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研究課題名(和文)Cross-Cultural Inquiries into Social Problems: Kuwata Kumazo and his Contemporaries, 1890–1930

研究課題名(英文)Cross-Cultural Inquieries into Social Problems: Kuwata Kumazo and his

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研究成果の概要(和文):社会政策の分野で日本の法学者桑田熊蔵(1868-1932)はこの時代に偉大な功績をあげた人物の一人と言える。1896年に日本の経済学者金井延とともに、社会問題に取り組む学術研究団体を立ち上げた。その1年後にはこの団体が基礎とな理「社会政策学会」が発足した。桑田は実家の援助を得て、1896から1898までイン帝国、イギリスとフラグスの大学で留学した。同時にヨールでの社会問 題を検討しました。ヨーロッパの経験をもとに桑田は帰国後日本の社会政策のパイオニアになりました。

研究成果の学術的意義や社会的意義

Based on material which has been discovered in German and Japanese archives and libraries the research project reconstructed Kuwata Kumazo's experiences in Europe between 1896 and 1998, 1916 and 1921/22. His travelogues and letters demonstrated that Kuwata was an careful observer of social issues.

研究成果の概要(英文): Economist and jurist Kuwata Kumazo (1868-1932) was one of the most eminent figures of his time in the field of social policy, though today he has been largely forgotten. The research project focused on collecting and interpreting all relevant material related to Kuwata and his work. Based on a careful exploration of his writings the researcher produced an intellectual portrait of Kuwata as a moderate conservative who was a critic of socialism and liberalism alike. He was a social conservative who promoted a stronger role of the state in the field of social reform and social policy. On an international level he was a bridge builder who connected European and Japanese social research. Since 1900 Kuwata played an outstanding role in transferring social ideas between Japan and Europe. Based on his experiences in Germany he became the co-founder of the Japanese Society for Social Policy, the most important think tank in the field until 1924.

研究分野: History of Social Thought

キーワード: Kuwata Kumazo Emil Lederer Social Conservatism

1.研究開始当初の背景

The researcher (=Wolfgang Schwentker) has been working on Japanese-German relations in the field of cultural studies and intellectual history for nearly three decades. Since the publication of his book about the reception of Max Weber in Japanese social sciences (「マ 「ックス・ウェーバーの日本-受容史の研究、1905-1995」みずす書房2013年) he kept working on issues concerning the development of social sciences and social policy in Japan and in Europe. For the current research project about the social reformer Kuwata Kumazo (1868-1932) two former research projects formed the basis and background for starting the project. One former research project, sponsored by Mitsubishi Foundation in 2005/06, was the edition of letters written by the economist Fukuda Tokuzo to his German teacher Lujo Brentano ("Tokuzo Fukuda, Briefe an Lujo Brentano, 1898-1930". Iudicium 2009). Fukuda was one of the leading figures in the formation of the "Association of Social Policy" after 1898 and an important contributor to social debates in Japan until the early Showa-period. The second project, supported by the German Gerda Henkel Foundation until 2015, was an edition of 66 translations of Japanese essays between the Meiji era and our time ("Geschichtsdenken im modernen Japan. Eine kommentierte Anthologie". Iudicium 2015). In the context of this anthology texts on social ideas figured prominently. A common characteristic of resent scholarship on social ideas in the early 20th century is that it is preoccupied mostly with Marxist thinkers and political actors. One outcome of the previous studies of the researcher was that there was a missing link concerning a more conservative approach to social issues. Therefore, the researcher started to collect material concerning representatives of social conservatism in prewar Japan and discovered that in this context the name of Kuwata Kumazo figured prominently. However, research on Kuwata was not existent or rather outdated. The last profound book chapter on Kuwata Kumazo in Japanese was published in 1958 by the Kyôto economist Sumiya Etsuji.

2. 研究の目的

Considering the lack of research on Kuwata Kumazo as a social thinker and prominent social policy maker in late Meiji and Taisho Japan the project aimed to answer the following research questions: What are the specific accomplishments of Kuwata Kumazo with regard to the transfer of social ideas from Europe to Japan and back? What concrete role did Kuwata play in the course of the development of a Japanese welfare state? How can his social conservatism be explained?

3.研究の方法

The research project belongs to the field of intellectual history and the transnational history of social ideas. The main method in this field is the interpretation of unpublished and published material. Unpublished material was collected in archives and libraries in Japan and Germany. The most important source was the Kuwata Kumazo Collection at Chuo University in Tokyo. Among the most important source already published was a collection of articles, travel notebooks and essays edited by the Kuwata family, especially his brothers, shortly after his death in 1934. This collection was overlooked by Japanese and foreign researchers so far. It formed the major source for this project.

4. 研究成果

The economist and jurist Kuwata Kumazo was one of the most eminent figures of his time in the field of social policy. He traveled to Europe often (1896-98, 1916, 1921/22) and became a bridge builder in the fields of social sciences, social reform, and social policy. In 1895 he was one of the founders of the "Association of Social Policy", until 1923 one of the most influential think tanks in Japan. As a professor of Chuo University he taught on social issues and became an important adviser of the Japanese government in the field of social policy. Between 1905 and 1911 he was a driving force for the creation of the first factory law in Japan. In Europe, Kuwata had a high reputation as an expert of social issues in Japan and published in various European journals and newspapers. He was part of an international network in a field characterized by a triangle that consists of social ideas, social sciences, and social reform. - Given the fact that Kuwata was a most prominent thinker and actor in the field of social policy one wonders why he was so quickly forgotten after his death. The research project provided a set of answers to this question:

1. An important reason why he was so quickly forgotten was that he did not fit into the common left-right spectrum at all when it comes to social classes and the

political parties. As a member of the House of Peers, Kuwata's socio-political involvement made him suspicious by the left wing due to the fact that he came from the Japanese upper class. He did not wish to profess socialist ideas. Throughout his life, Kuwata Kumazo remained a moderate social reformer; he never became a socialist revolutionary. It was for this reason that Marxist thinkers like Kawakami Hajime were rather critical about Kuwatas role in the "Association of Social Policy". For him and his left wing followers Kuwata was regarded as a member of the establishment.

- 2. A further characteristic of his social thought was the connection between social research and social reform. This was something which he most notably learned in the German Empire through his contacts in the German "Association of Social Policy" and in England from the writings of Sydney Webb. In this regard, the Japanese government's survey on the situation of industrial workers, in which he participated from 1901, was a fundamental experience.
- 3. A third aspect which cannot be ignored when acknowledging Kuwata Kumazo's sociological and socio-political work, was his insistence that the field of economics should not be allowed to be a space free from morality even under the conditions of modern capitalism. For Kuwata, a moral responsibility for the working class was something which arose from the industrialist's prosperity. Such a point of view may have multiple causes. Against this background, the Confucian tradition of the benevolent ruler may also have played just as big a role as rational calculation in effectively confronting revolutionary movements with preventative social policy, thus optimally stabilizing the internal social and political order. For Kuwata Kumazo, it was the state and its bureaucracy which had a moral responsibility to balance the interests of capital and labor in modern society. Here, in this respect, we see Kuwata Kumazo as an ideal type of a social conservative in prewar Japan.

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〔産業財産権〕

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〔その他〕

ホームページ等

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6 . 研究組織

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