

Comments for Tessa Morris-Suzuki

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My response to Prof. Tessa Morris-Suzuki's keynote address centered predominantly on the following two comments concerning the "Liquid Area Studies" research approach that she had proposed.

Firstly, I considered that the suggestion made by Prof. Morris-Suzuki that we could consider the formation and reformation of "areas" through a focus on the interactions of people in "flows" and "whirlpools" was extremely important for the symposium as a whole in its attempt to explore the possibilities for comparative Area Studies research concerning multi-lingual and multicultural situations. Holding Prof. Morris-Suzuki's proposal in high regard, I suggested that it might be necessary to focus on the interactions and relationships between the "flows" of the past and their "sediments" and new "flows" in the present.

Secondly, I believe that the proposals made in Prof. Morris-Suzuki's keynote address and her research and practical activities to date have been carried out, not from the perspective of the "permanent resident" at the "center", but from the position of an Area Studies researcher. In my comments I tried to develop Prof. Morris-Suzuki's argument in my own way and made the suggestion that developing the perspective of "the border-crosser" (*ekkyosha*) is an important faculty for the positionality researchers themselves who study "areas". I suggested that this might have the potential to become that which makes Area Studies researchers stand out in an age of globalization.

I would like to thank once again all the participants and others who responded with questions and opinions to my comments, beginning with Prof. Morris-Suzuki herself.