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研究課題名（和文）Rural Texts, Global Contexts: Willa Cather's Cosmopolitan Imagination

研究課題名（英文）Rural Texts, Global Contexts: Willa Cather's Cosmopolitan Imagination

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研究成果の概要（和文）：本研究では、従来欧米文化を享受してきたとされるウィラ・キャザーの批判的理解を深めた。キャザーの世界的意義と同時代の関連性を明らかにするために、キャザー作品における文化多様性、コスモポリタニズム、トランスナショナリズムのテーマを検証した。特に、キャザー作品の先住民文化への言及に対する理解を深め、アメリカにおける中国の風習について調査し、初期作品における中国人表象、持続可能性、環境危機を分析した。

研究成果の学術的意義や社会的意義

本研究の学術的・社会的意義は、これまでリージョナルな作家、あるいはヨーロッパとの関連性を中心とした文化的検証に限定されてきたウィラ・キャザー研究の拡大に貢献したことにある。キャザーのアジアへの関心やアメリカにおける周縁化された人びとに対する共感に光を当てると同時に、アメリカ例外主義、セトラー・コロニアリズム、帝国主義に対するキャザーの鋭い認識を明らかにした。

研究成果の概要（英文）：With this project, I sought to expand the critical understanding of Willa Cather, a writer traditionally considered a celebrant of Euroamerican culture. In order to reveal her global significance and contemporary relevance, I explored multicultural, cosmopolitan, and transnational themes in her writing and personal statements. Specifically, I deepened my familiarity with American indigenous civilization and scoured Cather's texts for allusions to indigenous themes, learned about Chinese customs practiced in America and used this knowledge to analyze early stories with Chinese characters, and explored Cather's writing in relation to sustainability and the environmental crisis.

研究分野：American Literature

キーワード：Cosmopolitanism Imperialism Modernism Rurality Boxer Rebellion Willa Cather World War I Slow Violence

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1. 研究開始当初の背景

After a handful of biographies published in the early 1950s, scholarship on Willa Cather was meager until the late 1970s when feminist critics like Ellen Moer revived interest in this American novelist who had been ignored by earlier scholars of modern fiction including Richard Chase, Alfred Kazin, and Hugh Kenner. Feminist examinations of Cather's career have been followed by rigorous academic biographies and a wide variety of critical studies from the perspectives of gender and sexuality, environment, transnationalism, history, popular culture, new historicism, and material culture. Most of this scholarship on Willa Cather, however, has approached her life and her literary production from a Eurocentric point of view. I wanted to change that.

2. 研究の目的

Among my intentions for this kaken project was to shift the direction of Cather studies. Rather than examining Willa Cather's indebtedness to European culture, history, and ways of thinking, I have attempted to highlight her representation of non-European civilizations and to illustrate the ways her writings link the continental expansion of North America to American exploits overseas.

3. 研究の方法

The research methodology I employed for this project draws from several streams coursing through the fields of American Literature and American Studies: cultural studies theory, ecocriticism, historiography, indigenous studies, literary analysis, material culture, new historicism, and transnationalism. As this project centers on textual analysis, a key element was gathering resources, so I conducted research at university libraries in the United States and France to find applicable materials.

During the study, I patronized several museums and historical sites germane to Cather's life and writing. To deepen my understanding of Indigenous history and settler colonialism, I visited the Jeffers Petroglyphs Historical Site, Pipestone National Monument, Brown County Historical Museum, and the Treaty Site Historical Center in Minnesota; the Northland College Native American Museum/Indigenous Culture Center and Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center in Wisconsin; Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site and the Field Museum in Illinois; the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi, the Los Alamos History Museum, the Gallup Cultural Center, and the Albuquerque Museum in New Mexico; the Ancestral Puebloan ruins at Mesa Verde National Park, the Buffalo Bill Museum and Grave, and Arvada History Museum in Colorado; the site of the Wounded Knee massacre and the Dignity statue and museum in South Dakota; the Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; and the Iowa State University Farm House Museum in Ames, Iowa.

I also visited sites relating to World War I and other American undertakings abroad relating to the study of Willa Cather. Such sites include the Brown County Historical Museum in New Ulm, Minnesota; the Richard I. Bong Veterans Center in Superior, Wisconsin; the National World War I Museum and Memorial in Kansas City, Missouri; the Museum of Science and Industry and the Field Museum in Chicago, Illinois; and the Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Orléans, France.

Because Cather's international outlook was profoundly shaped by art and music, I visited

several institutions, some of which she had patronized and/or display works of art she had seen. These include the Field Museum, the Chicago Art Institute, and the American Writer's Museum in Chicago, Illinois; the Minneapolis Institute of Art in Minnesota; the Albuquerque Museum in New Mexico; the Carnegie Natural History Museum, the Carnegie Museum of Art and the Carnegie Music Hall in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; and the Honolulu Museum of Art in Hawaii. Exhibits and performances at these institutions provided me insight into European, Indigenous, and Chinese civilization which I was able to utilize in presentations and publications.

Another important element in my research was attending the 2017 International Cather Seminar and Western Literature Conferences in 2017 and 2019. In addition to providing opportunities to share my work on Willa Cather with other interested parties, I gained immeasurably by receiving feedback from experts in the field, by attending presentations and excursions, and by participating in informal discussions with noted Cather scholars such as Robert Thacker and Guy Reynolds.

4. 研究成果

When I began this project I had hoped my research would encourage Cather scholars to broaden their explorations of her fictional worlds, to look beyond the Euroamerican communities and European cultural influences alluded to in her oeuvre and to recognize an even more cosmopolitan perspective reflecting both the actual diversity of the American West and the global outlook of her artistic vision. Key steps in achieving this objective included combing through correspondence that has recently been made available, scrutinizing Cather's early literary and journalistic production, and linking the concerns Cather addresses in her correspondence and early publications to her later fiction.

I scoured Cather texts for allusions to indigenous Americans whose presence in Cather's writing has been routinely disregarded by scholars. My textual exploration of indigenous representations in Cather works like *O' Pioneers!* was reinforced by research trips to the Jeffers Petroglyphs and Pipestone National Monument, archaeological sites which document 5,000+ years of indigenous presence on the Great Plains and highlight the diversity of Plains Indian cultures and traditions. The knowledge gleaned from these excursions provided me the necessary background for writing "Negating the Indigenous Presence—The Jeffers Petroglyphs and Willa Cather's 'Indian Stories'" and "Brutal Nostalgia, Slow Violence, and *My Ántonia*: Making America Great Again, Volume 1," papers presented at the 2017 and 2019 Western Literature Association Conferences. The first of these papers traces the link between a passage from *O' Pioneers* in which Cather describes "feeble scratches on stone left by prehistoric races" and ancient rock carvings at the Jeffers Petroglyph historical site in Southwestern, Minnesota. The second discusses Euroamerican agricultural practices in *My Ántonia* in relation to contemporary exploitation of Indigenous lands. To the best of my knowledge, I am the first scholar to consider *O' Pioneers!* and *My Ántonia* through these specific frameworks.

During the course of this project, I have explicitly attempted to raise the profile of Cather works addressing the Chinese experience in the United States and US relations with China. In "Willa Cather, Cultural Imperialism, and 'The Coming Man,'" an article based on a paper presented at the 2017 International Cather Seminar in Pittsburgh, I became the first scholar to discuss the nuanced understanding of Chinese Death Rituals which Cather displays in "The Conversion of Sum Loo," a

story she published during the 1900 Boxer Rebellion. In “Where Pagodas Rise on Every Hill: Romance as Resistance in ‘A Son of the Celestial,’” an article being published in the upcoming issue of *Cather Studies*, I trace Cather’s enduring sympathy for Chinese living in America and overseas to “A Son of the Celestial,” an 1893 story that challenges Eurocentric cultural biases and subverts the racist justifications for Chinese Exclusion. While these early Cather stories have received scant attention after the influential biographer James Woodress derided them in his 1987 study, *Willa Cather: A Literary Life*, I hope my examinations of these texts will help remedy what I regard as a misjudgment on the part of Woodress.

Another avenue in which I have explored the global significance and contemporary relevance of Cather’s writing is in relation to sustainability and the environmental crisis. Motivated by the Trump Administration’s decision to sacrifice sites of indigenous archaeological and historical significance for fossil fuel extraction, I wrote “Brutal Nostalgia, Slow Violence, and *My Ántonia*: Making America Great Again, Volume 1. Prepared for the 2019 Western Literature Association, this paper applied Rob Nixon’s concept of “Slow Violence” to a reading of Cather’s *My Ántonia*. The result was powerful, revealing an undercurrent of violence in the 1918 narrative which could help twenty-first-century readers to think more profoundly about America’s reliance on a war-driven economy as well as the ethics and impact of agricultural development on the land and people of the American West and around the world.

5. 主な発表論文等

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2. 発表標題 Negating the Indigenous Presence: The Jeffers Petroglyphs and Willa Cather's 'Indian Stories'
3. 学会等名 Western Literature Association (国際学会)
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2. 発表標題 China, Christianity, and Cather's 'The Conversion of Sum Loo'
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〔産業財産権〕

〔その他〕

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6. 研究組織

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