

3. Report

Please write a report on your study experience, addressing the matters listed below. Your report should be more than 500 words in English. Matters to include in your report: (a) Academic outcomes (how participation in this program affected your motivation, university study and international understanding, and what interests and plans you developed for further study in the future); (b) Your experiences in Kyoto University; (c) The content of the program; (d) The impact of the program on your career plans.

Singapore Students visit to Kyoto University

David Premsharan
19th June 2016 – 28th June 2016

The week long programme at Kyoto University has proven to be most fruitful. We have been exposed to a variety of philosophical material, ranging from continental philosophy (Prof. Yumiko Inukai's lectures on Schopenhauer), to contemporary analytic philosophy (Prof. Yagisawa's lectures on Kripke), and finally to comparative philosophy (Prof. Siderits' and Prof. Deguchi's lectures on Consciousness and Nishitani respectively). This provides a range of concerns and approaches, and exposes students to a variety of ways of studying philosophy, that is not analytic centric. Professor Siderits and Professor Deguchi in particular have reaffirmed existing convictions that comparative philosophy can be a very fruitful and rewarding enterprise. The technical skills that they have imparted have also been very helpful for us to begin philosophical enterprises of our own. I am also motivated to continue my attempts at coming up with comparative projects of my own. I have also gained insight into how comparative philosophy is a global enterprise that engages many different individuals from many different philosophical backgrounds, cultures and ways of doing philosophy. As a collaborative and burgeoning enterprise, I think I have settled on comparative philosophy as my area of specialization, and in which I may be able to contribute original work in some small capacity.

Kyoto University is also a very fertile environment, with many students and faculty members who are working on diverse projects. This convergence has allowed us to gain new insights into doing philosophy and has afforded us the opportunity to confront and overcome pre existing and perhaps erroneous attitudes and reservations we might have had regarding philosophical projects and approaches with which we were not familiar with. The graduate student community in Kyoto is also very lively, and the relationship between undergraduates, graduate students and faculty is quite remarkable. Kyoto University houses a very tightly-knit philosophical community, that I was happy to be welcomed into, and to have been a part of. The faculty members are also very approachable and willing to help. Professor Deguchi in particular has been very accommodating, and is an excellent ambassador for Kyoto University.

This programme at Kyoto University, has emphasized how enjoyable and collaborative philosophy can be, and the experience here will definitely be factored into my decision to pursue philosophy at a higher level.

*The information you provide may be included in Re-discovering Japan Project reports, or published in printed materials or on our website in pages dealing with the outcomes of programs offered by the Asian Studies Unit and/or Kyoto University. Please ensure that your report only includes content which is publishable in light of privacy considerations and the need to safeguard personal information. Also note that depending on the publication format, we may need to edit parts of your report.