

Title of Symposium: Risky Engagements: encounters between science, art and public health.'

UK Scientific Lead: Dr Rupert Cox, Lecturer in Visual Anthropology, University of Manchester

Scientific Lead from Japan: Professor Kozo Hiramatsu, Director of JSPS London and Emeritus Professor of Kyoto University's Graduate School of Asian and African Area Studies.

Period of Symposium and Location: 5th and 6th January 2012

University of Manchester, UK, Whitworth gallery and School of Social Sciences.

Invited Speakers:

JSPS supported:

Takashi Miyakita, Kumamoto Gakuen University

Masami Yuki, Kanazawa University

Toshio Kuwako, Tokyo Technical University

Harutoshi Funabashi, Hosei University

Others:

Penny Harvey, University of Manchester

Andrew Irving, University of Manchester

Aya Homei, University of Manchester

Peter Cusack, University of the Arts London

John Wynne, University of the Arts London

Michael Gallagher, University of Glasgow

Griet Scheldeman, University of Lancaster

Report:

The symposium began with a public event at the Whitworth art gallery where the organisers of the symposia had created a sound-art installation titled 'Air Pressure'. This installation occupies one of the main gallery spaces and has attracted a great deal of publicity (see the links at the end of this section. The JSPS symposia event was advertised on the wall panel of the gallery for all to see and was the main public event connected to the art-exhibition.

Besides the participants, approximately 50 other persons attended the public event. The event consisted of a three-way presentation by the organisers of the symposium – Cox, Hiramatsu and Carlyle, after which there questions from the public. A reception followed and then two of the UK participants in the symposia, who are sound-artists, performed a public concert of their work. This public event at the Whitworth which opened the symposia, being connected to the art-exhibition and to an open discussion and concert was an effective way of achieving 'impact.

The second day of the symposia which was the day of academic presentations, involved interesting exchanges between the artist practitioners from the UK and the environmental and health scientists from Japan. These exchanges focused on issues of methodology, epistemology, ethics and the 'public'. It was apparent that while there were distinct differences between the disciplinary backgrounds of the participants and the materials they dealt with in their work, there were also shared concerns and points of convergence. These points of convergence informed the way that we thought about the publication that will follow from the symposia and it was decided that rather than each participant present an

