

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

2017. 03, 06	
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1. Country/location of visit
Japan, Kyoto University
2. Outreach project
Conserv’Session#5: Before the flood and discussion with Prof. Fred Bercovitch
3. Date
2017. 03. 04
4. Main host researcher and affiliation
None
5. Progress and results of your outreach activity
<p>“What did you learn about climate change?” is the first question Zsofia Budai – Conserv’Session co-organizer asked the audience after the film. In return, someone shared her surprise about the amount of ice that melted in the Antarctic and another person found that scientists were quite optimistic about climate change and its consequences.</p> <p>Before the flood is a 2016 documentary co-produced by Leonardo Di Caprio and available online here: https://www.beforetheflood.com/screenings/. It encompasses a world view about man-made global warming challenges and solutions with a focus on US politics. Dr. Fred Bercovitch is a professor of conservation and evolutionary biology at CICASP, Primate Research Institute of Kyoto University. His research led him to study galagos, baboons, African wild dogs, giraffes, African elephants, koalas, cheetahs, California condors, and Nile lechwe, in the wild and in captivity, bringing him all over the world. Part of Prof. Bercovitch’s research aims at integrating evolutionary and conservation biology as a means of designing scientific conservation management plans to preserve ecosystems. His background and expertise working at different places and for different organizations made him also very sensitive to climate change issues and politics. Prof. Fred Bercovitch shared some facts and quotes before opening the discussion with the audience, which had for keywords: renewable energies, climate change, lobbying, politics, and critical thinking.</p> <p>The session gathered 50 persons (from Japan, Portugal, Lebanon, Italy, Hungary, New Zealand, USA, UK, Canada, South Korea, France, and more), part of which attended the 7th International Symposium on Primatology and Wildlife Science and counted 10 new members from and outside Kyoto University.</p> <p>After each session, a feedback questionnaire is held to the attendees and on the 23 sheets returned, we could read that the food is a great idea (!), the discussion got the lowest score (probably because our invited speaker talked a bit too much) but still everyone would recommend the event to others. Among requested topics for future sessions are: world heritage, meat industry, vegetarianism, animals in captivity, nuclear energy, trash, marine mammals, films with solutions, and companies in sustainable development. As such, we are looking forward to have sessions on such topics in the near future – so, watch out and see you in the next Conserv’Session!</p>

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Screening of Before the flood and discussion with Prof. Fred Bercovitch.



Circle magazine of Kyoto University groups and activities for new students with Conserv' Session featured in it!

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6. Others

Acknowledgements: I would like to thank PWS for its continuous support; our invited speaker: Prof. Fred Bercovitch for his participation, time and critical thinking; as well as Miku Akiyama, Yoko Sakai and Atsushi Tsujimoto for helping us.