

Program for Advancing Strategic International Networks to Accelerate the Circulation of Talented Researchers
Japan-ASEAN Collaboration Research Program on Innovative Humansphere in Southeast Asia:
In search of Wisdom toward Compatibility, Growth and Community in the World

Dispatch Report

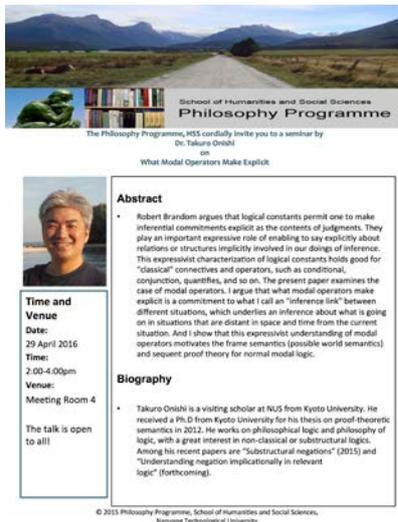
Year: 1st April 2016 – 27th September 2016

Place of fieldwork: National University of Singapore (NUS)

Name: Takuro Onishi

The purpose of this dispatch concerns research on *analytic Asian philosophy*. Analytic Asian philosophy is a new trend in philosophy that aims to re-interpret Asian thought, such as Buddhism, Confucianism, and Daoism, through the perspective of analytic philosophy and with the tools of contemporary non-classical logics. It attempts to shed new light on both Asian thought and analytic philosophy, to promote conversation between the East and the West, and, finally, to produce a genuinely novel philosophy.

The initial plan of my research was to study *Catuskoti*, an important principle in Indian logic that is known from its appearance in Nāgārjuna's *Mūlamadhyamakakārikā*, but I changed my subject to another important logical principle, that of *Saptabhangī*, the theory of sevenfold predication in Jainism. Based on the Jaina pluralistic doctrine of *Anekānta-vāda* (many-sided nature of reality), it presents an exhaustive and mutually exclusive list of seven logical possibilities or a system of seven truth-values. I have aimed to find a formal semantics for *Saptabhangī*, that allows one to see a comparison with *Catuskoti*.



Poster of seminar talk at NTU



The venue of CCPEA

The result was presented at the workshop *A Frontier of Analytic Asian Philosophy* in *The Third Conference on Contemporary Philosophy in East Asia* (August 2016, Seoul National University), where I read a

paper titled “A formalization of the Jaina theory of sevenfold predication” in which I applied a seven-valued semantics using *bilattice theory* to *Saptabhangī*. The workshop, held with Professor Deguchi and my colleagues, was very successful, and we received positive feedback from the attendees. I hope that this will serve to stimulate further developments in analytic Asian philosophy.



Night view from the Marina Bay Sands

Also, during this second term of my stay, I successfully published a paper, submitted in the first term, on the concept of negation in relevant logic, and I gave a seminar talk on modal logic at Nanyang Technological University, which helped me build stronger personal connections in Singapore.