

Infrastructural Perspective on the (Re)Formation of Contemporary Society: Events, Scenery, and Governmentality

Keisuke MORI, Yutaka IWADATE, and Saki SUNAGA

PURPOSE OF THE WORKSHOPS

The Great East Japan Earthquake poses various questions to us: What infrastructure has formed the condition and Governmentality of the late modern society? What causal mechanisms and powers have emerged in the process of rehabilitation, resilience, and reformation of the infrastructure? Thus, we (Keisuke Mori as the primary organizer, and Yutaka Iwadate and Saki Sunaga [Uchiumi] as the secondary) organized three successive workshops to answer these questions.

To investigate the “over-determinating” restructuring processes after the Great East Japan Earthquake, we organized the study group that investigated the theory of the infrastructure and mainly comprised the graduate students at Hitotsubashi University. In this process, we realized that we had to refine our theoretical concept to understand the urban society and infrastructure. Thus, we organized the three interdisciplinary workshops.

★連続ワークショップ インフラストラクチャからみる現代社会の編成/再編成 ——風景、出来事、統治性——

東日本大震災は、インフラストラクチャあるいは社会の基礎をめぐって、いくつかの問いを提起した。
インフラストラクチャをめぐって出来事や風景は、都市や地域のなかにもどのような風景を生み出すのか。
また、インフラストラクチャが復旧・復興し、再編成されていく過程では、いかなる力がせめぎあい、どのような空間の構造が生じていくのか。
そして、後期近代における都市社会の存在と統治は、どのようなインフラストラクチャによって、いかに支えられていた/るのか。
本ワークショップは、これらの問いを軸としながら、物質性や統治性の概念を批判的に組みこみつつ、現代社会の編成/再編成をとらえるための理論形成を目指す。

第一回 マテリアリティと統治性
日時 2013年12月21日13:00～
ゲスト 西川純司 日本学術振興会特別研究員 (PD)・甲南女子大学

第二回 連鎖する出来事、あるいは社会的因果性の理論的な検討
日時 2014年1月25日13:00～
ゲスト 森元齋 日本学術振興会特別研究員 (PD)

第三回 人とモノの風景と国家への/に対する主体化
日時 2014年2月15日13:00～
ゲスト 原口剛 神戸大学

開催場所 @マッキューリターワー3508
組織・主催: 平成25年度社会科学部研究科博士後期課程研究活動推進ワークショップ (文部科学省「平成25年度卓越した大学院拠点形成支援補助金」)
協力: 一橋大学「社会と環境」研究会Study Group on Infrastructure and Society (研究会HP <http://sjs.soc.hit-u.ac.jp/>)
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Figure 1. Flyer of workshops in Japanese

We invited three renowned junior researchers from diverse disciplinary areas investigating the infrastructures in the Japanese areas from the above perspectives. In this paper, first, we will summarize the commonality and difference among the workshops. Second, we will demonstrate the possibilities and limits of the findings drawn in those workshops.

These workshops were supported by Graduate School of Social Sciences, Hitotsubashi University and Grants-in-aid by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (卓越した大学院拠点形成支援補助金= Support foundations for improvement of prominent graduate schools) .

CONTENTS OF THE WORKSHOPS¹

First Workshop: Materiality and Governmentality

In the first workshop, we invited Junji Nishikawa, a



Photo 1. Scene of 1st Workshop
Note: Photograph by Yutaka Iwadate.

Keisuke MORI, Research Fellow (PD), Japan Society for Promotion of Science, International Christian University
Yutaka IWADATE, Doctoral Student, Graduate School of Social Sciences, Hitotsubashi University
Saki SUNAGA, Doctoral Student, Graduate School of Social Sciences, Hitotsubashi University, Research Fellow (DC2), Japan Society for Promotion of Science

**Infrastructural Perspective on the (Re)Formation of Contemporary Society:
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Materiality and Governmentality

Date: December 21-December 22, 2013

Place: Hitotsubashi University, Kunitachi, Tokyo

Presenters:

Nishikawa, Junji (Research Fellow [PD], Japan Society for the Promotion of Science), “Materiality and Governmentality: Contemporary Research Current on Infrastructure and its Cases.”

Iwadate, Yutaka (PhD Candidate, Graduate School of Social Sciences at Hitotsubashi University), “For Infra-fundamental Analysis on Urban Areas: From/to the *Crisis* of Water Infrastructure in Tokyo.”

Sunaga, Saki (Graduate Student, Graduate School of Social Sciences at Hitotsubashi University) “‘Longing’ for Modern Fashion: Cultural Inclusion Process of Victorian Servant on *Punch*.”

Commentator:

Mori, Keisuke (PhD Candidate, Graduate School of Social Sciences at Hitotsubashi University)

2nd day: Excursion to historic site of Tokyo water work

sociologist, who has published remarkable works on social history of *glass* representing urban materiality and sought to clarify the theoretical possibility that enables us to grasp the big picture of the formation of contemporary society in transition.

First, in the presentation titled “Materiality and Governmentality: Contemporary Research Current on Infrastructure and its Cases,” Nishikawa presented the contemporary research constellation on the infrastructural Governmentality related to the urban studies. He combined these theoretical frameworks and demonstrated how urban planners in Tokyo in 1920s used *sunlight* as a modern material device for urban planning. Second, Yutaka Iwadate gave a presentation titled, “For Infra-fundamental Analysis

on Urban Areas.” His argumentation on *water supply* shows how the problem of water was viewed in the urban area of Tokyo in the aftermath of the earthquake. Moreover, during high economic growth after the 1964 Tokyo Olympics, water supply was focused because of the water shortage. His historical, comparative view on water supply clarifies the invisibility of urban materiality. Third, Saki Sunaga discusses the relation between class and fashion in the 19th-century London, in the presentation, “‘Longing’ for Modern Fashion: Cultural Inclusion Process of Victorian Servant on *Punch*.” In this period, mass production of clothes and materialization of class mobility streamlined the flow of hand-me-down clothes from an aristocrat via bourgeois to proletarian. She focuses on the cartoons depicting the relationship between mistress and servant in the journal *Punch*. She concludes that such representation depicts a noteworthy aspect of the social advancement of the working class women.

As a whole, in this workshop, the implication of modernity was questioned from various perspectives: How the humans and non-humans have created and reformed the collectivity of themselves as *the social*. *Materiality* and *Governmentality* play significant role in this process.

Second Workshop: Theoretical Investigation into Social-Causality

In the second workshop, we invited Motonao Mori, a philosopher of Alfred North Whitehead, and focused on the “events” caused by the Earthquake.

First, Motonao Mori (“Origin, Withering, and Village: Gan Tanigawa and Michiko Ishimure’s thought of Kyushu”) demonstrates how Minamata mercury poisoning and coral complex in Kyushu² emerged as *events* in Modernity. He narrows down the target to two prominent storytellers, critiques, as well as activists, Gan Tanigawa and Michiko Ishimure. To clarify his intention, Mori

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Theoretical Investigation into Social-
Causality

Date: January 25, 2014

Place: Hitotsubashi University, Kunitachi, Tokyo

Presenters:

Mori, Motonao (Research Fellow (PD), Japan Society for the Promotion of Science), "Origin, Withering, and Village: Gan Tanigawa and Michiko Ishimure's thought of Kyushu."

Ueda, Takefumi (Assistant Professor, Faculty of Letters at Aichi University), "Making the Great East Japan Earthquake Chronicle 2011.3.11-2011.5.11: Infrastructure, Reliability, and Sociology of Knowledge."

Iwadate, Yutaka (PhD Candidate, Graduate School of Social Sciences at Hitotsubashi University), "Reading the Great East Japan Earthquake Chronicle 2011.3.11-2011.5.11."

Commentator:

Mori, Keisuke (PhD Candidate, Graduate School of Social Sciences at Hitotsubashi University)

deployed *prehension*, a Whitehead's term, to criticize *apprehension* that became privileged in the context of cognition in modern science. This way, one can develop the argument on the level of the *perceiving* subject as Ishimure does by writing, and the *reasoning* subject as Tanigawa does. This view criticizes the epistemology of writing based on the 19th-century fashioned sciences. Thus, Mori opened the possibility of scientific writing. Second, Takefumi Ueda ("Making the Great East Japan Earthquake Chronicle 2011.3.11-2011.5.11: Infrastructure, Reliability, and Sociology of Knowledge") clarifies the process of making the chronicle³. He mentioned that experiencing disaster as *something radical* has strongly influenced chronicle making, and that seeking causality among those events is very crucial. Finally, Yutaka Iwadate ("Reading the Great East Japan Earthquake Chronicle") presented a response to Ueda's presentation. Citing Ueda's

analysis of "causality of events," he analyzed the process of breakdown of water supply system after the earthquake in Tokyo. He pointed out that many unintentional actors (or "actant") have connected through the institutional measures to fix the problems including the breakdown of water lines and mixing of radioactive materials into the supplied water. While the first workshop focused on the invisible paths of materials in modern societies and related politics, the second workshop focused on the critical examination of the condition of modern thinking and its limit.

Third Workshop: Subjectification of Humans and Non-Humans to/against the State and its Scenery

For the third workshop, we sought to find a new theoretical perspective to understand the diverse events triggered by the earthquake. The keywords included *state* and *scenery*. We invited Takeshi Haraguchi, a human geographer ("Problematizing from the Past of Kamagasaki: Urban, Labor, and Infrastructure"). Based on the fieldworks in *Yoseba*⁴ in Osaka, Haraguchi focused on the history of the day laborers' camp in Kamagasaki from an infrastructural perspective. Labor power gathered in Kamagasaki used to be absorbed in construction, port operation, shipbuilding, and nuclear industries. However, it has been changing through the massive restructuring of labor market and the technology structure; the scenery of Kamagasaki has changed drastically. Nowadays, the popularization of cell phone communication and transition of flophouses into Internet cafes have eliminated the *Yoseba* scenery. This might be the contemporary ontology of labor and built environment.

Second, Keisuke Mori ("Earthquake and Emerging of the State: Ideology of Nation-State and Military in Globalization") argued how the Japanese Self Defense Forces and U.S. Forces identified themselves as the rescue agency after the earthquake. The Great

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Third Workshop:
Subjectification of Humans and Non-
Humans to/against the State and its
Scenery

Date: February 15, 2014

Place: Hitotsubashi University, Kunitachi, Tokyo

Presenters:

Haraguchi, Takeshi (Associate Professor, Graduate School of Humanities and Faculty of Letters at Kobe University), "Problematizing from the Past of Kamagasaki: Urban, Labor, and Infrastructure."

Mori, Keisuke (PhD Candidate, Graduate School of Social Sciences at Hitotsubashi University), "Earthquake and Emerging of the State: Ideology of Nation-State and Military in Globalization."

Commentator:

Yamamoto, Tadahito (Senior Researcher, The Institute of Politics and Economy)

East Japan Earthquake was characterized by massive military mobilization for the rescue missions. Mori clarified the legislative basis of this mobilization and the impact of those militaries on their own mission. In this regard, Tadahito Yamamoto proposed the meaning and importance of "archiving" the disaster. How can we find, trace, and share the diverse experiences of disaster? This was a critical aspect for those who had experienced the disaster.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND ISSUES

We have found many new questions and issues in the workshops. Nevertheless, mentioning all the points is impossible. Therefore, we will present some important issues in the discussion.

First, let us discuss the extent to which the definition of *Governmentality* is valid. Michel Foucault's analysis of *Governmentality* (Dean 2013; Foucault 2004a, 2004b; Rose and Miller

2008) is unique because it enables us to clarify the sovereign power, discipline, and bio-politics. This opened the possibility to examine the horizontal-micro-power relation by criticizing the top-down understanding of power relations in a Weberian sense. From this perspective, we can critically evaluate the government's policy of rehabilitation after the earthquake. On the other hand, some criticized that only focusing on the *Governmentality* would pose us the same danger that lacks the structured and vertical understanding of power. However, Foucault's perspective already deeply criticized the condition of the (neo) liberal subject formation during the late 1970s. All the above suggest that the state plays a crucial role in the new phase of neoliberalism in Japan. Therefore, class and capital-based analysis (Harvey 2005, 1985) applies to the Foucauldian notion of power relations.

Second, the *event* and analyses of various cascading effects of disaster have an analytical problem: Where should we cut the scales? "Cutting" events in "appropriate" scales gravely depends on the disciplines and practices (Latour 2005, 1993; Law and Hassard eds. 1999).⁵ Immediately after the earthquake, this "cutting" was very difficult for our research team because of the scale of the disaster. However, this seems to stabilize with time. One of our problems is not to limit the disaster as an event within one discipline, but understand the disaster as an event and create the tool for investigating it.

Finally, "archiving" is a pressing issue for those conducting studies on disasters. How can we give shape to, preserve, and share multiple research achievements? The disaster does not end but continues. We hope that the workshops could contribute to the archiving of the Great East Japan Earthquake.

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Notes

- 1 All affiliated in February 2014.
 2 Here, the word *Kyusyu*, represents not only the southwest region of Japan, but also an event wherein Minamata disease, severe mercury contamination, took place. The intellectuals, Ishimure and Tanigawa were based in the Kyushu region.
 3 For details, see the *Disaster, Infrastructure and Society: Leaning from the 2011 Earthquake in Japan*, 1. (<https://hermes-ir.lib.hit-u.ac.jp/ir/dis/dis00001-view.pdf>).
 4 As mentioned, *Yoseba* (day laborers' camp) historically signifies the biggest urban corner where the cheap hostels for the day laborers are concentrated. Similar to *Kamagasaki* in Osaka, *Sanya* in Tokyo represents the same in East Japan.
 5 For the sophisticated problematization of *Where-to-cut* issue in the empirical research, see Osugi (2015).

フスキーの子供たち——持続可能エコロジー農業の実験から」『一橋社会科学』7 (別冊) : 215-242.)

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 Osugi, Takashi, 2015, "The Greeting of the Cuban Revolution and Malinowski's Children," *Hitotsubashi Bulletin on Social Sciences*, 7 (Special Issues): 215-242. (=大杉高司, 2015, 『『キューバ革命の緑化』とマリノ