

The 44th exchange Sister City Communication Club

In our upcoming SCCC exchange, we will invite Ms. Alison Tokita, who is an associate professor of Japanese Studies at Monash University (Melbourne). Currently, Ms. Tokita is doing research on traditional Japanese music at the International Research Center for Japanese Studies in Kyoto. Ms. Tokita will talk about her field of study, Osaka and Melbourne's connection through music and much more.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Date & Time :	Saturday, February 14 th 14:30 – 16:30
Venue :	International House, Osaka, Frontier Club (B1)
Speaker :	Alison Tokita (Visiting Research Scholars, International Research Center for Japanese Studies)
Title :	“Melbourne, Osaka and Music ”
Admission :	1,000yen
Space Available :	50
Application :	Please send by E-mail: info@sisterc.net or FAX: 06-6772-9790. Applications are due by Friday, February 6 th .

What is The Sister City Communication Club (SCCC) ?

The Sister City Communication Club (SCCC) was established in the interest of studying Osaka's sister cities, practicing English conversation and having friendly cultural exchanges. In the SCCC exchange, we invite foreign guest speakers who reside in the Kansai area to come and give a presentation in English on themes such as international exchange, sister city relations or living in Japan. This exchange provides a great opportunity for our guest speaker and participants to interact by sharing questions and perspectives in English and to achieve a better understanding of cross-cultural relations.

Profile:

Dr. Alison TOKITA (アリソン トキタ)



Degree/Brief Employment Record:

- Ph.D., Monash University, 1989
- Associate Professor, Monash University, 2003
- Visiting Research Scholar, International Research Center for Japanese Studies, 2008-

Specialized Fields:

Japanese performing arts (music)

Current Research Themes:

Music and modernity in Osaka During the Interwar Years (1918-1938)

<http://www.nichibun.ac.jp/research/faculty/staff3/tokita.html>

<http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/japanese/staff/atokita.php>

Title :

“Melbourne, Osaka and Music”

Summary :

My first thirty years of interaction with Japan focussed on research of traditional Japanese music, with my eyes closed about the reality of Western music in Japan. I have always enjoyed coming to Osaka to see Bunraku and Naniwa-bushi performances. My new project is piano as a symbol of modernity in pre-war Osaka.

This has led to carrying out a number of interviews with people about their engagement with piano and the position of piano in the prewar period. I have been surprised at finding so many similarities with experiences in Melbourne in same period. This shows another aspect of contemporaneity 同時代性 of Japan's modernity with that in Western countries.

Now I am passionately interested in hearing people's life stories of interaction with music in Japan, and indeed in East Asia. For this purpose, I am making a short trip to Seoul, Beijing, Harbin and Shanghai at the end of February to gather comparative data which will provide a further comparative context for Osaka's modern music culture.