

Date: March 8, 2024

JSPS US AND CANADA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SEMINAR PROGRAM

**REPORT**

Organizer (Awardee)

**Name:** Vimalin Rujivacharakul

**Position & Affiliation:** Associate Professor of Art and Architetural History, Director of Asian Studies Program, University of Delaware, USA

<b>1. TITLE OF SEMINAR</b> Politics and Archeological Missions in Afghanistan: Japanese and International Research on Afghanistan and Iranian Plateau
<b>2. DATE(S)</b> February 19 (Internal workshop), February 20 to February 21 (Public Symposium)
<b>3. VENUE &amp; CITY, STATE</b> Newark, Delaware
<b>4. TARGETED RESEARCH AREAS</b> (1) Archaeology                      (2) Architectural History                      (3) Historic Preservation & Politics
<b>5. NUMBERS OF PARTICIPANTS</b> TOTAL: <u>58</u> persons including <u>7</u> US and Canada Alumni Association members -US: <u>48</u> persons -CANADA: <u>0</u> persons -FROM OTHER COUNTRIES: <u>10</u> person(s) including <u>8</u> person(s) from Japan  *The above-noted total number of participants does not include the number of participants at the JSPS-Information Session in the evening of February 20; the total number of participants at the JSPS-Information Session was 139 people.

## NOTES FOR REPORT

### Executive Summary

**The symposium** “Politics and Archeological Missions in Afghanistan: Japanese and International Research on Afghanistan and Iranian Plateau” was co-organized and co-convened by Professor **Minoru Inaba** and Associate Professor **Vimalin Rujivacharakul**. The JSPS-A A grant enabled Dr. Rujivacharakul to invite Dr. Inaba to the University of Delaware. **Ambassador Mikio Mori** who was invited by our cosponsoring unit, UD’s Department of Political Science and International Relations, joined the event on February 20. Ambassador Mori also jointly held the Japan Information Session with the JSPS directors, **Dr. Junji Urakawa** and **Dr. Yuki Komatsuzaki**.

Funding: Matching funds from the University of Delaware’s departments and units—including the College of Arts and Sciences, the Departments of Anthropology, Art History, History, Geography and Spatial Sciences, Political Science and International Relations, Center for Historic Architecture and Design, Center for Material Culture Studies, University Faculty Senate Committee on Cultural Activities and Public Events—enabled the organizers to also invite 7 additional speakers to participate on-site, joining Drs. Rujivacharakul and Dr. Inaba. We also invited 6 more speakers (4 Japanese and 2 American academics) to participate via the virtual platform; in addition, we invited 4 emerging scholars (Ph.D. Candidates) to present in the Emerging Scholars panel of the symposium.

In total, the symposium invited 15 speakers with doctoral degrees, and 4 emerging scholars who were Ph.D. candidates.

Schedule: February 19 (Speaker-Graduate Student Workshop), February 20-21 (Public Symposium) The activities began with a speaker-grad student workshop on February 19, followed by a symposium on February 20 and 21. The JSPS Information session was on the evening of February 20 as part of the Japan Information Session led by Ambassador Mikio Mori of Japan. Due to cost concerns, the symposium was in person with the exception of February 21 which was a hybrid platform (in-person and Webinar) included talks by speakers from Kyoto (Japan), Nara (Japan), Nakakute (Aichi Prefecture, Japan), Colorado (US), and Berkeley (US).

Scholarly Goals and Results: The primary goal of the symposium, as outlined in the proposal of our application in July 2023, was to research international politics and backgrounds of Buddhist archaeological excavations in Afghanistan in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. At the symposium, speakers delivered research presentations showing how Japanese researchers played an influential role against a sizeable group of international archaeologists, notably the British, French, Italian, and Russian. Both Japanese and international researchers showed data and analyses proving that, while these archaeologists competed in excavation of archaeological sites and accumulating archaeological findings, they also risked their safety living with the multiple rounds of civil turmoil and wars.

At the symposium, our speakers succeeded in demonstrating how politics influenced each archeological mission and why political tension among those countries developed; they also presented research to illustrate how conflicts and collaboration among the international archaeological teams shaped the ways the modern public perceives ancient Afghanistan. Conclusions arisen from the symposium’s presentations and discussions proved that politics was an inevitable drive for research in archaeological sciences.

### Topics Discussed with Outcomes & Future Challenges

Topics: At the symposium, 15 invited speakers discussed the following topics, which were grouped into 6 panels

- Japanese and International Archaeological Missions in Afghanistan
- Archaeology, Discovery & Protection: From Gandhara to the Red Sea
- Politics and Archaeological Missions in Afghanistan
- Archaeology and Transcontinental Buddhism in Afghanistan
- Forefront of Japanese Archaeological Missions and Historical Studies in Afghanistan and Central Asia

In addition, 4 emerging scholars present papers focusing on the following topics:

- Afghanistan's geological conditions and mineral resources near archaeological sites (presenter was absent due to illness; paper submitted afterwards)
- Afghan and Japan's impression of Xuanzhang's account of Buddhism in Afghanistan
- Japanese depiction of Indian-Buddhist art and influences from India and Afghanistan
- Japanese research on Buddhism in Asia and Japanese collecting activities of objects from Korea and Mainland Asia

### Outcomes

We succeeded in the following activities:

1. Sharing of information of international research in Afghanistan in the twentieth century, and sharing resources and documents that recorded the research by Japanese, British, French, Italian, and American archaeologists at that time. This was the first time that all international missions in the 20<sup>th</sup> century were able to deliver their documents together in one gathering.
2. Obtaining future directions for research about Buddhism and Buddhist archaeology in Afghanistan with expansion to Central and West Asia.
3. Extending discussion to study Buddhist archaeology and maritime activities in the first millennium following discoveries/excavations at the Berenike (Red Sea Site) and Sweden.

### Future Challenges

Based on the symposium's discussions, we recognized the following challenges:

- 1) Insufficient financial support to process existing data/accumulated data.
- 2) Insufficient human resource to continue expanding and supporting the growth of the research body and the field.
- 3) In urgent need of a universal platform to connect databases from those international missions, currently housed in different institutions in 6 locations, to connect globally so that current and future researchers can carry out productive research.

### **Workshop/Seminar Agenda**

This symposium brings together archeologists, art historians, historians and former members of the Japanese, American, British and French archaeological expedition teams to Afghanistan. Invited speakers will discuss histories of Buddhist archaeological excavations, both in Afghanistan and in nearby regions in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century. Together, we hope to map archaeological missions in relation to international global politics and seek to understand how those international forces impacted one another and how they shaped the modern history of Afghanistan in the world.

## Schedule

### **February 19, 2024: 13:50 p.m.–4:50 p.m. (Speaker-Student Workshop)**

Old College#212

Discussion leaders: Prof. Minoru Inaba, Dr. Warwick Ball, Dr. Vimalin Rujivacharakul

Student facilitator: Lucy Li

Students: 11 students

### **February 20, 2024: 9 a.m.–4 p.m. (Symposium) The 1941 Lecture Room, Morris Library**

9:00–9:30 a.m. Welcome Remarks

Debbie H. Norris, Interim Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Delaware

Minoru Inaba, Dean, Faculty of Humanities, Professor of Oriental History, Kyoto University

9:30–11:45 a.m. Session 1: Japanese and International Archaeological Missions in Afghanistan

(Moderated by Vimalin Rujivacharakul)

Speakers:

Minoru Inaba, Dean, Faculty of Humanities, Professor of Oriental History, Kyoto University

Warwick Ball, Founding Editor of *Afghanistan*, Former Director of Excavations, British School of Archaeology in Iraq

Deborah Klimburg-Salter, Professor Emerita, University of Vienna; Founding Director, Center for Research and Documentation of Inner and South Asia (CIRDIS), Harvard University

1:30–3:30 p.m. Session 2: From Gandhara to the Red Sea: Archaeology, Discovery & Protection

(Moderated by Minoru Inaba)

\*Speakers

Gil Stein, Professor and Director of the Chicago Center of Cultural Heritage Protection, University of Chicago

Pia Brancaccio, Professor, Department of Art and Art History, Drexel University

Steven Sidebotham, Co-director, Berenike Excavations/Red Sea Coast; Professor, University of Delaware

### **Japan Information Session (Symposium)**

Gore Recital Hall, Roselle Center for the Arts

4:00-5:00 p.m. Ambassador Mikio Mori, “Japan-US Relationship and Its Role in the World”

5:00-5:10 p.m. Japanese Consulate General, NYC, MEXT scholarships and JET scholarships

5:10-5:45 p.m. JSPS Scholarships, Junji Urakawa and Yuki Komatsuzaki, Directors, Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS, Washington D.C.)

### **February 21, 2024: 9 a.m.–6 p.m. in Old College 212 and virtually**

9:00–10:30 a.m. Session 3: Forefront of Japanese Archaeological Missions and Historical Studies in Afghanistan

and Central Asia

(Moderated by Minoru Inaba)

Speakers:

Shumpei Iwai, Curator and Associate Professor, Ryukoku Museum, Ryukoku University

Satoshi Naiki, Associate Professor of History and Culture, Aichi Prefectural University

Ryoichi Miyamoto, Associate Professor of History, Nara University

Chao-jung Ching, Associate Professor, History and Philology, Kyoto University

10:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Session 4: Emerging Scholars on Afghanistan and Global Japan International Relations

(Moderated by Vimalin Rujivacharakul)

Speakers:

Thomas Hale, Ph.D. Candidate Department of Geography and Spatial Sciences, University of Delaware

Shamin Homayun, Ph.D. Candidate, School of Archaeology and Anthropology, Australian National University

Yoo Jin Choi, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Art History, University of Delaware

Chao Chi Chiu, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Art History, University of Maryland

12:35 – 2:15 p.m. Lunch Break

2:30 – 4:30 p.m. Session 5: Politics and Archaeological Missions in Afghanistan

(Moderated by Minoru Inaba)

Speakers:

Rudolph Matthee, Unidel Professor, Department of History; Director of Islamic Studies, University of Delaware, USA

Henri-Paul Francfort, Professor Emeritus, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS)

Mitchell Allen, Research Associate, University of California at Berkeley; President, Scholarly Roadside Service; Archaeologist, the Helmand-Sistan Project

4:30 – 6:30 p.m. Session 6: Roundtable

Archaeology and Transcontinental Buddhism in Afghanistan, Central Asia, Europe & Egypt

Participants: 9

Warwick Ball, Pia Brancaccio, Henri-Paul Francfort, Minoru Inaba, Deborah Klimburg-Salter, Lawrence Nees, Vimalin Rujivacharakul (moderator), Steven Sidebotham, and Gil Stein