

Closing Remarks by Reiko Gotoh (Local Organizer, ANPOSS)

Welcome again to the joint conference of ANPOSS/ENPOSS/POSS-RT. We are sincerely honored and excited to be hosting such a splendid group of philosophy of social science like you all in the mid of Covid-19 in Tokyo.

One important theme that emerged from the conference was the issue of fundamental uncertainty. The problem of statistical error can also arise in the selection of papers for conferences. There can be a first kind of error where a good paper, which should have been, is not selected, and then a second kind of error where a bad paper, which should have not been, is selected. In this conference, there was no second type of error, I believe. However, I cannot deny the possibility that there was a second type of error that prevented some candidate from being selected, though she/he would have written a good paper. Considering this possibility, we recognized that being selected or not is a coincidence that happened in the midst of uncertainty.

Yet, even that is the case, what is stake is that you who were selected have sincerely done your best in this conference, we know. Furthermore, he/she who was not selected should also work harder, aiming at accessing more to resolve his/her own research question, I believe. Both are continuing their studies, taking the results as if they were inevitable. For this I would like to express my sincere gratitude for all, who are sincerely aspired to contribute to philosophy of social science and humanity.

I mentioned in my opening remark that I hoped for the birth of a new academic paradigm. Many of you may have thought it is ridiculous and doubt my sanity. Now that the conference is over, I would still like to say so seriously. First of all, the fundamental questions, which the reach of modern social science has tend to ignore, have been hot discussed. The problem of fundamental uncertainty mentioned above is one of them. The tension between value pluralism and practical requirements of measurement is another.

The second reason is that I am convinced of the effectiveness of a common place (network) to continue exploring such fundamental issues. Borrowing the word provided by Alban's opening speech, we need "a worldwide network of networks". The users of scientific methods are mass-produced in universities. But there are a certain percentage of people who can't get enough of it. Through regular conferences, journals, and books, can continue to explore fundamental issues, for example, young people can do, building their careers, and seniors can do, compiling historic texts.

Lastly but not least, I would like to heartily appreciate the long efforts of various people. First, co-founder of network, Paul Roth, Alban Bouvier, Francesco Di Iorio, Kei Yoshida and the following other steering committees.

(ANPOSS steering committee) Chor-yung Cheung, Paul Dumouchel, Mark Tamthai, Payap University (ENPOSS steering committee) Byron Kaldis, Eleonora Montuschi, Julie Zahle, Jesús Zamora-Bonilla (POSS-RT steering committee) David Henderson, Kareem Khalifa, Mark Risjord, Debora Tollefsen, Stephen Turner.

I would like also to express my sincere gratefulness to our staff in Hitotsubashi research center of normative economics and our friends, especially Ms. Tanimoto, Watanabe, Kuribayashi, yoko igarashi. Many of you will forget my name, it's ok but, may be, the name of Kei and Kazuyo will remain in your subconscious, it's my pleasure, thank you!