

Third EAJS PhD Workshop Report by Academic Organizer

The EAJS believes that one of its central aims is to foster young scholars and to that end it organizes workshops for graduate students such as in Cambridge (2000) and Paris (2002) . The Third EAJS Workshop for Doctoral Students took place in Vienna between the 29th and 31st of August 2005 in cooperation with the East Asian Studies Department of Vienna University.

In response to the call for papers published in the EAJS Bulletin, the EAJS received 42 applications by graduate students. Based on academic promise, as documented in the CV and thesis abstract, the EAJS selected a group of 16 doctoral students. In line with student interest, a group of 6 senior scholars was invited to join the workshop as academic advisers. Workshop participants came from a wide range of European and Asian universities and studied issues in diverse academic fields ranging from Japanese archeology to Japanese technology management.

Since the overarching aim of the workshop was to provide constructive feedback on dissertations-in-progress by a multicultural group of scholars, almost every graduate student was paired with a student peer in a related field, who then had to criticize the work of his or her fellow student to initiate a group discussion of about one hour duration per dissertation. Moreover, all graduate students met for a private session with one of the senior academic advisers to receive further suggestions. Besides the formal academic program workshop participants could deepen their conversations during lunch and dinner meetings that gave everyone a taste of Viennese culinary refinements. Students comments show that overall they were very satisfied with the workshop's academic quality and the opportunities they had to establish new friendships in Japanese Studies boosting their drive and desire to complete excellent dissertations.

The workshop was only possible due to the generous financial support of the Japan Foundation contributing to the international transportation costs of participants and the Toshiba International Foundation covering the costs of accommodation and common meals. Special thanks also to Sepp Linhart and his team for very efficient local organization and to Christoph Brumann, Martin Hemmert, Glenn Hook, Rikki Kersten, Mark Williams, who joined me as academic advisers. Brian Powell and Joseph Kyburz also deserve much praise for strong moral support throughout the long preparation phase of the workshop.

The Fourth EAJS Workshop for Doctoral Students is planned for September 2008 prior to the 12th International EAJS conference in Lecce/Italy and we hope that EAJS members will inform their doctoral students about this exciting upcoming event.

Harald Fuess, Sophia University, EAJS Council Member and Academic Organizer of EAJS Workshops for Doctoral Students