

A photograph of two men in suits standing on a gravel path in front of a large, multi-tiered traditional Japanese castle with dark tiled roofs and white walls. The man on the left is wearing a dark blue suit and a striped tie. The man on the right is wearing a light-colored shirt, a striped tie, and a blue jacket. The castle is the main focus in the background, with a stone wall at its base and a gravel path leading towards it.

**HIGHER EDUCATION, KNOWLEDGE
EXCHANGE AND POLICY LEARNING
IN THE ASIAN CENTURY.**

US

UNIVERSITY
OF SUSSEX

A UK and Japanese Partnership between the Centre for Higher Education and Equity Research (CHEER), University of Sussex, and the new Research Institute for Japan, the UK and Europe (RIJUE), Hiroshima University. The partnership will develop original comparative higher education research on current policy priorities in the two countries.

This year, CHEER identified number of stakeholders (including public, private and national universities) and informed them of the overall objective of research project and invited them to collaboration as part of the second stage of CHEER impact plan.

The International Office at Sussex has been involved in the project from the outset and has coordinated with agents based in Japan for meetings.

This year, CHEER identifies four members to participate in this visit. This includes early stage and more established research colleagues, as part of the project's aim to build research capacity and knowledge exchange between UK and Japan.

As part of this visit, Sussex colleagues presented at Kansai Gaidai University in Osaka, Kyoto hosted by Professor Yumiko Hada.

BACKGROUND

Japan is committed to a programme of internationalising its universities and higher education system. The recruitment of international students is part of the Japanese government's policy to attract highly skilled migrants (ADBI, OECD and ILO 2015:29).

In order to meet the Japanese government's target of increasing the number of international students in Japan to 300,000 by 2020, it is important to consider the well-being of international research students. This is especially true given international competition for international students globally and the continued growth anticipated in worldwide overseas study (OECD, 2015 and IDP Education Australia Ltd, 2003).

The challenge of developing 'Gakushiryoku' we need a note to say what this means doctoral students in Japan requires interaction and integration with international doctoral researchers.

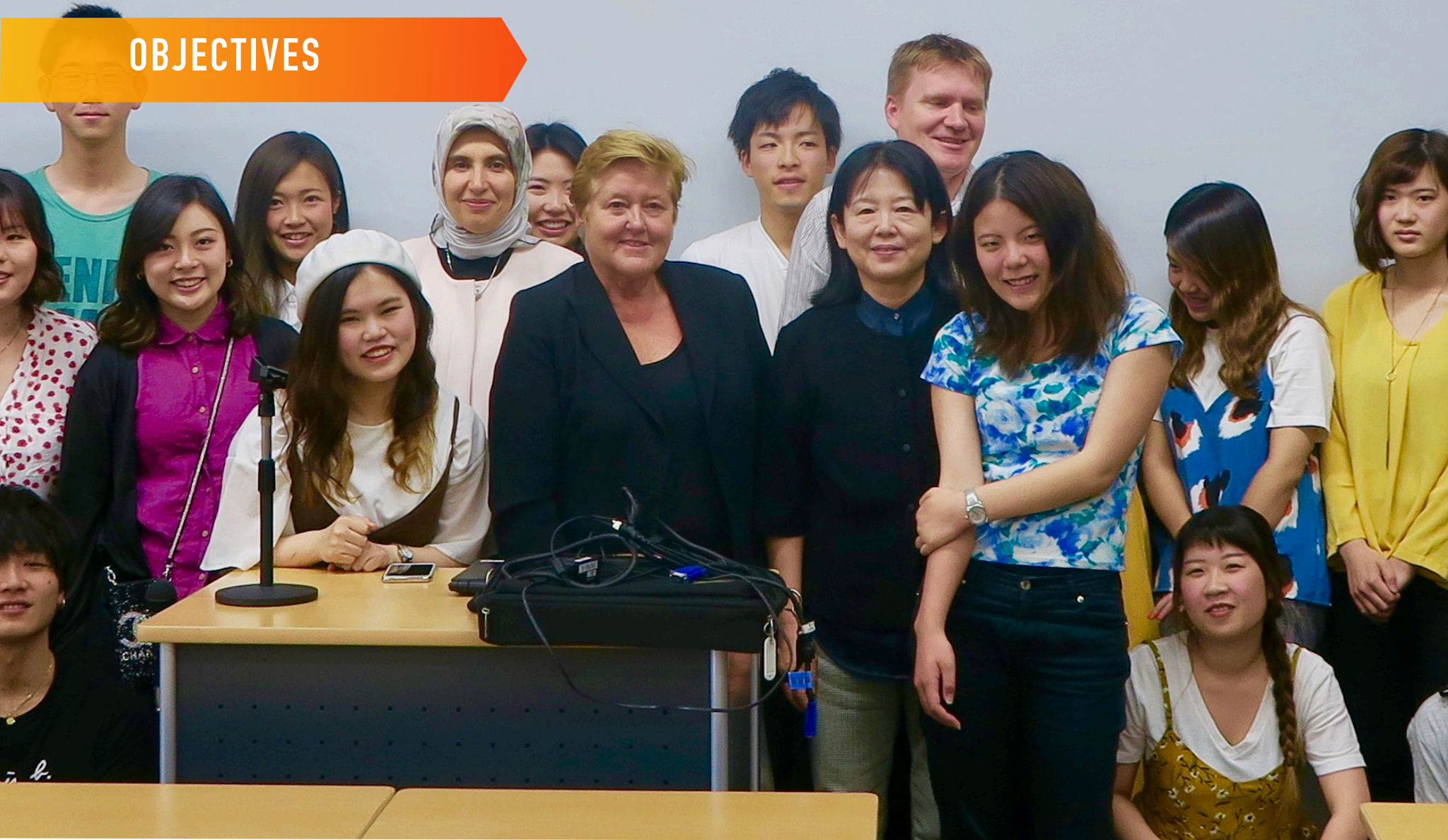
Japan's internationalisation policies and commitment to participation in the global knowledge econ-

omy means that they are also keen to attract migrant academics- especially those who can deliver programmes in the English language medium. To date, there is very limited knowledge about migrant academics in Japan (Huang, 2017). We wish to fill this gap by gathering data on the lived experiences of migrant academics and international doctoral scholars, with a view to identifying how to support them to thrive in their new contexts and communities.

This year, as part of activities under the framework of Phase II: Higher Education, Knowledge Exchange and Policy Learning in the Asian Century, four members of Centre for Higher Education and Equity Research (CHEER) travelled to Japan from 04th June till 18th June 2018.



OBJECTIVES



Four members of CHEER visited Japan between 03 - 18 June this year. The main objective of the visit was to continue the data collection from migrant academics and international doctoral researchers in Japan.

Under the lead of **Professor Louise Morley**, CHEER Director, three CHEER members visited Japan this year. The team includes:

Dr Mariam Attia, Lecturer in Education
Paul Roberts, Assistant Director of the Doctoral School and CHEER Doctoral Researcher
Yasser Kosbar, CHEER Doctoral Researcher

The objectives of the visit was:

- I. To gather data from international doctoral researchers and incoming migrant academics about their experiences of internationalisation in Japanese higher education, with particular reference to issues of language, gender regimes, mental health and wellbeing.
- II. To exchange knowledge with partner universities about best practices for supporting migrant academics, international staff and doctoral researchers.
- III. To present the HEIM Training Module which was translated into Japanese, and seminars, presentations on the hidden narratives of internationalisation.
- IV. To follow-up on the results of last year visit to Japan and agree on the next steps ahead (tentative date for conference hosted by University of Sussex on February/March 2019).

WEEK 1



During the visit, 13 interviews with international doctoral researchers and 21 interviews with migrant academics in a mix of public and private universities were conducted. The CHEER team (Morley, Kosbar, Attia and Roberts) was based in Tokyo where they visited a range of public and private universities, Kansai Gaidai University in Osaka, Doshisha University, Kyoto, and Shimane University. They presented lectures to Japanese students, doctoral researchers and staff about research findings from the project to date and policy and practice issues including the reform of doctoral education, gender and internationalisation and teacher cognition. They met directors of internationalisation and scholars of Japanese higher education.

Week One

Following two days of data collection, the CHEER team was invited by Professor Hiroshi Ota to visit Hitotsubashi University, Tokyo and had the opportunity to network with academics and doctoral researchers at the university.

Paul Roberts and Yasser Kosbar had two meetings with student exchange agents to discuss international students' experiences in UK and to understand the existing challenges facing Japanese students to study in UK higher education.



OUTPUTS

The CHEER team was hosted by Professor Yumiko Hada, Kansai Gaidai University in Osaka. Upon the request of Professor Hada, CHEER members delivered seminars to graduate students as following:

Professor Louise Morley delivered a seminar on *The Affective Economy of Internationalisation: Migrant Academics in and out of Japanese Higher Education* which drew on research that she had conducted with Daniel Leyton and Professor Yumiko Hada during the CHEER visit to Japan in 2017 as well as experiences on the impact of internationalization in Higher Education.

Paul Roberts presented on *Reforming the Doctorate*. The doctoral degree continues to evolve worldwide as it is impacted on by discourses of internationalisation and the emergence of the ‘neo-liberal University’. The purpose of the doctorate is itself under the microscope. Paul compared the drivers affecting UK and Japanese doctoral education.

Dr. Mariam Attia delivered a presentation on *Exploring Teacher Cognition in Higher Education*. The session foregrounded the value of ‘unpacking’ teachers’ pedagogical beliefs, and considering factors which may shape such beliefs, including early learning experiences. The presentation drew on earlier research, which Mariam had conducted at an international institution of higher education in Egypt, and concluded with an invitation for the Japanese learners to reflect on their own learning experiences and how they may inform their practice should they choose to become teachers.

Yasser Kosbar delivered a seminar on gender perspectives of internationalization in higher education. His presentation tackled issues of gender regime in Japanese higher education, the gender disparity during the transition from university to labour market in Japan and understanding gender intersectionality in Japanese context.



OUTPUTS

1. **Doctoral students:** 13 individual interviews were conducted with international doctoral students from USA, India, Latin America and the Middle East about their experiences of studying in Japan. The pool of participants was drawn from private, public and national universities in Japan. These have been transcribed, and transcripts were sent to the participants for checking. The transcripts are in the process of being analyzed.
2. **Migrant academics:** 21 individual interviews were conducted with migrant academics in public, national and private universities about their experiences of teaching and doing research in Japanese higher education institutions. These have been transcribed and are in the process of being analyzed.
3. The data will be used to inform journal articles on the topic of international doctoral scholars and migrant academics in Japan.
4. Four seminars on higher education research were organized and delivered by members of CHEER.
5. **Networking:** the visit enabled extensive opportunities for networking with academic and professional staff and doctoral researchers from Osaka, Kyoto and Tokyo. Many of these contacts will be followed up for prospective collaboration with CHEER.
6. Four papers for a CHEER Symposium The Hidden Narratives of Internationalisation were submitted to the 2018 SRHE Conference. Papers will include:
 - I. The Affective Economy of Internationalisation: Migrant Academics in and out of Japanese Higher Education by Louise Morley, Daniel Leyton and Yasser Kosbar, CHEER Doctoral Researchers, and Yumiko Hada, Kansai Gaidai University, Japan.
 - II. The Hidden Narratives of Higher Education Internationalisation: Can Excellence and Inclusion Cohabit? The Case of East Asian Mobile Academics in UK Universities by Terri Kim, University of East London and CHEER Associate
 - III. The Hidden Narratives of International Doctoral Students in Japan: How are Japanese Government's Internationalisation Policy Initiatives being Experienced at the Micro Level? by Paul Roberts, CHEER Doctoral Researcher and Ryo Sasaki, Shimane University, Japan.
 - IV. Exploring International Student Responses to Surveillance within the UK Student Visa System by Aisling Tiernan, CHEER Doctoral Researcher

Plans for Next Year:

2018-2019 will be the final year of the project. The visit allowed discussion of future activities. For example, CHEER is planning to host an impact and knowledge exchange seminar in Sussex which will allow the research findings to be shared with a wider constituency of policymakers, scholars and researchers.

CHEER

The Centre for Higher Education and Equity Research is located within the Department of Education in Essex House on the University of Sussex campus. The University is situated on a modern campus on the edge of the South Downs National Park near the lively seaside city of Brighton. London is one hour away by train, and there is easy access to Gatwick and Heathrow airports.

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