge of editing and publishing the proceedings of the symposium. This volume includes twenty-five papers submitted by the speakers. We have confined the length of each article to about five pages to enable the authors

to submit their full papers to peer-reviewed academic journals. In this volume, the papers, covering quite diverse topics, are arranged in the order of presentation at the conference.

The first three papers from Session 1A tackle boundary-crossing in the cultural sphere. The first one examines social and cultural boundaries, reflected in works of a famous film director from Thailand, Apichatpong Weerasethakul. The second deals with Latasha N. Nevada Diggs, a sound artist and poet from Harlem, whose works move beyond the conventional boundaries of traditional literature. The third paper concerns ethnic boundaries among the museum professionals in the UK. All four presenters at Session 1B (the language session) contributed the proceedings. The first one is related to the TUFSS International Multilingual Learner Error Corpora of Chinese, Japanese and English, which is a useful tool for cross-linguistic research on language education. The next paper analyzes Japanese compound verbs, in comparison with the Polish language. The third one also concerns compound verbs in Japanese and Korean, and explores the differences between the two languages. The next paper deals with migrants learning Korean in Seoul on socio-linguistic approach.

Three papers came from Session 2A, the literature session. The first paper tackles the works of Iranian-Dutch migrant writer, Kader Abolah. His works, mostly written in Dutch, give us insight on his situation as a migrant. The next one concerns historical migration of literati from Iran and Central Asia to Mughal India. Literary skills were passports to serving the powerful Mughal sovereign and acquiring wealth at that time. The next paper explores the navigation of Gujarati people to Malacca and the Far East, based on Urdu and Portuguese texts. Three papers from Session 2B relate to economy and development. The first discusses the relations between migration and economic development, using the quantitative analysis. The next concerns Japanese policy on NGOs as agents of international development. The third explores the position of foreign women professionals in Japanese companies.

The next four papers came from Session 3A, Gender, Identity, and Society. The first deals with Japanese labor unions in the post-war period and describes their efforts to recruit younger workers. The second concerns social boundaries in a Lebanese town and argues that these boundaries, including the confessional ones, are only a part of everyday interactions among the inhabitants. The next paper explores the ethnic identity of Muslims in Sri Lanka. Unfortunately, we do not have any papers from Session 3B, Migration.

The next three papers were presented during Session 4A, Law and Institution. The first paper concerns the 2014 Amendment of China's Administrative Litigation Law, which made people sue the government. The next paper compares the perception of the corruption among three countries, Korea, Brazil, and Angola. The third paper relates to pneumoconiosis victims at the Chikuho coal mine, Japan.

Two papers submitted from Session 5A relate to migration. One concerns Chinese artist Ai Weiwei, who imitated the dead body of a Syrian refugee boy, Alan Kurdi. The other explores

the problem of identity and racism concerning new African and Asian immigrants to Brazil after 2010. From Session 5B, International and Global, three papers were submitted. The first deals with the border of two empires, Russia and Qing China, and shows how two empires solved the problems of the Kazakhs who frequently crossed the border. The next analyzes discourses on the crowd, both in the colony and the metropole, and finds the epistemological and ideological biases there. The last paper concerns the South Korea-Gulf relations after the Iranian nuclear deal in 2015.

This volume will certainly serve as a record of the fascinating presentations at the conference, which as a whole constituted a valuable contribution to discussions on crossing the boundaries in the field of Asian and African Studies. I would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to all those who have made this conference successful. I would also like to congratulate all the researchers who contributed to this conference with the fruits of their diligent research activities.

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