

明治大学外国人研究者招聘制度 報告書

<招聘教授・研究員の情報 / Guest Professor・Guest Scholar>

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Name	
所属機関(派遣元)	University of Gothenburg / Stockholm University of the Arts
Affiliation (Home Organization)	
現在の職名	Assistant professor at Stockholm University of the Arts, Lecturer at University of Gothenburg
Position	
研究期間	2024 June 28th - 2024 July 31st
Period of Stay	
専攻	Dance Studies
Field of Research	
ホスト教員氏名と所属学部研究科等	Maki Hirayama, School of Arts and Letters
Name of host teacher and affiliation at Meiji University	

<外国人研究者からの報告 / Foreign Researcher Report>

①研究課題 / Research Theme
Suriashi and pilgrimage: Japanese traditional behavior and its decontextualized potential in other societies
②研究概要 / Outline of Research
My research activities circulated around recent research on walking and pilgrimage, combining my PhD research on the Japanese walking step suriashi with contemporary and historical research. Connecting with studies on the Olympics, I performed suriashi in an almost empty Stadion in Tokyo, which was documented on video. I brought the video of my action to my three different lectures at Meiji University. I met BA and postgraduate students of Sociology of the Body and Gender, and History of Japanese theatre. They were mainly Japanese students at Meiji University. A professional Butoh artist also came to my lecture. I explained how my research expands on suriashi as performed in Japanese performing and martial arts, and what happens when transferred to urban and other spaces. On stage, suriashi often represents pilgrimage and travelling, both geographical and mental journeys. I offered workshops in suriashi on the two different campus. My PhD research on suriashi in urban and other spaces also means moving suriashi, usually practiced indoors where nobody sees it, out to the city and to the society. My research has shown that suriashi can act as a peaceful comment to contemporary society, and works as a relevant practice to calm down spaces and environments as we practice. At Meiji Uni, Morita Reiko, a professional Isadora Duncan-interpreter (70 years old) came to one of the workshops. She explained how 'she experienced her sleeping soul was being resurrected, and the images of her two deceased dance masters appeared'. She was very moved by the experience from practicing suriashi. I also had writing and research meetings with the inviting Professor Hirayama Maki, who is a Professor of Sociology, as well as a Noh theatre practitioner. We met to discuss writing with departure from our research interests, and we went to see the Noh play Tohru with Kanze school. We found something really extraordinary, a common interest in the theories by Tsurumi Kazuko. Tsurumi sensei was the mentor of my Japanese dance teacher Nishikawa Senrei. On the memorial of Tsurumi Kazuko, Nishikawa Senrei performed several pieces to honour her mentor – one of them was Shizu no Odamaki about Shirabyoshi Shizuka Gozen's peaceful resistance to the Kamakura governate in 1185. This piece was also the last piece Nishikawa Senrei taught me. The complex entanglement of this research narrative – showing the roots and connections of the relations between artists, teachers, mentors and research suits posthumanist theories, and theories of new materialism. (Braidotti, Barad et al) However, it is also the main theory of Tsurumi Kazuko. Therefore, we decided to include this background in our writing. I visited Ise, since this is the birth of Shinto. I recorded video, and visited the main shrines. In addition, I went to Nishida Kitaro Museum of Philosophy, by Ando Tadao, and recorded a video there. I also investigated Japan's ancient pilgrimage traditions through EventRights activities around Kumano Kodo (south of Kyoto), and found how this trail instead had become an athletic trail where mostly non Japanese tourists ran from stamp to stamp dressed in lycra. I instead followed the historical accounts of each oji, sang the Heart sutra, performed a response to the forest and the ancient stories. In the onsen towns, I performed in the water also as a way to connect with spaces as an artistic researcher rather than as a stamp collector. I followed the river a full day in heavy rain without chasing the correct stamps. This was more rewarding, and felt more like a pilgrimage than a running trail. I thus combined an extended interpretation of what 'pilgrimage' has been represented (religious purposes) and what it represents now (walk for sustainable lifestyles), following a critical and creative interpretation of 'pilgrimage'. I also examined pilgrimage in terms of gender, finding a new interest from young Japanese women walking with smaller, light weight backpacks. To my surprise, I met many Japanese women who were impressed I had walked the Kumanokodo, since it is such a difficult trail with steps over knee-high. They confirmed it is known as a very athletic trail, and they usually do not walk the whole trail. They instead go by bus or car to encounter the important three shrines of Kumanokodo. Using the 2020 Tokyo Olympics as a lens into the city and Japanese culture as a whole, I now will continue to ask, together with Professor Hirayama Maki, how a slow suriashi could be important while examining the role of high-performing sports in Japanese and other societies.
③招聘期間中の研究活動の実績 / The research results as Guest Professor・Guest Scholar
Part of the postdoc journey resulted in new video by me and artist Anna Viola Hallberg from the Kumanokodo pilgrimage, which was presented in a Performance Philosophy Panel at World Congress of Philosophy in Rome, Aug 2024. This video will be further elaborated for an exhibition in Stockholm in April, as well as Spain in October 2025. I also showed part of the Kumanokodo experience in my presentation to the Japanese Philosophy Association in Rome. The next Philosophy congress will be arranged by University of Tokyo, so this research path will continue. Professor Hirayama Maki and Dr Ami Skånberg are writing a text on the Olympics, through the practice of slow suriashi, while situating Kazuko Tsurumi's work within 'endogenous knowledge'. It will be published in the Meiji University School of Sociopsychology Journal, June 2025.

