

### **JSPS Invitation Fellowship (Short-Term) 3-23 December 2012**

I am extremely grateful to JSPS and to my host Prof. Satoshi Tojo of the School of Information Science at JAIST for an enjoyable and productive three weeks in Japan. My own department is the Lancaster Institute for the Contemporary Arts, so I found myself in a very different kind of institution (a postgraduate-only university), and a different kind of department. The location, on the other hand, was not so different: both universities are on self-contained modern campuses in a rural environment between hills and sea. I had previously met Prof. Tojo, and his co-researcher Prof. Keiji Hirata from Future University Hakodate, at a couple of conferences in Europe. Their work on computational implementation of the Generative Theory of Tonal Music (an influential music theory by Lerdahl & Jackendoff) was well known to me and has many points of contact with my own work on computational implementation of Schenkerian theory.

Prof. Tojo had arranged an itinerary for me to meet with other researchers and attend two meetings. I had two spells at JAIST where I was able to learn about the work of Prof. Tojo's lab and to meet some of his students (many from other parts of Asia). In between we visited Prof. Hirata in Hakodate and Prof. Masatoshi Hamanaka at the University of Tsukuba, and attended the meeting of the Generative Music Informatics group of the Information Processing Society of Japan (IPSJ). Both at this meeting and at Prof. Hamanaka's lab, students and postdoctoral researchers gave presentations about their own research, which gave me an excellent picture of the work, preoccupations and research environment in this area in Japan. I hope too that it was a fruitful experience for the students, apart from being their first experience of presenting in English for some! My stay ended with the SIGMUS conference of the IPSJ in Tokyo.

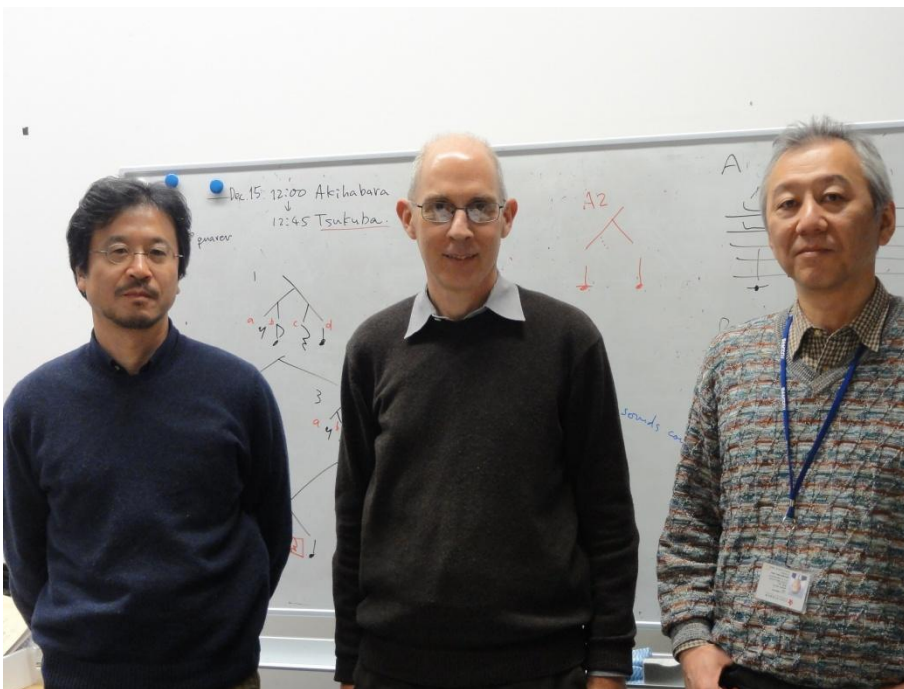
I travelled by train, which I found smooth and easy despite my lack of knowledge of Japanese language. It also gave me time to consolidate my thoughts, and allowed me sight of Mount Fuji, bamboo forests, and snowy landscape in the north. I had three days free for sightseeing, and my hosts were always kind and friendly in taking me to places to eat: the sushi in Hakodate was incredible!

For me, the benefits of the visit were to learn much more detail about the research work of Profs. Tojo, Hirata and Hamanaka and how it relates to my own research. I hope we have laid the groundwork for future collaborations. I found meeting the young researchers inspirational, and gained some ideas about research environments to promote young researchers which I hope I can put into practice here. My tip to anyone visiting Japan is to do your homework beforehand: for many things, from restaurants to buying tickets to travelling, once you know the system—which invariably operates smoothly—it is easy; if you do not, it is baffling without someone to help!

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The view from my temporary office at JAIST. I was staying in the 'International House' which is the low brown building on the right.



My host Prof. Satoshi Tojo (left) and Prof. Keiji Hirata (right) during our discussions at Future University Hakodate. Our jottings are visible on the board behind.