

PREFACE

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As the first mutual effort of academic exchange based on the newly-signed agreement between Hitotsubashi and Chicago, a symposium was held at Hitotsubashi University on 10th October, 1997. The theme was "Social Class in Contemporary Japan."

A large number of people gathered at the symposium's beautiful venue, Sano-Shoin on the Hitotsubashi campus, and heard a wealth of information and a wide range of new ideas and approaches, followed by a lively discussion. Six papers were delivered with a panel discussions on each individual paper. After the more than seven hours of intensive talks and discussions, the symposium was brought to a close in a stimulating and friendly atmosphere.

At the dinner party which followed, the organizer of this symposium, Masao Watanabe, thanked all those who gave papers and those others who contributed to the success of this symposium. He also stressed that special thanks must go to the Internal Committee for Academic Exchange with American Universities at Hitotsubashi University for its generous financial support in organizing this symposium.

HITOTSUBASHI UNIVERSITY