

ITCS Seminar #01 (2018 Academic Year)

Climate, Material, and Construction Methods: Mongolian Cities and Their Architecture

Date : March 7 (Thursday), 2019, 13:30~16:00

Venue : K-222, Koshien Hall

Lecturers : Dr. Muping BAO

(Cooperative Researcher, Institute of Industrial Science, The University of Tokyo)

The 1st Seminar of the Institute of Turkish Culture Studies of the 2018 academic year was held at the Kōshien Kaikan on Thursday, March 7th, 2019. Muping Bao, PhD, Cooperative Researcher, Institute of Industrial Science, The University of Tokyo, was invited. She gave a lecture titled, “Climate, Material, and Construction Methods: Mongolian Cities and Their Architecture.”

Dr. Bao gave lectures at two of our seminars this academic year. This was the first of the two, in which she explicated the spatial arrangements within the cities, Buddhist temples, and traditional dwellings called ger of Mongolia. In the first half of the lecture, Dr. Bao spoke about the style of dwellings and urban formation adapted to the nomadic lifestyles of Mongolian people. Dr. Bao also gave a detailed account of the methods and material used to build ger dwellings. In the second half of the lecture, Dr. Bao spoke about Mongolian Buddhist architecture of the sixteenth century and onward through a comparison with Japan.

The audience asked a number of questions during the time allocated following the lecture. Japan and Mongolia, two of the countries in Asia, have many similarities in terms of architecture and religion. Discussions continued and with the second lectured scheduled for the following week on Wednesday, March 13th, we closed this interaction on a lively note.



Seminar Poster



Venue at Koshien Hall

ITCS Seminar #02 (2018 Academic Year)

Architecture Imported through the Silk Road to China during the Thirteenth Century

Date : March 13 (Wednesday), 2019, 13:30~16:00

Venue : K-222, Koshien Hall

Lecturers : Dr. Muping BAO

(Cooperative Researcher, Institute of Industrial Science, The University of Tokyo)

The 2nd Seminar of the Institute of Turkish Culture Studies of the 2018 academic year was held at the Kōshien Kaikan on Wednesday, March 13th, 2019. We invited Muping Bao, PhD, Cooperative Researcher, Institute of Industrial Science, The University of Tokyo. She delivered a lecture titled “Architecture Imported through the Silk Road to China during the Thirteenth Century.”

Dr. Bao lectured at two of our seminars this academic year. This lecture was the second of the two, in which she gave a chronological account of cities and architectural structures of the thirteenth century, during the time of the Mongolian Empire. While the architectural culture of this time centered on wooden construction, that of Western Asia and Central Asia had different architectural elements, such as stone construction, masonry of sun-dried bricks, domes, arches, and vaults. Introducing many architectural examples, including Islamic mosques and Buddhist temples, Dr. Bao explicated, in a clear manner, the forms of coexistence and fusion between the original architectural culture of the Mongolian Empire and the different architectural systems introduced from Western Asia and Central Asia. Additionally, Dr. Bao gave a detailed account of the exchange of architectural culture on the Silk Road, covering topics such as Tibetan and Indian influences on Buddhist architecture in the Mongolian Empire.

During the lecture, Dr. Bao also shared some valuable photographs from the field research in Mongolia, China, the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, Uzbekistan, and other places, thus creating a vivid picture of architectural and cultural exchanges along the Silk Road.



Seminar Poster



Venue at Koshien Hall

ITCS Seminar #03 (2018 Academic Year)

Chinese Buddhist Cave Sites from the Perspective of Architectural Space: With a Focus on the Mogao Caves in Dunhuang and the Maijishan Grottoes

Date : March 15 (Friday), 2019, 13:30~16:00

Venue : K-222, Koshien Hall

Lecturers : Dr. Kaoru SUEMORI (Research Fellow, National Museum of Ethnology)

The 3rd Seminar of the Institute of Turkish Culture Studies of the 2018 academic year was held at the Kōshien Kaikan on Friday, March 15th, 2019. Kaoru Suemori, PhD, Research Fellow at Research Center for Cultural Resources, National Museum of Ethnology, was invited as the lecturer. He delivered a lecture titled, “Chinese Buddhist Cave Sites from the Perspective of Architectural Space: With a Focus on the Mogao Caves in Dunhuang and the Maijishan Grottoes.”

Dr. Suemori first provided an overview of the Buddhist cave sites in China. This was followed by a chronological account of the spatial arrangements of the interiors of the Maijishan Grottoes, with special attention to structures and architectural elements depicted in the wall paintings. Dr. Suemori also explained how he analyzed a mortice in the face of a cliff, to reveal the existence of a structure that had so far not been discovered.

In the second half of the lecture, Dr. Suemori provided an overview of the Mogao Caves of Dunhuang and elaborated on how the caves functioned as religious spaces, based on cues taken from the murals. Specifically, he explained how the analysis of the copious wall paintings in the caves depicting many Buddhas led to inferences regarding changes in the cave spaces and the meaning thereof.

Following the lecture, the time allocated for asking questions developed into an active discussion on the murals, the iconography, and other topics. Overall, the seminar turned out to be an intriguing one that traced an interesting facet of the long history of the Silk Road.



Seminar Poster



Venue at Koshien Hall