The 13th Annual Conference of British History
The 5th Japanese-Korean Conference of British History

Multiculturalism and Racial Problems in Twentieth Century Britain

The 5th Japanese-Korean Conference of British History takes place on 20-21 June 2013 under the theme Multiculturalism and Racial Problems in Twentieth Century Britain. The issue of racism in Britain has been the subject of countless works of research in conjunction with studies on British imperialism. The question of the superiority of certain races, used as a pretext to justify the imperialistic advances of the Western powers under the banner of social darwinism, has always attracted the interest of numerous scholars throughout the modern age. The issue of multiculturalism too has garnered much attention as an important social theme, particularly as successive British governments had begun to accept large numbers of non-white immigrants into the country since the end of the Second World War.

However, the issue started to take a more serious character as Britain’s economic situation rapidly deteriorated from the 1970s onwards. Despite various efforts by the British government and society to remedy the tensions between the existing residents and the new immigrant class, social problems continued to escalate which at times have even led to sporadic riots in some parts of Britain. Studies on such predicaments of multiculturalism have been mainly carried out in a cultural context, and only very recently have attempts been made in Europe to analyse the issue in connection with the subject of racism. In other words, this issue is regarded as a ‘very recent topic’ which is being closely studied by contemporary Western observers due to its relevance with the social and moral dilemmas of today’s Britain.

Of course, it goes without saying that here in Asia research on multiculturalism has been dealt with not only in the field in history but also in the areas of sociology and women’s studies. Whilst these conventional studies have not been without meaningful results, the research has mainly tended to focus on theory and methodology. As of now there has been almost no attempt to analyse this topic in a historical context with exclusive focus on an individual country. Britain, with its historical ‘baggage’ of imperial rule that stretched over the entire globe, has particularly been beset with problems of racism, immigration and the resulting plights of multiculturalism. As such, efforts made by Britain to solve these difficulties are of considerable value for study and analysis, but there is still a serious lack of academic examination on the matter. By holding this Conference on the theme of multiculturalism in 20th century Britain, it is hoped that this insufficiency of academic research will be remedied and that attention will be given to preparing appropriate measures to deal with the approaching phenomenon of multiculturalism in Asia.

This Conference is supported by Silla University and the National Research Foundation of Korea Grant funded by the Korean Government.

Members of the Conference Organising Committee

Professor Myoung Hwan Kim (Silla University) – Organiser, Korea
Professor Hirokazu Tsurushima (Kumamoto University) – Organiser, Japan
Professor Shigeru Akita (Osaka University)
Professor Taro Inai (Hiroshima University)
Conference Programme

Thursday 20th June

Airport Pick-Up (14:00)
All arriving guests will be escorted to the hotel for check-in.
Hotel Address: Toyoko Inn Seomyeon, Busanjin-gu Jeonpo-dong 666-8, Busan, Korea

Welcome Reception (19:00-21:00)
Dinner Venue: Sigol Bapsang - Korean restaurant close to the Lotte Hotel Seomyeon
After-dinner Drinks Venue: Culture in Posh Nosh - Italian restaurant in central Seomyeon

Friday 21st June

Venue: Room 101, Gong Hak Gwan (College of Engineering), Silla University

Opening Address (09:00-09:10)
Myoung Hwan Kim (Professor, Silla University)

Welcome Speech (09:10-09:20)
Tae Hak Park (President, Silla University)

Keynote Speech (09:20-10:00)
Toshio Kusamitsu (Professor, The Open University of Japan)
“The Origins of Multiculturalism: Enlightenment and Race”

*40 minutes for each presentation: Reading (25mins) + Discussion (15mins)

I. Multiracialism and Social Conflicts (10:10-12:10)
Chair: Woon Ok Yeom (Research Fellow, Korea University)

Yumiko Hamai (Associate Professor, Hokkaido University)
“Fenner Brockway’s Anti-Discrimination Bills and Struggle for Anti-racism”
- Discussant: Dae Ryoon Kim (Senior Researcher, Seoul National University)

Young Joo Jung (Senior Lecturer, Pusan National University)
“Mutual Racism of the Racialized Ethnic Minorities in Britain: 2005 Birmingham Race Riots”
- Discussant: Nobuko Okuda (Professor, Nagoya City University)

Kentaro Saito (Associate Professor, Kyoto Sangyo University)
“The August Riot of 2011 and the Social Exclusion - Was it ‘Chavs’ Spring’?”
- Discussant: Heera Chung (Research Professor, Kyung Hee University)

Lunch (12:10-13:30) - at the invitation of the President of Silla University
II. Labour and Women in Multiracialism (13:30-15:30)
Chair: Hirokazu Tsurushima (Professor, Kumamoto University)

Mark J. Crowley (Associate Professor, Wuhan University, China)
"The 'Alien' employment problem: Finding work for refugees in Britain, 1930-1945"
- Discussant: Shigeru Akita (Professor, Osaka University)

Nobuko Okuda (Professor, Nagoya City University)
“Foreign workers or Minority Youth - Employment Policies of the British Government in the late 1970s and the early 1980s”
- Discussant: Tae Joon Won (Research Fellow, Korea University)

Hiromi Mizokami (Senior Lecturer, Shigakukan University)
“Women at Home with the Declining Empire - Women’s Institutes and ‘Others’ after the Second World War”
- Discussant: Nam Hee Lee (Senior Researcher, Seoul National University)

Break (15:30-15:50)

III. British Empire, Europe and Cultural Crossroads (15:50-17:50)
Chair: Suk Min Hong (Professor, Yonsei University)

Jyunko Nakagawa (Associate Professor, Kumamoto University)
“Naturalization and the Otherness in Early Modern England”
- Discussant: Joong Lak Kim (Professor, Kyungpook National University)

Takeshi Sakade (Associate Professor, Kyoto University)
“Perfidious Albion: the British Aircraft Industry and the End of British Empire, 1943-78”
- Discussant: Hyun Soo Kim (Professor, Dankook University)

Yong Min Kim (Lecturer, Hankook University of Foreign Studies)
“History and Influence of Euroscepticism in English Politics”
- Discussant: Taro Inai (Professor, Hiroshima University)

Closing Remarks (17:50-18:00)
Shigeru Akita (Professor, Osaka University)
Nae Joo Lee (Professor, Korea Military Academy)

Dinner (19:00-22:00)
Venue: Rama & Bavana - Indian & Ethnic restaurant in central Seomyeon
After-Dinner Drinks Venue: Manner Jewel - Korean music restaurant in central Seomyeon

Saturday 22nd June

Optional Tour (09:00-15:00)
Includes visits to Haewoondae Beach, Dongbaek Island, Nurimaru, Yong Goong Temple

Campus Map of Silla University
(Conference Venue is the building marked by the circle)

View of Gong Hak Gwan (College of Engineering) – Building with Glass Tower