

International Symposium

Community Survival and Historical Culture in the Era of Massive Disasters

Perspectives from Local Historical Materials Studies

Date March 2nd (Sat) - March 3rd (Sun), 2024

Venue Convention Hall, Integrated Research Center of Kobe University
(7-1-48 Minatojima-minami-machi, Chuo-ku, Kobe, Japan)

The Symposium will be held in a hybrid format (on-site + zoom).
Japanese-English simultaneous interpretation is available.

March 2nd (Saturday)

13:00–13:10

Opening Remarks & Purpose

OKUMURA Hiroshi (Executive Vice President, Kobe University)

13:10–14:10

Local Archives as Cultural Heritage: Current European Practices and Challenges

Gábor Sonkoly (Eötvös Loránd University)

14:10–15:05

Civic Society Formation and Local Historical Materials Studies: Practical Research Projects during Major Natural Disasters in Japan

OKUMURA Hiroshi

15:20–15:40

Symbol of Recovery from the Torrential Rain in Western Japan: New Trends in the Inheritance of Local Historical Heritage

EBESU Hikaru (Ehime University)

15:40–16:00

Current Trends and Possibilities for the Succession of Local Materials

AMANO Masashi (National Museum of Japanese History)

16:00–16:40

Disasters and human life: New developments in research on disaster and local history

IMAZU Katsunori (Okayama University)

16:50–17:50 Discussion

Moderator MATSUSHITA Masakazu (Kobe University)

18:00 Networking Event

(Participation fee : ¥ 6000)

March 3rd (Sunday)

10:00–10:45

The Imperative of Utilizing Digital: Harnessing Information Technology for the Preservation of Historical Resources and Envisioning Its Future

GOTO Makoto (National Museum of Japanese History)

10:45–11:45

Digital Public History: The Challenges of Real-Time History in Times of Crises

Andreas Fickers (Director of C2DH, The University of Luxembourg)

11:45–12:15

Emergency Report: The 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake Cultural Heritage Rescue

KOZUMA Yosei (Director of Cultural Heritage Disaster Risk Management Center)

13:15–15:00 General Discussion

Moderator MIMURA Shoji (National Defence Academy)

Closing Remarks IMAZU Katsunori

Registration (Registration fee : Free)

Please send an e-mail to the Symposium Secretariat.

Please indicate in your e-mail whether you would like to participate online or on site.

【E-mail : kato-akie@people.kobe-u.ac.jp】

Symposium organizer

JSPS Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research Specially Promoted Research
“From Local Historical Material Studies to Regional Historical Culture: Creation of a New Research Field for Resilient Local Communities in a Country of Natural Disasters” Group (PI: OKUMURA Hiroshi, Graduate School of Humanities, Kobe University)

PURPOSE

Our society is facing continuous massive natural disasters. Earthquakes, tsunamis, windstorms, floods, and volcanic eruptions; they have dramatically increased since 2000, causing extensive damage globally, one of the most recent examples being the Noto Peninsula Earthquake on 1st January this year. Now, in the era of great natural disasters, the inheritance of local history and culture, a vital part of resilient communities, is in a crisis.

Since the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake (1995), practical research on preserving and inheriting disaster history materials has accumulated. Within this context, researchers established Local Historical Materials Studies (LHMS) as a new research domain targeting the entire process in which community residents and researchers collaboratively study the history and culture of their community and the historical materials involved. The JSPS Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research Special Promotion Research, "Creation of Regional Historical Culture for Regional Continuity in a Disaster-Afflicted Archipelago Centered on Regional Historical Materials Studies", has delved further into LHMS, studying the history of local communities, including disaster history from ancient times to the present, by sharing research findings beyond historiography among the members. Furthermore, researchers and residents themselves have advanced the local historical materials (LHM) data infrastructure construction that enables access to and utilization of the materials, exploring the LHM digitalization and its utilization.

The roles and challenges of the inheritance and utilization of local historical culture by residents and researchers share commonalities with those in Europe. A roundtable at the International Congress of Historical Sciences in August 2022 showed that practical research in LHMS and historical culture is on the same track as global research trends.

Now we can see new developments in disaster history materials preservation activities led by the locals, in

large-scale community records compilation projects, and in historical materials network movements in municipalities. Researchers have progressed practical research on such themes, discussing the significance and challenges of such new activities with a focus on individual regions, but there is a need to ask broader questions while comparing them with global cases.

In this symposium, Prof. Sonkoly Gábor, who has engaged in European cultural heritage preservation policies, will discuss current European projects for local historical/cultural heritage. Next, building on research and practices thus far, Prof. OKUMURA Hiroshi will comprehensively report how local history/culture and LHMS contribute to consolidating local communities in Japan. Meanwhile, researchers and residents' preservation and inheritance of historical materials have progressed in various ways. Prof. EBESU Hikaru will report on case studies on water-damaged materials rescue activities by historical materials networks. Prof. AMANO Masashi will report on new methods for treating damaged materials. Prof. IMAZU Katsunori will discuss presenting a historical image closely tied to disaster resilience and incorporating disaster culture, the primary agents of which are communities and their residents.

Research and projects regarding LHM inheritance have much to do with Public History. Thus, we need to discuss how Japanese historiography influences the public in the context of global research trends on Public History. Digitalization made LHM accessible to everyone or any research. What does this mean for the communities concerned and others? Prof. GOTO Makoto will report on *khirin*, the LHM data infrastructure, describing its operation and relation with the locals. Prof. Andreas Fickers will report on the current practices and challenges of local history in the digital age.

We aim to share the outcomes and challenges of the local historical culture creation and engage in lively discussions.