

Daiwa Foundation Award 2017/18

Establishing a new Criminology Research Partnership between Ryukoku University and Cardiff University

Interim Report

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Project Background

In Japan and the UK, similarities and differences in crime and its control, as well as the state of criminological knowledge, present valuable opportunities to enhance cross-cultural research and learning. However, there are very few Anglo-Japanese criminology institutional partnerships in existence with little Anglo-Japanese comparative research being undertaken.

Indeed, only recently has criminology emerged as a distinct academic discipline in Japan, and the creation of Ryukoku University's Criminology Research Center (CrimRC) in 2016 marks the first dedicated institute for the study of crime and its control. In the UK, criminology has a more established history, with undergraduate and postgraduate criminology programmes becoming increasingly popular. At Cardiff University, the School of Social Sciences has an international reputation in theoretically-informed and policy-relevant research, and has two renowned research institutes: the Crime and Security Research Institute, and the Universities' Police Science Institute.

Set within this context, Dr. David Brewster (Ryukoku University) and Professor Trevor Jones (Cardiff University) were awarded a Grant from the Daiwa Foundation in November 2017. The purpose of the project is to establish a new criminology partnership between Ryukoku University's Criminology Research Center and Cardiff University's Criminology Department in the School of Social Sciences. The aims are to showcase the research of UK and Japanese scholars and enhance opportunities for cross-cultural research and learning.



Standing outside of 'The Clink' restaurant at HMP Cardiff. From left to right: Prof. Ishizuka (Ryukoku), Dr. Brewster (Ryukoku), Prof. Hughes (Cardiff), Dr. Edwards (Cardiff), Prof. Jones (Cardiff), Prof. Levi (Cardiff).

The project involves two 1-week institutional visits, with each trip containing a number of activities. This interim report provides an update of the first trip that occurred in March 2018, where three CrimRC scholars – Dr. David Brewster, Professor Shinichi Ishizuka, and Associate Professor Akiko Kogawara – visited Cardiff University.

Visit Activities

The visit of CrimRC scholars to Cardiff University involved a series of activities to meet the stated aims of the project. This included: an introduction and meeting with the Head of the School of Social Sciences; attendance and engagement at one of the Cardiff Centre for Crime, Law and Justice's (CCLJ) seminars; a guided visit around a prison; a specially-organised research symposium; a strategic planning meeting; and various social activities.

After reaching Cardiff and settling in, the three CrimRC scholars met with the Head of the School of Social Sciences, Dr Tom Hall. In that meeting, Dr Hall cordially welcomed the scholars and there was a mutual expression of enthusiasm about the Daiwa Project and for creating a new bond between the two institutions. From here, the scholars proceeded to take a tour of the University and its facilities.

As part of the School of Social Sciences' efforts to discuss and share ongoing research that is being conducted by academics from both within Cardiff University and from external universities, the Centre for Crime, Law and Justice holds a monthly seminar series.

The CrimRC scholars attended one such event and engaged in

an interesting presentation by Diyana Dobрева and Daniel Grinnell on the topic of 'social media responses to the murder of the MP Jo Cox', as well as one by Mike Coliandris on the topic of 'the emergence of drones in contemporary policing in England & Wales'. Following the CCLJ seminar, Cardiff and Ryukoku scholars enjoyed some social time and post-seminar discussions together in a more relaxed and informal environment.



Prof. Kogawara and Prof. Ishizuka standing in the entranceway of the Glamorgan Building which is home to Cardiff University's School of Social Sciences.



The Family Visitor Centre at HMP Parc.

One of the aspects of the trip to Cardiff that Ryukoku scholars found most interesting was the visit to HMP Parc, a Category B prison which is run by the private firm G4S. The trip to HMP Parc was made possible due to the excellent connections that Cardiff University has made with local stakeholders.

After arriving at the prison, the scholars met with Corin Morgan-Armstrong, who is the Head of Family Interventions and has been pivotal in the creation of an innovative project. Here, the scholars learnt about 'Invisible Walls Wales', which aims to provide support to male prisoners, their families and their children during the custodial sentence and for 6 months post-release. This project collaborates with a wide range of statutory and voluntary agencies and has become internationally recognised as

being effective in reducing problems of prisoners and improving the outcomes for prisoners' families.

As part of the tour, the scholars visited the Family Interventions Unit, which houses 32 inmates on the programme, as well as the Visitor Centre and spaces where visitations take place. Corin also gave a presentation about the Invisible Walls project and provided time to answer any questions.

The experience illuminated some of the significant differences that exist between Japan and the UK, and presented an opportunity to learn about innovative and effective practices in the criminal justice system.



Professor Ishizuka standing with Mr. Corin Morgan-Armstrong outside of the Family Visitor Centre at HMP Parc.



Professor Kogawara introducing the Criminology Research Center and some of the overall issues in crime in Japan.

An important part of this project is to showcase the research expertise of visiting scholars. This enables greater understanding of particular issues which are being researched currently, whilst also providing a forum through which future opportunities for collaboration and knowledge exchange can be identified.



Professor Ishizuka discussing the difficult problems associated with life imprisonment and the use of the death penalty in Japan.

On this first trip, the project partners organised a symposium to be held in which all three visiting scholars would give a presentation about an aspect of research in and on Japan. The symposium was held in the prestigious Committee Room of the Glamorgan Building, with Cardiff University staff and postgraduate students in attendance.



Dr. Brewster examining drug abuse control in Japan.

The symposium was chaired by Professor Stuart Field, director of the CCLJ, who welcomed the scholars and opened the session. Professor Kogawara gave the first presentation, entitled ‘the significance of Ryukoku University’s Criminology Research Centre in the context of the crime situation in Japan’.

This was followed by Professor Ishizuka, who spoke about ‘life imprisonment in Japan’. Dr. Brewster ended the symposium by speaking about ‘the strategies and techniques of drug abuse control in Japan’.

Following the symposium, participants were invited to attend lunch at a restaurant based in the grounds of HMP Cardiff, called 'The Clink'. Whilst also a good opportunity to relax and build research networks, it also provided a unique occasion to further witness some of the innovative practices that are occurring in the criminal justice system in the UK. This restaurant is staffed by prisoners who are currently serving sentences at HMP Prescoed. This rehabilitation programme allows prisoners to work towards gaining City & Guilds NVQ qualifications in Food Preparation, Food Service and Customer Service, which provides a means by which to gain meaningful employment following release.



'The Clink' restaurant at HMP Cardiff.

The final aspect of this trip was a strategic planning meeting. This was arranged in order to facilitate the creation of a more concrete partnership between Ryukoku University's Criminology Research Center and Cardiff University's School of Social Sciences. In attendance were the three visiting scholars from Japan as well as Professor Trevor Jones (project partner, Professor in Criminology, and Director of International Engagement), Dr. Adam Edwards (Reader in Criminology), Professor Mike Levi (Professor in Criminology), and Bethan Caines (Partnership Development Manager, International Office).

In this meeting, the Japanese scholars explained the aims and intentions of CrimRC from both a research and education perspective. In discussion with Cardiff representatives, various options were discussed about what an inter-institutional agreement might look like, and this provided the first step towards realising a formalised partnership. The outcome was that both parties would initially seek to establish a broad Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which would facilitate the undertaking of various research and educational activities, such as supporting and hosting visiting researchers or doctoral students. This will provide the foundation from which to strengthen the partnership over time. Given that such agreements require some administrative procedures to be undertaken, the aim is to finalise the MoU at the time of the return visit of Cardiff scholars to Ryukoku University.

In sum, the trip to Cardiff University fulfilled the core objectives that this project seeks to achieve. It was an extremely productive and successful trip which provided the basis for a new partnership to be made. The Criminology Research Center of Ryukoku University looks forward to welcoming Cardiff scholars to Kyoto later in the year.