

Program for Evolving Humanities and Sociology
Faculty of Letters and Graduate School of Humanities and Sociology, The
University of Tokyo
Research Visit Report

December 25, 2012

Yuka Saito (Graduate Course in Classics)

Visited Institution and Scholars

Faculty of Classics and Christ Church College, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK

Prof. Robert Parker (New College)

Prof. Peter Parsons (Christ Church College)

Prof. Stephan Harrison (Corpus Christi College)

Dr. Gunther Martin (University of Bern)

Other peoples who participated in International Symposium

Dates of Departure and Return

Departure: August 3, 2012

Return: August 20, 2012

Research Theme

Dream and Fiction: Literary Theories in Late Antiquity

Original Research Plan

In an attempt to reveal what relationship dream and fiction have in classical literature, I will focus on the literary theories of two Neo-Platonic philosophers in late antiquity: Proclus and Macrobius. There are still only a few studies about this in Japan, but in the UK, there is a long tradition of Neo-Platonic studies, and at Oxford University, where I am going to visit, has many scholars who engage in the studies of literary theory and classical reception.

With this visit, I intend to gain a foothold for my research.

Outcome

In the libraries of Oxford University (the Bodleian Library and the Sackler Library) and at a book shop in the city, I collected books which I need for my study.

In the book shop there were classical texts and commentaries, a new book on Proclus and a classic book on classical tradition. In addition to classics, there were also books

on Byzantine studies, Medieval Latin and Renaissance authors (Psellus, Macrobius, Martianus Capella, Erasmus et al.). The Bodleian and the Sackler Library had some books and papers which are not readily available in Japan.

Moreover, I have also obtained some information on recent trends of the study of Classics abroad by participating in lectures by the scholars above as well as the International Symposium entitled Freedom and the State: Plato and the Classical Tradition.

Future Prospects

First, I will organize the documents which I have collected and read them from the most important, together with original texts by Neo-Platonic philosophers.

Second, by examining other scholars' ideas, I will organize my ideas and collect more material as needed.

Eventually, I would like to reveal what relationship there is between dream and fiction in classical literature from diversified perspectives, not only from ancient literary theories but also from dream theories, attitude to dreams, manners and customs about dreams in those days.