

ILCAA 2026-2027

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

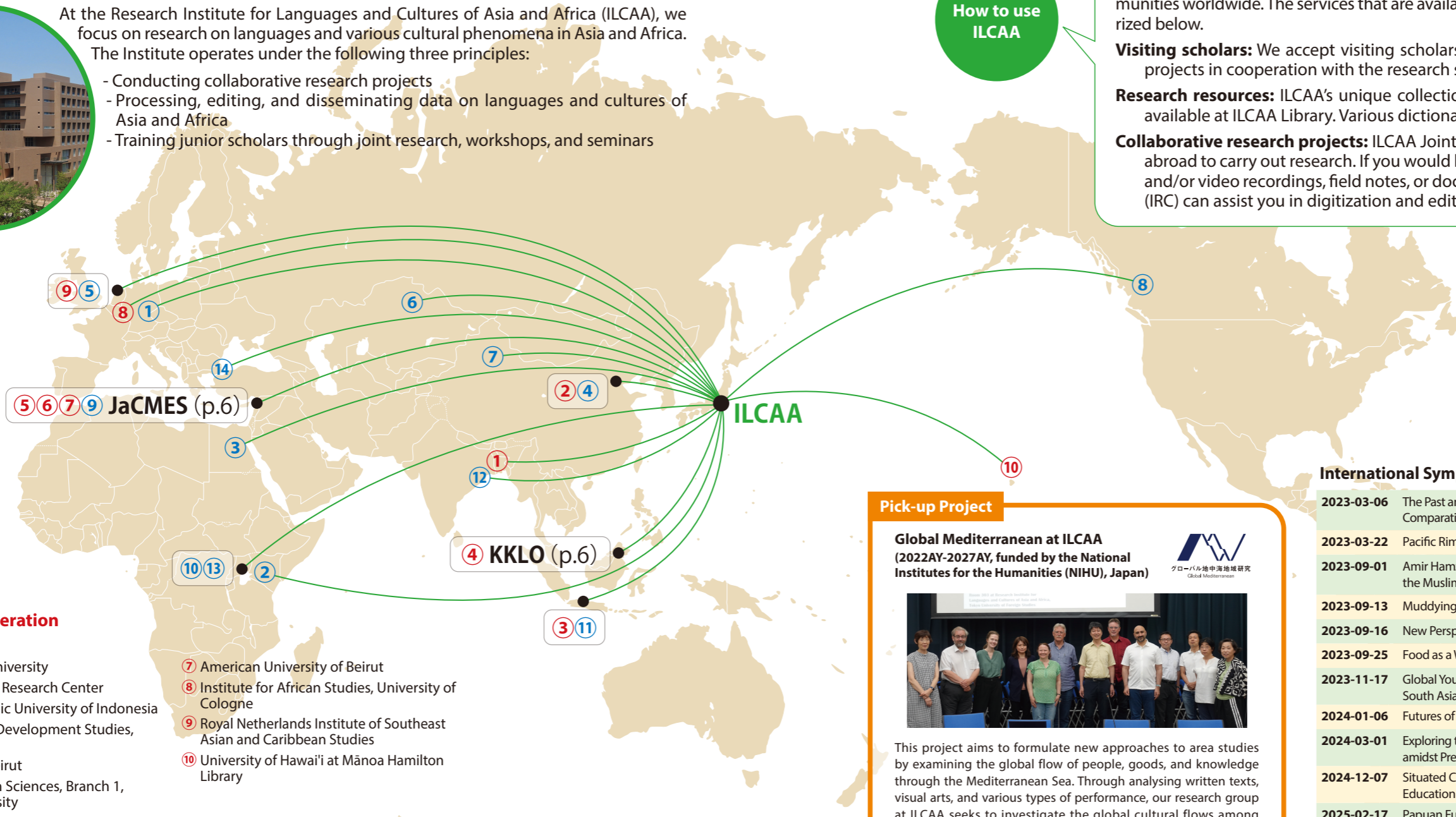
How to use ILCAA

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 preserve 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-Institut 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 **KAMALI, Beste Can** "A Detailed Investigation of Polar Questions in Altaic-type Languages"
- ② **ONDICHO, Tom Gesora** "Sexual Education Handbook for University Students in Kenya"
- ③ **ALI, Omar Gamal Mohamed** "Bequeathal Strategies and State Response in Mamluk Jerusalem: Decoding Evidence in the Haram Documents Collection"
- ④ **SOLONIN, Kirill** "Comparative Study of the Tangut, Sanskrit, Tibetan Versions of the Bodhicaryavatara by Santideva"
- ⑤ **ARPS, Bernard** "A Muslim Epic and Its Politics in Early Modern Asia: Amir Hamza from Iran to South and Southeast Asia"
- ⑥ **ABDILASHIM, Duisenali** "Research on Kazakh Documents in the Archives of Russia and China"
- ⑦ **YIDEMUCAO, Dawa** "Joint Research on Documentation of Literary and Colloquial Materials in Oirat Mongolian"
- ⑧ **KABIR, Humayun** "The Political Rise of Deobandi Ulama: Maulana Hafezzi Huzur and His Legacy in the Politics of Islamism in Bangladesh"
- ⑨ **ALTAWHEEL, Rawia** "Multi-dimensional Relationships between Syrian Refugees and Lebanese Host Communities"
- ⑩ **ATEKYEREZA, Peter** "Revisiting the Ecological Family Perspective to Reposition Functioning of Families in Uganda into Contemporary Development"
- ⑪ **Yanti** "Language Documentation and Preservation in Indonesia: Creating a Storybook for the Bolok Helong Community"
- ⑫ **BANDYOPADHYAY, Sumahan** "Dimensions of Village Studies in India: Historical Development and Restudies"
- ⑬ **KYOHEIRWE, Florence Muhanguzi** "Breaking Barriers to Create Safe Spaces: Sexual Violence and Harassment in Higher Education in Uganda"
- ⑭ **ÖLMEZ, Mehmet** "Vowel System in Ottoman Turkish Texts between the 14th and 19th Centuries"

Pick-up Project

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



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 (2023-2025)

2023-03-06	The Past and Present of Bantu Languages: Integrating Micro-typology, Comparative-historical Linguistics, and Lexicography
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
2024-03-01	Exploring the Tacit Knowledge of Trust Building and Connectivity amidst Predicaments
2024-12-07	Situated Choices, Student Identities and Agencies for University Education in Uganda
2025-02-17	Papuan Futures: Prospects and Priorities in Papuan Language Research
2025-03-03	Language and Culture of Sibe and Manchu
2025-10-01	Pre-/Post-colonial Southern Philippines
2025-10-04	Unique Scripts and Documents of Tibeto-Burman Languages

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 Body in Death / The Body in Non-existence	KAWAI, Aya
Transformative Face-body / Field Practice of Embodied Transformation	TOKORO, Ikuya
Creating Resources for Linguistic Research based on Descriptive Materials: Exploring the Frontier of Data-driven Linguistic Investigation	KUREBITO, Tokusu
Overcoming Social Division and Achieving Diversity through Embodiment	TOKORO, Ikuya

Publications

ILCAA publishes peer-reviewed journals, results of joint research projects and of individual research, 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 been an open-access electronic journal since the publication of volume 101.

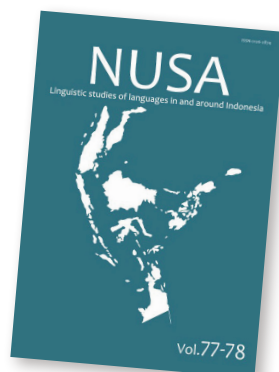
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Asian and African Languages and Linguistics

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 fieldwork. 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://tufs.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.

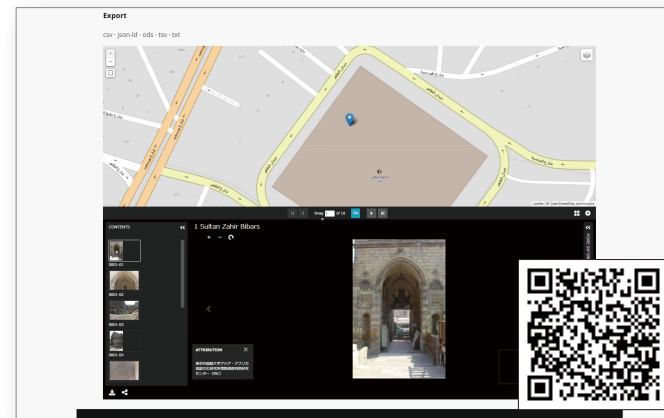
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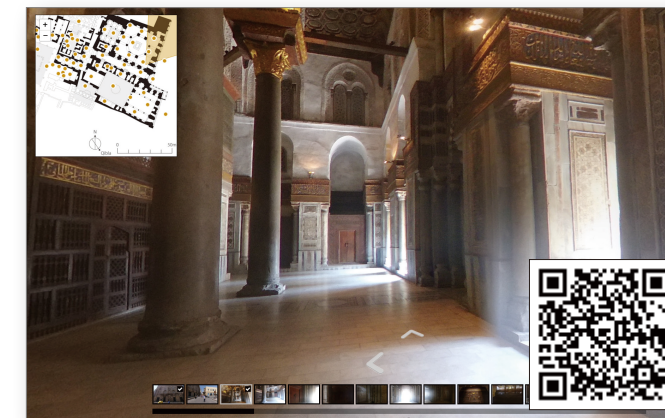
Online Research Resources

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 for use by external researchers and by the general public.

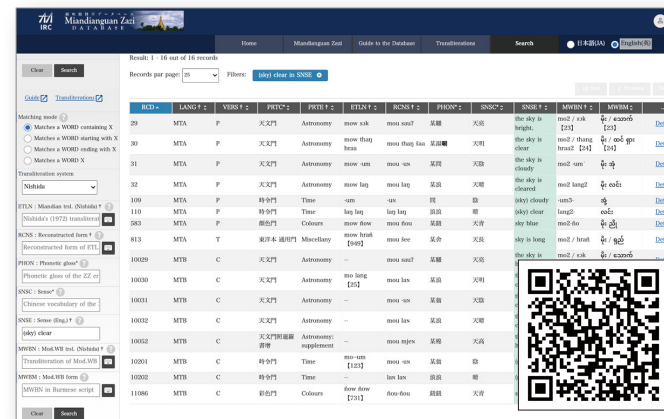
You can see a list of these research resources on the website, "Online Resources Catalogue" (<https://online-resources.aa-ken.jp/lang/eng/>).



Database of Historical Monuments in Islamic Cairo
<https://islamic-architecture.aa-ken.jp/>



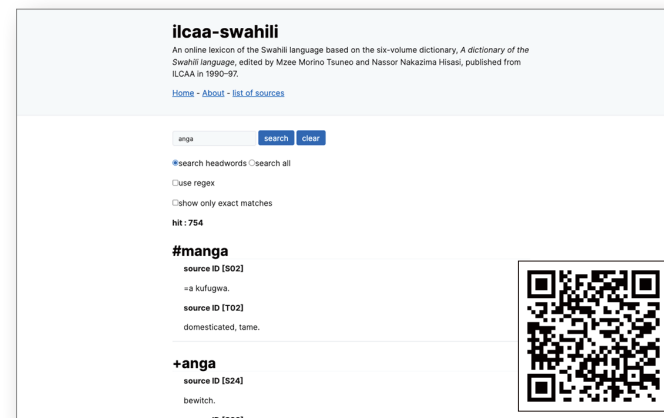
Qalawun VR Project
<https://qalawun.aa-ken.jp/en/>



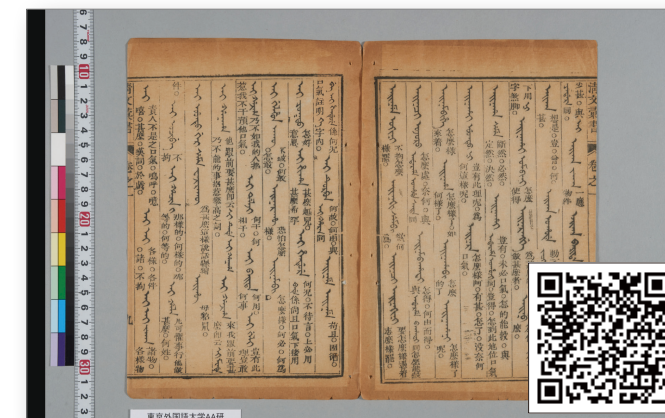
Miandianguan Zazi Database
<https://miandianguan.aa-ken.jp/indexe.html>



Abjad Numerals Calculator
<https://abjad.aa-ken.jp/JP/>



Online Lexical Database of a Dictionary of the Swahili Language
Compiled by Mzee Morino T. and Nassor Nakazima H.
<https://ilcaa-swahili.aa-ken.jp/>



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 the 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.html



Kota Kinabalu Liaison Office (KKLO)

KKLO is now open in the Institute for Development Studies (IDS) which was established by the Sabah State 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.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 are multi-religious and multicultural. 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 past events, individual experiences, and the 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, since the COVID-19 pandemic, it has 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-COVID-19 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.

Specifically, 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).

Dr. Sumahan Bandyopadhyay

(Department of Anthropology, Vidyasagar University)

From 2025-04 to 2025-07

It has always been great moments to cherish the fond memories of my stay at ILCAA, TUFS where I spent some of the most memorable days of my life from April 1, 2025 to July 31, 2025. I would nurture a high regard for the country and her people. India has a deep and close relationship of love and respect with Japan. We, the Bengali people probably share a special feeling for Japan as some of the greatest souls of India Rabindranath Tagore, Rashbehari Bose, Subhas Chandra Bose and Radhabinod Pal visited this country at the critical junctures of history and left a lasting impact for posterity. Therefore, when I got the opportunity to visit Japan and to work at the Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa (ILCAA), Tokyo University of Foreign Studies (TUFS), it was not just an academic achievement, but also a personal pilgrimage to a land full of sacred virtues and positive vibrations.

What nestled in my mind as a form of belief, proved a fact when I set foot in Tokyo. Well before my journey began, the support staff at the Foreign Office of the TUFS were in constant touch with me and extended all sorts of cooperation at their disposal to make my trip and stay hassle free. The International guest house where I stayed was equipped with necessary gadgets and items which made my lodging comfortable. However, it was

more pleasurable to spend time in the institute's own library and central library which were of immense support to me in drafting my report which I could hopefully submit within the deadline. It was possible for the excellent collection of books and documents that provided me with intellectual food.

In the evening or during the holidays, I used to roam about the areas and visit shops and markets on bicycles that Professor Masahiko Togawa arranged for me. I must acknowledge that I am indebted most to this gentleman, noted anthropologist Professor Masahiko Togawa for the opportunity of working at ILCAA. I am fortunate to have him as my collaborator in TUFS. My moving in areas around the institute provided me a scope to witness everyday Japanese culture from close quarters. Their sense of beauty exemplified by the small flower garden in front of almost every household, the cleanliness, civic sense, etiquette, discipline, spirituality, integrity and gentle disposition are remarkable.

I am grateful to the authorities, staff, scholars and faculties of TUFS for their cooperation which made my days as a Visiting Professor there thoroughly enjoyable. I would request the authority to plan some mechanisms so that we can continue to contribute academically to the institute in future fostering a lasting bond.

Dr. Yanti

(Applied English Linguistics Program, Atma Jaya Catholic University of Indonesia)

From 2024-11 to 2025-02

I was a visiting researcher at the Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa (ILCAA), Tokyo University of Foreign Studies (TUFS), from November 2024 to February 2025. This stay was both academically very productive and personally meaningful for me.

During this four-month period, my host collaborator, Asako Shiohara, and I completed a Helong Bolok trilingual storybook as part of our joint project. We also finished the first draft of a book chapter about language documentation in Indonesia, currently under review by the publisher, as well as a data paper that was accepted for publication in *Asian and African Languages and Linguistics* in March 2026.

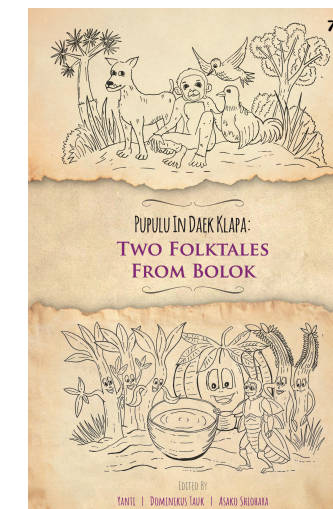
In addition to our collaborative projects, I made significant progress on my own work, finalizing revisions of *A Grammar of Jambi Malay* and benefiting from discussions with Asako Shiohara. I also presented portions of the grammar at the DDDLing Forum/ILCAA Forum and co-presented a workshop talk with Asako Shiohara at ILCAA. Additionally, I visited Nara to meet an old friend who teaches at a university there, to explore possible future collaboration, and to do some sightseeing.

Outside of academic activities, I enjoyed visiting several beautiful parks in Tokyo, which provided the perfect escape to clear my mind and rest my eyes.

One of the most important aspects of my stay was the unwavering support of the research and administrative staff at ILCAA. Their hospitality, efficiency, and generous assistance made my stay not only productive but also smooth and enjoyable. In addition, during my research stay, I resided at the International

Residence on the TUFS campus, located a 4-minute walk from the ILCAA building, which was very convenient. The residence was clean and peaceful.

Although my stay was relatively short, what I achieved and experienced during these four months exceeded my personal expectations. I am deeply grateful for this valuable opportunity and hope to continue collaboration with Asako Shiohara while developing future collaborations with other Japanese researchers, both within ILCAA and at other institutions. One regret was not having the opportunity to learn Japanese.



Research Staff



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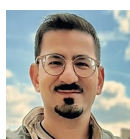
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HOSHI, Izumi
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Linguistics of Tibetan Area



ISHIKAWA, Hiroki
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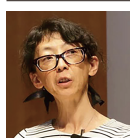
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Religions in West Africa



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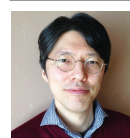
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UETA, Naoki
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UYAMA, Tomohiko
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WATANABE, Honoré
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YAMAKOSHI, Yasuhiro
Prof.,
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YOSHIDA, Yukako
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Cultural Anthropology on
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