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## Abstract

# Area Studies in Japan: From the Viewpoint of an Africanist

Shinichi Takeuchi

This paper examines the characteristics and advantages of an area studies approach. The former half of the paper discusses the present situation of area studies in Japan as well as its historical development. While area studies is characterized by inter-disciplinary approaches, it has included a particularly broad range of academic fields in the Japanese context, including not only human and social sciences but also natural sciences. Scholars at Kyoto University (especially, the Center for Southeast Asian Studies) have contributed to the inclusion of natural sciences in area studies through their original research method. Although some researchers regard area studies as an academic field independent from any other existent discipline, the majority of scholars recognize the importance of their disciplinary bases. In the latter half of the paper, as a scholar of African studies based on social sciences, the author argues that the area studies approach has such methodological merits as providing timely and accurate knowledge on the area, improving the quality of the data analysis, discovering relevant research questions. Although area studies cannot be considered as an independent research field, the author argues, the approach can contribute to the enrichment of the social sciences through the merits mentioned.

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Abstract

# Comparative Area Studies: A Preliminary Examination

Shinichi Shigetomi

This paper proposes a comparative perspective to area studies, which attempts to identify the characteristics of society, politics, and economy of a certain locality, in most cases a nation state. Orthodox area studies tends to concentrate on one nation and study it comprehensively. Comparative area studies, on the contrary, focuses on a specified issue and compares nations with respect to that issue. It pays special attention to the fact that the same action and same impact may result in different outcomes in different nations. It then tries to understand the local factors and structures that may be responsible for bringing about the different outcomes. Comparative area studies, even though its direct purpose is to understand the salient feature of a certain area, may resort to theoretical and practical implications concerning how the locality affects the results of actions and impacts.

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Abstract

## **Globalism and Area Studies: Lessons from “the Debate on Japanese Capitalism”**

Tomoo Marukawa

In this paper, I define “globalism” as a concept that regards that there are common rules which govern all societies and the mission of social science is to discover those rules. With the spread of globalism in various social sciences, some scholars regard that “area studies” is no longer necessary, since it has little to contribute to the search for common rules. During the 1920s and 1930s, there was a debate among Japanese social scientists, known as “the Debate on Japanese Capitalism,” on how to reconcile global theory with the realities of Japan. Through this debate, some scholars found there were limitations in the application of global theory to Japan. They recognized that the analysis of the Japanese economy must be made apart from the construction of a global theory. In their position, since they tackled research questions which could not be properly solved by global theory, area studies was considered to be complimentary to global theory.

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## Abstract

# **How Should We Collect Data to Analyze the Microeconomic Consequences of Natural Disasters in Developing Countries?: A Literature Survey and a Case of Pakistan**

Takashi Kurosaki

Natural disasters such as earthquakes and floods cause substantial damage to households and the economy. Such damage is likely to be devastating in low-income developing countries where the initial welfare level is low and coping mechanisms are lacking. How should we collect data and what kinds of variables are informative in analyzing the microeconomic consequences of such natural disasters? This article investigates the issue through a literature survey and a quantitative analysis of Pakistani villages which were hit by unprecedented floods in 2010, and where the author has conducted several surveys since the 1990s. Two stylized approaches to data collection are identified from the literature survey. Under the first approach, a sampling survey is designed by development economists after a disaster and the pre-disaster information is collected in a retrospective way, while under the second, an area previously surveyed by area study specialists is hit by a disaster and the post-disaster information is collected in a resurvey of the same area. The case study of Pakistan regarding the recovery process at the household level indicates the complementarity of these two approaches. By combining the two approaches (and ideally combining datasets with a sufficient sample size collected under both approaches for the same area), our understanding of the microeconomic consequences of natural disasters in developing countries will be deepened.

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## Abstract

# National Identity Change in New Democracies: The Effects of Competitive Elections and Ethnic Parties

Ryo Nakai and Masaaki Higashijima

This paper explores how and why elections and ethnic parties result in people having strong national identities. Although a variety of scholars have investigated the construction of national identities, there has been little work verifying the timing of the construction of national identities. In this research, we focused attention on electoral proximity to illuminate the relationships between the timing of electoral mobilization and national identity formation. There are two mechanisms through which competitive democratic elections intensify national identification among people. First, as elections draw closer, if powerful nationalist parties exist in the country, they can invest more resources in electoral mobilization than if they are weak, and thus more people will come to have a stronger attachment to their national identities. Second, in emerging democracies, voters tend to rely on identifiable social categories, including ethnicities, as an information shortcut aiding them in selecting preferable candidates to vote for, which subsequently cultivate voters' national identification around the day of the election. We test our theoretical expectations by conducting statistical survey data analyses of approximately 84,000 respondents in 20 new democracies across Europe and Asia. Our analysis gives strong evidence supporting our hypotheses. The following two main empirical findings were obtained; 1) when nationalist parties hold many seats in parliament, people tend to experience an intensification of their national identities as an election draws closer: 2) The effects of electoral proximity on people's national identities became stronger in countries which experienced fewer elections.

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Abstract

# **Domestic Functions of Economic Cooperation in Postwar Japan: Continuity and Discontinuity between Domestic and International Policies for Resource Access**

Jin Sato

Studies of foreign aid tend to focus on the behavior and impact of aid donors. Much rarer are investigations into the institutional evolution of donors. Yet such studies are central to the task of explaining how they came to be the kind of donors they are. This lacuna may not come as a surprise, given that most of the western donor agencies were shaped by Cold War politics, beginning their journey as “advanced nations” from the outset. The fact that Japan was the first non-Western state to transform its status from a “semi-developed” country to the rank of major development donor thus provides us with an informative case towards understanding how a country’s own experience of economic development counts in becoming a donor.

Postwar Japan’s domestic economic situation was tied to overseas economic cooperation, and Japan’s restoration experiences were supported by a human network that experienced these firsthand. The overseas economic cooperation that they specifically planned in the 1950s was inextricably linked to a resource theory which acted to tacitly move forward the overall effective usage of domestic resources. However, the rapid increase in dependence on trade was paired with a gradual abandonment of domestic resources, and a sharp decrease in the key figures of resource theory.

Japan’s increasing wealth reduced the need for an integrated approach to the management of domestic resources, allowing the gradual separation of aid from internal affairs. While this encouraged the professionalism of aid activities, it was paired with fragility due to a lack of support rising from a strained domestic situation. The “aid fatigue” seen in some developed countries, including Japan, is not so much fatigue from aid itself, but a decline in domestic driving power which had strong continuity with overseas economic cooperation.

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Abstract

# **Economic Development and Land Acquisition in India: Reconsidering Property Rights on Lands in Development and the Theory of Eminent Domain**

Hajime Sato

In the last ten years, confrontations have occurred in many places in India between governments and residents over land acquisition for the development of mines, dams, steel works, power-generation plants and SEZs, as well as for residential areas and highways. Considering the problems, this paper argues that, firstly, there are some significant differences in land acquisition executed before and after economic liberalization in 1991 in terms of socio-economic context. Secondly, these confrontations nevertheless represent and reproduce a major universal issue—“economic development and land redistribution.” Thirdly, economic theories regarding land acquisition and the theory of eminent domain in jurisprudence may not have thoroughly considered and incorporated, at the theoretical level, an antinomy regarding property rights on lands, i.e., property rights on lands must, and yet must not, be secured.