

Research Activity Report
Supported by “Leading Graduate Program in Primatology and Wildlife Science”
 (Please be sure to submit this report after the trip that supported by PWS.)

2015.05.03

Affiliation/Position	Primate Research Institute/D1
Name	Liesbeth FRIAS

1. Country/location of visit
Japan/ Osaka (KU Research Reactor Institute), Shirahama (Seto Marine Biological Laboratory), Kyoto (Kyoto City Zoo), Otsu (Center for Ecological Research), Inuyama (Primate Research Institute & Japan Monkey Centre)
2. Research project
PWS Interdepartmental Exchange (Inter-Lab)
3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)
2015.04.08 – 2015.04.11 (4 days)
4. Main host researcher and affiliation
Keizo TANO (Research Reactor Institute), Shigeyuki YAMATO (Seto Marine Biological Laboratory), Masayuki TANAKA (Kyoto City Zoo), Shoko SAKAI (Center for Ecological Research), Katsuki NAKAMURA, Hiroyuki TANAKA, Masumi WAKITA (Primate Research Institute), Hideki SUGIURA, Takushi KISHIDA (Wildlife Research Center)
5. Progress and results of your research/activity (You can attach extra pages if needed)
Please insert one or more pictures (to be publicly released). Below each picture, please provide a brief description
Schedule: 2015.04.08 KU Research Reactor Institute (Fig. 1) 2015.04.09 Seto Marine Biological Laboratory (Fig. 2) 2015.04.10 Kyoto City Zoo / Center for Ecological Research (Fig. 3-4) 2015.04.11 Primate Research Institute / Japan Monkey Centre (Fig. 5-6)
As part of the Inter-lab coursework, we visited several research facilities of Kyoto University (KU), which allowed new students to appreciate research being conducted by scientist at KU. Every place we visited was carrying out research on a wide range of topics, including natural history research, community ecology, conservation ecology and evolution, to name a few.
My research is focused on a community level model of multiple species of parasites infecting multiple hosts, where I will be exploring infection patterns in primate populations living at various degrees of fragmentation and habitat disturbance. To do this, I will be working in the intersection of community ecology, population genetics, and modeling of dynamical systems. Working in multidisciplinary research offers many advantages, like giving you different perspectives to solve problems and gain synergy, but at the same time it can be hard to look beyond your own boundaries. During the Inter-lab I had the chance to talk about this with one of the postdoctoral researchers at the Center of Ecological Research (CER). It was reassuring to hear from him that, although challenging, results are rewarding.

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The Inter-lab course was well planned, the schedules were followed and we didn't have any major change of plans, however we only knew the schedule one day before the course started. I would also like to point out that this year the course had at least 7 international students and not all of them could follow the lectures and guided visits that were carried in Japanese. I think it would have been useful for newcomers to get a handout in English with a brief description of the research facility and the research carried there and maybe ask presenters to have their slides in English.

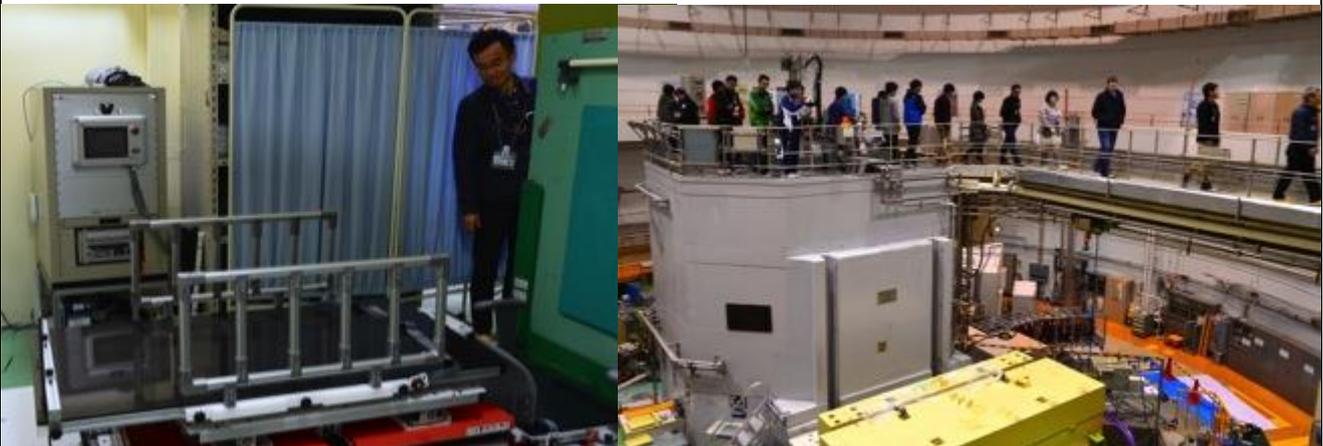


Fig. 1. KU Research Reactor Institute. Heavy water neutron irradiation facility for boron neutron capture therapy (left) and reactor tank (right). Photo credit: Liesbeth Frias.



Fig. 2. Seto Marine Biological Laboratory. Engetsu Island (upper left corner) and Shirahama Aquarium. Photo credit: Liesbeth Frias.

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Fig. 3. Kyoto City Zoo (left) and specimen collection (right). Photo credit: Liesbeth Frias.



Fig. 4. Center for Ecological Research. Photo credit: Liesbeth Frias.

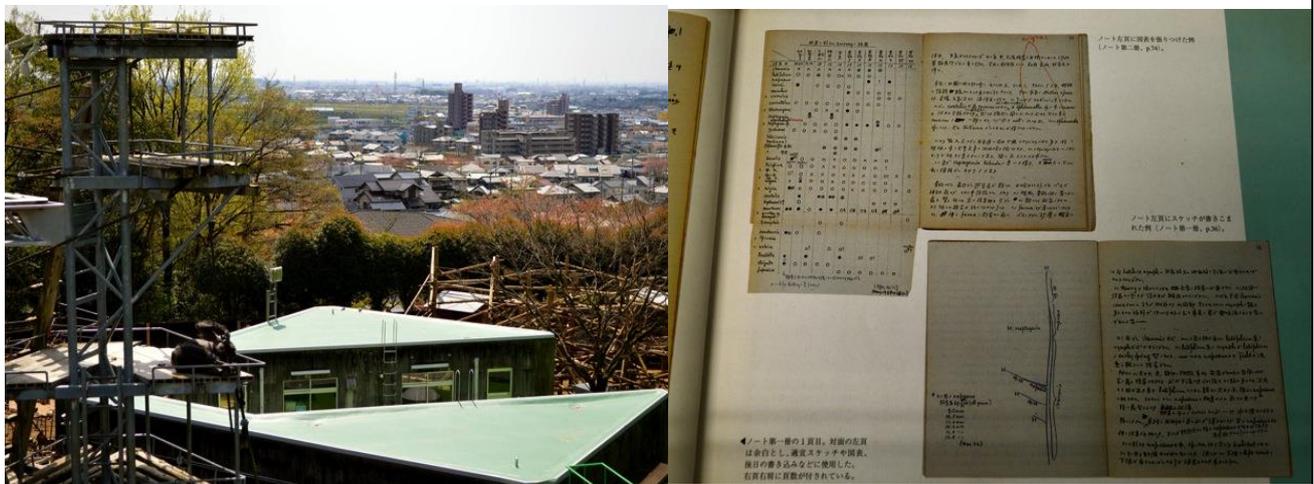


Fig. 5. Primate Research Institute. Chimpanzees’ enclosure (left) and field notes written by Kinji Imanishi. Photo credit: Liesbeth Frias.

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Fig. 6. Japan Monkey Centre (JMC). Lecture on the history of JMC (left) and ring-tailed lemurs in Wao Land (right). Photo credit: Liesbeth Frias.

Acknowledgments

I would like to express my gratitude to PWS and Prof. Matsuzawa for supporting this course. I would also like to thank professors in charge and local responders for organizing and coordinating the different activities.