

明治大学外国人研究者招聘制度 報告書

<招聘教授・研究員の情報 / Guest Professor・Guest Scholar>

氏 名	William Law
Name	
所属機関(派遣元)	University of Southampton
Affiliation (Home Organization)	
現在の職名	PhD Candidate
Position	
研究期間	17th June - 27th August
Period of Stay	
専攻	Humanities / Social Sciences
Field of Research	
ホスト教員氏名と所属学部研究科等	Hideto Fujii / School of Commerce
Name of host teacher and affiliation at Meiji University	

<外国人研究者からの報告 / Foreign Researcher Report>

①研究課題 / Research Theme
Railway heritage, railway history, Anglo-Japanese relationships
②研究概要 / Outline of Research
<p>This research project was originally framed as a study of perceptions of the 0-series Shinkansen from the West. The aim was for this to be a side-project to Law's PhD, which examines British railways and the international market from 1945 to 1970. For the proposed research project in Japan, he was interested in how English-language newspapers reported on the Shinkansen 'bullet train' since its 1964 inaugural run, and how these reflected British anxieties about Japan's role in developing high-speed rail technologies. Part of the research visit also included a comparative study of the display of the 0-series 'bullet train', focusing on the differences between UK and Japanese railway museums. In the UK, the 0-series Shinkansen fits within a narrative of high-speed and new technology, which is presented in contrast to steam vehicles.</p> <p>The historical part of his research focused on the period of 1970 - 75, when Japan National Railways (JNR) was addressing environmental concerns relating to the Shinkansen. During this period, Nagoya residents filed a lawsuit with JNR about the noise pollution caused by Shinkansen trains. Originally, Law planned to carry out a comparative study that investigated how English-language newspapers in Japan mirrored or diverted from the reporting of 'Shinkansen disease' in UK-based newspapers, focusing on The Japan Times but potentially also including Japanese-language newspapers if possible. Fortunately, these newspapers were available. Consequently, his research in Japan revealed far more than he expected about Anglo-Japanese cooperation at this time.</p>
③招聘期間中の研究活動の実績 / The research results as Guest Professor・Guest Scholar
<p>Through the Japan Times, within the collections of Meiji University, Law discovered that Anglo-Japanese links were formed between railway workers belonging to trade unions in the UK and Japan. In addition to the Japan Times, he consulted local Japanese newspapers at the National Diet Library. Here, he found details about the links between trade union members and residents living close to railway lines in Japan and about a letter exchange between the UK and Japanese anti-noise pollution campaigners. He also visited several of Japan's railway heritage sites, including museums in Omiya and Nagoya, where museum staff offered unparalleled hospitality and patiently answered his questions about curatorial decision-making and archival collections.</p>

