

Research Activity Report
Supported by “Leading Graduate Program in Primatology and Wildlife Science”

	2016. 11, 01
Affiliation/Positionn	Primate Research Institute/D2
Name	Cecile Sarabian

1. Country/location of visit
Japan, Kyoto University
2. Outreach project
Conserv'Session: Racing Extinction and discussion about conservation issues, traditions and solutions
3. Date
2016. 10. 27
4. Main host researcher and affiliation
None
5. Progress and results of your outreach activity

Conserv'Session is a student initiative organizing screenings of conservation-related documentaries in order to discuss about certain overlooked conservation issues. The project idea was born at the Primate Research Institute of Kyoto University (KUPRI) in Inuyama with Cintia Garai, PhD student at the time, and who was also (- and still is) a documentary filmmaker. Combining films, conservation, awareness, cookies, discussions and potential actions sounded like a good mix. The project continued with Sofi Bernstein (previous PhD student) at KUPRI, and a few times at Kyoto University main campus during conservation and zoo biology classes of Pr. Fred Bercovitch. Conserv'Session is now back and ready to reach a larger audience!

Conserv'Session
Conservation Documentary Nights
保全についてのドキュメンタリー
<https://facebook.com/ConservSession>

2016.10.27.Thu.
5-7pm

No registration required!

RACING EXTINCTION

KYOTO UNIVERSITY 京都大学
North Campus 北部構内
SCIENCE SEMINAR HOUSE 理学研究科セミナーハウス

Conserv'Session
Conservation documentary nights
2016 October 27, 5-7pm
保全についてのドキュメンタリー

Film: Racing Extinction (95 min.)
Place: Science Seminar House, North Campus, Kyoto University 京都大学北部構内理学研究科セミナーハウス

Purpose: The goal of Conserv'Session is to raise awareness of certain conservation issues by organizing screenings of related documentaries and facilitating debates. During the monthly sessions, a new conservation issue will be introduced each time with opportunities for discussion and debate both in Japanese and in English.

STUDENTS, FACULTY MEMBERS, PUBLIC, YOU, WELCOME!

Note: As this movie does not have Japanese subtitles yet, the screening this time will be in English. However, it should be understandable from its scenes only and we will also open the floor to Japanese comments. In the future, as best as we can, we will try to show films with Japanese subtitles.

No registration required!
For more information, visit Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/ConservSession>) or please contact: Cecile Sarabian (sarabiancecile@gmail.com) or Zsafia Budai (budai.zsofia.28m@kyoto-u.jp)

Discussion with conservation experts at the end of the movie!

Pr. Fred Bercovitch
CICASP, Kyoto University

Pr. Takakazu Yamoto
PRI, Kyoto University

Posters of the event

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Our aim with this event was to introduce the concept of Conserv’Session to a wider audience at Kyoto University main campus. The Conserv’Session team is currently composed of 3 persons: Zsofia Budai (PhD student, Faculty of Letters, Dept. of Psychology), Nachiketha Sharma (PhD student, Faculty of Science, Wildlife Research Center), and I. In order to discuss about conservation issues addressed in the documentaries we screen, for each session, we aim to invite experts on the issue. As such, we facilitate discussion and outreach between experts in the field and the public. For this session on the human impact on biodiversity loss with the film Racing Extinction, we were fortunate to have experienced field biologists and conservationists: Pr. Fred Bercovitch and Pr. Takakazu Yumoto, both from KUPRI.



Discussion with the audience at the end of the film with Pr. Yumoto & Pr. Bercovitch

More than 30 persons attended this launching event from an estimation of +10 different countries. In the room, we had students, administrative officers, post-doctoral fellows, designers and more from Hungary, Lebanon, Vietnam, New Zealand, Japan, USA, Africa... some of them working on renewable energy, some of them not at all in the field of Conservation or Science. The film Racing Extinction is showing the human impact on biodiversity in different parts of the world, with an emphasis on marine wildlife and pollution using some of the most advanced technologies. In the discussion, Profs Yumoto and Bercovitch first shared their 30+ years of experience working on endangered species in Japan, DR Congo, Zambia, South Africa, USA and Central/South America, the same places that are currently facing species extinction. The audience responded with its own experience according to where they came from. We were glad to have a real exchange with an audience quite talkative; for example: one PhD student was able to bring his own piece of knowledge on solar energy proposed as a solution in the movie; another was describing the situation regarding wildlife consumption in her home country, some others were asking about effective local initiatives in host countries.

Another part of the discussion focused on traditions, business and conservation. If some traditions are consuming wildlife at a rate that is threatening certain species of extinction, then, can we still consider these large-scale

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global businesses as “traditions”? In the film, we have also seen how media and celebrity wildlife advocates can make a change in consuming societies. It is then, the responsibility of each country and the global community to recognize that unsustainable traditions that are not anymore practiced as they used to be due to the global demand should not exist anymore despite the profit they generate.

After the session, we received feedback from participants saying that they enjoyed the event and that they actually learnt a lot about different issues regarding species extinction.

At the end of the session, we also announced our next Conserv’Session screening: The Ivory Game and the following discussion with ivory trade experts from NGOs and the government that will take place at Kyoto University, Faculty of Letters, Basement 1, Room L012 on November 26th, 2016 at 5pm.



NEXT Conserv’Session: 2016. 11. 26 !
Invited speaker: Airi Yamawaki, co-founder, Tears of the African Elephant (NGO)
<https://www.facebook.com/ConservSession>

Flyer distributed and advertising the next Conserv’Session

6. Others

Acknowledgements: I would like to thank PWS for supporting this initiative, my advisor Dr. Andrew MacIntosh for having said one day over a lunch: “do it”, Pr. Takakazu Yumoto and Pr. Fred Bercovitch for being the discussants of this first session open to anyone at Kyoto University main campus, Miku Akiyama and Yoko Sakai for the considerable logistical support, and last but not least: Nachiketha Sharma and Zsofia Budai without whom this project would not have taking flight.