

Short Report for JSPS London website

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My research visit to Japan took place over the two weeks between 29th June and 13th July 2011. During that time I visited five Japanese universities and took part in seminar discussions in each, as well as having more informal exchanges with several Japanese academics in my field. My field is political philosophy, and during the visit the main focus was on issues that arose from my recent book *National Responsibility and Global Justice*, which has just seen the publication of a Japanese translation. When I visited Doshisha University on July 9th, I gave the Kobe Memorial Lecture, with Japanese commentators. My host, Professor Tetsu Sakurai of Kobe University, accompanied me for most of the visit, and we had numerous opportunities to discuss matters of common concern.

My itinerary was as follows:

2 July: seminar at Meiji-Gakuin University, Tokyo, organized by Professor Makoto Usami, Department of Social Engineering, Tokyo Institute of Technology.

4 July: seminar at Chukyo University, Nagoya, organized by Professor Takahiro Doi, Faculty of Law, Chukyo University.

6 July: seminar at Kansai University, Osaka, organized by Professor Takeshi Tsunoda, School of Law, Kansai University.

9 July: Kobe Lecture at Doshisha University, Kyoto, chaired by Professor Yusutoma Morigiwa, Graduate School of Law, Nagoya University.

12 July; seminar at Kyushu University, Fukuoka, organized by Professor Teruhisa Se, Department of Social Studies, Kyushu University.

My overall impression of the visit was that it was exceptionally well-organized, and a great deal of trouble had been taken to ensure that I was properly looked after and

introduced to the relevant academics in my field. Travel arrangements ran smoothly, and in between there was time for some sightseeing. The only real difficulty that I encountered concerned translation between English and Japanese in the seminars. Several ways of dealing with this were tried: providing Japanese texts to accompany spoken delivery in English, and vice versa; pausing while speaking to allow translations to be made; and speaking (slowly) entirely in English. Most of my interlocutors spoke some English; some were quite fluent. But a few in the audience were less comfortable, and therefore it was felt that we should provide back-up in one of the ways referred to above. The downside was that proceedings took somewhat longer than they would otherwise have done, and occasionally we ran into real communication difficulties. Despite this, I don't think I'm biased in judging that the meetings were a success. I certainly learned a lot in the course of them, as well as in the informal discussions I had with individual academics in between.

