

International Symposium The 4th Dialogue between Civilizations

We are very honored to publish here, the Special Issue of Civilization, the Collected Papers presented on the occasion of the International Symposium, the “4th Dialogue between Civilizations.” This symposium is the fourth of the series, which was initially named the Civilization Dialogue between Europe and Japan. The first symposium was held in November 2015 and was organized primarily by the members of the Institute of Civilization Research at Tokai University. The second symposium was co-hosted with the Centre for Cultural Psychology of Aalborg University in Denmark. The Tokai University European Center co-hosted and provided the venue for the last three symposia. The Institute of Civilization Research held the fourth symposium under joint sponsorship of the European Center and the Graduate School of Letters of Tokai University.

The principal aim of the symposium is to discuss the direction in which our civilization should proceed. All that human beings have built up should be considered to be a civilization, and therefore, we may be asked to determine the future direction of our civilization by examining and synthesizing our wisdom. Here, it is important to ascertain what role humans will be able to play in the future of our civilization and, reciprocally, how our civilization will influence human existence as well as individual thinking and behavior. For this purpose, the discussion should involve various kinds of factors: the East and the West, the North-South problem, globalization and diversity, the community and the individual, and human mind and body, among others.

In fact, from the beginning, the symposium is founded on two research domains developed by the two main organizers of this symposium, Dr. Tanaka and Dr. Hirano. The first is Tanaka’s cultural psychology, focusing on human minds in diverse cultures, and the second is Hirano’s trans-disciplinary humanities, which concerns comprehensive human knowledge since the Renaissance. Varied problems of culture and civilization centered on these relatively new areas have been examined in this symposium series so far, and these will continue to be two the major pillars of discussion.

A new field of study was added to the original two from the third symposium: the environment. The world has witnessed a range of natural disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, and outbreaks of abnormal weather in recent years. In Japan, major damage has been wreaked by the Kumamoto earthquakes of 2016, the intense torrential rains, and other natural catastrophes occurring in diverse places. While it is true that human beings cannot do much in the face of natural disasters, it is also undeniable that many of these calamities are civilizational problems caused by humans whose lives are dependent on fossil fuels. How can we build civilizations that harmonize modern human lives with the natural environment? To this end, this symposium series would like to focus on environmental quality of life to ensure human satisfaction while taking the environment into consideration. This field of research appears promising in terms of pointing humanity toward a new direction.

The symposium, “The 4th Dialogue between Civilization”, collected fifteen papers, the presenters of which are from various countries: Japan, Denmark, France, United Kingdom, Germany. The program of the symposium is as follows:

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March 14, Thursday

Morning Session (I) : Environmental Studies (organized by T. NAKASHIMA and chaired by Y. HIRANO)

NAKASHIMA Takuo, HIRANO Yoichi (Tokai University, Japan)

Nature Oriented Metrics of Wellbeing Based on Environment-Related QOL.

LEE Soji (Tokai University)

Feeling Expansion Model of Environment-related QOL for Leisure Tourism.

Morning Session (II): Societal Studies (organized and chaired by Y. HIRANO)

LESPOUX Yan (University of Montpellier, France)

Foreigners from within? French school and regional languages between the 19th and the 20th centuries.

ADACHI Mina (postgraduate, Tokai University, Japan)

The revival movement of “Poésies Provençales” and the formation of Provence Identity in the 19th century.

Keynote Lecture (Chaired by S. TANAKA)

MURAKAMI Kyoko (Copenhagen University, Denmark)

Relational practice of listening as dialogue.

Afternoon Session (I): Studies on Human Body and Mind (organized and chaired by S. TANAKA)

FRANCESCONI Denis (Aarhus University, Denmark)

Quality of Life Movement and Embodied Wellbeing. An introduction.

WYDER Sylvia (University of Derby, United Kingdom)

The constructed cultural self.

HSIEN Jihe (postgraduate, Tokai University, Japan)

Breathing in Syugyo: Toward a Better Way of Living.

Afternoon Session (II): Trans-Disciplinary Humanities (1) (organzaized by Y. HIRANO and chaired by T.

NAKAMURA)

PIERONI Marina (Technical University of Denmark)

Business opportunities for a transition to Sustainability through Circular Economy.

KAZUHARA Kristina (Copenhagen Business School)

The Relation between Bicultural identity and Bilingual Competences and their importance for Global Organizations.

March 15, Friday

Morning Keynote Lecture (Chaired by Y. HIRANO)

TANAKA Shogo (Tokai University, Japan)

A negative legacy of modernization: The mental disorder Taijin Kyofusho.

Morning Session(I): Trans-Disciplinary Humanities (2) (chaired by Shogo TANAKA)

HIRANO Yoichi (Tokai University, Japan)

Note on the concept of the golden ratio during the Renaissance period.

NAKAMURA Tomoko (Tokai University, Japan)

The shape of knowledge in the Renaissance.

Morning Session (II): Dialogue between Civilizations and Cultures (organaised by N. KUTSUZAWA,
chaired by T. NAKAMURA)

KUTSUZAWA Nobukata (Tokai University, Japan)

About Old Photographs Related to Siebold in the Brandenstein-Zeppelin Archives.

PANTZER Peter (Bonn University, Germany)

Philipp Franz von Siebold –A scholar of Japanese Studies and Cosmopolitan.

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Among these lectures, this Special Issue includes the eight papers contributed by authors; one of them is the paper presented in the 3rd Symposium. The abstracts of the other eight presenters are found in the second part of this issue.

There are calls to respect the diversity of a world characterized by the existence of discrete cultures and civilizations in the midst of the continuing globalization. How can those who have developed and taken advantage of the blessings of the scientific and technological civilizations that originated in modern Europe simultaneously promote the coexistence of humans and nature, recover humanity, and create a sustainable global environment? As the very nomenclature suggests, the current Anthropocene period evidences the construction of new strata with materials that do not exist naturally. It is hoped that at this juncture of human development, this symposium will be a step toward the future development of civilization studies and generate discussions centered on the development of a shared and sustainable future for humanity and its ecological foundations.

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Tokai University, Institute of Civilization Research

Yoichi HIRANO

Shogo TANAKA