

Symposium Title: Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Music and Heritage

Venue: Music Department, Goldsmiths College, the University of London

Date: 19 – 21 February 2014

Invited Speakers:

From Japan:

Prof/Dr Nobuhiro Ito (Osaka University)

(Lead Academic from Japan)

Prof/Dr Yusuke Wajima (Osaka University)

Prof/Dr Yoshitaka Terada (National
Museum of Ethnology)

Dr Itsushi Kawase (National Museum of
Ethnology)

Prof/Dr Hiroshi Yoshida (Ritsumeikan
University)

From the UK:

Dr Naomi Matsumoto (Goldsmiths) (Lead
Academic from the UK)

Dr Barley Norton (Goldsmiths)

Anthony Pryer (Goldsmiths)

Dr Hwee-San Tan (Goldsmiths)

Dr David Hughes (SOAS)

Dr Min Yen Ong (SOAS)

Dr Simon Mills (University of Durham)

Lara Pearson (University of Durham)

Dr Caroline Bithell (University of
Manchester)

Dr Amy Brosius (University of
Birmingham)

Dr Simon Maguire (Sotheby's)

Number of Participants: UK: 222 (excluding the speakers) Japan: 11 (5 invited speakers and 6 Osaka University Graduate Students)

Objective of the Symposium:

Following the ratification of UNESCO's Convention on Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2003, the international symposium 'Safeguarding the Intangible' aimed at investigating and furthering understanding of different strategies and policies on safeguarding musical heritage and their impact on musical traditions. Through presentations, roundtable discussions, musical performances and documentary-film screenings, the symposium critically examined and theorized current music-revival and safeguarding initiatives in different parts of the world.

The attendance of Japanese scholars was crucial since the Japanese system of cultural protection and preservation has been a highly influential model in the field of safeguarding cultural properties.

The event also marked the inauguration of Goldsmiths' 'Asian Music Unit', a new centre for active research into the diverse musical cultures of Asia.

Report of the Symposium:

The international symposium 'Safeguarding the Intangible' was held between 19 and 21 Feb at the Music Department, Goldsmiths College, the University of London. Through 6 sessions comprising many academic presentations, 2 film screenings, 1 lecture-concert and a roundtable discussion, the symposium explored a various range of issues concerning the set objective (as above).

The symposium was very well attended (we welcomed around 120 people each day), which reflected a genuine enthusiasm about, and a keen interest in, the symposium theme.

Prior to the symposium, the opening event was held on the evening of 19 Feb, which at the same time acted as the official launch of Goldsmiths' 'Asian Music Unit'. The evening commenced with the JSPS staff's opening remarks and presentation on their activities and funding schemes, which interested the audience consisting of teaching members and students from various departments of Goldsmiths and beyond. The event culminated in a concert of Chinese music by the Goldsmiths Confucius Institute for Dance and Performance.

Also, earlier on 19 Feb, as a pre-symposium event, a conference for graduate students of Goldsmiths and Osaka University took place. Prof Ito, the Japanese Lead of this project, secured funding for the venture and brought 6 graduate students from Osaka for training purposes. The students not only participated in the main symposium but also presented papers on their research activities during the postgraduate conference. Reciprocally, 3 postgraduate students from Goldsmiths presented their own papers. Lively discussion followed each paper and each student was given feedback not only from their fellow students but also from the teaching staff of Osaka University and Goldsmiths as well as from the invited speakers for the main symposium.

The series of events was concluded on 25 Feb by a presentation by Professor Peter Kivy – a renowned philosopher and recipient of an honorary doctorate from Goldsmiths. Kivy's lucid and thought-provoking paper concerning aesthetics and our perception of art was not only well received but also gave food for thought for all the participants.

The series of events resulted from this project marked just a beginning of the mutually beneficial relationship between Goldsmiths and the Japanese participants' institutions. With Goldsmiths' 'Asian Music Unit' as a hub, we are planning to develop another collaborative project

to further our research. Also in order to disseminate widely the result of this symposium, we are planning two publications:

(1) to publish an anthology of papers from a well-reputed English publisher on a peer-review basis. This is currently under negotiation. (2) Prior to (1), preliminary versions of papers will be published at first instance as a special issue of the Journal of *HANDAI Music Studies*, led by the staff of Osaka University. This is aimed particularly at Japanese readers. Furthermore, the issue will include graduate-students papers as well for their training purposes. – Dr. Naomi Matsumoto



Symposium Delegation