

FOSTERING THE NEXT GENERATION

白眉 — The Hakubi Project

A Unique Opportunity for Outstanding Young Talent

The Hakubi Project was established by Kyoto Univ. in 2009 to foster outstanding young researchers. The program recruits twenty international researchers per year as associate and assistant professors. It gives them a valuable opportunity to devote themselves entirely to their research. The project is open to any researcher in any academic field. **WEB** www.hakubi.kyoto-u.ac.jp/eng

PHIL Beyond the Phylogenetic Analysis

Reconstruction of classical Sanskrit treatises on the philosophy of sound.



Extant Sanskrit manuscripts written on palm leaves, tree bark, etc., preserve invaluable insights into the historical evolution of Indian philosophy. However, the accumulated distortion caused by miscopies, alteration, and interpolation in the process of transmission has obscured the concepts and ideas imbedded in the texts themselves. In the work of reconstructing the contents of an original text, the criterion for the adoption of a particular reading is neither majoritarianism nor parsimony. A critical

eye must be directed towards even the unanimous readings common to all testimonies. As a visiting scholar at the Harvard-Yenching Institute, Dr. Taisei Shida, coordinating the collective expertise of his colleagues in Harvard University's Department of South Asian Studies, is editing one chapter of a 10th-century philosophical treatise containing sophisticated argumentation on the nature of sound, language and scripture, topics which constituted the central issues of debate in classical India.

Dr. Taisei Shida

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LEGAL-HIS Justice in Traditional Mongolia

A study on Mongolian legal history between 1644 and 1949.

This project comprises a monograph on the justice system in Mongolia, including its law and administration, from 1644 to 1949. It is strongly based on the use of local Mongolian legal texts, preserved in archives in Mongolia, Russia, Inner Mongolia and Japan. It employs a multidisciplinary perspective, including legal, historical and anthropological study. As the first comprehensive project in the area of Mongolian legal history, this study will contribute to the understanding of Mongolian legal history and the enrichment of legal history scholarship. It is hoped that it will provide a renewed recognition of the law of nomadic societies worldwide. Dr.

Erdenchuluu is currently an academic visitor at the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies, University of Oxford.

Dr. Erdenchuluu Khohchahar

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Mongolian judicial records from the 1760s



POL-SCI **The Right Price for Order**

Prison Policies in Japan.

Japan’s prison system is renowned for its safety and order. There has not been a single prison riot in post-war Japan, and the assault and escape figures lower than elsewhere. Maintaining such a high degree of safety and order is something that the Japanese Justice Ministry is extremely proud of. And why not? Surely a well-ordered prison benefits everyone in society, including prisoners themselves. Nonetheless, international instruments to which Japan is a party hold that the humanity of a prisoner commands rights other than the right to security. The aim of Dr. Silvia Croydon’s research is to empirically determine whose interpretation of prisoners’ rights the existing Japanese prison policies, which have resulted in such a high degree of order, represent. This work should be of benefit to not only scholars of the Japanese criminal justice,

but also to those foreign policymakers who are increasingly looking towards Japan for lessons on how to improve their own prisons.



Dr. Silvia Croydon

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| | ASSAULT ON STAFF | ASSAULT ON INMATES | FIRE | ESCAPE | SUICIDE |
|------|------------------|--------------------|------|--------|---------|
| 2005 | 2 | 15 | 0 | 1 | 15 |
| 2006 | 4 | 25 | 1 | 0 | 18 |
| 2007 | 4 | 12 | 0 | 1 | 21 |
| 2008 | 0 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 25 |
| 2009 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 15 |

Incidents in Japanese Prisons

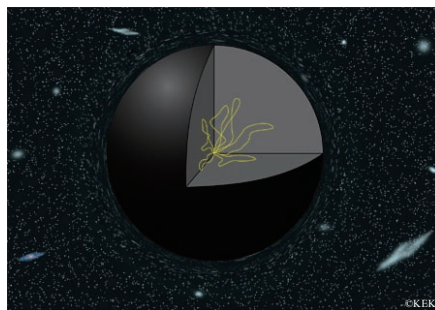
To put these figures into perspective, the U.K., which has a prison population of a similar size to that of Japan (of approximately 60,000-70,000 inmates), recorded by contrast that a ‘serious assault’ occurred for every 1.57 inmates in 2004-5, which corresponds to over 40,000 such incidents.

[Source: *MOJ pamphlet, Penal Institutions in Japan, 2011*]

PHYS **Homework from Einstein**

Can we resolve the contradictions between quantum mechanics and general relativity?

In the early 20th century, Einstein’s two great ideas—quantum mechanics and general relativity—completely changed previously held notions about nature. Those theories are not just academic subjects, they are the basis of many common technologies, such as mobile phones and GPS devices. Fascinating phenomena can be predicted by combining the two theories. For example, Dr. Stephen Hawking predicted that a black hole, from which “even light cannot escape,” actually emits particles and disappears due to the quantum effect. At the same time, we often encounter serious contradictions between the two theories. At the Stanford Institute for Theoretical Physics, Prof. Masanori Hanada is trying to establish superstring theory as a consistent description of the quantum version of general relativity.



In superstring theory, black hole is described as a condensation of vibrating strings.



Dr. Masanori Hanada

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What’s in a Name?

The term hakubi (白眉), literally means ‘white eyebrows’ in Japanese (白 : white, 眉 : eyebrows). The word originates from a Three Kingdoms era (220-280 AD) Chinese legend: “Three kingdoms saga (三国志)”. According to the legend, one of the kingdoms, called Shu (蜀), was home to five brothers with extraordinary talents. The fourth brother, 馬良季常 (Baryo Kijo), who was particularly outstanding, had white hairs in his eyebrows, and so the term hakubi has come to refer to particularly talented individuals.

