Smithsonian Institute, USA, and Amida stongan by the A:shiwi A:wan Museum and Heritage Center, USA.

This workshop was held jointly by two Minpaku Core Research Projects ‘Practical Research on the Collection, Conservation, and Documentation of Ethnological Materials’ and ‘Anthropology of Cultural Heritage’, and one Minpaku joint research project ‘A Study of Relationship-building Using Ethnological Materials’. The members of these three projects, from Minpaku and elsewhere, enjoyed constructive discussions of a framework for the Info-Forum Museum project.

Atsunori Ito
Convenor
National Museum of Ethnology

Development and Social Change of Prehispanic Societies in South Coast of Peru

International Symposium
February 16, 2014

Recently, the Peruvian South Coast has hosted several archaeological investigations of Nasca society — famous for their lines and geoglyphs. With increasing clarity we can see how social processes of the south coast differ greatly from the north. The south coast is environmentally heterogeneous and divided by rivers that discharge into the Pacific Ocean. ‘Nasca society’ refers only to societies of the Nasca Period (100-600 AD), but other societies emerged earlier and developed through mutual interactions. Based on latest results, this symposium aimed to synthesize our current knowledge of the prehispanic south coast, focusing on interregional interactions and power constellations.

After opening remarks by Yuji Seki (convenor, Minpaku) and Masato Sakai (Yamagata University), the speakers were introduced. Christina Conlee (Texas State University, USA) presented ‘Power transformations and society in Nasca: A South Basin perspective’ based on her excavations in La Tiza. Her discussion focused on diachronic transitions in power and social-economy. Markus Reindel (German Archaeological Institute, KAAK) presented ‘Paracas in Palpa: The power foundations of Nasca culture’, emphasizing the importance of Paracas society (500-200 BC) in the Palpa Valley, as shown by intensive surveys and excavations. Kevin Vaughn (Purdue University, USA) presented ‘Pilgrimage and power in early Nasca’ based on his Ica Valley survey. He focused on pottery production and the nature of Cahuachi as a pilgrimage center. Yuichi Matsumoto (Yamagata University) presented ‘Paracas in the highlands: A perspective from Campanayuq Rumi’, discussing the Formative Period (1000-500 BC) through his southern highlands data.

Sakai presented ‘Landscape and societies in the Rio Grande de Nasca basin’. He discussed the cultural landscape of the region at different times, focusing on human activities at lines, geoglyphs and the basin center point. A concluding debate on prehistoric society of the South Coast of Peru was chaired by Seki, and covered several issues in a synthetic manner: chronology, subsistence, climate change, pilgrimage, and others.

This symposium was sponsored by the project ‘Reconstructing the Andean Civilization Studies from the Perspectives of the Formation and the Change of Power’ (Project Leader: Yuji Seki) (JSPS Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (S), No. 23222003).

Atsushi Yamamoto
Participant
National Museum of Ethnology

Social Movements and the Production of Knowledge: Politics, Identity and Social Change in East Asia

International Symposium
February 22 – 23, 2014

The symposium was organized as a part of a Minpaku Core Research Project ‘The Anthropology of Care and Education for Life’, with support of the Japanese Society of Cultural Anthropology. Our aim was to discuss the potential of ethnographic approaches to study social movements and the role of knowledge production in those movements in East Asia.

Research on new social movements has flourished in many parts of the world since the mid-1990s. Although culture or identity has been one of the main concerns within this field, anthropologists have not played a prominent role in the theoretical and methodological debates. Eleven anthropologists working on or engaged with social movements in South Korea, Taiwan and Japan...