

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

2017. 06, 08	
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Name	Raquel Costa

1. Country/location of visit
Kyoto University, Japan
2. Research project
Conserv` Session #8: `The Cove` and `The behind of The Cove`
3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)
2017. 06. 03
4. Main host researcher and affiliation
none
5. Progress and results of your research/activity
<p>This session was held in June 3rd at Kyoto University, Seminar House of North Campus of Yoshida Campus. This event screened two documentaries: <i>The Cove</i> and <i>The Behind of the Cove</i>, aiming to address the dolphin hunting in a Taiji, Japan.</p> <p><i>The Cove</i>, produced by Louie Psihoyos, introduces the problem by the eyes of Ric O`Barry, a former dolphin trainer for the TV show <i>Flipper</i>, who have dedicated his last phase of his career to saving captive dolphin and advocating for their freedom and conservation. The documentary narrates how Psihoyos and `Barry form a team with the aim to record the slaughters and present it to the world. In the middle, the conflict with the local fisherman, the mercury contamination and the large global entertainment industry are presented and debated.</p> <p><i>The Behind the Cove</i> on the other hand, presents the whale hunting as a cultural practice in Japan. The producer, Keiko Yagi, uses the images that she collected during her stay in Taiji, when accompanying an activist group from Sea Shepherd. Yagi also conducts several interviews in the local community and with Japanese authorities. At some point, the producer relates the documentary to the past relationship between Japan and United States of America, namely the war period.</p> <p>In my opinion both movies have strong and weak points. As a biologist, with conservation and animal welfare as main topics of research, my view did not change by either movies but watching</p>

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these two sided versions made me realize how much discussion on the subject is still needed. However, I would like to have seen in the second movie, more on the captive industry for which many of the hunted dolphins are captured for.

It is urgent to include in the discussion all parts involved, including the local communities, Japanese authority representatives and international committees for Animal welfare and Wildlife Conservation, as this practice is deeply ingrained in the human population behaviour but affects in the worst possible way the lives of sentient wild animals, who belongs to no people. In sum, we should set aside old differences in order to preserve these species for future generations.



The poster is divided into two main sections. The left section is for the film 'The Cove', featuring an underwater scene of dolphins. It includes the text 'CONSERVATION SESSION', 'GUEST SPEAKERS: Ric O'Quinn's DOLPHIN PROJECT VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE', and 'LUC BESSON PRESENTS THE COVE'. The right section is for the documentary 'Behind THE COVE -The Quiet Japanese Speak Out!-' by Keiko Yagi, featuring a portrait of the director and a map of Japan. At the bottom, event details are provided: '2-4pm: The Cove (日本語字幕付き)', '4-4:15pm: Tea break', '4:15-6pm: Behind The Cove (英語字幕付き)', '6-7pm: Discussion', and '7-7:20pm: Social gathering'. Logos for Kyoto University and the Oceanic Preservation Society are also present.

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

No registration required, free entry!
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2017 June 3.
<https://www.facebook.com/ConservSession/>

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4:15-6pm: Behind The Cove (英語字幕付き)
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6. Others

I would like to thank the Conserv` Session organization committee for another interesting event. I am also thankful to PWS.