

The 2025 GSGS Research Grant Report

Grantee Name: Estes Whitney

Research Topic: Logistics 4.0 and International Traveling Exhibitions: Unpacking the Future of Art and Artifact Mobility

Academic Year: 2025

Affiliation: Graduate School of Global Studies

Grant Amount: ¥ 50,000

Research Expenses: Train Tickets and Museum Tickets

My research objective was to investigate the current technological infrastructure supporting the logistics of international fine art exhibitions, with a focus on identifying and categorizing relevant Logistics 4.0 technologies. The study aimed to develop a practical toolkit of these technologies and assess their current and potential impact on key stakeholders involved in the planning, transportation, and execution of international fine art exhibitions. In other words, the purpose of this research was to study what technology is currently used in exhibition logistics and what current developing technology defined in Logistics 4.0 could be utilized to improve systems. Fine art logistics is challenging work that deserves more focus in the logistics academic world. Exhibition logistics is a specialized field, but the ways in which Logistics 4.0 technology can be utilized also has merit in other logistics sectors.

Through the generous grant of ¥ 50,000 I was able to travel by shinkansen to Kyoto to meet with a curator from the San Diego Museum of Art who I interviewed previously. Also, I was able to be an audience member during his curator talk and view an introductory video for the exhibition which was unavailable my first time to the exhibition while it was in Tokyo. In addition, I was able to view exhibition, *Emulation and Admiration: Two Stories of Collection*

European Art one more time and take extra care to look at the details of the exhibition for my project. I learned due to restrictions on some of the art at the National Museum of Western Art in Tokyo a smaller number of pieces were moved to Kyoto which I was able to note in my research. This excursion allowed me to gather more information that showed me the complexity that the exhibition managers goes through which added to my research.

In addition, by chance during this excursion I can across an exhibition called *Young Poland* hosted at the Museum of Modern Art in Kyoto. I was able to attend this exhibition and view many pieces that were transported from Poland to Japan by the National Museum of Kraków. The exhibition was added to my research list, and I was able to contact the project manager of this exhibition and interview them over email. This became one of the four founding exhibitions of my project. I then returned to Tokyo by shinkansen, which was also generously provided by the grant. Without this excursion, I would have lost valuable data for my project.

Unfortunately, a secondary planned exhibition excursion back to Kyoto to see the repacking and loading of the artwork had to be canceled due to internal contractual issues. Other exhibition excursion options were reviewed but unfortunately throughout the research process, no other organizations outside of Tokyo were found to be hosting international art exhibitions that fit this project's criteria, that is why the total amount of the grant was not utilized.

I am very grateful for the GSGS team and Sophia University's support for my research project. Sophia University's dedication to supporting its students in their research goals is greatly appreciated. I would like to thank my advisor, Yakob Khojasteh, for his support and the GSGS office for their continued assistance throughout my graduate studies and for providing this grant opportunity.



