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Admittedly, I knew very little about Ise before participating in the program at Kogakkan University. After three weeks of intensive courses and fieldwork, however, I feel capable of providing a basic introduction of the area's historical significance to others. The range of materials presented during the program was extensive; our daily lectures covered topics such as the traditional rebuilding of Ise Jingū (shikinen sengū), the annual schedule of rituals both large and small, and the unique customs of local residents. On a broader level, the program was also a rare opportunity to learn more about Shinto. Due in no small part to Kogakkan University's status as one of two universities that offer training programs for Shinto priests, we were able to speak directly with practitioners and experience formal worship (seishiki sanpai) at several of the shrines we visited. While it is certainly possible to study the same material independently, the access provided by the connections of Kogakkan University was irreplaceable.

In connection with my own research related to Dazaifu Tenmangū in Fukuoka, the program reinforced the importance of examining a pilgrimage site within its larger context. While the 125 shrines that comprise Ise Jingū are impressive, these sites do not exist in isolation. I particularly enjoyed learning about Kawasaki, a port town known as the "Kitchen of Ise," which served as a shipping hub for all the commodities needed to fuel a thriving pilgrimage industry during the Edo period (1603–1868). Similarly, it was also interesting to learn about the history of Kongōshō-ji, a Buddhist temple on Mt. Asama, which protects Ise Jingū from the northeast. Before the start of the program, I had assumed that most of the content would focus strictly on Ise Jingū, but I was pleasantly surprised by the large number of unexpected connections to my own area of study.

I am grateful to have had this opportunity and would like to express my gratitude once again to faculty, staff, and student volunteers at Kogakkan University, as well as staff at the Ise City Government. This year's program likely presented new logistical challenges with the spread of COVID-19, but university staff worked tirelessly to ensure the safety of participants. I highly recommend the program to any graduate student interested in the history, culture, religion, art, or literature of Japan.

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2020年「伊勢」と日本スタディプログラム 最終レポート

私は「伊勢」と日本スタディプログラムに参加する前、伊勢や伊勢の神宮についてあまり詳しく知りませんでしたが、皇學館大学での講義やフィールドワークのおかげで、伊勢の歴史や文化を周囲に説明できるようになりました。式年遷宮をはじめとして、伊勢神宮ならではの特徴ある文化や習慣を学びました。また、プログラムを通して「伊勢」に関するだけでなく、「神道」についても徹底的に勉強することができました。

特に、いくつかの神社での正式参拝は、貴重な経験でした。他の場所でも同じような課題を学ぶことができるかもしれませんが、より深く理解したいなら、皇學館大学でのプログラムは最高なものだと、間違いなく思います。

このプログラムに参加させていただいたことに深く御礼申し上げます。皇學館大学の教授、スタッフ、学生ボランティア、または伊勢市産業観光部の皆様に感謝いたします。今年、新型コロナウイルス感染症対策のため、プログラム内容を多少縮小せざるを得ないという事態もありましたが、終始プログラムの円滑な実施のためにご尽力いただいたことに感謝しております。

日本の歴史・文化・宗教・美術、および文学に興味のある大学院生にプログラムへの応募を勧めたいと思っています。

以上