JCAS Next-Generation Workshop

Fraternization and Boundary: Feast, Drinking, Speech Act in East Eurasia

Abstract

The purpose of this workshop is to examine the transactions seen in the host-guest relations in a banquet and daily life in east Eurasia, regarding its geographical and cultural locations in between Russia and China.

Banquets have been examined as spaces represent the symbolic cosmology tied to the social structures, and also as places of exchange and redistribution of the fortunes on many ethnographies. Ethnographers also understood drinking or eating together as action that raise social consciousness. Recently, some studies are paying attention to more specific interactions or local models focusing on participants' behaviors, to make clear the values of the banquets or meaning of alcoholic drink itself in the local, individual contexts.

This workshop stands on these studies mentioned above and additionally pay attention to the concept of "hospitality" and "boundary" to discuss on the general arguments about transaction between host and guest in daily life in east Eurasian societies. In other words, this work shop delineate one of characteristics of the sociality of east Eurasian societies, regarding hospitality as a place to encounter the other. In that sense, the word "hospitality" is more meaningful than its primary understanding, warm reception. It includes encounters with various others not only invited pleasing guests, but also the visitor who is not invited, outsider or enemy. And over the world of hospitality, we can observe the first moment of the separation and connectivity with others, namely social boundary appears, the organizer think.

This workshop is based on a temporarily definition to name these meaningful world of hospitality as "fraternization", and examines the way of banquets or social lives through following arguments;

In east Eurasia, Mongolia and Turk societies are based on the same cultural background, nomadism in spite of the differences in attitudes of the banquet around drinking; former is supported by drunkenness by drinking, while later is forbidden as a general rule based on the Islamic norm. This workshop search the similarity of the base of fraternization or sociality in both societies (Sess. 1).

For thinking about the similarity and the differences in them, it also may be the key point that the same background that is so called acculturation with Russian culture through Soviet socialism. It is helpful too, to cultural or economical change of local banquet depends on the cultural or economical joining with the large country in the context of China (Sess. 2).

In east Eurasian nomadic societies that developed nonmaterial or verbal culture, it is important technique to express boundaries such as host/guest, relative/nonrelative, inside/outside or daily/non-daily spaces, through some speech act, or nonverbal transaction. It also constitutes the moment of fraternization (Sess. 3).

Program

12:50

Moe TERAO (Tokyo Metropolitan University) Explanation of the Aim of Workshop

13:00 Session 1 Contemporary Banquets in Mongolia and Turk Societies

Moe TERAO (Tokyo Metropolitan University)

"Banquets and Fraternization in Mongolia: In a Case of Host-Guest Transaction in Wedding Banquet"

Setsuko YOSHIDA (Shikoku Gakuin University)

"The Wedding Banquets of "A New Era": A Pilot Study of Intergenerational Changes in Rural Kyrgyzstan"

14:10 Session 2 Acculturation and Cultural Boundary Seen in Banquets

Naho IGAUE (Chuo University)

"The Use of Alcohol for Funerals and Memorial Ceremonies by Russian Old Believers in the Republic of Buryatia"

Tomohisa ABE (Tokyo Metropolitan University)

"Changing Entanglement of Ritual and Food in Hani, Yunnan, China"

15:20 Session 3 Boundaries and Conversation

Mizuki NAKAMURA (Tsukuba University) "Languages between Daily and Non-daily: The Case of Language Use in Uzbek Society"

Ayumi HOTTA (Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, Research Fellowship for Young Scientists [PD]) "A Ger as a Stage Setting for "Hospitality": The Case of Visiting Other's Ger in Mongolian Nomadic Society"

16:30 Comments

Akira SAKURAMA (Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, Research Fellowship for Young Scientists [PD]), Tetsuya MIURA (Ikuei Junior College), Mari KAZATO (Hokusei Gakuen University)

17:30 Discussion

18:30 Closing