

For my JSPS fellowship I spent two years at Kyoto University in the department of Ethics. My project was entitled 'Japanese and Western Conceptions of the Natural World: A Comparative Study'. In my research I compared the philosophical systems of John McDowell and Watsuji Tetsuro, concentrating in particular on differences in their conceptions of nature. During my tenure I also worked for the *Centre for Applied Philosophy and Ethics* (<http://www.cape.bun.kyoto-u.ac.jp>) where my research focused on issues to do with human enhancement and distributive justice.

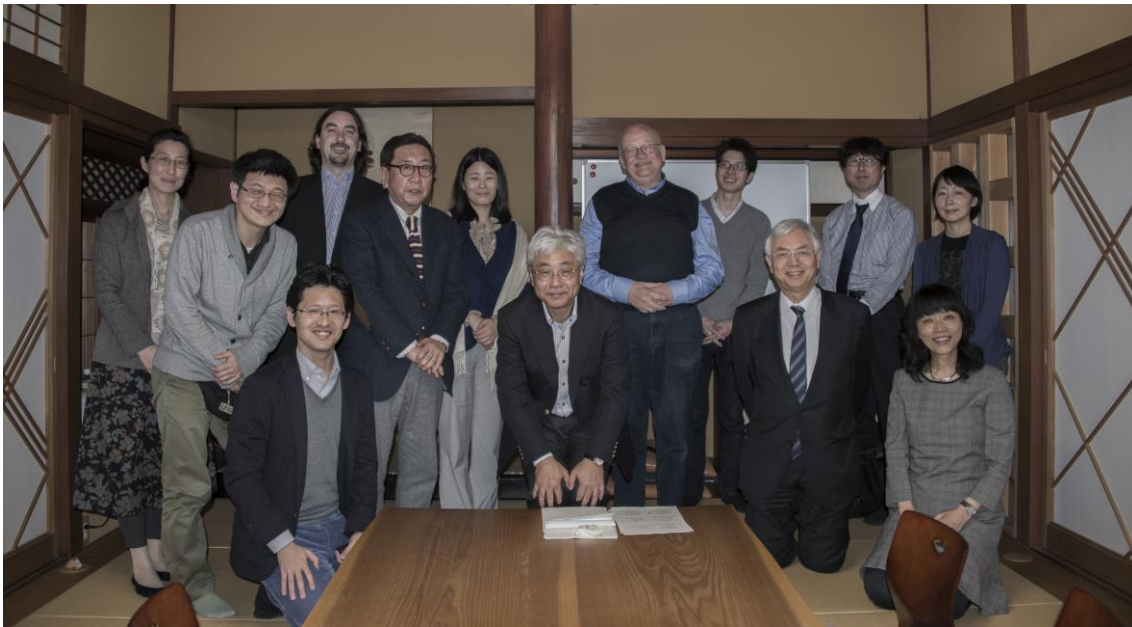
During my fellowship I had the opportunity to travel widely around Japan. I gave presentations in Kumamoto and Sapporo, and spoke to high school students in Ena in Gifu Prefecture. In Kyoto I helped organise two international conferences, and ran regular research seminars which were attended by both graduate students and members of staff.

Since I was the first (and to date the only) foreigner in my department, adjusting to life in Japan was difficult at first. Fortunately, my colleagues were all extremely friendly and patient, and were willing to help me with the various crises that come up when living overseas. It helped also to learn Japanese. I recommend getting a phone app like Memrise and studying for the JLPT tests.

Overall, the JSPS fellowship was an invaluable experience for me. The exposure to a new culture and research environment has helped to broaden my research, and I feel that I am much more rounded, both academically and personally, as a result of the programme. If you want any information about studying philosophy in Japan, feel free to email me on m.w.m.campbell@gmail.com



Giving a lecture at Kyoto University



Participants of CAPE Bristol-Kyoto Workshop on Research Integrity