

# Kyoto Culture Group

Project Leader

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# Comprehensive Archive of Rakuchu-Rakugai-Zu Foldeing Screens and Transformation of Urban Customs

Kyoto Culture Group  
Comprehensive Archive of  
*Rakuchu-Rakugai-Zu* Folding Screens and  
Transformations of Urban Customs

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【Visiting Researchers Overseas】 Zhang Jian Li (Chinese Academy of Social Sciences)  
【Non-Ritsumeikan Research Collaborators】 Mamoru Shimosaka (Tetsukayama Univ.); Princess Akiko (Oxford Univ.); and Shinya Maezaki (Univ. of London)

## Research Purpose

“*Rakuchu-rakugai-zu*” folding screens are genre paintings that depict Kyoto’s landscapes as well as customs, habits, and ways of living among urban dwellers. This type of paintings were created starting from the 16th century.

While the main material for this project is “*rakuchu-rakugai-zu*,” other types of paintings and records are also consulted. The project aims for a multi-faceted exploration of Kyoto’s urban images that can be understood through deciphering the rich information portrayed in the paintings. Moreover, the project explores means of “virtual exhibitions” of the paintings.

## Research Topics (since 2007)

### 1. Symposium

Apart from the research group meetings, we hold symposiums to sum up the research results. Last year, a symposium entitled “Kyoto vs. Edo: Deciphering the Representations of Kyoto and Edo” (March 1-3, 2008) was held. Focusing on screens “*rakuchu-rakugai-zu*” and “*Edo meisho-zu*” at the Idemitsu Museum of Arts as the main materials, 5 researchers presented independent papers and 2 general discussions were held.



### 2. Research Group Meetings

Research group meetings are held for four days every year. Participants come from a wide range of disciplines, including history, art, literature, and geography. Researchers and graduate students from various universities in Japan as well as USA, Canada, and England have joined these events. Young scholars such as post-doctoral fellows and graduate students lead active discussions during the meetings. Results of the meetings thus far will be published in May 2009, entitled “Cultural Studies on *Fūzokuga* (genre paintings): Media that Reflects Urban Life.”

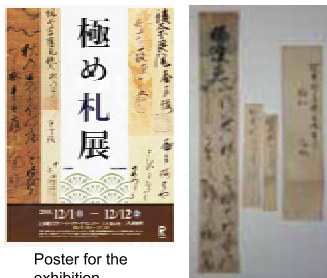


Scene of a Meeting

### 3. Exhibitions

“*Kiwame-fuda* (appraisal tags)”  
Exhibition was held on December 1-12, 2008.

As a part of our project’s “contents research,” the exhibition focused on *kiwame-fuda* that accompany *kohitsu* (ancient calligraphy). 30 *kiwame-fuda* and *kohitsu* were exhibited. More exhibitions showcasing the results of the contents research will be held in the future.



Poster for the exhibition

*Kiwame-fuda* written by an appraiser of ancient calligraphy



Scene from the exhibition



Kyoto at the End of the Year (*Tsukunami fūzoku zukan*, Collection of Art Research Center)