

Christopher Harding, University of Edinburgh: JSPS Short Report

Host Institution: Keio University (Tokyo)

Host Professor: Suzuki Akihito

My JSPS Post-Doctoral Fellowship ran from April 2012 to March 2013. I used the time to complete archival research and interviews towards a book on Japan's first generation of psychoanalysts (1930s to 1960s).

JSPS and Keio University combined to make this an extremely smooth and valuable year of research, collaboration, presenting, and writing. The organization was faultless, from plane tickets and insurance to accommodation and office space, and the research support was very generous, leaving me with a year of quality time to focus on my project – and also to work on my Japanese...

I had the opportunity to improve my links with the families of Japan's first psychoanalysts, resulting in the uncovering of a significant amount of documentary material never before seen by scholars, either from Japan or outside. I had the chance to travel and interview former clients of some of these analysts – including Setouchi Jakuchō (pictured below), who was the final client of Dr Kosawa Heisaku before he passed away, and has gone on to become contemporary Japan's religious and social conscience.



I was also able to join and contribute to several research groups based in Tokyo, ranging from transcultural psychiatry to religion and psychotherapy. Out of the latter has come an edited collection, currently in the final preparation stages, bringing Japanese scholarship in English translation to a non-Japanese audience for the first time.

There simply is no substitute, in my line of work, for these sorts of sustained periods of contact with subject matter and colleagues in Japan, and I'm very grateful indeed that JSPS offers a scheme that lets younger scholars like myself do precisely this.

If I had one tip for conducting research on this basis in Japan, it would be to attend all the seminars and conferences that you possibly can – you never know who you might meet and what new areas of research close to your own you might encounter. Plus it's a wonderful way to make new friends and see Japan from fresh angles – the warmth and hospitality of evenings out in excellent company will be one of my most treasured memories of this wonderful year.