University of Hawaii at Hilo  
College of Arts and Sciences

Sabbatical Report, February 2017

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3.) I planned two trips during the sabbatical period, to Japan and to Vietnam.


   Work in Vietnam included language study, collecting ethnohistoric materials for a book about Vietnam I am writing, and collaborating with the leadership of Thai Nguyen University and Ha Noi National University concerning the development of anthropology programs. In 2014, Thai Nguyen University awarded me an Honorary Doctorate for my work with them to date. The book manuscript is titled *An Ethnography of Modern Vietnam: Women and Men, Kinh and Minority*. I hope that it can become a resource for introductory cultural anthropology classes.

   The two trips were from early September to mid-October 2015 (Japan), and from mid-November to mid-December 2015 (Vietnam).

   Concerning collaboration with Vietnamese colleagues, at Thai Nguyen University I worked to develop new M.A. and Ph.D. programs in anthropology. The cooperation with Ha Noi National University was focused on the fine-tuning of existing anthropology programs.

4.) I wrote a book length manuscript about Vietnam, completed by the end of the sabbatical period. The book is an ethnography of modern Vietnam intended for use in introductory anthropology classes. It is entitled *An Ethnography of Modern Vietnam: Women and Men, Kinh and Minority*. I have one offer to publish in Vietnam, but I am also making inquiries with domestic publishers.

   I also collected ethnohistoric data that facilitated another article about the war-time experiences of Japanese religions, especially the new religions of Japan that are so well represented in Hilo. I completed one article length manuscript about Seicho no Ie and Ijun, currently under review with the journal *Japanese Religions*.

5.) In the area of teaching, this sabbatical leave allowed me to refresh language skills in Japanese and Vietnamese. I teach two language related classes, anth 121 and anth 331,
and find students’ interest reflects my own – recent travel and research is part of academic inspiration that students appreciate.

In addition, I teach a course on fieldwork, called Ethnographic Field Techniques, anth 445, and my instruction of the course is refreshed when I realize my own research activity.

For research, this sabbatical leave gave me the opportunity to delve more deeply into the societies that fascinate me, as well as my students. I have worked at National Diet Library in Tokyo on previous occasions, and I always find such activity rewarding.

When I looked for an introductory text on modern Vietnam to use for my anth 100 class, I noticed that such a book is lacking among contemporary publishers. The awareness of this interesting society will increase as professors and students have available a short but thought-provoking ethnography.

In addition, scholars and students alike are interested in Japan’s wartime experience, in this case as it relates to the situation for the new religions of Japan, groups that endured two censorship regimes, that of the Japanese government and, later, that of the American occupation.

6.) I think that my greatest accomplishment was to be accepted to the degree that I was by students, scholars and the people of Vietnam. I was humbled and exhilarated to receive an honorary PhD from That Nguyen University. My greatest challenge was to balance the two major projects I addressed during the sabbatical period. Working in Japan and Vietnam was logistically difficult and presented challenges of prioritizing.

7.) Don’t be afraid to stay away from campus, I agreed to do three independent study projects with on-campus meetings and felt that I could have been sharper if I had focused my efforts a bit more.

8.) Thanks to those members of the university community who cooperate to make possible our sabbatical system. It is a valuable part of the scholarly endeavor.