

Application Form for Joint Research Project 2010

Applicant(Coordinator) : Wakana SHIINO

1. Project title	
'Single' and Family : The anthropological study of "Enishi(karmic/relation/connection)	
2. Project term	April, 2010~ March, 2013 (3 years)
3. Coordinator	(Name) Wakana SHIINO (Role) 'Single' and Family in Kenya and Uganda
Sub-coordinator	(Name) Ryoko NISHII (Role) 'Single' and Family in Thailand
ILCAA member	(Name) (Role)
4. Number of project members	20
5. Research Field of joint researchers	Social Anthropology, Cultural Anthropology India, Korea, Japan, Tibet, Taiwan, France, Italy, Finland, North America, Oseania (Papua New Guinea etc.).
6. Summary of the project	
<p>This research is about the people who are categorized as 'single' in the society from the standpoint of socio-cultural anthropology. We will study by paying specific attention to the existence of the 'single' and the way of life, by using <i>Enishi</i>, a Japanese word, which mean karmic/relation/connection. At that time, we focus on 'single' in society and concerned about family and kinship relations, and in addition, on the relationship between "single" and the state which put considerable impact on the individual person.</p>	
7. Aim of the project	
<p>Lives of individuals in modern society has been diverse. People frequently migrate locally and internationally for education, medication due to illness, religious reasons, or due to environmental changes and disasters that occur frequently. In developed countries there is a tendency of 'the ageing society with a declining birthrate' so that many old people stay alone, unlike before. These changes in the social environment has greatly changed the relationship between people and lifestyles and the collapse of what once seemed to be a 'modern family'. But recently, people seem to start to connect to each other while looking for a kind of a 'family' or 'kinship' connection which is somehow based on a pseudo-model 'modern family'.</p> <p>Based on the above events, our study aims to try to reveal the social realities of family, kinship and society in Asia and Africa, and the tactics of life for 'single' which can be considered as family and or community-created.</p> <p>In addition to this work, we will analyze social and modern philosophy for the single, and the ideal image (picture) of a family it produces to tend to fix the existence of 'single' as a pair of family from the perspective of anthropology.</p>	

8. Significance of the research , especially the significance of carrying out the project as a joint research

The current Anthropology in Japan is such that there is a strong degree of bias to areas of specific research interests, where the perspective tends to downplay the reverse comparison with other regions. There is also another tendency where many anthropologists research on pragmatic studies concerned with Development Policies and International Economics for example, while omitting the basic study on the family and kinship. But even now for those studies, it is important to compare with another research sites because the comparisons bring new ideas and different perspectives. It is also important to focus on the status of family and kinship as before, because studies about family and kinship are the basic studies for understanding the society. But it seems that these methods and topics are attracting little or no attention even to Anthropologists. But we think this topic is so important even now just as it was since social anthropology started.

We try to get over the leadership of Western academism while considering academic stock on kinship studies, like the concept of 'relatedness' by Janet Carsten. In this study, we will also examine the technical word 'family' in social sciences.

It is an important to conduct joint research on this topic with several other anthropologists in this Institute, it being one of the main academic centers of Anthropology. And we can expect that the presence of the field of this topic will raise interests on 'single', family and kinship studies, and at the same time elevate our Institute as the center of anthropological studies in Japan.

9. Research results expected

In this study, we can expect a broad discussion and practical results by anthropologists and sociologists who conducted fieldwork mainly in Asia and Africa. By doing joint research, we can find and collect new ideas from the local knowledge and anthropological experiences around the world.

Those based on the contemporary context, we would like to try to ask once more the orthodox theme about family and kinship in social anthropology. At the same time, we will investigate the 'single' which is the new concept and created by a modern society. We are sure that we can submit a key how to read the rapid social changes in modern society thorough this perspective.

In addition, it can be expected that the presentation of this new research perspectives and methods can appeal not only to Japanese academism but also English-speaking academic anthropology.

10. Project plan

1st year

[Overview]

Each co-researcher will make presentation about the present condition of 'single', and the family and kinship relationships, and will announce such stereotypes and ideal images in those societies. And we point out the problems in the discussion and review of anthropological study on kinship and families within each region.

• Implementation Committee (5) plans.

April, July, October, December, February

- We will compare the concepts of 'family' by using "HRAF".
- In Oya Soichi Bunko library, Japan's modern 'single' conduct involving literature.
- The researchers analyze how the concept 'kazoku'(in Japanese) and 'family' have been consider and used.
- Each co-researcher will report image for picture of family and relatives in each research field(society)
- We will build HP for this study.

2nd year

[Overview]

Each co-researcher will report 'single' issues in each area, relationships of family and kinship, and will point out that the problems thorough reviewing and discussing issues of family kinship in anthropology.

- Implementation Committee (5) plans.
April, July, October, December, February.

3rd year

[Overview]

We invite some guest speakers who study the theme of family relatives and whose study area are out those of co-researchers' to expand the scale for further discussion, make a summary of the discussion.

- Implementation Committee (5) plans.
April, July, October, December, February.

By these presentations and discussions based on the views gathered from each person as above, we will publish an academic book and a general book.

11. Plans to make research results public

- We will create a Homepage to publicize about this study and the plans and a summary of each workshop on the website.
- We aim to publish their works in renown journal, continue to transmit a kinship study concerning 'single' by Japanese anthropologist to the anthropological academia in the world.

12. Documents needed from those applying for joint researchers

- (1) Future research plans concerning this study plan and its aim.
- (2) Expectations toward this research challenge.
- (3) Issues related to this research, Research achievements.

(1), (2) together about 800 words.