

What is creativity?

Challenging a Western Paradigm:
Questioning "Race"
from a Japanese Viewpoint

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What is creativity?

Difficulties for non-Western scholars
in humanities and social sciences

- language issue
- hegemony of Western academia

“Race” (Takezawa 2005)

- Debate on the origin of the idea of race

Universal

or

a modern Western product

Is it true?

Gap

Between academic disciplines

especially between hard sciences and
humanities/social sciences

Between the Western academia and the
Japanese one

The established concept ---narrow range
based on Euro-American experiences
There *are* racial issues in Japan, too.

2001 UNESCO World conference on against racism (Durban conference)

- Transnational ties between buraku kaiho domei and the Dalit in India



Important to put the buraku issue on the
international table

- General view →
a group identified by what are
perceived to be physical differences

However,

*only **visible** physical differences?*

→ based on Euro-American experiences

- How to connect the Euro-American experiences and those of non-western societies such as Japan to develop a more comprehensive idea of race?

What is “race”? (Takezawa 2005)

- (1) Racial characteristics are believed to be “inherited” from generation to generation, genealogically mediated by bodies, and determined by the lineage of a group

“cannot be changed”

(2) A strong tendency to exclude the other

A clear hierarchy is assumed between
groups

(3) Exclusion and hierarchy in collusion
with politico-economic or social
institutions and resources

Three Dimensions of Race

- race
- Race
- Race as resistance (RR)

Three Dimensions of Race

- race
 - locally developed
- Race
 - circulates as a scientific concept constructed through the mapping and classification of the people of the world
- Race as resistance (RR)
 - proactive resistance of races

“race” in the lower case

- The burakumin in Japan

Even in pre-modern era, some sources that discussed “pollution” of “eta” (burakumin) existed.

Discrimination against them was legally enforced.

Other parts of Asia/Pacific

e.g.

- The pekuchon of Korea
- The Nosu among the Yi
- Toba Batak of Southeast Asia

- The Jews in medieval Europe

Race (in the upper case)

- Historical coevolution

Numerous publications of books on race

Johann Friedrich Blumenbach's five-fold classification

Originality of copy

- Not just import and copy but created “originality”, by transforming and incorporating it in their social thought and employing it in internal and external policies while merging it with nationalism or colonialism.

e.g.

- Samuel George Morton of the US
“variety” → “race”
- nationalism in Japan

Race as Resistance

- W. E. B. DuBois
organized the first Pan African
Congress in 1900
- transnational black solidarity

East Asia

- Japan the plan of the Great East Asian Co-Prosperity Sphere
- China superiority of the “Yellow Race”
- Burakumin in Japan

Interconnectedness

- race- Race

race & RR → Race

genetic studies of “Asian Americans”



KUIS-12 Transforming Racial Images: Analyses of Representations

Dec. 5th -6th at Clock Tower Centennial Hall

出所 <http://kyodo.zinbun.kyoto-u.ac.jp/~race/frame-symposium.html>