

## **International Workshop for Learning Trajectories of Catastrophic Disasters and Building Resilience to Natural Hazards and Risks (2023/5/15-16)**

Theme: natural hazards, disaster risks, complexity, building resilience, interdisciplinarity  
Venue: DPRI, Kyoto University

On May 15-16, 2023, Professor Michio Ubaura (Spatial Design Strategies Lab), Associate Professor Sebastien Boret (International Research Collaboration Office) and Assistant Professor Hyejeong Park (Disaster Medical Informatics Lab) participated in a workshop titled "International Workshop on Trajectories of Disasters: Building Resilience to Natural Hazards and Risks," held at the Disaster Prevention Research Institute (DPRI), Kyoto University. The workshop aimed to analyze strategies for enhancing disaster resilience in societies facing disaster risks by examining long-term trends and past experiences, to adapt improved strategies to the future. In particular, the workshop purposed to understand better the social, economic, and cultural impacts induced by past disasters, including the reconstruction and recovery processes, to aid in imagining, forecasting, and better preparing for future catastrophic scenarios by looking at disaster history trajectories.

Professor Ubaura, currently visiting professor at DPRI, gave a talk on "Recovery of the physical environment from the Great East Japan Earthquake". Associate Professor Boret presented "Managing Mass Death after the Great East Japan Earthquake" from the perspective of disaster anthropology, and Assistant Professor Park contributed a presentation on risk management and resilience in natural hazard-triggered technological accidents. As a significant outcome of the workshop, an interdisciplinary research group was formed between research institutes in Japan, France, and Canada, including IRIDeS, to actualize and achieve an advanced step toward a disaster-resilient society. The research group comprises prominent researchers with abundant experience and knowledge in disaster risk reduction and recovery in historiography, anthropology, geography, engineering, social science, and social psychology. Focusing on the potential large earthquake and tsunami in the Pacific Ocean, this research group is expected to take further proactive steps, such as applying for collaborative research grants and organizing workshops to understand each research field. Moreover, the research group has discussed a comparative approach that involves studying past large-scale earthquakes and tsunamis and their histories, different disaster cultures, and catastrophic disasters focusing on Shikoku and Tohoku regions in Japan, Southern France, and Eastern Canada.

This interdisciplinary project, encompassing various fields and perspectives, is expected to significantly reduce future disaster risks, mitigate social damage, and enhance coping mechanisms for potential Nankai-trough earthquakes. We hope our interdisciplinary research activities promote further and proactive international collaboration between IRIDeS and research partners.



Assoc. Prof. Boret during the workshop

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