

早稲田大学 グローバルCOE 「アジア地域統合のための世界的人材育成拠点」
調査研究支援スキーム 成果報告

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リサーチ目的

The purpose for joining the Summer Institute at GW was two-fold. First, as my research deals with the impact of the news media on US foreign policymaking, I wanted to know how people in foreign policymaking circles assess the media's influence. Although I already had a theoretical understanding based on literature, I wanted to hear more practical ideas from people involved in the foreign policymaking process.

Second, I was seeking to find out some concrete ways in which the US can more constructively contribute to integration in East Asia. Again, rather than theoretical considerations, my interest was in a feasible contribution respective of ties the US already has in the region and the agendas of competing interest groups in the US trying to influence foreign policy toward the region.

研究課題

In order to realize the first purpose, I explicitly focused some of my questions to presenters on the kind of relationship their organization has with the news media. With speakers who had not mentioned the media in their presentation, my questions were more exploratory, hoping to elicit any type of response. However, when speakers had specifically mentioned how their organization utilizes the media, I asked them to expand on why certain media are more useful than others and how successfully the media represents their interests. With speakers who were actually from the news media, I explained in detail how the media's role in foreign policymaking is understood by researchers and asked their opinion on the validity of this research.

As for the second purpose, I realized early that East Asia is low on the list of priorities concerning US foreign policy; moreover, regional integration is hardly a concept in Washington DC. Thus, whenever relevant to the discussion, I intentionally pushed East Asian issues with my questions to elicit ideas from the speakers. The general lack of attention on East Asia inspired me to focus my personal research at the Summer Institute on a feasible US contribution to integration in East Asia. Although free time was limited, I took advantage of 24-hour access to the GW library to begin researching this topic with an aim to writing a policy paper in the near future.

成 果

Regarding the influence of the news media on the construction of US foreign policy, I gained several important insights: some that confirmed my understanding from the literature review and some that went beyond what the review could provide. First is the functional difference between for-profit newspapers that are often read by policymakers and not-for-profit news agencies that have a higher capacity to supply international news. In an interview on June 11, Donna Cassata of the Associated Press mentioned: “If it’s not the *New York Times* or *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal* or *LA Times*, it’s unlikely you’re going to see a lot of space devoted to foreign policy news.” This assessment is consistent with the literature as well as with my trip on June 10 to the US Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, where I photographed a copy of that day’s *New York Times* and *Washington Post* resting on the table. However, Ms. Cassata added that since these newspapers have recently been “closing many foreign bureaus overseas in a cost-saving move,” the AP has taken on a larger responsibility to provide international news, especially at the analytical level. Ms. Cassata also offered many details on the relative ease of access to policymakers in Washington DC.

Also on June 11, interviews with Warren Bass and Karen DeYoung of the *Washington Post* provided some useful details on the daily work habits of journalists as well as the “totem pole” that exists among the paper’s foreign bureaus around the world. Interestingly, the journalists were reluctant to claim any influence that the *Post* has on foreign policymaking, saying only that they can sometimes facilitate debate among Congress but that they were usually bound to the government’s agenda because they are assigned to cover the government, not to influence it.

Regarding a US contribution to integration in East Asia, I discovered from listening to more than twenty speakers in Washington that US interests in many parts of the world, including East Asia, are limited to security and economics. Thus, any proposal for a US contribution would also have to contribute to either US national or economic security in order for it to be considered by policymakers. During the two weeks I spent at GW, I paid particular attention to how the US trade relationship with China is perceived, what types of related policies are being debated, and by whom. I noticed two general streams of discourse. One is in favor of US protectionism and against cooperation with China, while the other highlights the potential benefit to improving US business practices in China. My research focused on ways to successfully implement the ideals of the latter discourse, specifically to combat the protectionist argument that has gained strength since the 2007 “made in China” recalls.

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* A 42 枚以内。各項目のスペースはご自由に変更下さい。