

## Editor's Notes

April 2009 marked a new beginning. The Department of Tourism and Transnational Studies was established in the Faculty of Foreign Languages in Dokkyo University. The new department was created, partly in response to the growing interest among students and among the general public in tourism research. We aim to produce innovative, competent, and multilingual graduates to be future leaders, not only in the tourism industry but in more diverse global fields such as government and non-government sectors and in transnational corporations.

Ultimately, our pedagogical goal will be to cultivate critical minds in the age of an unprecedented increase in the movements of people, ideas, capital, commodities, values, and tastes across the borders of nation-states. We challenge the notion of homogenous culture bound within the confines of a single nation. From an interdisciplinary perspective that includes sociology, anthropology, international policy studies, performance studies and tourism studies, we scrutinize cultures on the move.

To commemorate the opening of the new department, Dokkyo University International Center hosted a conference entitled "*Beyond Tourism: Performing Memory, Place, and Identity*" in November 2009. This volume, the inaugural issue of our departmental bulletin, is a collection of papers either read at the conference or modified based on presented versions. As the title indicates, the conference was an attempt at a re-examination of ideas and practices associated with tourism and conventional tourism research. Using analytical tools that are both inter-disciplinary and inter-cultural, the participants discussed such issues as writing histories, negotiating a space for articulating the painful past, and the efforts made by artists, museum curators and local communities to find alternative forms of embodied representation.

Naming this bulletin "*Encounters*" was a proposal made at a dinner table during the above mentioned conference. I think it was either Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett or Dean MacCannell who made the proposal, but it could have been somebody else. All I remember is that everybody there thought it was an excellent idea. My hope is that the Department of Tourism and Transnational Studies, together with its bulletin, will continue to provide thrilling encounters, however challenging they may be. I would like to thank each of the contributors to this volume, my colleagues in the department, and the people in the International Center, for making all this happen.

Takahashi Yuichiro  
Issue Editor