

Summation of the NASSS International  
Graduate Student Seminar  
Politics and International Relations Workshop  
July 28, 2009

David POTTER and YAMAGISHI Takakazu (SECTION MENTORS)

Ten students attended the Politics and International Relations Workshop held on July 28. The participants had diverse nationalities—American, Korean, and Japanese. Four professors also joined: Professors Marie Gottschalk, Ichiro Iwano, David Potter, Masami Fukito, and Yamagishi Takakazu.

In contrast to the previous years, all students were required to present their projects this year. Each student was given 15 minutes for his or her presentation. An additional ten minutes was assigned for feedback from other students and professors. Finally, five minutes were used for presenters' responses. The aim of this format was to provide presenters with as much feedback as possible.

The morning session was chaired by Yamagishi Takakazu. As the first presenter, Meredith Wooten of University of Pennsylvania discussed her dissertation project, "Congressional Investigations and the Development of Intelligence Oversight, 1945–2002." She explored the extent to which major congressional investigations of intelligence since 1945 addressed perceived challenges to dominant political regimes and constitutional norms at the expense of greater institutional gains relative to the President.

Hiroki Kubo of Kyoto University made a presentation, titled "Domestic Political Institutions and their Influence on the US Foreign Aid Policy, 1953–1974." He discussed the fluctuations of U.S. foreign aid during the Eisenhower to Nixon years, noting that aid increased under Eisenhower, decreased under Kennedy and Johnson, and increased and changed its direction under Nixon. He pointed out the importance of the domestic politics, namely congressional and partisan politics, as determinants of American foreign aid policy.

In his presentation "Partisan Conflicts in Trade Policy during the G. W. Bush Administration," Kota Matsui of the University of Tokyo argued that the disagreements over labor and environmental standards in trade agreements, along with partisan antagonism in Congress impeded George HW Bush's trade strategy.

Tom William of Johns Hopkins University, in his presentation "The International System and Internal War," argued that changes in the distribution of power in the international system in 1945 led to changes in the institution of sovereignty. Changes in the practice and meaning of sovereignty, according to him, affected both how and why external states intervened in civil conflict, and

how and why internal factions engaged in civil conflict.

As the last speaker of the morning session, Maiko Takano of the University of Tokyo presented her work, “Canada’s Struggle with Region: From the Liberal Party Convention of 1919 to the Federal Election of 1921.” She dealt the historical role the region as a geographical unit played in Canadian party politics at the federal level. She specifically asked why the Liberal Party, which eventually won in this election, took seemingly an irrational behavior during the electoral campaign, and she argued that it was because party leaders tried to overcome the influence of regionalism that began to overshadow Canadian politics.

The afternoon session was chaired by Professor David Potter. Andrea Katz of Yale University presented her work, “A Tale of Haves and Have-Nots: America’s Impoverished Welfare System.” She argued that The United States’ “hybrid” system of public and private welfare provision has both sprung from and furthered the fragmentation of interests and involved actors in the welfare debate.

Ken Umekawa of the University of Tokyo, presented his project, “The Mechanism of Presidential Signing Statements.” He explained that as a tool to show their interpretation of bills, modern American presidents issue signing statements contemporaneously with the signing of a bill into law. His question was under what conditions presidents are more likely to issue signing statements.

In his presentation, “What was the Essence of Sovereignty the National Movement had Restored?” Kim Hyun of Yonsei University demonstrated that the Candlelight Assembly over the issue of importing U.S. Beef in 2008 was a solution for the dilemma implicated in the national liberation movement. He argued that the essence of sovereignty was not *potesta* but *auctorita*.

Yoko Hotta of Nanzan University, in her project “The Effect and Limitation of Ambassador Reischauer’s Strategy,” dealt with Ambassador Reischauer’s strategy (the political theory of the equal partnership and the policy of establishing a dialogue). She asked: what was the true meaning of the strategy, and why did it look effective before the Vietnam War? Why did the strategy come to malfunction as the Vietnam War escalated?

The last speaker, Michael Callaghan Pisapia of the University of Wisconsin, Madison, presented his project, titled “Geography, Public Education and Social Justice in the United States.” He argued that state governments have always been central in the political development of American public education, although their orientation to the rural and urban parts of their states shifted over time; and, this shifting orientation altered the social status and political opportunities of different social groups.

The format of presentation session worked very well. After each presentation, many valuable comments and questions came from the other participants. The presenters were entitled to choose whichever questions and comments to which they would like to respond. We hope that all the graduate students will utilize this precious experience in their academic future.