

Executive Summary

This record of proceedings contains the papers presented at the First International Symposium 2017, entitled: The Atomic-Bombs and War Memories: Heritage of Peace in an Uncertain Age. This symposium was held on the Second of August 2017 in Hiroshima city and was hosted by the Institute for Peace Science, Hiroshima University (IPSHU). The symposium brought together both leading and new researchers working on the contested memories of war and their associated representations of human experience with varied, yet interlinked, academic disciplines including Political Science, Memory and Media Studies, Peace Studies, Social Science, and Statistical Sociolinguistics.

In order of appearance, Professor Noriyuki Kawano, Director of the IPSHU explained the complex facets of the Atomic-bombing experience in Hiroshima. He outlined the interdisciplinary research and education conducted at the university that has been inspired by the experience of Hiroshima and in keeping with the university's aim to contribute to global peace. Director Shiga of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum described the history of the museum and highlighted its potential role in providing a unique forum for public and academic initiatives to transmit the knowledge and memory of the A-bomb experience. Emeritus Professor Glenn D. Hook (University of Sheffield) gave the keynote speech entitled "Memory and US Military Bases in Okinawa: the unending war". He discussed the powerful sociopolitical role that instrumentalized memory representations may play in advancing a particular policy agenda drawing an example from Okinawa's unending war. Professor Andrew Hoskins (University of Glasgow) gave a Special Lecture entitled: "The New War Imagery: Why we are losing the memory of warfare". Using examples from media reports on war situations he discussed the socio-psychological roles of images in digital memory that are abundant in today's media and how the selection and reiteration of particular images and associated discourse have shaped our collective memory, impacting the levels of public interest in nuclear issues. Lastly, Dr. Luli van der Does discussed the challenges in systematically analyzing and recording the A-Bomb experience for *keishō* (heritage) efforts and introduced the new interdisciplinary methods for the recently-launched JSPS project at the IPSHU for the *keishō* effort.

Attendants of diverse backgrounds, including both academics and the general public, participated in a lively exchange with the international panel of speakers during the open panel discussion moderated by Professor Mari Katayanagi, Vice Director of the IPSHU. The symposium addressed the challenges of *keishō* highlighting the complexity of the memory of the war and Atomic-bombings and the vulnerability of preserved artifacts which evidence that memory. This was followed by discussion on the changeability in the form of the transmitted memory and the consequential uncertainty about which contents of that memory will prevail over time. Thirdly, the newly-launched project at the IPSHU was introduced. It aims to address the above issues by providing *evidenced content* through rigorous systematization and inter-referencing of artifactual materials with analytical outcome of the study into the transformation of the hibakushas' identity in the multifaceted A-bomb experience. Such an ambitious project needs trusted informants, evaluators, and disseminators of the contents for *keishō* among the public. To facilitate such collaboration, the symposium provided an opportunity for citizens from diverse backgrounds, including the *hibakusha*, educators, activists, the media and students, to share their perspectives in the concerted effort for *keishō* where each one has a potential role. The symposium resulted in a renewed public motivation and a practical roadmap for potential collaboration between the public, municipalities, and academia.

On behalf of the IPSHU the editor wishes to thank all the participants for their support for the symposium and their valued exchange of information.

Editor: Luli van der Does