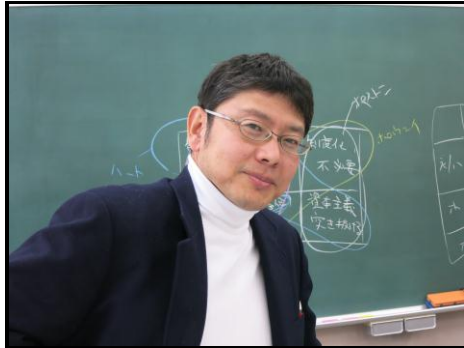


Thanks to a generous grant from JSPS, I have spent three productive months at Waseda University in Tokyo. This has enabled me to carry on research necessary to complete the DPhil in the history of modern Japan I am pursuing at Oxford University. My work focuses on a network of intellectuals who were opposed to unfettered capitalist development during the first decades of the twentieth century. In the first instance, I made the most of unrestricted access to libraries and archives. The study of unpublished correspondence from the early 1900s' tremendously enriched my perspective on what motivated government dissent at the time. The discovery of old pamphlets provided useful insights into the making and intricacies of political activism.

I owe much also to regularly attending graduate seminars at Waseda and trading ideas with students engaged in related research topics. In the Graduate School of Political Science, Professor Naoyuki Umemori's seminar on the History of Japanese Political Thought became a particularly lively and helpful forum of discussion. It is only through such exchange of ideas that the process of dissertation writing can fully develop and mature, providing in my case a valuable opportunity to explore in depth the context and formation of intellectual movements.

Lastly, I must mention that research sometimes takes unexpected paths. As I followed a trail uncovered in old letters, I ended up in snowy Hokkaido, more precisely in the village of Tsurui on the eastern part of the island, where a colony of elegant *tanchō* cranes every year delights bird watchers from all over the world. As I explored yet another bunch of dusty papers in the local library, I could hear their cries nearby. They, too, were part of the history of the village. Seeing their beautiful mating dance in the cold air heightened my awareness of the natural environment in which previous generations had struggled to produce new expressions of intellectual discourse.



Professor Naoyuki Umemori

Tancho Cranes

