

Besides the vivid academic discussions during the panels, the conference's evening events allowed for personal exchanges of experience in this highly complex and multifaceted research field. The Vienna Taipei Economic and Cultural Office sponsored a conference dinner and the meeting's program was completed by the showing of two related films: Max Ophüls' *Letter from an Unknown Woman* (1948) and Xu Jinglei's *Yi ge mosheng nüren de lai xin* 一個陌生女人的來信 (2004), both based on Stefan Zweig's novella of the same name. An opening lecture on "Post-Chinese Visions in Taiwan Film" was given by Hsien-Hao Sebastian Liao (National Taiwan University) as part of the Vienna Taiwan Lecture Series which preceded the conference.

For more information on the Vienna Taiwan Studies Center, including the complete conference program, see <http://tsc.univie.ac.at>.

Astrid Lipinsky and Martin Mandl

Trust and Risk in Changing Societies. 13th Meeting of the German–Japanese Society for Social Sciences (GJSSS)

German Institute for Japanese Studies (DIJ), Tokyo, October 8–10, 2015

The 13th Meeting of the GJSSS focused on "Trust and Risk in Changing Societies" to address that Japan and Germany, like other European and Asian societies, are currently experiencing extensive social, economic and cultural changes.

The conference was organized in cooperation with the German Institute for Japanese Studies (DIJ), Tokyo.

Participants were young and senior scientists from various countries, including Japan, Germany, Israel, the USA, the Republic of Korea, Belgium, and Australia, representing psychology, sociology and political science, thereby adopting an international and interdisciplinary perspective.

The director of the DIJ, Franz Waldenberger, opened the conference and forum and addressed the topic's societal relevance and its close relation to a current research project of the DIJ, "Risk and Opportunities in Japan — Challenges in the Face of an Increasingly Uncertain Future".

In her opening address, the president of the society, Gisela Trommsdorff (Univ. of Konstanz), highlighted the long-standing scientific cooperation of Germany and Japan, indicated by the 25 years of history of the GJSSS and the 20th anniversary of the JSPS Club.

The first keynote speaker, Toshio Yamagishi (Hitotsubashi Univ.), focused on the topic of trust and cultural differences in the formation and construction of trust from a psychological perspective.

The second keynote speaker, Jens Zinn (Univ. of Melbourne), focused on the topic of risk and addressed the social, economic, natural and technological challenges modern societies are facing from a sociological perspective.

On the subsequent day, the meeting was opened by greetings of G. Trommsdorff (president of GJSSS), Makoto Kobayashi (Tamagawa Univ., Chief Organizer of the meeting), Robert von Rimscha (Cultural Affairs and Communications, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, Tokyo), Heinrich Menkhaus (Meiji Univ., Chair of the German JSPS Club), and Wieland Eins (German Academic Exchange Service [DAAD], Tokyo Office).

Session 1 on “Risk and Trust in Contemporary Society” started with a presentation by Hans-Joachim Kornadt (Univ. of the Saar) on social trust in various societies, followed by a presentation by Yukiko Uchida (Univ. of Kyoto) on the construction of happiness and social capital in Japan. Hirofumi Utsumi (Otemon Gakuin Univ.) talked about risk-ization of danger and globalization. Finally, Paul G. Schmitz (Univ. of Bonn) presented research on individual differences in the perception of trust and risk in changing societies.

Session 2 on “Individualization and Risk in Changing Societies” was opened by Ulrich Teichler (Univ. of Kassel) with a talk on the academic profession in Japan as seen by Japanese and foreign scholars. Munenori Suzuki (Hosei Univ.) presented a comparative study on individualization as governing through division. Yuji Ogihara (Kyoto Univ.) discussed the individualization of culture as a risk for social isolation. Tim Tiefenbach (DIJ) focused on the influence of trust on worries about solitary death. Carola Hommerich (Hokkaido Univ.) discussed the impact of neoliberal changes on social solidarity in Japan, Germany, Sweden, and the United States.

In the poster session, works on different aspects of trust and risk in Japan and Germany were presented by Kazuhiko Shibuya (ROIS), Kimiaki Yamazaki (Gifu Univ.), Wilfried Wunderlich (Tokai Univ.), Yasuo Yamamoto (Yokohama National Univ.), and Yuichiro Minami (Kwansei Gakuin Univ.).

Session 3 on “Energy Risk and Disaster Prevention in Modern Context” was opened by Tarek Katramiz (Keio Univ.), who discussed perceived risks by local residents of a nuclear power plant site in Japan. Shigeki Sato (Hosei Univ.) focused on the German nuclear phase-out as a consequence of shifting risk perception of nuclear energy after Fukushima. Tine Walravens (Ghent Univ.) discussed self-responsibility and the individualization of food safety risk in Japan. Yoshinori Nishijima (Kanazawa Univ.) and Kyoko Arai (Toyo Univ.) presented an analysis of expressions of disaster prevention in Japan and Germany. Ksenia Kurochkina (Waseda Univ.) discussed self-sufficient food production as risk avoidance in the Japanese countryside.

Session 4 on “Cooperation, Uncertainty and Trust” opened with a presentation by Friedrich Fürstenberg (Univ. of Bonn) on the perception and management of uncertainty in Germany and Japan. Masato Kimura (Takachiho Univ.) discussed scenarios for giving up the death penalty in Japan. Angela Dorrough (MPI) presented an investigation of cross-societal cooperation and discrimination in Germany, India, Israel, Japan, Mexico, and the USA. Shintaro Fukushima (Kyoto Univ.) focused on the associations of community resource management with trust in rural areas in Japan. Nobuyuki Jincho (Waseda Univ.) presented an eye-tracking study on developmental changes in effects of spacing on reading Japanese text.

Session 5 on “Education and Identity Development in Risk and Trust” started with a presentation by Laura Froehlich (Univ. of Hagen) on negative stereotypes as a risk for academic underperformance. M. Kobayashi (Tamagawa Univ.) informed about an UNESCO-associated schools project to develop global citizenship identity. Steve Entrich (Univ. of Potsdam) discussed the impact of reforms on educational decision-making in Germany and Japan.

Session 6 on “Psychological Well-Being and Risk Management” started with a presentation of Yu-Hyun Song (Univ. of Michigan) and Seong-Yeon Park (Ewha Womans Univ.) on the relation of collectivistic values and the satisfaction of needs for autonomy and relatedness and its influence on the well-being of Korean adolescents. Tobias Soeldner (DIJ) discussed autonomy and deviation from value norms as risk factors for well-being in Germany, Japan, and the USA. Rachel Seginer (Univ. of Haifa) discussed how future orientation links interpersonal trust and personal coping among at-risk adolescents in Israel.

Session 7 on “Risk and Trust from Socio-Political Perspectives” started with a presentation by Hiroshi Murakami (Ritsumeikan Univ.) on conservative dominance, populism and democracy in Japan. Shigekazu Kusune (Kanazawa Univ.) discussed whether mass media mitigate international conflicts. Takashi Namba (Osaka Univ. of Economics) talked about the role of local governments and the US military bases in Okinawa, and Yuichiro Minami (Kwansei Gakuin Univ.) focused on its historical aspects. Kazue Haga (DIJ) presented a case study on sustainable regional economy and entrepreneurship.

In the Concluding Session, G. Trommsdorff commented on the various perspectives of the presentations and discussed the relations between risk and trust by focusing on problems in the social sciences.

In addition to fruitful discussions during the formal meetings, informal discussions were encouraged by the friendly atmosphere and hospitality provided by the DIJ and at the conference dinner. The organizing team consisted of M. Kobayashi, G. Trommsdorff and C. Hommerich.

More information about the conference as well as the GJSSS is available at: <http://www.psychologie.uni-konstanz.de/en/trommsdorff/german-japanese-society-for-social-sciences-gjsss/>.

Laura Froehlich

Mongolian–German Dialogue on International Relations and Security in East and Central Asia

Ulaanbaatar, September 21–22, 2015

This track II conference — the first of its kind — was organized by the Mongolian Institute of Strategic Studies (ISS) and the GIGA German Institute of Global and Area Studies in cooperation with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES). The participants were welcomed by Stefan Chrobot, the local representative of the FES, D. Ganbat, the director of the ISS, Patrick Köllner, the director of the GIGA Institute of Asian Studies, and Gerhard Thiedemann, the German ambassador to Mongolia. The conference was attended by around 60 Mongolian and Mongolia-based academics, think tankers, diplomats, ministry officials, senior officers, and civil society representatives.

Since the 1990 transition to democracy, Mongolian foreign policy has aimed to balance between its two powerful neighbors, as highlighted in the presentation on “The Trilateral Relationship between Mongolia, Russia, and China” by Ch. Narantuya (ISS), and the complementary talk on “Russia’s Foreign Policy and Asia” by G. Bazarvaani (ISS). Russia and China perceive Mongolia as an arena for competition and a buffer state. Russia has shown increased interest in promoting links with Asian countries for some years now — a development that received further impetus more recently due to the strained relations with Western nations in the wake of the Crimean crisis. In contrast, Mongolian participants noted the positive attitudes held by many Mongolians vis-à-vis Russia given the country’s role in Mongolian development and independence.

The presentation by Sebastian Harnisch (Heidelberg Univ.) on “The US Pivot to Asia and its Unintended Consequences” and the talk by L. Byambakhand (ISS) on “The Role of the Great Powers in the Security Structures of East Asia: The US Rebalancing Policy” addressed the regional consequences of the shift in US foreign policy from the Middle East to Asia. Some