

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

By

Satoshi SHIRATO

Undergraduate student at the Department of Oriental History,  
Faculty of Literature

September 7th, 2012

1. Trip

Destinations: London, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern  
Ireland

Research Institution: The British Library

Period: August 6th to 27th, 2011 (22days)

2. Research theme

The Role of the National Capital in Indian Trade, 1857 - 1947

3. Research plan

The main aim of this visit was to analyze coastal and inland trade in British India from the second half of the 19th century to the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Indian trade changed drastically after its encounter with the west during this period. Not only trade with the west but also inter-Asian trade was affected. I want to clarify the role of merchants and the national capital of India during this period by analyzing statistics available at the British Library. (Please be careful: “foreign” does not automatically refer to Europe; it simply means having to do with countries other than one’s own.)

4. What I achieved

I went through historical sources at the India Office Records, Asian & African Studies in the British Library. I had planned to look at statistics on both trade and the national capital, but the contents of the statistics on the capital were different from what I had expected. However, I was able to

study the statistics about trade and confirm the changes during that period. Also I was able to list up the shelfmarks and contents of the historical sources so that I can utilize them after the visit. Another achievement was that I met Dr. Tirthankar Roy (London School of Economics). We discussed my research theme and he gave me helpful advice.

#### 5. Future prospects

Despite my time well spent at the British Library, the trip was too short. From now on, I want to develop my understanding of Indian trade and write my graduate thesis on it. I am planning to focus on one industry and read more historical sources. I would like to express my gratitude to this program for giving me such a great opportunity.