

【特別研修・在外研究成果報告書】

研究者	所属・職位	氏名
	国際教養学部国際教養学科・教授	中野 晃一
研究課題	New One-Party Dominance in Japan in the Context of the Rising Tension Between the United States and China	
特別研修期間	2024 年度 秋学期 ～ 2025 年度 春学期	
在外研究期間	2024 年 8 月 21 日 ～ 2025 年 7 月 26 日 ( 339 日間)	
主な研究機関 又は場所	Program on U.S.-Japan Relations, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, USA	
研究成果の概要		
<p>(1) Research and writing</p> <p>I conducted research on the topic of “New One-Party Dominance in Japan in the Context of the Rising Tension Between the United States and China” at Harvard. While I was there, I started writing and finished a book manuscript under the tentative title, <i>Must the Sun Set in the West? Japan’s Stunted Democracy and the American Liberal Hegemony</i>, which was sent off to Princeton University Press for external reviews on September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025.</p> <p>The book offers a critical analysis of the historical interplay between the (Anglo-)American liberal hegemonic projection in East Asia and Japan’s pursuit of a full-fledged “Western” status from the late 19th century to date. As it does so, it focuses on the role played by the trans-Pacific political and academic elites and their hegemonic developmentalist project that has evolved through the various stages of liberal-internationalist “race development”, anti-communist/liberal “modernization theory”, and neoliberal-globalist “democracy assistance”.</p> <p>By revisiting the white-supremacist roots of the elitist theory of democracy that equates democracy with an elite-pluralist procedure to create strong political leadership—still dominant in the (US-centric) political science today—it helps us understand the hidden liberal provenance of the contemporary Trumpian democratic backsliding. I argue in the book that Japan offers a unique vantage point to dissect the Western hegemonic project over the “Rest” because of its ambiguous position in the West-Rest dichotomy, and contrary to the orthodox view, I assert that the overall impact of the American liberal hegemonic projection in East Asia has been to repeatedly stunt democracy in Japan.</p> <p>I am not sure whether the review process will be successful, given the highly polemical and unorthodox nature of the book’s central arguments, but I believe that it will be an important contribution to political science and to Japanese and Asian studies. I plan on publishing a Japanese version of the book in due course as well.</p>		

(2) Other scholarly activities

At the Weatherhead Program on US-Japan Relations, I took part in weekly public seminars and biweekly workshop with other associates during the semesters. As a part of the official program as an associate, I presented at a panel discussion “New Party Politics of East Asian Democracies” on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, with Joan Cho, Associate Professor of East Asian Studies, Wesleyan University and Aram Hur, Kim Koo Chair in Korean Studies and Assistant Professor of Political Science, The Fletcher School, Tufts University, and moderated by Daniel Ziblatt, Director, Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies and Eaton Professor of the Science of Government, Harvard University (Co-sponsored by the Kim Koo Forum at the Harvard Korea Institute; and the Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation at the Harvard Kennedy School) (<https://us-japan.wcfia.harvard.edu/panel-12-02-2024>).

Other seminar presentations and talks I gave at Harvard include:

1. “Japanese Democracy after the 2024 General Election” (November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024; open to the public).
2. “Paths to Peace: US Policy, Ukraine’s Strategy, and Global Reach” Weatherhead Scholars Program Roundtable with Rinna Kullaa, Visiting Scholar, SCANCOR at the Weatherhead Center (fall 2024) and Associate Professor, History, Philosophy and Literary Studies, Tampere University; Olga Iermolenko, Visiting Scholar, SCANCOR at the Weatherhead Center and Associate Professor, Economic Analysis and Accounting Division, Nord University Business School; Krzysztof Wąsowski, Fellow, Weatherhead Scholars Program (fall 2024) and Counsellor, Department of Foreign Policy Strategy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland; Daphnee Ouellet, Fellow, Weatherhead Scholars Program; Affiliate, Canada Program; and Takayuki Sugimoto, Associate, Program on US-Japan Relations. Advisor, IHI Corporation, Vice Admiral, ret., Japan Maritime Self Defense Force, and Senior Fellow, Harvard University Asia Center, and moderated by David Herszenhorn, Nieman Fellow and former Russia, Ukraine, East Europe editor, The Washington Post (November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024).
3. Japan Talk (December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024; upon request by Prof. Andrew Gordon for Harvard undergraduate-led Young Eurasian Forum for International Politics group)
4. 日本政治概論 (December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024; closed seminar for the associates at the Program on U.S.-Japan Relations).
5. 近現代日本政治概論 (February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025; upon request by Ms. Naomi Asakura (Preceptor in Japanese) for the 5<sup>th</sup>-year students of Japanese at Harvard University)
- 6.

Additionally, I was also invited to give a talk at Boston University on “Japanese Democracy in the Aftermath of the 2024 General Elections” by Profs. William Grimes (Professor of International Relations, the Frederick S. Pardee School of Global Studies) and Thomas Berger (Professor of International Relations, the Frederick S. Pardee School of Global Studies) at its Center for the Study of Asia (November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024).