

My name is Matteo and I was a JSPS postdoctoral fellow at Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto (September 2018 to September 2020), under the supervision of Prof. Yoshida and Prof. Doi. The research project I carried out at Ritsumeikan University looked at the world of translation in Japan. At Ritsumeikan University I was affiliated with the lively Center for Game Studies (RCGS), the only academic organization in Japan in the field of game studies, and for the length of my research project I was able to carry out research on the localization of Japanese video games into English. As part of my research project, I interviewed a number of translators working in Japanese video game firms, attended conferences in Japan and abroad, gave lectures and seminars on the topic of video game translation, and much more.

Overall, my time spent as a JSPS fellow was fantastic. Personally, the experience was life-changing, as it allowed me the time and resources to make important connections with academics in Japan, further my knowledge and open new venues for research. I am particularly grateful for the generous research funds that I received from the JSPS, as it made it possible for me to present my research at international conferences abroad (in Australia and Italy), as well as carry out numerous research trips in Japan. I also enjoyed the opportunity to visit Nagoya Koyo High School as part of the JSPS Science Dialogue programme, and warmly recommend this experience to other fellows travelling to Japan in the future.

As for the effect of the COVID 19 pandemic, it is unfortunate that my research plan was disrupted by the emergency measures implemented by the Japanese government and Ritsumeikan University, but also understandable. As the pandemic hit about six months before the end of my projects, I was unable to travel to conferences and therefore I could not disseminate my research findings as I had planned. Ritsumeikan University also implemented quite strict containment measures so I was unable to access my research office from April onwards.

My recommendation for future JSPS fellows is to make sure to join relevant research associations well in advance and try to join their online meetings and symposiums, as this has become the only way to meet like-minded researchers at the present moment. Furthermore, it is important to make sure that the host university has alternative spaces that can be used for research purposes (libraries, cafes, any kind of meeting rooms, etc.) as in the long run working and living in the same room can become quite hard!

As I am still in Kyoto, I would be happy to meet other JSPS fellows here in Japan, otherwise you can freely contact me at my email address, mattfabb@hotmail.com with any questions.