

PREFACE

This proceedings volume contains the eighteen papers presented by nineteen researchers in the third international symposium of the Consortium for Asian and African Studies. The conference, entitled "Making a Difference: Representing/Constructing the Other in Asian/African Media, Cinema and Languages," was held on 16th to 18th of February 2012 at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, London.

The Consortium for Asian and African Studies (CAAS) was initiated in March 2007 by five higher educational institutions worldwide that lead Asian and African studies, in order to strengthen collaboration in research and education activities. The original member institutions are Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales (INALCO, France), Leiden University (the Netherlands), Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences of National University of Singapore (FASS-NUS, Singapore), School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London (SOAS, UK), and Tokyo University of Foreign Studies (TUFS, Japan). In 2010 Columbia University (USA) and in 2011 Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (HUFS, South Korea) joined the CAAS, thus making this conference the first occasion for the seven institutions to jointly participate in the CAAS activities.

One of the major objectives of the CAAS is to train researchers of the younger generation in the framework of international collaboration. To facilitate this objective, in conjunction with an annual symposium, a workshop for young researcher has been planned to give an opportunity to demonstrate their research activities, to enhance their academic skills, and to develop a fresh network of international researchers.

In the first CAAS conference held in Leiden University in 2009, the workshop for young researchers was organized separately from the symposium itself. However, in the second conference at INALCO in 2010 and the third conference at SOAS in 2012, presentations by young researchers were combined with those by senior researchers, providing a stimulating academic environment for the young researchers.

As an introduction to the theme of the symposium "Making a Difference: Representing/Constructing the Other in Asian/African Media, Cinema and Languages," a keynote speech was delivered by Dr Dolores Martinez of SOAS, which underscored the significance of the theme. In the following sessions, forty-four papers were scheduled to be presented. Although circumstances prevented some papers from being actually presented, as a record of the symposium, the program is attached at the end of the proceedings.

As were the previous symposia, TUFS is in charge of editing and publishing the proceedings of the symposium. This proceedings volume includes eighteen papers by the nineteen researchers who agreed to submit their papers. Among the nineteen researchers

thirteen are young researchers and six senior ones, representing seven institutions.

The eighteen papers are arranged in the order of presentation in the symposium. They encompass such diverse topics from the depiction of Egyptians abroad in Egypt to the Japanese perception of Chinese cuisine in Edo. Despite the diversity of topics, however, it is apparent that all the papers are concerned with the common theme of the symposium, that is, the social and cultural construction of otherness as means of defining self in various media.

The topics include: Egyptians abroad in Egyptian novels and films (1), Muslims in Christian chronicles of Ethiopia (2), a Hindu epic in an Indonesian film (3), Indonesian house maids in Hong Kong depicted in an Indonesian short novel (4), the portrayal of others in Israeli and Palestinian films and novels (5 and 6), Koreans, Chinese and people of Okinawa in Japanese media (7, 8 and 9), Lao people in traditional Thai music (10), foreign workers in Taiwanese films (11), Nigerian British soldiers in Burma during World War II (12), an effort to search modern self in the thought of a Japanese intellectual (13), minorities in Chinese films (14), state construction of single as others in Singapore (15), and finally the perceptions of Chinese cuisine, Ainu and India in the Edo (and in part Meiji) period of Japan (16, 17 and 18).

Although the proceedings do not include all the papers presented in the symposium, it is hoped that this volume serves as a record of the fascinating exchange of minds which took place in the symposium.

I would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to all those who have made this symposium happen. I am particularly grateful to Professor Paul Webley, Director of SOAS, Professor Andrew Gerstle and Dr Griseldis Kirsch of SOAS, who made preparations for the symposium with utmost devotion. I also would like to congratulate all the young researchers who contributed to this symposium with the fruits of their diligent research activities.

Finally acknowledgement must be made for the sponsorship of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS). The organization of the symposium and the publication of the proceedings would be impossible without the JSPS's financial assistance under the scheme of the International Training Program-Asia Africa (ITP-AA).

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