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日程：平成 29 年 12 月 21 日（土）～22 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)

“Spatial Transformation Under Postwar Reconstruction Planning and its Impact on Urban Vitality:
A comparison between Beirut and Hiroshima”

Allam Alkazei（筑波大学大学院）

I am glad that I had the chance to participate at the Islam and the Middle East research seminar in its 20th cycle in 2019. Even though I was a bit anxious at first, I think that it was a great opportunity for me to present my current doctoral research findings and progress in front of an audience from various academic backgrounds. This experience helped me reflect on my own work from a wider perspective. My previous academic presentations, mainly in conferences, were in front of urbanism and architecture audience. However, this presentation opened a whole new arena of discussions and questions that I didn't take into consideration before. I did my presentation for an hour and then we had a Q&A session for another hour which gave the participants and I enough time for discussion and remarks. While other presenters gave a detailed explanation of one chapter of their thesis, I took the approach of presenting an arching overview of my work in my doctoral research. Therefore, the comments were also on a macro level and highlighted the points that I needed to further develop. I am thankful for all of the professors, researchers and students for their valuable comments. Furthermore, it is important to mention that a unique feature of this program was its constructive environment. I appreciated the atmosphere of the discussion after each presentation which mainly focused on finding ways to help the student enhance their research's arguments. Presenters were in different stages of the doctoral research, but still the comments were suitable to guide the student whether he is still in an entry level or wrapping up his work.

In addition, as each participant came from different university and from various backgrounds, it was interesting to hear about their research, used methodologies and handling of the primary data. This was particularly intriguing since some of the participants were analyzing historical Arabic manuscripts in Japanese which triggered passionate discussions regarding the most appropriate interpretation. Some of the technical terminology of other academic fields were new to me, however, a matter that provided a chance for language learning as well. The program was well organized with smooth facilitation. Furthermore, I believe that the “My doctoral thesis” presentation is useful to give the students an idea of future challenges and opportunities which other researchers have faced after their doctoral course. As aiming for a PhD is quite challenging endeavor, I think that listening to the experience of older researchers on how they have overcome the obstacles on the way is very important. The program also provided social gatherings in the end of each day which allowed easy-going conversations with professors and researchers about research interests and difficulties.