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Forum

Modernisation, Women and Children: 'child removal' in Britain and beyond: a lifecourse approach

Introduction

Mami Morimoto Yoshimura and Yoko Namikawa

This is the record of the seminar held on April 15th 2017 at Doshisha University in Kyoto.

The seminar was a part of the seminar series, Modernisation, Women and Children held in Kyoto and Tokyo in April 2017. In Kyoto seminar titled 'the Origins and Impacts of 'Child Removal' in Britain and Beyond: a Lifecourse Approach', Professor Pamela Cox gave a paper and Professor Nobuko Okuda responded to it.

Kyoto seminar is also a part of the joint project of two JSPS researches.

The first, '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)) by Mami Morimoto Yoshimura (Principal Investigator), Yoko Namikawa and Satoshi Mizutani, focused on the 'trans-imperial' feature of modern world.

The second research project, by Yoko Namikawa, 'Standardisation of the family in the British Colonial Societies in the nineteenth century' (Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (C)) analysed the contagion of the modern family concept within British West Indies and British West Africa.

These research projects reconsider the 'modernity' which has been regarded as universal and uniform.

As Professor Cox writes in her paper, she tries to 'reframe familiar but segmented histories of child-saving, child protection and youth justice as part of wider history of child removal'.

Professor Okuda points out in her paper that although many modern institutions including child care were introduced to Japan from Britain and Europe, child removal was not widely accepted in modern Japan. She argues that the concept and practice of child removal is unique in Britain and other areas under the strong influence of Britain.

As these seminar papers show, each society has different concept and expected function of modern family and state.

Reconsideration of history by analysing ignored practice such as child removal shows us

various aspects of modernity and this seminar also reminds us of the importance of comparative study.

We appreciate Professor Cox and Professor Okuda who rewrite their paper in response to the discussion of the seminar with the audience. After this seminar, we held the other symposium on 'child removal' in order to follow the discussion here as well as the other joint JSPS project on December 9th 2017*.

*Yoko Namikawa, Mami Morimoto, Makiko Santoki, Minne Tanaka and Mikako Sawayama, 'Children and women in modern Britain –concept of childhood through the analysis of child removal from various perspectives,' the 29th Workshop of the Japan Women's History Network, Tokyo. The record of this workshop will appear in *Journal of JWHN*, vol.6 (forthcoming).