

タイトル：平成 29（2017）年度 研究セミナー（第 18 回）

日程：平成 29 年 12 月 16 日（土）～17 日（日）

場所：東京外国語大学アジア・アフリカ言語文化研究所 3 階マルチメディアセミナー室(306)

"19th century Ottoman and Japanese Constitutionalism: a Global Approach"

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First, I would like to thank all the professors for their time, participation and valuable comments during the seminar. I would like to thank as well Mrs. Chiba, for the really smooth organization of the seminar.

In this note about the seminar, I will develop two points; one is about the general value I found in participating in this event and the other is about the benefits and teachings I learned from the seminar.

It was interesting to follow presentations in a one-hour format. It enabled, even for non-specialists, to understand the development of the thesis of each student. I really appreciated the effort made to have a board of professors related to most topics, in order to bring some valuable and in-depth comments that often lack in larger audience events. Also, I think the size of the public was small enough to be comfortable. It created a studious yet relaxed atmosphere to have smooth discussions. Having topics in various fields provided examples of what is expected in a thesis and the various ways to frame it, which is essential knowledge that I felt I lacked before that. I particularly appreciated the closing presentation of a former student. Apart from being an interesting way to finish the seminar, it showed the different stages of the doctoral process and dedramatized it. It answered and echoed many questions I asked myself throughout the process, and I wish this kind of presentations about the obstacles of the thesis and the strategies to overcome them would be more common.

As for my personal experience, as mentioned, it was a challenge to have a long presentation, but it revealed many shortcomings that could appear clearly only because I had to stretch the ideas that I didn't develop when making shorter presentations or shorter texts. I benefited greatly from the experience, which was revealing on many levels. Because I am a foreign student, it was a first experience in learning and integrating a different academic context. I could see what were the different expectations on the type of presentation, content, format. By seeing the other students' presentations and powerpoints, I was able to learn how to adjust to a different public, which is very valuable information. Also, as I was a bit confused and looking for guidance about what to do next in my thesis, I found it really useful to see how other students managed their

topics in terms of method and organization, and what were the requirements professors underlined for the completion of a good thesis. I am keeping the comments I have received, some of which have opened entirely new problems and questions in my thesis. To conclude, I am very positive about the experience, and would definitely participate again when I resolve some issues and I move forward with my thesis. If I can give one last suggestion, it would be to let students who are not yet ready to write their thesis attend this seminar (or have another one). I think it would be really helpful for them to see examples of theses in the making. They would learn from listening to others, and this would teach them how to frame their topics and make meaningful presentations.