

## **REPORT ABOUT DR. DEVIN PENDAS' VISIT TO MEIJI UNIVERSITY**

**(May 8 – 18, 2016)**

In May 2016, per my invitation, Dr. Devin Pendas, Associate Professor in History at Boston College, Boston MA, came as a visiting scholar to the Political Science and Economics Department of Meiji University. The duration of his visit was a total of 10 days, between May 8<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. During his stay in Tokyo, professor Pendas stayed at the International House at Izumi, delivered a total of three open lectures to Meiji students and faculty – one in Surugadai campus, one in Izumi campus, and one in Nakano campus; met with a number of faculties and administration staff, the most notable of which was his meetings with the vice-president for international collaboration, professor Dairokuno; conducted archival research at the Meiji University library, as well as the War Museum at Yasukuni Shrine and the Tokyo National Museum; and engaged in an extensive planning of a collaborative research with myself on the topic of International law and terrorism.

The purpose of my invitation to Professor Pendas was threefold. First, I wanted to engage in a closer collaboration with an internationally renowned scholar from a prestigious Western university that would provide a greater potential for conducting collaborative research on topics of joint interest. Second, to give a chance to the Meiji University community to attend interesting talks on the latest research from a cutting-edge specialist on a subject of great and growing importance, such as the evolution and transformation of the international law and terrorism. And third, to foster conditions for establishing personal relations between Meiji faculty and high administrative officers and leading Western scholars from prestigious universities, with the perspective of launching further collaborative research initiatives.

Professor Pendas delivered, as earlier noted, three open lectures. The first one was delivered at the Global Front, Surugadai campus, on May 10<sup>th</sup>, and was titled “The Magical Scent of the Savage’ Political Violence: The Origins of the Legalist Paradigm of War, 1861-1945”. The second lecture was delivered on May 13<sup>th</sup> at Izumi campus, and was titled “Human Rights, Political Violence and the Limits of Law: The Legalist Paradigm of War, 1945-2000”. And the third lecture was delivered on May 18<sup>th</sup> at Nakano campus, and was titled “Between Freedom Fighters and Terrorists – The Politics of International Criminal Law in the 1970s”.

All three lectures were linked to each other as continuing installments of one single overarching theme. The lectures were attended by a large number of international students, as well as Japanese students and faculty. The average duration of the lectures was about 50 to 60 minutes, with the rest of the time reserved for questions and answers. Although the lectures were limited to the 90 minutes within the regular periods, they all lasted beyond the end of the period, much longer than expected, with a large number of questions, answers, and follow ups. After the lectures, professor Pendas exchanged a number of business cards with faculty, many from the Graduate school of politics, as well as from other departments.

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