Extra Credit Option on Okinawa’s ‘Reversion’ 50 Years On

Course: Japan 435 A

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Due to other courses' time conflicts, I was only able to attend the workshop on May 13th. However, I am still impressed by Professor Alan Christy’s talk about the 勿忘石(Forget-me-not stone) and Professor Laura Kina and her students' artworks on expressing their voice on Okinawan indigeneity and cultural resurgence.

Due to my interest in music, I found that Professor Alan Christy mentioned a study in native music where scholars are trying to utilize music transcription software to transcribe music in order to relate various genres together. This not only provides chances to others who are interested in native music but also shortens the distance between Japan and US people. I learned that the process is arduous to achieve. If I remember correctly, Maruyama will spend days and months living in Campu and listening to these words that came back again and again, trying to piece them together in order to collect data. In addition, scholars need to consider the mental and logical considerations while collecting historical facts from native people. Records of these people and memories can be problematic to initial this kind of trauma. I do take note of a method of Josef's project in Methodology to work with open interviews.

In addition, Professor Laura Kina and her students’ artworks are really impressive. For a work who are making voices for the African Americans, they are showing their concerns on Black life matters from other aspects. For the floating room / Shimanchu, I saw islanders are kinds of forced away from their island and create their revolution through music video games. These are the memories that most of us have forgotten. Lastly, for those who made magazines for Okinawans, they are kinds of too young to express their knowledge about the history and lack of skills and experience to state the issues. After the workshop critics, I still think they have done what they can do so far.

I also realize the literal works we’ve discussed so far have important impact on scholars’ research on Okinawa. Such as the description of using Yasashi (Kind) to describe the island and also the critical expression to accept all the cruelty. These are all the kindness that Okinawa people don’t want in their position.