

**Final Report for the JSPS London
JSPS Invitation Fellowship (Short-term)**

Embodied Mother-Infant Narratives

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Host Institution: Waseda University
Host Researcher: Prof. Koichi Negayama
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This JSPS Fellowship enabled research collaboration and scientific dialogue on the nature of early non-verbal meaning-making and its development in human infancy. The Fellowship was approximately divided into two parts: (i) advancing collaborative research already underway, and (ii) initiating scientific dialogue and collaboration with new colleagues. Altogether the Fellowship lasted 30 days and enabled advancement on both sides.

Two weeks were given to a detailed, cross-cultural comparative study of early mother-infant interaction patterns between Scotland and Japan. This work contributed to a collaboration with my host, Prof. Koichi Negayama at Waseda University, and his colleagues, Prof. Keiko Momose also from Waseda University, and Prof. Noriko Kawahara from nearby Kyoritsu University. We employed motion capture to give precise quantification to the development of embodied communication, including rhythms and qualities of gestural expression, body position, and the nature shared attention and expectation, with the aim to improve understanding of the development of communication in humans and its differences across cultures – knowledge required to better understand human psychological development and with practical importance to improve early years care. We engaged in an intense 2-week period of research progress not otherwise possible via email or the internet.

This JSPS Fellowship further facilitated meeting new colleagues at other universities to share knowledge and ideas, and development collaborative relations. This included discussions with Prof. Hisako Watanabe and her colleagues at the Keio University Hospital on the nature and importance of social experience for prematurely born infants; discussions which have led to a shared symposium at the World Association of Infant Mental Health World Congress in Edinburgh this summer. Outside of Tokyo, Prof. Watanabe kindly introduced me to paediatricians and infant mental health practitioners in Kochi, and with whom we shared experience and concerns for infant medical care and support. At the University of Kyoto, more theoretical discussion was shared with Prof. Akira Takada and his colleagues at a special symposium on the nature of social engagement in early life, and with students and colleagues from Prof. Masako Myowa-Yamakoshi's laboratory and nearby universities in Kyoto and Osaka. A final meeting with Prof. Yuko Yato at Ritsumeikan University enabled further exchange of ideas and knowledge of early assessment of infant psychological health. This concluded a short tour of the southern region from Shikoku Island to Kyoto.

Although Japan is geographically far away from the United Kingdom, this short trip has made Japan feel much closer. Colleagues I was fortunate to meet and to work with there have come to visit me in Scotland, both for continuing research and for conferences/symposia. Our collaborative work continues to grow. I been very impressed with the balance found within this JSPS Fellowship, enabling both exceptional science and development of the human relations on which good science is built. And I have been very impressed by the hospitality and warmth of my Japanese colleagues. The opportunity to come to Japan and to work with them would not have otherwise been possible without the support from the JSPS, and for this I am grateful.