

Between June and July 2018 I was hosted by Professor Akira Takada in the Graduate School of Asian and African Studies (ASAFAS) at Kyoto University under the JSPS short term fellowship. In the course of the fellowship I worked extensively on the research material I collected during my recently completed Wellcome Trust Seed Award entitled 'Narratives of Mental Illness in Contemporary Namibia'. This research material consisted of recorded interviews, field notes, photographs and videos I gathered among research participants in Windhoek, Namibia. Whilst at ASAFAS in Kyoto I transcribed the recorded interviews and archived a large collection of Namibian and South African colonial era documents on health and mental illness. The process of systematization and indexing of the research material has allowed me to begin to work on a number of articles due in 2019. Also, I gave a lecture at the weekly ASAFAS seminar and met with Japanese colleagues and PhD students as well as visiting scholars hosted at ASAFAS. I also attended regularly the ASAFAS seminars and assisted a PhD student with the drafting of a research report. Whilst in Kyoto I also established research contact and collaborations with Japanese and European visual anthropologists. In particular I attended a series of seminars hosted by Itsushi Kawase the director of the National Museum of Ethnology (Minpaku) and together with Dr Martin Gruber, visiting scholar at ASAFAS from the University of Bremen, I completed the editing of an experimental ethnographic film I will submit to the 2019 RAI Film Festival. The JSPS fellowship has been a wonderful opportunity for my current and future research plans. ASAFAS offered me the use of a very functional office space and full access to the University library's collection. The fellowship has given me an important opportunity to develop existing and future collaborations with colleagues at Kyoto University and other Japanese institutions. In terms of future research plans, I aim to continue to engage with Japanese academics and to develop long lasting research and institutional collaborations.