

Ji Hye (Alice) Han
GSGS grant report

Grant Report

Last year, I applied for GSGS grant to further conduct my graduate research on postwar Japanese photography. It came to my notice that Sophia University library does not hold enough resources that I need for conducting my Ph.D. dissertation which led me to apply for GSGS grant. It is with a great satisfaction to report that the grant amount that I was awarded with was more than sufficient to purchase photo catalogues, books, and trips. Most of the grants were used for ordering the books that I needed. The rest were mostly spent on the research trips. On the outset, my research mainly focused on Ishiuchi Miyako and Tomatsu Shomei as wrote on the research plan. The study specifically centered on delineating Ishiuchi's first major series, *Yokosuka Story (1976-77)* and Tomatsu's representative project, *Occupation* series as resistance against "organized forgetting" of postwar shadows (in comparison to mass media images of the time). Yokosuka, a common destination of both Tomatsu and Ishiuchi, and the fading memories, the memories associated with America, occupation and war paper that are underlying the works of Ishiuchi and Tomatsu became my focal points. The exhibition catalogs, photobooks, photo magazines, books on postwar Japan, history of Japanese photography books that I purchased through the grant proved immensely helpful in advancing my initial research phase. On my next phase, I decided to further expand on the topic of the U.S. military and the postwar which led me to make two trips to Korea where U.S. has been stationing one of its major military bases in Pacific since 1957. After all, those U.S. soldiers in Japan often headed back and forth between bases in Korea and Japan. During these trips I went to various places relating to U.S. military: War Memorial of Korea, Yongsan, Itaewon, Namsan. In addition, I

met with Professor Yun Bi at Sung Kyun Kwan University to discuss 1) U.S. cultural policy in each continent (Japan, Korea), 2) mass media images in Korea at the time, 3) photographers who worked on U.S. military in Korea. My next stage of research would be sorting out the materials from these trips and putting it next to my studies on Tomatsu and Ishiuchi. Lastly I would like to say that it would have been very difficult to advance my research this far without the GSGS grant.