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研究課題	Research on globalization and the use of online publication: a case report from a collaborative research project “Globalization, food and social identities in the Pacific Region” (グローバリゼーション研究とオンライン出版の活用: “アジア太平洋地域の食のグローバル化” 研究プロジェクトの事例報告)
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Summary	この報告書では比較文化研究所が、学際的で多国籍な研究テーマ及び研究者達による共同研究プロジェクト、「アジア太平洋地域の食のグローバル化」を、最小限の事務サポートと比較的小額の予算で成功裏に進めた経緯を説明している。多国籍かつ、学際的な研究者達を、厳しい時間的な制約の中でまとめなくてはならないという難しい条件のもとで、共同研究プロジェクトをコーディネートするという部分に焦点を当てながらそのプロセスを紐解き、同時に問題点なども提示した。今後、同様のプロジェクトを推進しようとしている研究者や組織の参考となれば幸いである。

### ***Introduction: meeting the challenges of an interdisciplinary and transnational project***

This report describes an interdisciplinary and transnational project on the globalization of food production and consumption in the Asia-Pacific Region organized by the Institute of Comparative Culture. The report reflects on how such projects can be successfully managed by a small administrative staff, with a relatively small budget, with tight time constraints and in a complex intercultural and interdisciplinary space. The report focuses on the process of putting together this project and the lessons that this may hold for transnational research projects at Sophia or other similar institutions.

The collaborative research project was supported by the Institute of Comparative Culture and funded by the Promotion and Mutual Aid Corporation for Private Schools of Japan Academic Research Promotion Fund. It focuses on the global/local linkages in the production of new food cultures in societies in the Asia/Pacific region, including the Americas and Asia. Sophia project members and overseas collaborators used ethnographic fieldwork to investigate foodways as expressions of social identity, including ethnic, regional, class and national identities. There are two basic approaches represented in the 16 ethnographic papers that are included in the final publication. One set of papers focuses on the transnational circuits of particular food products, chains of supply, ecological impacts,

cultural definitions and ties to national and local identities. Another set of papers focus on the development of “cuisines” in the context of food globalization, looking at cuisines as expressions of national identity and social class, and also as the outcomes of local and transnational political strategies. In order to promote the global accessibility of the research findings, the papers are being published by the Institute of Comparative Culture as an online virtual book. The research and publication process is outlined in this report.

The challenges involved in putting together transnational and interdisciplinary academic research projects at Sophia are shared by many institutions in Japan, and especially in other countries in which English is not the primary language of instruction and in which interdisciplinary research is not widely institutionalized. First of all, how are we to deal with language issues, when many members have English as a second or third language? Secondly, how are we able to speak across disciplinary boundaries, especially when disciplines are differently configured in national academic traditions? Thirdly, how are we to cope with making the project accessible across a wide geographic region at relatively low expense? And finally, how are we able to manage this project with limited financial and administrative resources?

### ***Creating a research community within and beyond Sophia***

The Institute of Comparative Culture has a tradition of interdisciplinary research in English, however for this project we wanted to reach outside of the Faculty of Liberal Arts in which English is the language of instruction and involve researchers from other Sophia Faculties. We were successful in involving Sophia faculty members with from multiple disciplines and linguistic backgrounds. Collaborative research across linguistic and interdisciplinary boundaries, however, poses particular challenges. It is difficult for any academic researcher to speak to audiences across disciplinary and national boundaries, satisfy the standards of multiple disciplines and do all of this in what might be a second, or even third academic language. We thus tried to create a supportive and inclusive atmosphere of research cooperation to build and sustain a community within Sophia. We also used our personal connections and other resources to develop a network of scholars around the world who shared our interests. From the beginning we made a decision to include as many of the initial members as possible in the entire process from conception to publication. This also presented challenges for finding the appropriate venue for publication.

### ***Developing a common set of concerns through workshop meetings***

In the process of developing a new team of “food researchers” at Sophia, we found it imperative to educate ourselves about the state of food research in Japan and in the world outside from multiple perspectives. Small workshops on a variety of topics were our primary tool for developing a sense of common purpose and common knowledge in our research. Lecturers represented perspectives ranging from anthropology and history, to food industry and environmental studies, also broadening our concerns beyond our initial projects. Over

time we found ourselves tapping into what is already a large transnational network of scholars doing food research around the world. We found many specialists in food research, which none of us at Sophia are. However, with our unique mix of disciplinary and regional ties, and our location in Japan, we are able develop a set of new perspectives on food globalization, as well as build new links in this global network.

### ***Conducting fieldwork on three continents***

The research for this project took place over two years and on three continents. Through group meetings and informal discussions we became familiar with the research activities of Sophia colleagues working in geographic areas far from our own area of research, while also beginning to see the ties between regions. Although it might be questionable if the term “Asia Pacific” is helpful in encompassing this cross-cultural research endeavor, the process of conceptualizing the transnational and global dimensions of our research projects was greatly enhanced by a wide geographic reach that includes the United States, Mexico, Australia, Southeast Asia, China and Japan.

### ***Presenting findings in an international symposium***

From the beginning we felt it was important to have one large traditional symposium to present and discuss the findings of the research. In many ways this event was the highlight of the process and served to motivate all the members of the project. However, it also presented difficulties and perhaps missed opportunities. Ideally, a group of scholars, including non-Sophian members, should meet at the beginning and final stages of the project. Secondly, any meeting should include ample time for face-to-face open-ended discussions. Because our Symposium met only once and the presentation schedule was crowded, the potential of the symposium was only partially fulfilled. Fortunately, some members of the collaborative group were able to attend workshops at Sophia before the symposium, providing greater opportunities for communication.

### ***Ensuring quality through external review and aggressive copyediting***

In order to ensure quality of the final editorial product, we sent out all papers for external review. The reviewers were chosen who were expert in either the disciplinary or substantive area of each authored paper. Most papers passed review, though some required major revisions. Review gave authors another perspective on their research and an incentive to improve their work. In addition to this revision, a very thorough and aggressive round of copyediting by an experienced professional aimed to make the papers readable beyond narrow disciplinary boundaries, which seemed important for online publication.

### ***Publishing online to reduce costs and maximize the impact of publications***

Online publishing was seen as the most flexible choice for our Institute organized project. Japanese educational institutions and funding agencies have a preference for collaborative research. However, publishing the results of such collaborative projects in international

presses presents some practical difficulties. Few commercial presses are interested in publishing edited collections with multiple authors from a single academic institution. To make matters more complicated, collaborative projects within an institution generally will strive to be inclusive, and members may be reluctant to eliminate papers that do not fit the requirements of a commercial press. Even if a publisher can be found, publishing books in English may require an expensive subsidy. Self-published conference paper collections are also an option. However, many printed conference paper collections have a very limited readership because of printing and distribution costs.

To avoid these difficulties we made an early decision to publish online. By publishing online we aim to make the results of the project available to a large audience without losing quality. In addition to external review and copy-editing, we also have a designer specializing in online publication. In addition to global availability, online publication has the advantage of flexibility. Without concern for the cost of a printed book, we are able to be more flexible about the number of papers we can include in an “online book.” We are thus able to include contributions that might have been cut from a commercial publication, not because they are poor quality, but because the length of the publication would be too long or the papers are too diverse. We are also able to encourage authors to include multiple charts and colored illustrations, which normally are too expensive for print publications. We thus hope that our online book format will allow the research results to be accessible to a world-wide audience, while also achieving a certain high level of quality.

### ***Implications***

Online publication seems to offer important advantages for publishing the results of collaborative research projects in institutional settings such as Sophia. Online publications can reach a global audience that print publications seldom achieve. Especially for collaborative projects in the humanities, international publishing opportunities are limited. Self-publishing is an option, but often at the sacrifice of a meaningful audience. Especially when the contributors are dispersed around the world, online publication can achieve multiple institutional goals at a reasonable cost of money and effort.