

UK-Japan Seminar on the Politics and Practises of ‘Low Fertility and Ageing Population in Post-War Japan’

Knowles Committee Room A, Whitworth Hall, University of Manchester, 28th January 2017

This seminar was supported by JSPS London and the Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation and 14 academics took part from research institutions in the UK and Japan. The seminar examined histories and practises surrounding issues of ageing and fertility in Japan in order to better contextualise the ongoing policy debate over the country’s low fertility and increasing ageing population. Each presenter discussed their research topics based on pre-circulated papers and each session ended with commentary by the commentators. In addition there was a strategic meeting at the end of the day to discuss effective ways for participants to expand research collaborations and forge links with wider communities. In parallel with the seminar, events were organised aimed at fostering academic networking and social interactions among participants to help establish productive research collaboration in the future.

Overall the event successfully fulfilled its main goal to foster and expand collaboration on many levels; between researchers who normally work separately and between scholars specialising in reproduction and those working on ageing, between Japanese and UK researchers and between early career researchers and established researchers. This was acheived by scholars working on reproduction and those working on ageing listening to and commenting on one another’s papers and scholars from Japan examined relevant issues with UK researchers. The event was structured so that early career researchers had ample opportunity to interact with distinguished scholars. Towards the end of the event, future plans were discussed including a follow on event and publication that specifically draws on the pre-circulated papers and the discussion points of the seminar.

The other aim the seminar successfully achieved was to enable its participants to discuss effective ways to engage with wider communities such as Age International and related UK organisations to make stronger impact cases in

the future to the policy making arena. The participants of the seminar ultimately hope to collaborate on a historical project with the National Institute of Population and Social Security Research Institute in Japan to promote a holistic understanding of the policy of low fertility and ageing population and the findings of the pre-circulated papers presented.

– Dr Aya Homei.



Symposium Participants