

Reports of International Field Studies

<Summary>

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**Ochanomizu University
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Name	Courses	Schedule	Country	Theme
Chizuru Nakamura	Humanities and Sciences Gender and Social Sciences M2	2014/8/6~8/28	Republic of Rwanda	Gacaca Courts in Rwanda Observed from the Gender Sensitive Perspective
Ayumi Yanagisawa	Humanities and Sciences Life Sciences M1	2014/8/18~8/31	Republic of Rwanda	Nutritional Status and Food Access among Female Villagers of Reproductive Age in the Eastern Rwanda
Kazumi Sato	Humanities and Sciences Gender and Social Sciences M2	2014/8/30~9/28	French Republic	The Creation of Islamic Spaces in Alsace (France) : A Case Study of the Grand Mosque of Strasbourg

Gacaca Courts in Rwanda Observed from the Gender Sensitive Perspective

Humanities and Sciences
Gender and Social Sciences M2
Chizuru Nakamura

■Summary

The Republic of Rwanda, “Country of thousands of hills” located in East Africa, experienced a tragic genocide in 1994. After that, the new political power introduced “*Gacaca courts*”, a community-based people’s justice system. The system was established as a part of judicial system, therefore, all of Rwandan citizens must fulfill their duties to participate in it.

It is said that this unique *Gacaca courts* system was one of the methods of transitional justice. However, there are only a few gender sensitive studies of *Gacaca courts*. This study aims to understand and analyze *Gacaca courts* from the gender sensitive perspective. My data are based on fieldwork conducted in Kigali and Huye, the two main cities of Rwanda.

The following questions are examined. How were gender based violence (GBV) cases handled in community-based *Gacaca courts* and what were the advantages or disadvantages of it? How did *Gacaca courts* affect women?

After the genocide, the Rwandan government regarded GBV as a severe genocidal crime. Accordingly, GBV cases were within the jurisdiction of International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) and Rwandan ordinary courts. However, due to the revision of the law, GBV cases became to be handled in *Gacaca courts* in 2008.

Two remarkable points were found. First, women played various roles such as witnesses and judges in *Gacaca courts*. Second, for GBV cases *Gacaca courts* adopted closed sessions hence altering its popular character.

This study concludes that the use of closed sessions made possible speedy trials, however, it did not help resolving victims’ fear of stigma. Although participating *Gacaca courts* promoted women’s new roles in the society, further study is necessary to confirm the relationship between *Gacaca courts* and gender mainstreaming in Rwanda.

Nutritional Status and Food Access among Female Villagers of Reproductive Age in the Eastern Rwanda

Humanities and Sciences
Life Sciences M1
Ayumi Yanagisawa

■Summary

Undernutrition is a problem in Africa, and it is caused by an insufficient food source. There is also the feminization of poverty in male-oriented societies of African countries, where two-thirds of impoverished individuals are females, and women also suffer from gender discrimination.

The Republic of Rwanda has accomplished significant economic development since the 1994 genocide, and gender mainstreaming, which was a means for achieving gender equality, has been a remarkable feat in their national policies. However, basic supplies such as clean water and nutritious foods are lacking in the rural regions of Rwanda, and it is thought that gender discrimination against women still exists.

A survey—the body measurement and food frequency questionnaire (FFQ)—was administered to adult men and women aged 18–49 years to determine the nutritional status and accessibility to food among female villagers of childbearing age in the eastern region of Rwanda.

The results of the body measurements showed that there were very few men and women with chronic energy deficiency (body mass index [BMI] < 18.5) or who were obese (BMI ≥ 30.0). No significant differences were observed between men and women in long-term nutritional condition. As for the consumption frequencies of three items listed in the FFQ, which included sorghum alcohol, avocados, and soup/sauce with beans, there were significant differences between men and women ($p < 0.05$). The difference in intake frequency of these three items may influence the differences in the nutritional intake of men and women, but there may be other factors that affect gender difference in nutritional intakes.

The Creation of Islamic Spaces in Alsace (France)
: A Case Study of the Grand Mosque of Strasbourg

Humanities and Sciences
Gender and Social Sciences M2
Sato Kazumi

■Summary

In France, we have always seen in the media the growing conflict between the republic principle of 'laïcité' and Islam which is generally considered not to separate religions and politics. Wearing scarves and group prayers in public are said to be against the French secularism. On the other hand, the Alsace, the northeast of France, has been historically a conflict oriented area often changing sides from Germany to France and vice versa. For this reason, in Alsace, there is a special relation between religions and the State. It is made possible through the unique local law of Alsace, which is different from the national law on the separation of church and state applied to other regions since 1905. The purpose of my study is to search for the conditions of peaceful co-existence between secularism and the free Islamic practices by examining the creation of Islamic spaces on the local level in Alsace region. This is the report of the field survey conducted in the period from August 30th to September 28th 2014. It mainly aims to investigate the establishment and use of the Grand Mosque which was constructed in 2012 in Strasbourg and which is financially supported by the Strasbourg town and the Alsace region. As a result of the fieldworks and the interviews, it was found that there were diverse forms of 'Islamic Spaces' created in Strasbourg, and that there were both interreligious cooperation and some conflicts during the establishment of the Grand Mosque, and also that this mosque contributed to the creation of the balanced image of Islam in Strasbourg.