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Graduate School of Global Studies Research Grant Application 2021 Report

Research Theme

This study consists of a macro-level analysis centered on a political economy approach of the Brazilian and Japanese foreign policy behavior, specifically, bilateral relations. It will analyze external and domestic political factors that reflect the country's elites' preferences and processes of learning, which later become incorporated in a country's foreign policy. Furthermore, the dependent variables in this research, i.e., the Brazilian and Japanese foreign policy, will be observed through measures taken to pursue an autonomous stance in the international realm to achieve national goals. This research is performed against the backdrop of a global governance structure currently facing various changes, specifically, the increased bilateral disputes between the United States and China. Therefore, this research observes through two case studies how developing and developed countries pursue autonomy while facing new external pressures on the international stage.

Research grant expenses and accomplishments

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic effects, field trips became highly restricted. For that reason, the research grant was mainly used to pay for books and event participation. Thanks to the research grant, I purchased eleven e-books from Brazil, three physical books in Japan, and paid a participation fee for an online symposium organized by the Bandaranaike Centre for International Studies in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

As a result, I wrote a paper and presented it in the symposium mentioned above, which was fruitful to this research.

The book selection considered the following aspects: 1) If they were unavailable at the university's library; or 2) If they provided the essential information to help build a literature review about Japanese political history, Brazilian political history, and the bilateral relations between China and the US.

Notwithstanding, I also selected a few books about cultural diplomacy to explore how the use of soft power and creative economy is used to increase a given country's autonomy since one of my case studies aims to observe how developing countries that lack economic and military power can increase their presence in the international realm.

Please feel free to check the total expenses in the expense report attached.