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Dr Lucian N. Leustean

Aston University, Birmingham

Reader in Politics and International Relations

JSPS Short-Term Invitational Fellowship for Research in Japan, May-June 2023

I held a short-term Invitational Fellowship for Research in Japan which enabled me to be based at the Graduate School of Law and Politics, the University of Tokyo, for four weeks in May and June 2023. My research project examined the relationship between forced displacement, religious diplomacy and human security in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. It focused on four areas: 1) the circulation of ideas on human security between religious and secular courts, monastic settlements, pilgrimage sites and educational establishments; 2) religious strategies in relation to violence, tolerance, transitory environments and resettlement; 3) religious support, protection and mechanisms towards displaced populations, and 4) channels of religious diplomacy advancing human security.

I presented the findings of my project in three lectures to academic scholars and students delivered at the University of Tokyo, Keio University, and Hokkaido University, Sapporo. I worked at the University of Tokyo Library which holds the largest collection of publications in the country and at the Library of the Slavic-Eurasian Research Centre, Hokkaido University, Japan's national centre for Slavic and Eurasian studies. At the latter, I even found a book with published documents on the history and politics of Romania which is not available in British academia.

I am very grateful to Professor Kimitaka Matsuzato, my host at the University of Tokyo, Professor Aiko Nishikida from Keio University, Professor Norihiro Naganawa from Hokkaido University, and Professor Sanami Takahashi from Kyushu University and to all scholars and students I met for organising my lectures and their extremely helpful feedback on the project.



Talk at Keio University, 23 May 2023