

令和 5 年 6 月 13 日現在

機関番号：32689

研究種目：基盤研究(C) (一般)

研究期間：2018～2022

課題番号：18K01422

研究課題名(和文) The 150th Anniversary of the Meiji Restoration in Contemporary Japanese Politics

研究課題名(英文) The 150th Anniversary of the Meiji Restoration in Contemporary Japanese Politics

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交付決定額(研究期間全体)：(直接経費) 3,300,000円

研究成果の概要(和文)：このプロジェクトは当初、明治維新の150周年記念を起点とし、日本の政治において明治維新がどのように理解され、記念されたかを考察する目的だった。2018年の初めには、当時首相であった安倍晋三氏が、記念式典を政府の活動の焦点とすると示していた。しかし、政府は最終的に地域のイベントやキャンペーンを支援し、10月に小規模の式典のみを開催した。このため、このプロジェクトは歴史、そして日本の政治におけるスペクタクル、記念行事の調査へと転向した。研究の一部はアジア・日本研究の主要な英文の学術誌に掲載され、他の論文は一流学術書の編集版の章となった。これらの論文には新しい発見と理論の新しい方向性が示されている。

研究成果の学術的意義や社会的意義

The project re-examined the meaning and representation of the Meiji Restoration, drawing current debates about it in Japan into global theories of commemoration and narrative. By considering ongoing projects of historical narrative in Japan, it further contributed to debates on memory and politics.

研究成果の概要(英文)：This project was initially designed to consider how the Meiji Restoration was understood, remembered, and commemorated in Japanese politics, using the occasion of the 150th anniversary of 1868 as a launching point. Indeed, at the beginning of 2018, then-Prime Minister Abe signaled his interest in making the commemoration a focal point of government action. But national engagement remained limited, focusing mostly on support for local events and campaigns, with only a minimal ceremony held in October. Because of the limits of national commemoration, this project shifted toward an investigation of history, spectacle, and commemoration in Japanese politics.

I published some of the research in the leading English-language journals of Asian and Japanese studies (The Journal of Asian Studies and the Journal of Japanese Studies), with several other papers becoming chapters in edited volumes in top academic presses. Together, they capture new findings and point in new theoretical directions.

研究分野：Political Science

キーワード：Politics Commemoration Meiji Japan Narrative International Relations Nation Spectacle

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## 1 . 研究開始当初の背景

Much of the research, particularly in the social sciences, on history and memory in Japan focuses primarily on the Pacific War and its implications for Japanese politics, foreign policy, and society today (e.g. Seaton 2007; Seraphim 2006; Saito 2016; Lind 2008). Given its importance in driving contemporary frictions, in the region, the focus on this period makes sense but also conceals other ways in which political memory is constructed and formed, particularly as national leaders are themselves typically cautious about controversial topics that might arouse public opposition or diplomatic estrangement. Partly for this reason, this project began with a planned focus on the 2018 commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Meiji Restoration, widely regarded as the birth of modern Japanese politics and viewed internationally as an epochal moment in the country's history. And then-Prime Minister Abe Shinzo's announcement during his 2018 New Year's address of the importance for contemporary Japan of learning the kind of decisiveness and collective commitment that he argued the Meiji leaders embodied hinted at the desire to make the 150th anniversary a central aspect of government public relations during the year.

At the same time, a burgeoning literature on public commemoration of historical events has created space for bringing discussions of Japan into conversation with a wider set of global debates than just those that deal with war memory, in which Japan is typically compared with postwar Germany. There has been some attention to the production of nostalgia directed toward the postwar era, especially the "high-growth" decades of the 1950s and 1960s, considering the ways in which the miracle economy story can be told. But there has been somewhat less attention to the memories of putatively foundational Meiji Restoration despite wide recognition of its importance (e.g. Ravina 2017). After all, the bicentennial of the American Declaration of Independence (Gordon 2013), the 1848 revolutions in Europe (Brubaker and Feischmid 2004) and more recently the Italian sesquicentennial (Donadio 2011) had offered opportunities to imagine how the genre of national history was conditioning the structure and representation of these events as elements defining contemporary national identities. While discussions of the 100th anniversary of the Meiji Restoration in 1968 had focused attention on the ways in which critics viewed the event as part of a modernizing process that led to imperialism and war (e.g. Kapur 2018; Botsman 2018), it remained to be seen whether the social and political environment of late Heisei-Era Japan would render the Restoration the controversial for similar reasons.

And so this project emerged somewhat opportunistically, with the recognition of gaps in debates about Japanese public memory and the unusual promise of the moment in 2018 when the country's prime minister — his family itself hailing from one of the prefectures most associated with the Meiji revolutionaries — seemed eager to construct as a model for courageous public action. The apparent changes in plans, combined with subsequent complications associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, led to a reformulated project that has succeeded in drawing attention to the Restoration, producing important publications, and in considering what commemoration means in contentious, politically aware environments.

## 2 . 研究の目的

This project was designed to investigate the political meanings of the 150th anniversary of the Meiji Restoration, focusing especially on public commemoration. And while it achieved that in substantial publications (notably my co-authored paper with Robert Hellyer), the apparent change in government focus, which I noted in earlier reports, combined with the unanticipated global pandemic that greatly complicated ongoing regional tourism strategies (especially those built around the rapidly forgotten anniversary) together militated toward a change in focus and research goals.

I shifted the project, as a result, toward two sets of questions, each addressed in previous reports. First, I examined the role of spectacle in the production of national memory, particularly in the planning (and then re-planning) for the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo. Widely understood as a moment for presenting a compelling narrative about the country to a watching globe, the Olympics ended up taking on a dramatically new set of challenges as the Tokyo Organizing Committee sought to respond to the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Second, I reconsidered the strategies through which historical narratives are constructed and shaped. Although narratives have been a focal point of substantial political science research in recent years, much of that literature focuses primarily on the importance of narratives generated by self-interested political actors (e.g.

Miskimmon, O'Loughlin, and Roselle 2013) and less frequently on the rules guiding narrative itself, uncovered especially by scholars of literature (most famously, by Brooks 1984). As a result, my publications focusing on the representations of Japanese history in current political debates take uncommonly seriously the genre demands and norms that affect how history can be told even by those with clear political interests in “shaping the narrative.”

### 3 . 研究の方法

During the first year of the research project, I focused on four sets of key activities. First, I used site visits to two of the prefectures (Kagoshima and Saga) engaged in substantial Meiji commemorative events because of their historical role in the Restoration. Second, I began to build a more substantial collection of historical and data resources on the Meiji restoration itself, including not just the spread of Boshin War and Meiji commemorative sites but also the (frankly limited) national-level commemorative activities. Third, I incorporated elements of this research into my presentations at two key international meetings (Association for Asian Studies and International Studies Association). Fourth, I began work on a co-authored article on commemoration with Professor Robert Hellyer of Wake Forest University, which compares commemorative activities, particularly Japan Foundation-sponsored conferences, around the world with the types of activities in Japan. We argued that the 150th anniversary of the Meiji Restoration has become something of a "global moment" in Japanese studies, drawing together scholars from different continents, institutions, and disciplines to consider the Meiji today. These became elements of a publication strategy aimed at using the various ways in which the Meiji Restoration has (and has not) been commemorated to think about Japanese politics, about debates on Japan's global role, and the affective dimensions that link them. I address the challenges and outcomes below.

In the subsequent years of the grant, especially as travel to international conferences and to field sites became more difficult (partly due to travel restrictions but also to the unusual challenges of childcare presented by the pandemic), I turned more toward discourse analysis of key historical texts, contemporary debates, and even works of contemporary fiction and film. This meant, for the most part, attention particularly to popular best-sellers and the surrounding literatures and debates in major magazines, newspapers, and similar sources. My 2022 paper “Precarity’s Pirate” in the *Journal of Asian Studies* — the leading English-language journal on humanities and social science-based research on Asia — remains a case in point, as it focused on narrative comparisons and wider social and political debates.

### 4 . 研究成果

The rapidly-changing nature of the circumstances, starting with the government's unexpectedly minimalist approach to the commemoration itself, and then followed by the COVID-19 pandemic, required a more nimble approach to the material than I had initially expected. But in many ways the project emerged as more successful than it might have been because I was forced to make a virtue of necessity, shifting attention away from a monograph on representation of Meiji and toward a more comprehensive appreciation of commemoration in contested times.

My 2023 paper with Robert Hellyer in *Journal of Japanese Studies* — the world's leading journal of humanities and social-science research on Japan, captures much of what took place, and the wide attention to it has been gratifying. We argue that while the international Japanese studies community, itself supported largely by initiatives from the Japan Foundation, has recognized the Meiji anniversary in a manner that renders it a truly global moment for researchers, within Japan the relatively light handling by the government reflected an awareness that memory of the Meiji Restoration had itself fractured. This was less because of the anticipated opposition by leftists to any celebration of a modernizing path that led ultimately to empire and war and more because of the dedicated work of local historians in Japan that had helped to represent the Meiji Restoration, and in particular the Boshin War that immediately preceded it, as a power struggle between politically motivated adversaries (see e.g. Wert 2013). This does not mean there was widespread opprobrium to the Meiji Restoration; it is not a taboo subject, of course. But it does mean that in a number of regions, particularly Fukushima and other regions in Tohoku that had been on the losing side of the Boshin War, the Restoration was seen less as a unifying “birth of the modern nation” than as a power grab that had cemented long-standing regional inequalities. Particularly after the 2011 tsunami and nuclear disaster that had left Fukushima an especially visible victim, national celebration of a locally painful memory could have been extremely costly to the Japanese government. In other words, the historical narrative was not simply available to political figures to craft as they wished; it was subject to existing versions that people were already using to make sense of their social and political circumstances.

I have tried to be careful about listing my publications with appropriate DOI results, but this has understated the scholarly output from this project. It has been the intellectual foundation of a number of papers published as chapters in scholarly books edited by leading researchers in English. And so a more complete list of published output is as follows:

2023 "Pop Go the Games: Japanese Popular Culture and Politics at the Olympics," in Alisa Freedman and Toby Slade (eds.), *Introducing Japanese Popular Culture* (Routledge). 10.4324/9781003302155-43.

2023 "Meiji at 150: A Global Moment for Japan Studies, an Ambivalent Moment in Japan" (with Robert Hellyer) *Journal of Japanese Studies* 49:1 (Winter), pp. 117-139.

2023 "The Olympics in the 2021 Election." In Robert J. Pekkanen, Steven R. Reed and Daniel M. Smith, (eds.) *Japan Decides 2021: The Japanese General Election*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

2022 "Precarity's Pirate: The Fictive Afterlives of Idemitsu Sazō," *The Journal of Asian Studies* 81:4. (November), pp. 673-687.

2022 "International Status and Japan," in Robert Pekkanen and Saadia Pekkanen (eds.), *Oxford Handbook of Japanese Politics* (Oxford University Press), pp. 535-555.

2022 "The Loss of Nostalgia, not the Nostalgia of Loss: Or, What Happens in Heisei Stays in Heisei," in Noriko Murai, Jeff Kingston, and Tina Burrett (eds.), *Japan in the Heisei Era (1989-2019): Multidisciplinary Perspectives* (Abingdon: Taylor and Francis), pp. 316-327.

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## 5. 主な発表論文等

〔雑誌論文〕 計6件（うち査読付論文 4件／うち国際共著 6件／うちオープンアクセス 0件）

1. 著者名 Leheny David	4. 巻 81
2. 論文標題 Precarity's Pirate: The Fictive Afterlives of Idemitsu Sazo	5. 発行年 2022年
3. 雑誌名 The Journal of Asian Studies	6. 最初と最後の頁 673～687
掲載論文のDOI（デジタルオブジェクト識別子） 10.1017/S0021911822000547	査読の有無 有
オープンアクセス オープンアクセスではない、又はオープンアクセスが困難	国際共著 該当する
1. 著者名 Hellyer Robert、Leheny David	4. 巻 49
2. 論文標題 Meiji at 150: A Global Moment for Japan Studies, an Ambivalent Moment in Japan	5. 発行年 2023年
3. 雑誌名 The Journal of Japanese Studies	6. 最初と最後の頁 117～139
掲載論文のDOI（デジタルオブジェクト識別子） 10.1353/jjs.2023.0005	査読の有無 有
オープンアクセス オープンアクセスではない、又はオープンアクセスが困難	国際共著 該当する
1. 著者名 Leheny, David	4. 巻 1
2. 論文標題 International Status and Japan	5. 発行年 2020年
3. 雑誌名 The Oxford Handbook of Japanese Politics	6. 最初と最後の頁 535-555
掲載論文のDOI（デジタルオブジェクト識別子） 10.1093/oxfordhb/9780190050993.001.0001	査読の有無 有
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1. 著者名 Leheny David	4. 巻 2
2. 論文標題 Pop Go the Games	5. 発行年 2023年
3. 雑誌名 Introducing Japanese Popular Culture	6. 最初と最後の頁 368～374
掲載論文のDOI（デジタルオブジェクト識別子） 10.4324/9781003302155-43	査読の有無 無
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1. 著者名 Leheny David	4. 巻 1
2. 論文標題 The loss of nostalgia, not the nostalgia of loss Or, what happens in Heisei stays in Heisei	5. 発行年 2022年
3. 雑誌名 Japan in the Heisei Era: Multidisciplinary Perspectives	6. 最初と最後の頁 316-327
掲載論文のDOI (デジタルオブジェクト識別子) 10.4324/9780429273575-33	査読の有無 有
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1. 著者名 LEHENY David	4. 巻 1
2. 論文標題 The Olympics in the 2021 Election	5. 発行年 2023年
3. 雑誌名 Japan Decides 2021 (ed. Smith, Pekkanen, Reed(	6. 最初と最後の頁 00-00
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[学会発表] 計2件(うち招待講演 1件/うち国際学会 1件)

1. 発表者名 David Leheny
2. 発表標題 The Meiji Restoration at 150: Researching, Commemorating, and Teaching
3. 学会等名 Association of Asian Studies Annual Meeting (国際学会)
4. 発表年 2018年

1. 発表者名 David Leheny
2. 発表標題 From Commemoration to Crisis and Back: The Meiji 150th Anniversary, the Tokyo Olympics, and COVID-19
3. 学会等名 Hokkaido University Modern Japanese Studies Program (招待講演)
4. 発表年 2020年

〔図書〕 計0件

〔産業財産権〕

〔その他〕

I have listed additional scholarly publications in the summary report. Robert Hellyer and I also wrote a piece published by The Washington Post on the Meiji Restoration.

"What Japan can Teach us about the Future of Nationalism: Lessons for the future of the Nation-State on the 150th Anniversary of the Meiji Restoration," The Washington Post, January 3, 2018. Available at: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/made-by-history/wp/2018/01/03/what-japan-can-teach-us-about-the-future-of-the-nationalism/>

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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