



Title of Project : Creation of the Study of Reconciliation

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【Purpose of the Research Project】

The aim of this research project is to establish reconciliation studies by applying the studies of conflict resolution and transitional justice to East Asia where nationalism is intertwined with conflicts over history. The final aim is to construct a new field of studies that analyze and present social and political conditions for people to become capable of "imagining" reconciliation among nations in each history, just as the nation itself has been imagined.

For this project five research planning groups will undertake empirical and theoretical analysis: focus on multi-layered transnational relationships, shared cultures, and values forged by diverse domestic actors, such as governments, intellectuals, common citizens, and mass media; and clarify the historical origin and structural changes surrounding reconciliation issues. We also seek to build intellectual infrastructure necessary for inter-regional cultural and educational policy of reconciliation toward a shared sense of East Asian regionalism among nations.

【Content of the Research Project】

The four groups focus on each of the actors who plays a part in supporting national emotion in East Asia. Politics/diplomacy group and citizens' movement group deal with empirical research related to the official reconciliation framework. The former interrogates the lost possibilities of reconciliation in the diplomatic process of normalization, while the latter studies how the criticism from liberal citizens was expressed and their political movements had convened a search for an ideal reconciliation that meets the criteria of justice.

The historians' network group and reconciliation culture/media group would focus on representation of memories and discourse. These two groups deal with new, unsuccessful post-Cold-War efforts that responded to democratization and globalization in East Asia after the 1990s. The former studies a series of nationally joint historical research projects legitimated between Japanese and Asian governments, and the latter analyzes the rise and decline of collaborative production of films and TV dramas in which national emotions are jointly, even in separate scenes, expressed and represented.

Connecting such levels of practice and representation, the philosophy/theory group will study the way "justice" has become integrated into various national sentiments, elucidating the East Asian historical and cultural characteristics of understanding justice in the history.

The research management group will disseminate the research achievements and build a robust international cooperation network of reconciliation studies.

【Expected Research Achievements and Scientific Significance】

This project eventually contributes to construct the intellectual infrastructure that is necessary for people to become capable of imagining reconciliation. We want to theoretically investigate the social conditions of reconciliation and normative values that enable them, deepening them through empirical case studies. The empirical case studies will be published as an online Historical Dictionary of Global Conflicts (working title). Also, an English-language Reconciliation Studies series and an accessible, practical Japanese textbook of Reconciliation Studies would be planned.

A robust both domestic and international network for the creation of reconciliation studies is needed to for the global dissemination of our research. Thus, a research facility is being created within Waseda University, and "reconciliation studies major" will be established as a sub-major at the Waseda University Graduate School, along with new faculty appointments and enhanced program for graduate education. We also want to take reconciliation studies into the practical arena, engaging students in the Campus Asia Program with the creation of reconciliation.

By forming an academic organization, we will cultivate and establish reconciliation studies as a unified interdisciplinary academic field that goes beyond a narrow research area divided into various academic ones.

The primary academic achievement expected from our research project is the global dissemination of this East Asia-based new studies. With the rise of nationalism in the global age and attendant international tensions, such a field would be regarded as a crucial study. Our project will then contribute to spreading this developed form of reconciliation studies to the West.

【Key Words】

reconciliation, conflict resolution, historical consciousness, memory, reconciliation culture, East Asia, transitional justice theory, Cold War, universal values, justice, history issues

【Term of Project】 FY2017-2021

【Budget Allocation】 243,100 Thousand Yen

【Homepage Address and Other Contact

Information】 <http://www.waseda.jp/prj-wakai/toasano@waseda.jp>