

FIT FDGA: Research Summer 2019

REPORT submitted on September 11, 2019

School Uniforms in East Asian Visual Culture

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Research Timeline

July 12: Arrival in Kansai Airport, Osaka, Japan

July 13: Meeting with people at Osaka University, Osaka, Japan

July 14: Yayoi Museum, Mingei Museum, Bookstores in Tokyo, Japan

July 15: Osaka History Museum, Osaka, Japan

July 16: Kyoto Bookstores and Libraries, Kyoto, Japan

July 17: Osaka University Library, Osaka, Japan

During six days in July, I examined printed magazines and photographs of school uniforms or students in uniforms from the 1870s to the 1970s. I am currently working on a new project developed from my book, *Fashion, Identity, and Power in Modern Asia* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2018). There have been requests, from scholars and graduate students, that I should write a monograph on pictorial or literary representation of school uniforms in East Asian visual culture. In my current research plan, main materials are composed of magazine covers, newspaper articles, or juvenile literary magazines as well as printed fashion illustrations and missionary photography. The book surveys changing meanings and symbols of school uniforms in East Asian countries during the throbbing process of modernization, industrialization, and globalization. Yayoi Museum in Tokyo was noted for its collection of reformed kimono dresses and artistic kimonos in the early twentieth century. The visit to this museum was extremely fruitful as I saw girls magazine covers and posters.

By meeting with scholars at Osaka University, I was reassured that Osaka was a center of textiles production and distribution in the Meiji and Taisho periods. Kyoto had been the imperial capital until 1864 and saw the establishment of schools such as Gakushuin (Peers School; founded in 1847), Doshisha University (founded in 1875), or Kyoto National University (founded in 1897; its forerunner was the Chemistry School called Seimei Gyoku, founded in 1869 in Osaka). During my bibliographic research at the Osaka University Library, I was able to find monographs on history of these schools mentioning school uniforms and symbols. It was also fascinating to see various secondary schools' uniforms among young students during the field trips to historical monuments in Kyoto.

I continued my research after I came back to Seoul where I worked as a Fulbright Specialist for the rest of July. I am writing an introduction for my new book entitled *School Uniforms in East Asian Visual Culture*. I also plan to visit Taipei later in October 2019.