

ILCAA 2024-2025

Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa
Tokyo University of Foreign Studies



Target Areas of ILCAA Joint Research Projects

About ILCAA



At the Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa (ILCAA), we focus on research on languages and various cultural phenomena in Asia and Africa. The Institute operates under the following three principles:

- Conducting collaborative research projects
- Processing, editing, and disseminating data on languages and cultures of Asia and Africa
- Training junior scholars through joint research, workshops, and seminars

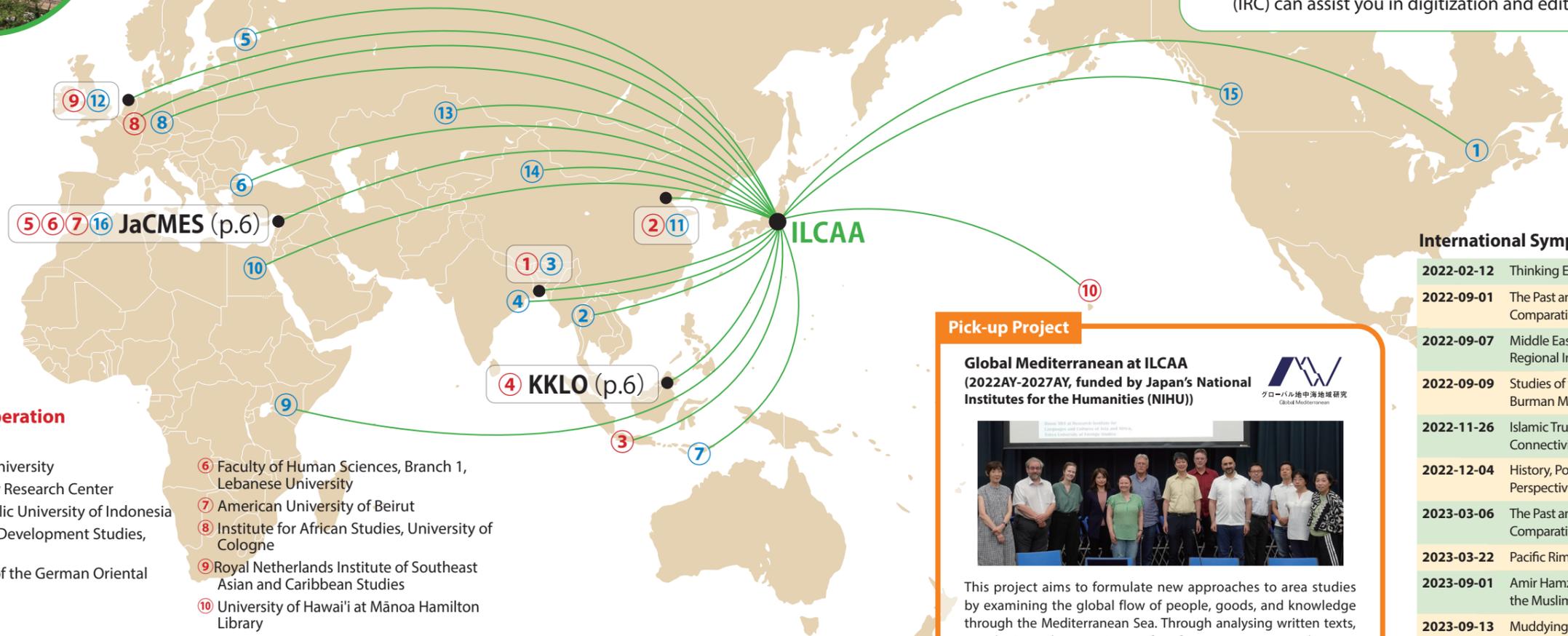
How to use ILCAA

ILCAA is an international research center that offers various services to academic communities worldwide. The services that are available to international scholars are summarized below.

Visiting scholars: We accept visiting scholars and fellows to conduct joint research projects in cooperation with the research staff.

Research resources: ILCAA's unique collection of rare books and other materials is available at ILCAA Library. Various dictionaries and databases are available online.

Collaborative research projects: ILCAA Joint Research Projects accept scholars from abroad to carry out research. If you would like to "salvage" valuable data (old audio and/or video recordings, field notes, or documents), Information Resources Center (IRC) can assist you in digitization and editing.



Academic Cooperation Agreements

- ① Jahangirnagar University
- ② China Tibetology Research Center
- ③ Atma Jaya Catholic University of Indonesia
- ④ The Institute for Development Studies, Sabah
- ⑤ Orient Institute of the German Oriental Society-Beirut
- ⑥ Faculty of Human Sciences, Branch 1, Lebanese University
- ⑦ American University of Beirut
- ⑧ Institute for African Studies, University of Cologne
- ⑨ Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies
- ⑩ University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Hamilton Library

Visiting Scholars (Recent 5 years)

- ① **SHAHBAZ, Pegah** "Narrative Texts in the South Asian Multi-lingual Context"
- ② **BUADAENG, Kwanchewan** "Religious Movements among the Karen People in the Deterritorialized Thailand-Myanmar Borderland"
- ③ **Ranjan Saha Partha** "Socio-Economic Dynamics of Transformation of Rural Societies and Migration in Bangladesh with particular focus on Gohira Village"
- ④ **Sumit Kumar Barua** "Buddhist Revival Movement in Modern India: Japanese Scholar Kimura Nichiki and His Role in Indo-Japan Relationship"
- ⑤ **SYURYUN, Arzhaana** "A Study of Knowledge Management in Central Eurasian Languages: focusing on Tuvan and Sibe"
- ⑥ **AYNUR, Hatice** "Study on the Inscription Texts and the Library Collection of an 18th Century Ottoman Chief Eunuch of the Imperial Harem: Hacı Beşir Ağa (d. 1746)"
- ⑦ **BALUKH Jermy Imanuel** "Creating Annotated Texts and a Sketch Grammar of Lole Dialect of Rote"
- ⑧ **KAMALI, Beste Can** "A Detailed Investigation of Polar Questions in Altaic-type Languages"
- ⑨ **ONDICHO, Tom Gesora** "Sexual Education Handbook for University Students in Kenya"
- ⑩ **ALI, Omar Gamal Mohamed** "Bequeathal Strategies and State Response in Mamluk Jerusalem: Decoding Evidence in the Haram Documents Collection"
- ⑪ **SOLONIN, Kirill** "Comparative Study of the Tangut, Sanskrit, Tibetan versions of the Bodhicaryavatara by Santideva"
- ⑫ **ARPS, Bernard** "A Muslim Epic and its Politics in Early Modern Asia: Amir Hamza from Iran to South and Southeast Asia"
- ⑬ **ABDILASHIM, Duisenali** "Research on Kazakh Documents in the Archives of Russia and China"
- ⑭ **YIDEMUCAO, Dawa** "Joint Research on Documentation of Literary and Colloquial Materials in Oirat Mongolian"
- ⑮ **KABIR, Humayun** "The Political Rise of Deobandi Ulama: Maulana Hafezzi Huzur and His Legacy in the Politics of Islamism in Bangladesh"
- ⑯ **ALTAWHEEL, Rawia** "Multi-dimensional Relationships between Syrian Refugees and Lebanese Host Communities"

Pick-up Project

Global Mediterranean at ILCAA (2022AY-2027AY, funded by Japan's National Institutes for the Humanities (NIHU))



This project aims to formulate new approaches to area studies by examining the global flow of people, goods, and knowledge through the Mediterranean Sea. Through analysing written texts, visual arts, and various types of performance, our research group at ILCAA seeks to investigate the global cultural flows among various civilizations. It attempts to explore how Mediterranean cultures were transformed and spread among Asian and African regions and how Asian and African cultures were assimilated into the Mediterranean cultures.

International Symposia (Recent 3 years)

2022-02-12	Thinking Emotions in South Asia
2022-09-01	The Past and Present of Bantu Languages: Integrating Micro-typology, Comparative-historical Linguistics, and Lexicography 2022-01
2022-09-07	Middle Eastern, Balkan and Japanese Perspectives on the Global and Regional Impacts of the Ukraine War
2022-09-09	Studies of the Tangut from the Viewpoints of Research on Tibeto-Burman Minority Languages
2022-11-26	Islamic Trust Studies: Translation and Transformation in Muslim's Connectivity
2022-12-04	History, Politics, and Society in Japan and Iraq from Comparative Perspectives
2023-03-06	The Past and Present of Bantu Languages: Integrating Micro-typology, Comparative-historical Linguistics, and Lexicography 2022-02
2023-03-22	Pacific Rim Ottomanists' Conference
2023-09-01	Amir Hamza and Beyond: Historical Narratives and Romances across the Muslim World
2023-09-13	Muddying the Waters: Towards a History of the Caspian Sea
2023-09-16	New Perspectives on Tangut Study: Language and Script
2023-09-25	Food as a Window to the Past: Africa, Asia and the Pacific
2023-11-17	Global Youth Dynamics and 'Reality' Negotiation in East Africa and South Asia: Gender, Diversity, Agency
2024-01-06	Futures of Academic Research and Art

Major Externally Funded Research Projects (Recent 3 years)

Research Projects	Principal Investigator
Connectivity and Trust Building in Islamic Civilization	KUROKI, Hidemitsu
Changes in the World of Islamic Thought and Knowledge	NODA, Jin
Migrants, Refugees, and Community Building	KUROKI, Hidemitsu
The Ideas of the Muslim Community and State Systems	KONDO, Nobuaki
The Origin and Evolution of Sociality: Developing New Theories of Human Evolution Based on Collaboration between Anthropology and Primatology	KAWAI, Kaori
Multipolarization of Muslim Societies in South Asia	TOGAWA, Masahiko
Islam and Gender: Towards a Comprehensive Discussion	NAGASAWA, Eiji
Extractions of Huge Japanese Formulaic Sequences and Inductive Reconstruction of Japanese Grammar by Structural Analyse and Its Applications to Japanese Language Education	SHIBANO, Koji

Publications

ILCAA publishes peer-reviewed journals, results of joint research projects and of individual researches, results of dictionary-compiling projects, and materials developed for Intensive Language Courses. Many publications are in languages other than Japanese. Most of the publications are distributed gratis to academic institutions and researchers. For details, please visit the website for ILCAA publications.

<https://biblio.aa-ken.jp/>



Periodicals



Journal of Asian and African Studies

The Journal of Asian and African Studies (JAAS) is a biannually published, peer-reviewed journal on linguistics, history, and cultural anthropology of Asia and Africa. Submissions of papers are accepted from both within Japan and abroad. JAAS is organized by the editorial committee that includes researchers within and outside the institute. JAAS has become an open-access electronic journal since the publication of volume 101.

https://tufts.repo.nii.ac.jp/search?search_type=2&q=53

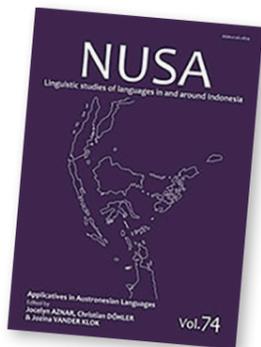


Asian and African Languages and Linguistics



Asian and African Languages and Linguistics (AALL) is an annual refereed linguistic journal first issued in 2006. In principle, it deals with descriptive studies on minority languages in Asia and Africa, based on the original data mainly obtained by the author's own fieldworks. The linguists at ILCAA fill the role of editors of the journal. All papers will be fully refereed by two anonymous reviewers. AALL has become an open-access electronic journal since the publication of volume 8.

https://tufts.repo.nii.ac.jp/search?search_type=2&q=14



NUSA: Linguistic studies of languages in and around Indonesia

NUSA is a biannually published, peer-reviewed journal. This is the product of a joint cooperation agreement between the PKBB (Centre for Culture and Language Studies) of Atma Jaya Catholic University of Indonesia in Jakarta, Indonesia, and ILCAA.

https://tufts.repo.nii.ac.jp/search?search_type=2&q=57

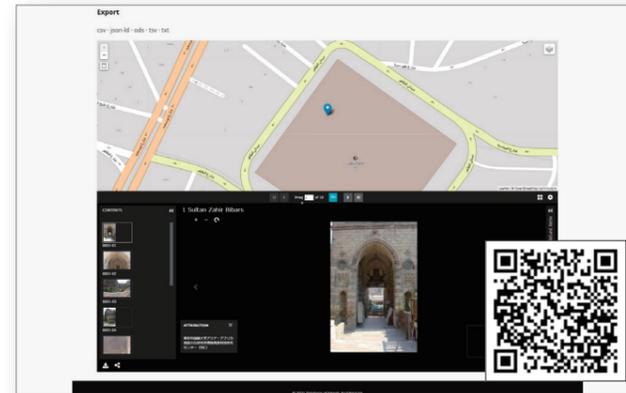


Online Research Resources

The results of ILCAA Joint Research Projects and those by the research staff include online dictionaries and databases that are made available on the institute's website to be used for use by external researchers and by the general public.

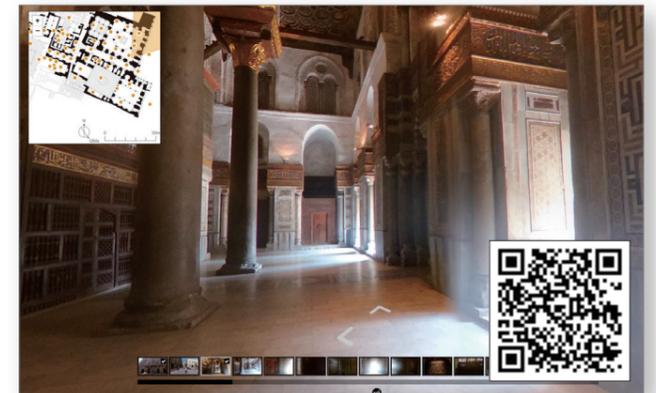
You can see a list of these research resources on the website, "Online Resources Catalogue"

(<https://online-resources.aa-ken.jp/lang/eng>).



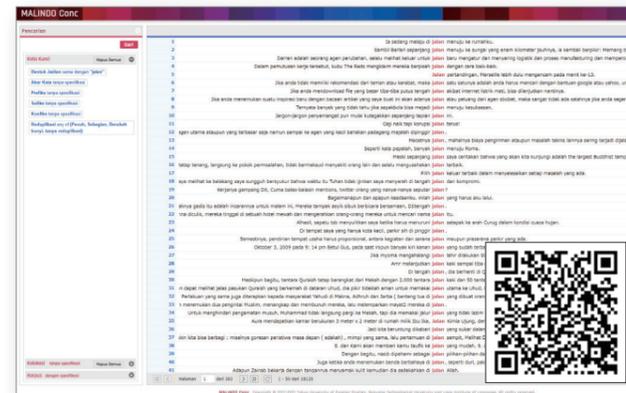
Database of Historical Monuments in Islamic Cairo

<https://islamic-architecture.aa-ken.jp/>



Qalawun VR Project

<https://qalawun.aa-ken.jp/en/>



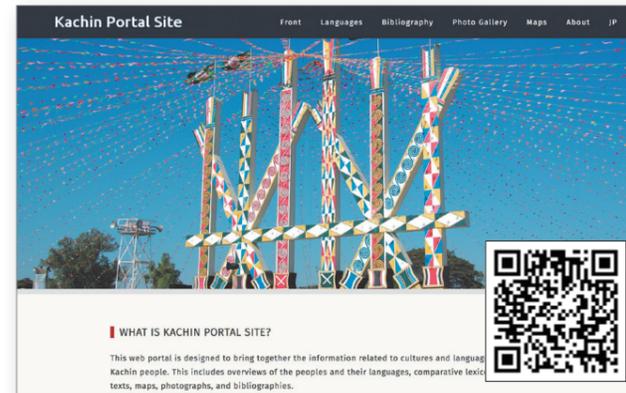
MALINDO Conc

<https://malindo.aa-ken.jp/about/aaken.html>



Abjad Numerals Calculator

<http://coe.aa.tufts.ac.jp/abjad/JP/>



Kachin Portal Site

<https://kachinportal.aa-ken.jp/en/>



Qing wen hui shu = Manju isabuha bithe

<https://manjuisabuhabithe.aa-ken.jp/>

Overseas Satellite Offices

In order to better coordinate and conduct joint research with scholars outside of Japan, ILCAA established two satellite offices overseas: one in Beirut (Lebanon) and another in Kota Kinabalu (Malaysia).

Japan Center for Middle Eastern Studies (JaCMES)

JaCMES is the first overseas satellite office established in Beirut (Lebanon) by ILCAA. It was officially sanctioned by Lebanese government's cabinet resolution of December 15, 2005. The inauguration ceremony of JaCMES took place on February 1, 2006.

In order to promote academic exchange between Japan and the Middle East and to support young Japanese researchers of Middle Eastern Studies, JaCMES has developed joint research project functions by conducting the following activities: 1) International symposia involving Lebanese researchers; 2) Dispatch of young Japanese researchers to the Middle Eastern Area.

Address:

Japan Center for Middle Eastern Studies (JaCMES),

2nd Floor, Azarieh Building, A2-1, Bashura, Emir Bashir Street, Beirut, Central District, Lebanon

Tel/fax: +961-1-975851

https://meis2.aa-ken.jp/base_beirut-lang=en.html



Kota Kinabalu Liaison Office (KKLO)

KKLO is now open in the Institute for Development Studies (IDS) which was established by the Sabah Provincial Government in 1985. It serves as an integrated base for social, economic, and cultural studies and academic exchange activities in Sabah with generous cooperation

and assistance from IDS. KKLO aims to promote international academic exchanges, form international networks, and strengthen joint research activities in order to advance the studies on Southeast Asian countries.

Address:

Kota Kinabalu Liaison Office, ILCAA-TUFS Institute for Development Studies(IDS), c/o, IDS lot2-5, Wisma Sedia, Off Jalan Pintas, Penampang, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia

Tel: +60-88-450500

https://meis2.aa-ken.jp/base_kotakinabalu-lang=en.html



ILCAA Core Projects 2022-2027

[History/Area Studies]

Field Archiving of Memory: Dynamics of Cooperation in Muslim Society

This research project aims to elucidate the dynamics of cooperation in Asian and African societies that have maintained multi-religious and multicultural societies. In doing so, we will focus on the history of Muslim societies and the sustainable societies that can be found in the present.

For the above purpose, we will carry out visualization and multifaceted analyses of textual, spatial, and image information based on the archiving of diverse "memories" (including not only past events, but also individual experiences and background to contemporary issues) with an awareness of the rapidly advancing digital transformation in the field of humanities.

By confronting the various contradictions that have emerged in the collapse of order in the midst of globalization and the problems surrounding religion and sectarianism in the modern world, and by turning our attention to cooperation and tolerance, we would like to examine the possibility of "restoring relationships" of various kinds, including relationships of trust.

[Anthropology]

Anthropological Inquiry of Sociality: Dynamics of Tolerance/Intolerance in Transcultural Contexts

Human beings are gregarious animals that cannot live alone, and the question of what kind of "sociality" underpins their lives is a fundamental question for us all. In today's world, people and things that used to have no chance to meet are meeting beyond the framework of regions, ethnic groups, and nation-states, and a transcultural situation in that they influence each other has emerged.

In this context, discrimination and exclusion are becoming more serious, and a new sociality that encompasses differences is being sought. In addition, in the post-corona situation, it will become increasingly important to consider sociality from the perspective that the world in which we live is pluralistic, consisting of not only human beings but also viruses, plants and animals, and the dynamism of things. This study explores the mechanisms of tolerance and intolerance by focusing on the practice of people in the field in Asia and Africa. The aim is to create a platform for discussion on how to "live together" in a post-Corona transcultural context.

[Linguistics]

Description and Documentation of Language Dynamics in Asia and Africa: Toward a More In-depth Understanding of the Languages and Cultures of People Living in Asia and Africa

Today, societies in Asia and Africa are undergoing rapid changes, and more complex forms of multilingualism are emerging. In order to accurately grasp this situation, it is necessary to describe and document the linguistic situation by focusing on matters that have been difficult to capture within the framework of descriptive linguistics, such as the relationship between different language communities, diachronic changes in language, and the structure, culture, and history of the local societies that underlie these changes. In order to achieve this goal, we are working on the following projects.

For this purpose, we will attempt to analyze the narratives of speakers, which have been treated as mere linguistic data, as "messages conveying experience and knowledge," in collaboration with neighboring fields (sociolinguistics, linguistic anthropology) and other fields (anthropology, history, area studies).

Prof. Dr. Tom G. Ondicho

(Department of Anthropology, Gender, and African Studies University of Nairobi)

From 2022-09 to 2023-02

Between September 1, 2022 - February 28, 2023, I was a Foreign Researcher at Tokyo University of Foreign Studies (TUFS) affiliated to the Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa (ILCAA). Though this was my third visit to Japan, the 2022-2023 Joint Research Project was my first most important collaborative work with a Japanese scholar, which also contributes to my advancement in academia.

During my six months tenure, I lived at the International Residence on the TUFS campus. This was a very convenient location for me because it provided me easy access to a range of on-campus facilities including health care centre, gym, library, canteen, office, and sports ground among others. The cold weather at the time however did not allow me to undertake any outdoor recreational activities. I really liked my office because of the good facilities for research such as office space, printer, photocopier, and the well-equipped library which facilitated successful workflow.

The first month was quiet and I felt lonely, but it became livelier in the second month when students returned to campus. I enjoyed eating lunch and interacting with staff and students at the university cafeteria even though I found it difficult to remember the faces of all the people I met because they were covered with masks.

Located in a quiet and serene environment in the western suburbs of Tokyo with access to several bus and train lines, TUFS is

surrounded by greenery including several large parks, sports fields, and various shops, supermarkets, and restaurants. Travel outside campus in the evenings and on weekends provided me a great deal of nuanced insight into my understanding of Japanese culture and social life, which was quite interesting and beneficial to me as an anthropologist.

I spent much of my time reading extensively and writing draft chapters of our co-authored book. Simultaneously, I participated in one international conference and four seminars. I also gave talks in three hybrid seminars which were attended by a diversity of Afro-Japanese scholars. It was indeed, a pleasure to engage in thought provoking discussions and share ideas with colleagues and students during the seminars. My PowerPoint presentations are available online on the TUFS website.

It was an honour for me to be granted the Foreign Researcher position at TUFS. My stay was enjoyable and my children who joined me for Christmas cherish the fond memories of their short visit of Japan. My host, the academic and administrative staff at TUFS did everything to ensure that my stay was comfortable and pleasant. I hope that this stay will be the beginning of a continuous and permanent exchange between ILCAA and the Department of Anthropology, Gender, and African Studies at the University of Nairobi. I realised that it was difficult to accomplish my goal because time was short and desire that preference should be given to a longer stay.

Prof. Dr. Kirill Solonin

(Renmin University of China, Institute of Chinese Classics)

From 2022-10 to 2023-04

My research stay at ILCAA of TUFS was extremely fruitful from every perspective. During my research stay, together with my host Dr. Arakawa Shintaro we were able to complete the first draft of our joint project, which is now completed and is submitted for publication with TUFS. Throughout my stay in Japan I enjoyed hospitality and generous assistance from the ILCAA research and administrative staff, who had been enthusiastic in providing every aspect of my research stay. For this I am enormously grateful.

Other than pursuing my own research agenda at ILCAA, I had an opportunity to participate in a wide range of academic activities, including public talks at Kyoto University, Aoyama Gakuin University, International College of Advanced Buddhist Studies, gave presentations at academic conferences etc. In this way I was able to both familiarize myself with the state of our field in Japan, and introduce the current status of my own research to the Japanese academic audience. All these activities were possible due to the extensive support offered by the ILCAA and TUFS in general, for which I am immensely grateful.

Personally, it was important for me to spend a research period in Japan, because my field, the Tangut studies, originally emerged and developed in Japan, and I feel an obligation to offer my contribution, however minor, to the field in Japan. Therefore, I am thankful to TUFS and ILCAA for providing me with such an opportunity.

Last but not least, during this half-year period I was able to extensively travel around Japan, which increased my familiarity

with the Japanese culture and life in Japan. This kind of experience is precious, and I am again thankful for it. In general, I find the arrangements perfect, so that I was able to use my research time in Japan to the fullest extent. One small suggestion might be that the school could think about arranging intensive Japanese courses for the international researchers.



Research Staff



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