

The International Conference on

Ideals, Narratives and Practices of Modernities in Former and Current Socialist Countries

Venue	Seminar Room #6, National Museum of Ethnology, 10-1 Senri Expo Park, Osaka, 565-8511 Japan
Date	19-20th March 2010
Organized by	Prof. Yuki Konagaya National Museum of Ethnology, Osaka, Japan Dr. Uradyn Bulag Mongolia and Inner Asia Studies Unit / Department of Social Anthropology, University of Cambridge, 21
Coordinator	Ai Maekawa Research Institute for Humanity and Nature, Kyoto, Japan

National Museum of Ethnology

10-1 Senri Expo Park, Osaka, 565-8511 Japan

Phone: +81 6 6878 8274

Fax: +81 6 6878 7503

<http://www.minpaku.ac.jp/>

Mongolia and Inner Asia Studies Unit, University of Cambridge

The Mond Building, Free School Lane, Cambridge CB2 3RF

Phone: +44 1223 334690

Fax: +44 1223 767280

<http://www.innerasiaresearch.org/index.html>

Ideals, Narratives and Practices of Modernities In Former and Current Socialist Countries

Nearly 20 years have passed since the disappearance of many of the socialist regimes. However, understanding of the past and present socialist societies is by no means uniform. For instance, many pundits still believe that socialist regimes simply failed. And yet many are nostalgic of the good old socialist period. Changing retrospective understanding of socialist periods also powerfully informs the current economic, political and social dynamics in those countries. Hence, the continued relevance of studying socialist societies today.

In December 2008, researchers gathered at the University of Cambridge for the conference “Oral Histories of Socialist Modernities: Memories and Lived Experiences in Central and Inner Asia” (see www.jacas.jp/meeting/2008/program20091216.doc). Participants presented papers on socialist modernities experienced in China, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, and Russian Siberia. Drawing on oral history research, the conference proved a unique opportunity for comparison, and it raised a number of issues.

Politicization of research results was one major issue raised by the participants, as results might expose to danger respondents in some turbulent areas, such as Tibet. On the other hand, the intrinsic value of the collected oral histories was discussed, because some respondents might restrain themselves in their responses, for fear of troubles with local authorities or just for personal convenience. It indicates that oral history research results are contextually contingent rather than closer to “truth.” These issues are common to anthropological research, not just a methodological issue of oral history alone.

This conference – “Ideals, Narratives and Practices of Modernities in Former and Current Socialist Countries” – is a sequel to the one in Cambridge with an extended scope. It will not be limited to memories and oral histories, but include archival materials. The concept of narrative is a wider one intended for contextual discussion of both oral history and the ways modernities have been represented and practiced both by the socialist states and by their citizens.

Programme

March 19th

Registration	13:00-13:30
---------------------	-------------

Opening Address	13:30-13:35	Prof. Ken'ichi Sudo Director-General, National Museum of Ethnology, Japan
------------------------	-------------	---

Announcing the Conference Overview	13:30-13:45	Prof. Yuki Konagaya, National Museum of Ethnology, Japan
---	-------------	--

Session 1 Materialities and Narratives

Chaired by Dr. David Sneath,
MIASU / Department of Social Anthropology,
University of Cambridge

1-1	Timur Dadabaev	13:45-14:20	Reflections on Experiences of Socialist Era in Soviet Central Asia: Oral Sources and Archival Photo-documents
-----	----------------	-------------	--

1-2	Victor Buchli	14:20-14:55	Shifting Materialities in Post-Socialist Kazakshtan
-----	---------------	-------------	---

1-3	Sho Sugawara	14:55-15:30	Socialism, the Thaw and Youth Delinquency: From the Analysis of Polish Films in the Thaw
-----	--------------	-------------	---

break
15:30-15:45

1-4	Catherine Alexander <i>read by Ai Maekawa</i>	15:45-16:10	Building Modernity in Soviet Alma-Ata
-----	--	-------------	---------------------------------------

1-5	Grégory Delaplace	16:10-16:45	Memories of Mardai: Stripping the Iron and Remembering Russian Presence in Mongolia
-----	-------------------	-------------	--

Discussion for the 1st day	16:45-17:30
--	--------------------

Welcome Reception	18:00-
--------------------------	---------------

March 20th

Session 2 Ideals and Practices

Chaired by Prof. Yuki Konagaya

2-1 Marina Mongush 09:30-10:05 Modern Confessional Situation in Tuva

2-2 Christopher Kaplonski 10:05-10:40 The Language of Violence:
Remembering Counter-revolutionaries and Traitors in
Socialist Mongolia

break
10:40-10:50

2-3 Hildegard Diemberger 10:50-11:25 Buddhist Biographies and Socialist Moralities:
Life Narratives and Literary Tropes in Contemporary
Tibet

2-4 Masanori Goto 11:25-12:00 Demarcation and Recollection of Collectivity in Chuvash
Village, Russia

lunch
12:00-13:00

2-5 Maki Tanaka 13:00-13:35 Being Cuban is about being (im)mobile

2-6 Brice Fauconnier 13:35-14:10 So-called 'Conversion' from Left to Right among
Marxists in Pre and Postwar Japan

2-7 Uradyn Bulag 14:10-14:45 Going to the Capital:
Political Tourism and Ethnic Narrative in Early Socialist
China

break
14:45-15:00

2-8 Alexia Bloch 15:00-15:35 Post-socialism, Shame, and Gender at the Crossroads:
Post-Soviet Traders Reflect on Ideals of Labor in an Era
of Transnationalism

Discussion for the 2nd day 15:35-16:10

break
16:10-16:20

Discussion 16:20-17:30 **Convener : Prof. Yuki Konagaya**

Prof. Kei Nemoto Dr. David Sneath
Dr. Hildegard Diemberger Dr. Uradyn Bulag
