



The current state and future agenda of South Asian Studies in Japan

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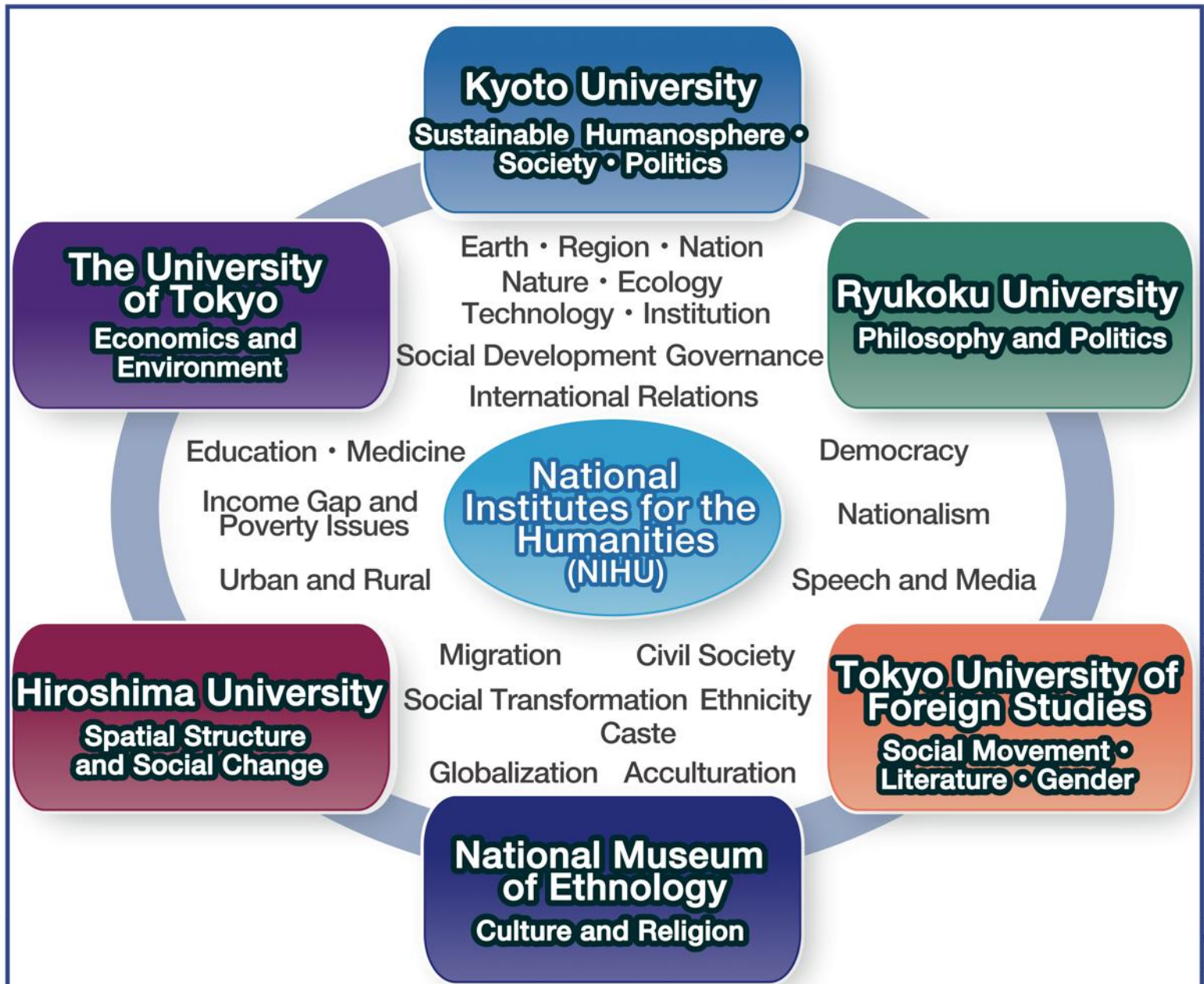


1. The current state of South Asian Studies in Japan

- Strong tradition of Buddhist studies and Indology. Historical and contemporary study of India began in the early 20th century. Recent rise in interest about India/South Asia from political and economic points of view.
- The Japanese Association of South Asian Studies was established in 1987. It now has more than 500 members.
- The 'India Area Studies' (INDAS) Project was launched in 2010. It has six centres. There are currently eight posts for postdoctoral fellows.



2. INDAS Project





3. Outcomes of INDAS

- Six volumes of the *Contemporary India series* (in Japanese) have been published by the University of Tokyo Press.



1. The Challenges of
a Diverse Society



2. The Urban-Rural
Nexus in Transition



3. Deepening Democracy



3. Outcomes of INDAS

- Six volumes of the *Contemporary India series* (in Japanese) have been published by the University of Tokyo Press.



4. The Emergence
of New Economic Spaces



5. Voices from the Margins

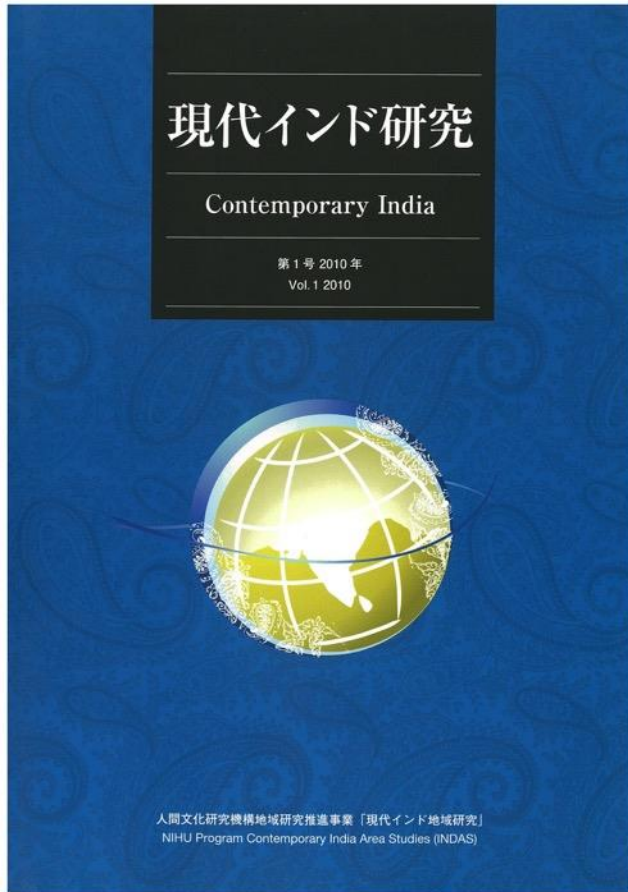


6. The Global Circulation
of Culture and Religion



3. Outcomes of INDAS

- Five volumes of the journal, *Contemporary India*



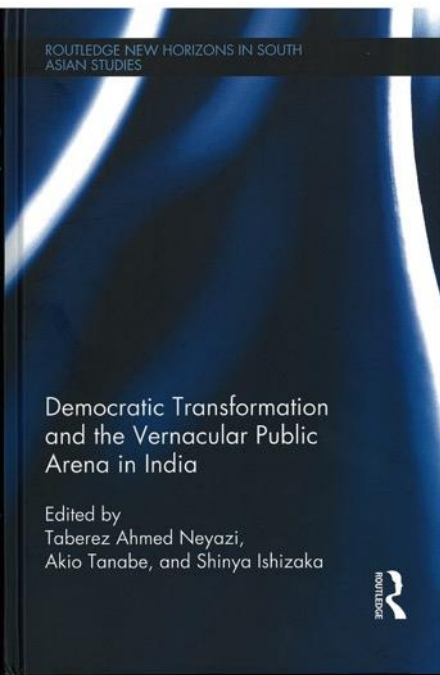
Special Feature

- Vol.1. The Era of 'Growth': Transforming India and South Asia
- Vol.2. Violence and its Resolution
- Vol.3. Indian International Relations
- Vol.4. A Comparative Study of Contemporary India
- Vol.5. Where is Democracy Going?



3. Outcomes of INDAS

- Launched the *New Horizons in South Asian Studies* series, published by Routledge (London)
- Series Editors: Crispin Bates, Akio Tanabe and Minoru Mio



Vol. 1. *Democratic Transformation and the Vernacular Public Arena in India*, edited by Taberez A. Neyazi, Akio Tanabe and Shinya Ishizaka (published in 2014)

Vol. 2. *The City in South Asia*, edited by Minoru Mio and Crispin Bates (in print)

Vol. 3. *Human and International Security in India*, edited by Crispin Bates, Akio Tanabe and Minoru Mio (contracted)

Vol. 4. *Actualities of Indian Economic Growth at the Rural-Urban Crossroads*, edited by Tsukasa Mizushima and Hidenori Okahashi (in preparation)

Vol. 5. *Looking beyond the State: Changing Forms of Inclusion and Exclusion in India*, edited by Minoru Mio and Abhijit Dasgupta (in preparation)

With many other volumes to follow



3. Outcomes of INDAS

- Most importantly, there has been a rise in the number of young scholars specialising in South Asian Studies in Japan.
- 20 PhDs (as of April 2014) have been awarded to researchers/students associated with INDAS
- Out of 16 INDAS researchers, 11 were successful in securing academic jobs and 9 of these were tenured posts.
- 15 academic prizes were won by INDAS researchers/ students



4. Research at KINDAS (Kyoto University)

- Three Research Groups
 - 1) The potential for a humanosphere-sustainable path to development in contemporary India
 - 2) Indian society as a multicultural world
 - 3) Globalising Indian politics



5. Features of KINDAS

- 1) The Graduate School of Asian and African Area Studies has a Department of South Asian Area Studies. It is the only department in Japan to specialise in South Asian Studies.
- 2) KINDAS has attempted an interdisciplinary longterm study of India/South Asia.



6. Problems

- 1) The collection of materials/resources on South Asian Studies is left to individual institutions and there is no systematic collection at the national level.
- 2) Researchers are burdened with too many administrative duties. Since administrative staff do not have a good command of English, the administrative burden on researchers will increase if the organisation becomes more global. There are attempts to increase the number of Research Administrators with PhDs but it remains insufficient.
- 3) International liaisons exist only at the individual level. They need to be properly organised.



7. Questions

- 1) Do you have professionally qualified Research Administrators and Librarians? If so, how do they acquire training?
- 2) What is the status and position of Area Studies in your country?
- 3) Are there attempts to establish interdisciplinary studies in the social sciences and humanities? If so, in which fields and topics? Does Area Studies feature in these interdisciplinary attempts?