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Forum

History, Nationalism and Globalization: the History Wars, National Curriculums and History in Society

This is a report of 'the Second International Seminar on Australia in Osaka, 2013' convened by Professor Takao Fujikawa, Osaka University. The seminar was held at the Graduate School of Letters, Osaka University on 10-11 November 2013. The seminar was intended as a forum for attendees to discuss matters related to the relationships between 'academic history' and 'history in society' chiefly based on Australian and British experiences. The term, British experiences include those of former settler colonies such as Canada and South Africa. This report is incomplete in the sense that it does not cover the whole proceedings of the seminar. Considering the limited space available here, we have decided to reproduce two papers prepared for the seminar, one by Dr. Nicholas Brown, Associate Professor, ANU and the other by Fujikawa together with the commentaries by discussants. Dr. Brown is also Research Fellow at the National Museum of Australia, one of the main themes in this report. We invited four discussants: Professor Michihisa Hosokawa, Kagoshima University, Professor Ichiro Maekawa, Soka University, Associate Professor Yuichi Murakami, Fukushima University and Assistant Professor Hiroshi Tsuda, Tsukuba University. Dr. Keita Morimoto, Yoshitaka Iwasaki, Michiko Yasui, Atsuko Munemura and Ryoko Yano from our Graduate School joined the discussion. Some of their commentaries were also included in the report.

The two papers were not actually read in the seminar. They had been sent to all the participants one week prior to the seminar. On the understanding that the attendees had already read the papers, the two speakers briefly summarized them and mainly talked about a number of issues raised in them. Some of the commentaries are responses to the papers and others are more concerned with problems the speakers raised on that day. The seminar was not aimed at achieving a consensus or reaching any conclusion, but exchanging divergent views and perspectives. We believe that this purpose was largely attained. We are grateful to all the participants, especially Dr. Nicholas Brown for their contributions to having made this possible.

In the following pages you will find the papers by Nicholas Brown, "Reflections on the Present State of Australian History", a revised version after the seminar and by Takao Fujikawa, "House of History: Academic History and History in Society" as well as commentaries by the discussants and others.

Takao Fujikawa