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Osaka University

## Forum

# Migration, Colonization, and Histories of the Nineteenth-Century World

## Introduction

*Mami Morimoto*

As indicated by the launch of the ‘*Oxford History of the British Empire*’ series<sup>(i)</sup> and subsequent waves of publications, the study of the British Empire has flourished increasingly since the beginning of this century and entered a new phase. In this invigorating context, our team, started back in 2009, comprising Prof. Yoko Namikawa, Dr. Satoshi Mizutani and me, had been working on a project on some aspects of British imperial history, especially focussing on the movements of people across the British colonies. We aimed to analyse the patterns of the movements of people and their intra-imperial networks in 19th century Britain and also attempted to examine their effects on the systems and communities of colonized societies.

Each of us has been concerned with specific topics, such as child migration movements to South Africa, North America and Australia, female missionaries and their involvements in educating indigenous people of the East and West Indies, and the transplanting of British policies and systems into British India and the upsurge of anti-colonialism there. Consequently, we found the outstanding and cross-imperial activeness of the movements of people and the overlapping and multiplexed character of the intra-imperial connections and the networks they had formed in global scale. We also found that politico-legal institutions, social systems, and cultural practices traversed trans-colonial spaces as well.

There were various cases and objectives for the cross-colonial movements of people; for example, leaving for a post for some colonial official or military officer, or seeking for more arduous missionary endeavours, but most significant patterns are migration and emigration. With their permanent and substantial effects, they had influenced histories, circumstances and identities of the areas or communities that came under British control. Established as an independent and interdisciplinary research field, migration/ emigration studies now have their own arena, but it is needless to say that imperialism and colonialism are the most important

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(i) First volume of the series published in 1998: Nicholas Canny ed., *The Origins of Empire: British Overseas Enterprise to the Close of the Seventeenth Century*, Oxford:OUP, 1998.

elements of their framework.

In Dec 2014 at Kobe, our team, supported by Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research<sup>(2)</sup>, held a workshop on the histories of the British Empire and the modern world<sup>(3)</sup>, with the Japanese Association for the Study of British Imperial and Commonwealth History, the leading group for British Empire studies in Japan, as co-hosts. We invited three prominent guest speakers; Prof. Adele Perry of Manitoba University, Canada, Dr. Hiroko Matsuda of Kobe Gakuin University and Prof. Takao Fujikawa of Osaka University. These scholars specialize in diverse academic areas, including migration and emigration histories, imperialism and colonialism, gender and racial studies. Thus their presence contributed substantially to the widening and deepening of the scale of our discussion in the context of the global history or world history.

The main components of this forum are the three papers by the guest speakers, based on their presentations in the workshop, then revised for publication. As the organisers, at the outset I describe the outline of our project; next, Dr. Mizutani explains the key-terms of our project, 'trans-colonial' and 'trans-coloniality' in a historiographical note; and finally following the three papers of the guests, Prof. Namikawa writes the conclusive part, referring to some notable points of the papers and remarks from the floor, to summarize our project and the workshop.

Once again we wish to express our appreciation to Prof. Perry, Dr. Matsuda and Prof. Fujikawa, the members of the Japanese Association for the Study of British Imperial and Commonwealth History, and the other workshop participants who contributed a meaningful and productive discussion. We also thank the *Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS)* for a gracious support.

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(2) 'Cross-colonial movements of people and the formation of intra-imperial networks in the nineteenth-century British empire', Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research(C), 24510862.

(3) Held on Saturday 6 December, 2014, at Seminar Room 3, UNITY, Academic Community Hall, Kobe, JAPAN.