

New Steps in Japanese Studies

Kobe University Joint Research

edited by Kazashi Nobuo and Marcella Mariotti

Preface

Masumoto Hiroko

This book contains the contributions of the joint-research project conducted by the programme entitled *Innovative Japanese Studies through International Cooperation: The Fostering of Young Researchers by Cooperation with Overseas Institutes of Japanese Studies* at the Graduate School of Humanities, Kobe University, Japan. As a part of the global initiative *Program for Advancing Strategic International Networks to Accelerate the Circulation of Talented Researchers*” the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) supported this programme, which was implemented from October 2013 to March 2016.

This programme sent young researchers to leading institutes of Japanese Studies at three universities in Europe – Ca’ Foscari University of Venice, University of Oxford and University of Hamburg – for one year. At the same time, it allowed associated researchers to participate in joint-research projects between Kobe University and these three European universities: Japanese Literature and Modern Japanese Sociocultural Studies at Ca’ Foscari University of Venice; Linguistics and Japanese Linguistics at University of Oxford; and Teaching Japanese as a Foreign Language at University of Hamburg. This programme was aimed at strengthening and developing the friendship between Kobe University and its partner institutions, as well as providing an opportunity for young researchers to become involved in Japanese Studies programmes around the world.

Our sincere gratitude is extended to our colleagues in Venice, Oxford, and Hamburg for their participation in shaping the project, and their efforts in the development and realisation of this anthology cannot be overstated. In addition, special thanks are due to Ca’ Foscari University of Venice and its press, Edizioni Ca’ Foscari, for making the publication of this book possible. Also, it is necessary to recognise the financial support of JSPS for this project. Without the assistance of these researchers and the support of these organisations, this intercultural and international cooperation could not have taken place.

On behalf of the editorial committee,
Dean, Graduate School of Humanities, Kobe University

