



International Conference 2023

Transcending the Tangibility and Intangibility: Religion and Media in Pre-Modern East and West/Eurasia

有形 = 無形を超越する—前近代東西ユーラシアの宗教とメディア

2023 11/25-26

Place

Tokyo Metropolitan University, Minami-Osawa Campus

Organizing Committee

Toshio Ohnuki, Yuichi Akae,
Kazuhisa Takeda, Hitoshi Karikome

Sponsored by

- JSPS Grant-in-Aid for Transformative Research Areas (B)
“Religious Movements and Communication Medium /
Worldview/ Social Integration: A Synthetic Approach of
Historical Research”(20B103)
- Tokyo Metropolitan University



The conference will focus on the media produced by pre-modern (medieval and early modern) religious persons and institutions and, using comparative methods of history, clarify their establishment, inheritance and significance from a global perspective. The history of media is well-known from Harold Innis's *The Bias of Communication* and Marshall McLuhan's *The Gutenberg Galaxy: the Making of Typographic Man*, but these works do not sufficiently consider the inseparable relationship between media and religion before the modern era and the impact on media history of religions that were attracted to transcendence and shared diverse missions. This conference therefore aims to elucidate the innovativeness of media produced by religious motives in their respective historical contexts, and to derive the commonalities that can be found across time and regions, and the historical significance of such media beyond a single cultural sphere.

Monks disseminated their religious beliefs using a variety of media, which include literary works, illuminated manuscripts, church decorations, and even pilgrimage, in addition to written documents such as monastic rules and sermons. Each presentation will focus on two characteristics of these media unique to the pre-modern period, namely their tangibility and intangibility. These two natures intermingled in different ways in the post-modern period and had a strong influence on the establishment and succession of religious views and world perceptions, as well as on the formation of order in secular society. Taking the tangible and intangible nature of the media as its main theme, the conference will compare pre-modern Christian monasticism and Japanese Buddhism and Shintoism to identify their similarities and differences.

This academic meeting is the first step for an international joint research project on the creativity of pre-modern religious cultures in the Eurasian East and West (Europe and Japan) and the Americas, succeeding the framework of the JSPS Grant-in-Aid for Transformative Research Areas (B) "Religious Movements and Communication Medium /Worldview/Social Integration: A Synthetic Approach of Historical Research".

25 November (Sat)

9:15-9:30 **Opening Remarks**

9:30-11:30 **Session 1: Founding legends as media between tangibility and intangibility**



Tombeau de saint Etienne, Abbaye d'Obazine

Founding legends (縁起 *engi*) not only narrated and reconstructed the origins of monasteries, temples, and shrines, but also enhanced the existence value of such religious institutions and expanded various ideas to the whole region. This session will examine founding legends as an important media for strengthening the links between religious institutions and the surrounding society, and for creating the social and religious order in which they are embedded.

創建神話(縁起)は、修道院や寺社の起源を語り継ぐだけでなく、宗教施設の存在価値を高め、さまざまな思想を地域全体に広げていった。本セッションでは、宗教施設と周辺社会との結びつきを強め、宗教施設が組み込まれている社会秩序・宗教秩序を形成するための重要なメディアとして創建伝説(縁起)について考察する。

Chair: Toshio Ohnuki 大貫俊夫 (Tokyo Metropolitan University)

1. **Keynote** Steven Vanderputten (Ghent University)
Monastic Foundation Accounts: Narratives of Identity and Distinction around the Turn of the First Millennium
2. Yoshifumi Kitadate 北館佳史 (Chuo University)
Obazine and its Local Relationships in the Life of Saint Stephen
3. Satomi Yamamoto 山本聡美 (Waseda University)
The Age of the Warrior, its Darkness and Brilliance: Buddhist Narrative Paintings of 12th century Japan

Discussant: Yoichi Kajiwara 梶原洋一 (Kyoto Sangyo University)

13:00-15:00 Session 2: Sectarian identity and media



Konstanz, Dreifaltigkeitskirche, Südwestchor

Both Christian monasticism and Buddhism formed sects and used their respective media to distinguish themselves from others. Recognising that sectarian identity in the pre-modern period was multifaceted and difficult to draw a simple line, this session will examine such media to identify the characteristics of sectarian identity and the differences between self-understanding and understanding of others.

キリスト教修道制も仏教も宗派を形成し、それぞれメディアを駆使して自他の区別を行ってきたが、前近代における宗派アイデンティティは複線的で、単純な線引きは困難である。本セッションではそのような宗派アイデンティティの特徴と「自己理解—他者理解」の対照、そしてそれらを表現するメディアについて検討する。

Chair: Masahiko Okada 岡田正彦 (Tenri University)

1. Momo Kanazawa 金沢百枝 (Tama Art University)
The Sculptural Decorations in the Cistercian Cloisters: Iconoclasm or Classicism?
2. Kazuhisa Takeda 武田和久 (Meiji University)
The Constitutions of the Society of Jesus: A Collective Entity of the Multifaceted Monastic Identity
3. Soichiro Ota 大田壮一郎 (Ritsumeikan University)
The Relationship between Political Power and Sects in Medieval Japan: Focusing on Sectarian Disputes *Shuron* (宗論)

Discussant: Toshio Ohnuki 大貫俊夫 (Tokyo Metropolitan University)

15:30-17:30 Session 3: Constructing religious networks and media I



称名寺, Shōmyōji Temple

Christian, Buddhist and Shinto sects built networks linking the centre and the provinces, reinforcing them with various documents and giving them back to the religious life of society through mechanisms such as pilgrimages. This session examines the relationship between such network building and the media.

宗教施設は中央と地方、地方と地方を結びつけるネットワークを構築し、巡礼などの仕組みを通じてそれを社会に還元した。本セッションではそのようなネットワーク構築とメディアの関係を検討する。

Chair: Yoshimi Orii 折井善果 (Keio University)

1. Makoto Fujimoto 藤本誠 (Keio University)
Statues and Sermons in the Local Community: Media Used by Buddhist Priests from the Capital in Ancient Japan
2. Kaoru Kobayashi 小林郁 (Kogakkan University)
Ise Shrine and *Onshi* (御師) in Japanese Medieval Period
3. Shigeto Kikuchi 菊地重仁 (University of Tokyo)
Expected and unexpected network-building: Translations of relics and their resonance in the Frankish world

Discussant: Xiaolong Huang 黄霄龍 (University of Tokyo)

26 November (Sun)

10:00-12:00 Session 4: Constructing religious networks and media II



Legenda Aurea, c. 1290, Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana, Florence

Chair: Hitoshi Karikome 菊米一志 (Shujitsu University)

1. **Keynote** Emilia Jamrozak (University of Leeds)
Cistercians as a network: Monastic identity and the transfer of objects
2. Asami Miura 三浦麻美 (Chuo University)
A Medium for a Developing Network? Elisabethkirche and the Teutonic Order, 1235-1309
3. Hitomi Omata Rappo 小俣ラポー日登美 (Kyoto University)
Mining for Gold in the Textual Vein: A Text Mining Analysis of the Intertextuality between the *Legenda Aurea* and the Martyrologies of the Reformativ Era

Discussant: Patrick Schwemmer (Musashi University)

13:30-15:15 Session 5: Transcending terminology and grasping concepts



Basilica inferiore di San Francesco d'Assisi

Christianity and Buddhism, two world religions established in central Eurasia, were introduced to Europe and Japan, the continental periphery, in ancient times and developed independently. Until now, research has been conducted on each of them in European and Japanese languages in a closed manner. As a result, even similar concepts have been positioned differently within each academic frameworks, preventing mutual understanding of the social roles played by religious figures and the social impact of the media they produced. In response to this situation, this session will begin with a keynote lecture on Buddhist terms/concepts in medieval Japan, which will be followed by a round table to discuss new horizons emerging from the comparison of medieval Buddhist and Christian terms/concepts.

ユーラシア大陸の中央部で成立したキリスト教と仏教は、古代に大陸の周縁部であるヨーロッパと日本に伝わり、そこで独自の発展を遂げていった。これまで、それぞれについて欧語、日本語で研究が閉鎖的に行われてきた。そのため、同種の概念であっても、それぞれの学術体系の中で異なる位置付けがなされ、宗教者が果たした社会的役割や、彼らが生み出したメディアの社会的インパクトなどについて、相互理解が妨げられてきた。こうした状況を受けて、本セッションでは、まず中世日本の仏教用語／概念に関する基調講演を行い、それを受けて、中世ヨーロッパのキリスト教用語／概念との比較から見えてくる新しい地平をテーマにしたラウンドテーブルを行う。

Chair: Yuichi Akae 赤江雄一 (Keio University)

1. **Keynote** Hiroki Kikuchi 菊地大樹 (University of Tokyo)
Monk or Priest?: Agency, Activities and Daily Lives in the Medieval Buddhist Society
2. Round Table: Hiroki Kikuchi, Steven Vanderputten, Emilia Jamrozak

15:15-15:30 Closing remarks