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研究課題名(和文) Re-conceptualizing Rivers in South Asia as Histories of the Biological Pulse

研究課題名(英文) Re-conceptualizing Rivers in South Asia as Histories of the Biological Pulse

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研究成果の概要(和文)：主な業績を3つ挙げたい。一つは植民地時代の英領インド東部デルタ地帯における漁業問題を扱った史料を発見できたことである。マドラスとベンガルの両州公文書館からも史料を収集し、発表する研究論文に役立てようとしている。2つ目は、この資料のおかげで、国際会議やワークショップでの論文発表が実現したことである。特に、2023年4月にアメリカのデューク大学で開催されたワークショップでは、私は説得力のある議論を発表することができた。3つ目は、私の論文が、近刊予定の書籍に掲載されることが決まったことである。これらすべて、本科研費による研究成果とリソースに基づいている。

研究成果の学術的意義や社会的意義

I helped uncover unseen and neglected primary sources on fisheries in Eastern India during the British colonial period. I am also the first to have effectively argued that the study of rivers in South Asia has been overwhelmingly treated as an economic resource rather than a biological pulse.

研究成果の概要(英文)：I would list three major achievements. The first is that I have successfully uncovered hitherto unseen archival sources which deal with the issue of fisheries in the Eastern deltas of colonial British India. I have also collected archival materials from the Madras and the Bengal state archives, which I am working for forthcoming research papers. The Second is that these sources have enabled me to make paper presentations in international conferences, workshops. In particular, the workshop in April 2023 at Duke University, USA. I was able to present compelling arguments based on my primary source material for a claim to understand India's Eastern rivers as 'biological pulses' rather than as resource endowments. The Third is that my paper titled 'Fins In the inland Ocean and the River as Pulse in Monsoon Asia' has been accepted for publication in a forthcoming book. The paper is entirely based on the research work and resources afforded by this Kaken.

研究分野：Environmental History

キーワード：River Fish Natural resource Biological pulse Large dams Navigation Environmental history

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様式 C - 19、F - 19 - 1 (共通)

1 . 研究開始当初の背景

Rivers of South Asia have received considerable attention from environmental historians, especially in recent decades. Several competent histories have been published on perennial canal irrigation, large dams, navigation and flood control. In this historiography, however, rivers are discussed entirely within a ‘resource framework’ — as flows harnessed either for irrigation (cusecs) or tapped for hydro-electricity (megawatts). Such reductionism which privilege economic calculation and engineering design, however, fail to grasp rivers as ecological processes. My research project will use the historians lens to argue for a conceptual corrective in which South Asia’s rivers are revealed as vibrant biological pulses and as interrelated ecological relationships. In doing so, I argue that a more meaningful ecological critique can be assembled against modern river resource management and large dams.

2 . 研究の目的

I will argue for a radical re-orientation within how histories on rivers have been perceived and discussed in South Asia. Instead of the emphasis on understanding rivers through an economic-resource model, I intend to use historical analysis to instead elaborate upon how flows can principally be grasped as biological pulses. And critical to elaborating upon this perceptual shift will be my efforts to resituate the significance of studies on fish population dynamics in the sub-continent. Understanding fisheries, especially within the inland riverine zones, I will argue, will be crucially linked to challenging the several ways in which the legacies of British colonial rule (1757-1947) in India continues to shape and influence river management in South Asia.

3 . 研究の方法

My primary research methods involved a mix of archival research and field studies. However, due to Covid restrictions and travel difficulties between 2021-22, I had to hire several India based researchers to carry out my archival work. The Archival access too was often limited as there often were frequent shut downs or the slow meeting of processing requests.

Nonetheless, despite the many challenges I was lucky enough to use the services of two very bright and enthusiastic researchers (Rohit Jha and Muthuvel Devendran).

Rohit Jha completed several rounds of archival searches for me in The National Archives (Delhi), The Bihar State Archives (Patna) and The West Bengal State Archives (Kolkata). The protocol I followed was to check the online catalogue here at my Kyoto Office and then Rohit would call up the identified files at the Archive and get the relevant material scanned and sent to me. On several occasions he was also able to find material that was not listed in the online catalogue. I, in fact, am currently in the possession of several unique and important primary documents that are related to fisheries. Same was the case with Muthuvel, who helped organize both my searches and the scanning of the relevant material from the Madras state archives.

I had also carried out online searches of the existing documentation in the British Library and have secured several of the files and primary documents.

In all, despite the challenges and difficulties of Covid, I was able to meet at least 70 to 75% of my expected searches. My field work, however, proved to be very short and limited as uncertainties created by Covid restrictions prevented me from carrying out elaborate plans. However, I am still continuing to address some of those gaps in my post Kaken Grant travels to India and will also hope to arrange for a visit to Bangladesh in the near future. In sum, my research methods of exploring archival holdings has mostly been achieved with some gaps because of the Covid restrictions.

4 . 研究成果

I would list three major achievements.

- a) The first is that I have successfully uncovered hitherto unseen archival sources which deal with the issue of fisheries in the Eastern deltas of colonial British India. Notably, the reports, correspondence and papers of Surgeon-Major Francis Day (1829–1889), then inspector general

of fisheries, who was tasked to examine the impact of irrigation on fisheries in the Madras Presidency, Orissa and Lower Bengal, British Burma, and at the end of 1869 the brief was even extended to the distant Andaman islands. I have also collected several types of archival materials from the Madras archives and the Bengal state archives, which I am in the process of sorting out for forthcoming research papers.

- b) The Second is that these sources have enabled me to make paper presentations in several international conferences, workshops and zoom seminars. In particular, I am keen to flag the Duke University workshop titled “Histories and Society in the Hydrosphere”, April 28- 30, 2023. Duke University. USA. It was at the Duke University Workshop that I was able to present compelling arguments based on my primary source material for a claim to understand India’s Eastern rivers as ‘biological pulses’ rather than as resource endowments.
- c) The Third is that my paper titled ‘Fins In the inland Ocean and the River as Pulse in Monsoon Asia’ has been accepted for publication in a forthcoming book titled *History and Society in the Hydrosphere of Monsoon Asia* that is being jointly edited by Prasenjit Duara and James L. Westcoat. In this paper I fully elaborate and outline the idea of the biological river as pulse. The paper is entirely based on the research work and resources afforded by my Kaken C Grant 2023.

5. 主な発表論文等

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3. 雑誌名 Comparativ	6. 最初と最後の頁 691-703
掲載論文のDOI（デジタルオブジェクト識別子） 10.26014/j.comp.2022.06.02	査読の有無 無
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〔産業財産権〕

〔その他〕

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6. 研究組織

氏名 (ローマ字氏名) (研究者番号)	所属研究機関・部局・職 (機関番号)	備考
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7. 科研費を使用して開催した国際研究集会

〔国際研究集会〕 計0件

8. 本研究に関連して実施した国際共同研究の実施状況

共同研究相手国	相手方研究機関
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