Introduction

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This special section is consisted of three papers which were presented at the Second Tokyo Thinkshop, jointly organized by Center for Glocal Studies at Seijo University and World Social Sciences and Humanities Net (World SSH Net) on 4th of October, 2014 at Seijo University in Tokyo.

World SSH Net prefers Thinkshop rather than conference or workshop. It means intensive debate and discussion after short presentation. World SSH Net has been organizing Thinkshops worldwide.

The First Tokyo Thinkshop was held at Seijo University in May of 2012. The Center for Glocal Studies immediately published the book titled as Theories about and Strategies against hegemonic Social Sciences which is collection of papers presented at Thinkshop.

The title of The Second Tokyo Thinkshop is “Global social thought and academic practices in the social sciences.” The rationale of the thinkshop was defined as follows. “The Thinkshop in Tokyo therefore focusses on some first attempts to explore what the nature of the universalized approach to social thought is, how the universalization of the nature of the western way of theorizing affects the ways of global social theorizing and discourse, as the academic practises under this approach. Finally, it will also initiate discussing some ideas about how to go beyond the social sciences model of social thought.”

This section will present three papers which correspond to three components of the rationale. Zawawi Ibrahim’s paper investigates what the nature of the universalized approach to social thought. He tries to elevate anthropology as world system level to
social science knowledge ‘scape’ level. By doing so, he got a key of transnational-cum-
‘hybridised’ theory-making.

Kazumi Okamoto’s paper deals with academic practices under universalized approach of western way of thinking. With her sharp critiques on ordinary contrastive approaches (center-periphery, North-South etc.), new conceptual and analytical framework that is called “academic culture” is introduced. This approach would be an alternative approach to discussion on academic work in a context of international collaboration.

Michael Christie’s paper looks for a renewed definition of social science in postcolonial knowledge work. This paper closely looks at two ceremonial practices of Australian Aboriginal people and gets two concepts for understanding a social knowledge practice. The author understands “these concepts as metaphysical underpinnings to a particular performative epistemology.” They provide, according to author, “analytical framings whereby alternatives can be discerned to the globalising social sciences and humanities.”

As an editor of this special section, I sincerely hope that readers are able to understand a present situation of global social science and critiques on established global social science and alternative approaches to the globalizing social sciences and humanities. In the nutshell, if it is possible for me to use our wording, this special section will present a present situation of glocalization of social theory today.

Notes
1. About World Social Sciences and Humanities net, please check its home page and following books.
2. The book can be downloaded from World Social Sciences and Humanities Net’s home page.

[要旨] 特集への序文

矢澤修次郎

著者は、特集に掲載された3つの論文が発表された第二回東京シンクショップの概要、とりわけその趣旨とシンクショップとは何かを説明する。その後で著者は、それぞれの論文の注目されるべき論点、要旨を略述する。このイントロダクションは、結論として、3つの論文が今日の社会理論のグローカル化の現状を表していることを述べる。