

GSI Caravan

Project Title: Revolutionizing the concept of the “universal” through the experiences of small nations and collectivities

Principal Investigator: Kiyonobu Date

Research Plan for the Academic Year 2020

2020 being the first year of the project, the initial plan had been to devote our energy to conducting the “GSI Overseas Caravan Practice” at a number of overseas universities. Unfortunately, the outbreak of the Coronavirus pandemic has forced a revision to the plan.

The first half of the academic year has been redirected towards preparing for future steps by developing a set of shared interests among chief members at Komaba and working out a framework with a refined focus. In particular, the wide range of geographical focuses and research topics among the members risks making the project appear diffuse and lacking a focus. We find it highly profitable to spend this time for better grasping and articulating the internal relationship between the consistency, the uniformity, and the diversity of our project. At least two research workshops will be held before the summer in which we present our work and further elaborate on the major issues of concern. The first workshop is scheduled on July 2nd over Zoom.

With the expectation that the Coronavirus pandemic will have more or less settled in East Asia by the end of this academic year, we plan to conduct a Caravan Practice at the Chinese University of Hong Kong in December. In case travel restrictions are imposed, the meetings will be held over Zoom. If travels to European regions become feasible, we hope to either conduct a Caravan Practice during the spring or hold a symposium in Tokyo inviting researchers from overseas.