

TOHOKU 311 Collaboration Project Kobe University / Tohoku University (2019/10/22-24)

Theme: International Exchange, 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake, Storytelling, Cultural Memory of Natural Disasters

Place: Ishinomaki City, Minamisanriku Town and Kesenuma City

Between October 22 and 24, three faculty from IRIDeS: Associate Professor Elizabeth Maly, Assistant Professor Julia Gerster (Disaster Information Management and Public Collaboration Division), and Assistant Professor Flavia Fulco (Human and Social Response Research Division), joined the TOHOKU 311 Collaboration Project between Kobe University and Tohoku University. The members from Kobe University were Professor Akihiko Hokugo, Researcher Kumiko Yamaji, and Visiting Professor Rosemary Du Plessis (Canterbury University, New Zealand). The collaborative project aims to collect video interviews from local kataribe-storytellers and community leaders in the areas affected by the 3.11 Great East Japan Earthquake. The research team interviewed Dr. Naomi Chiba in Ishinomaki City, who recorded stories of disaster experiences from the women in her town (pic.1) and visited the Taylor Anderson Bookshelf at the Library of Ishinomaki Senshu University (pic. 3). The group visited, among other places, the ruins of Takano Kaikan in Minamisanriku Town (pic.2), where they also interviewed the Director of Hotel Kanyo Ms. Noriko Abe. In Kesenuma, before conducting interviews with community leaders in Shishiori District, the group visited the Kesenuma City Memorial Museum (Ruins of Koyo High School). On the final day, Kobe University Research Center for Urban Safety and Security organized an Open Seminar entitled “International Perspectives on Recording and Storytelling 3.11 Tsunami Disaster and Experiences” at Minamisanriku Hotel Kanyo, which was attended by 35 people. After presentations from Prof. Du Plessis, Maly, Yamaji, and local resident Nishant Annu, discussions were held regarding the future of kataribe-storytelling and international collaboration between survivors who experienced disaster across the world (pic.4).



1. Interview with Dr. Chiba



2. Kataribe at the ruins of Takano Kaikan



3. Visit to Taylor Anderson bookshelf
at Senshu University Library



4. Open seminar

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