World War II Anthropology: Austrians and Germans in Poland; Japanese in Asia; Anthropological Research and the Search for Survivors

Continuity and Discontinuity seen in the Japanese Anthropological Tradition: A Case of Dr. Utsurikawa, Nenozo, YUKO MIO (Professor of Anthropology, Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, Tokyo, 183-8534 Japan; ymio@aa.tufs.ac.jp).

This presentation will shed light on the work of Dr. Utsurikawa, Nenozo to discuss the continuity and discontinuity seen in the Japanese anthropological tradition. He was one of the first Japanese who took the PhD in cultural anthropology at Harvard University.

(1) The Ethnology (Cultural Anthropology) course in Taihoku Imperial University (TIU) was founded in 1928 at Taihoku (modern-day Taipei). It is a landmark in the development of Japanese cultural anthropology because professional education was begun by professional anthropologists in a “Japanese” territory for the first time. The recently found letter to Utsurikawa from Mr. Mori, Shinosuke shows a major turning point of the history of anthropology in Taiwan. Mori was the most talented amateur anthropologist, but unfortunately “disappeared” on the ship in 1926. He told Utsurikawa in his letter that his role as a researcher would change (or end) after the foundation of the Ethnology course. (2) Utsurikawa returned to Japan in December 1945. However, he couldn’t establish his influence over the Japanese academic world. One reason is that he died suddenly in 1947. Another reason is that his post after the war wasn’t the same as other young scholars. They took their jobs at the Civil Information and Education Section (CIE) under General Headquarters of the Supreme Command Allied Powers in Tokyo and absorbed anthropological knowledge from American anthropologists working there and from American academic journals. Although the academic knowledge accumulated by Utsurikawa was taken over partly by his student Mabuchi, Toshi chi, cultural anthropology in Japan was newly established by those who studied “general anthropology” at CIE.

Anthropological Researches done by Japanese Scholars during WWII: A Case of Keijo Imperial University, KYUNG-SO CHUN (Professor of Anthropology, Department of Anthropology, Seoul National University, Seoul, 151-746 Korea; korancks@hotmail.com).

Keijo was a capital city of the colonial Korea under the Japanese rule. Keijo Imperial University (KIU) was established 1926 and anatomy department was initiated by a physical anthropologist named Imamura Yutaka graduated from Kyoto Imperial University and trained under Edwin Fisher in Germany. Imamura’s group collected human bones and measured them in the Imperial Japan for 20 years and tried to set up a world-best bone museum in Keijo without success for the defeat of the war. They had also worked with other scholars like cultural anthropologists in the university. I would like to review what they had done in terms of collection and research under the colonial rule and military expansion of the Imperial Japan. This presentation will cover fairly completely their works at Manchuria, Korea, and Papua in terms of documentation of their works. I have conducted fieldworks on those areas without systematic framework and visited occasionally Orochen and Kor eans in Manchuria as well as Papuans in New Guinea for asking questions with survivors about their experiences of the war under the Japanese military rule. I hope I will show some photos of the Japanese scholars done those researches and videos with those people whom I have interviewed at the fields. There is however one question remained. The whole collections were disappeared with the end of the war. Where are those bone collections?

We Were Scared ... Nazi Racial Examinations in Memory of Polish Highlanders from Podhale Region, STANISLAWA TREBNIA-STASZEL (Associate Professor, Institute of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, Jagiellonian University, 9 Golebia Street, Cracow 31-007, Poland; s.staszel@iphils.uj.edu.pl).

The paper focuses on anthropological research conducted by the Sektion Rassen und Volksstumsforschung of Intitute für Deutsche Ostarbeit (SRV-IDO) among Polish Highlanders called Gorale from Podhale region. I choose this group because it occupied special place within Nazi ethnepolicy (German’s plan was to create new nation of Gorale Goralenvolk). When the SRV-IDO records moved to Poland in 2008, the group of ethnologists from Jagiellonian University initiated the research on these documents. The first step was to look through all documents, and select materials that refer to Podhale. It appeared that from the whole collection of
73,000 units over 22,000 concerned Gorale. The second task was to reach the people who are still alive and who were put through Nazi racial examinations. We wanted to record their relations in order to learn how the Nazi research was stored in their memories. Until now we found and interviewed about 60 witnesses from Podhale. The conversations showed that, although so many years have passed, some documents from SRV bring back events that still cause a lot of emotions and fears. During our meetings with witnesses, many of them provided us with others episodes from their life – sometimes very dramatic stories.

In my talk I am going to present results of contemporary fieldwork research among the witnesses from Podhale, concentrating on their memories from WW II. I will try to show, that such subjective data appear to be important source of knowledge about Nazi policy and people’s everyday life under Germans occupation in Poland.

The Work of the Section of Racial and National Traditions Research (SRV) of the Institut für Deutsche Ostarbeit in the Lemkivshchyna Region in South-Eastern Poland, PATRYCJA TRZESZEZYNKADEMEL (Associate Professor, Institute of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, Jagiellonian University, 9 Golebia Street, 31-007 Cracow, Poland; patrycja.trzeszczynska@gmail.com).

The survey carried out by the Section of Racial and National Traditions Research of the Institute of German Work in the East (SRV IDO) covered, among other places, the Lemko Region in Low Beskids, Poland. The Ethnicity Research Department regarded the survey on the ethnicity of Slavic ethnic groups of the General-Gouvernement as comparative to searching for traces of Germanness. The work of the commission consisted in “measuring and describing the people”, medical examinations, psychotechnical tests, filling in the sociological survey forms. In a village of Komancza, e.g., in 1942 there was prepared the following documentation: anthropological, sociological, psychological, medical and racial, survey forms as well as skull outlines. Ethnographically, it is a Lemko village, the inhabitants of which strongly identified with the Ukrainian nation.

The specificity of the IDO research in Komancza, covering the subjects aged between 20 and 60, influences contemporary research on the memory about the work of the Nazi commission. In 1946, a significant part of the population left the village and was deported by the communists and located in two Western districts of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic. In 2009-2011 it succeed to conduct few dozen interviews with Komancza inhabitants and refugees in Ukraine, themselves or their families. The memory about the IDO commission survey conducted in Komancza among the descendants of the subjects has been preserved as incomplete and inconsistent.

The research has not been completed yet. Due to the archive query some traces and links lead to Lviv, Vienna, Berlin and Warsaw.

The Institut für Deutsche Ostarbeit (IDO): Using Anthropometric Data to Gain an Appreciation of the Polish Population Before, During, and After World War II, ALICJA K. LANFEAR (Post-doctoral Research Assistant, Forensic Institute for Research and Education, Middle Tennessee State University, Box 89, Murfreesboro, TN, 37132; Alicja.Lanfear@mtsu.edu).

The goal of this study was to use the anthropometric data contained in the records of the Institut für Deutsche Ostarbeit (IDO)