



## Helpful Guidelines for the Group Study Rooms and Individual Research Rooms

### Group Study Rooms

Welcome to our Group Study Rooms, designed to facilitate collaborative learning and group meetings. We have four Group Study Rooms available, each accommodating groups of students who need a space to work together effectively. While primarily intended for group discussions, these rooms are also available for individuals needing a space to engage in activities that require conversation or sound, such as interviews or online courses.

Each room is equipped with whiteboards, perfect for brainstorming using visual aids during discussions. Pens for the whiteboards can be borrowed from the Main Counter for your convenience. Room 4 is equipped with a monitor, ideal for presentations or sharing digital content. To ensure fair access, there is a time limitation of three hours per person per day.



Group Study Room1 • Group Study Room4

### Individual Research Rooms

Welcome to our Individual Research Rooms, situated on the second floor in the quiet area of the library. These rooms provide a serene environment to individual studies. They are reserved exclusively for graduate school students and faculty members who require a quiet space for research and academic pursuits.

Absolute silence is expected in these rooms, creating an ideal atmosphere for concentrated study.

With no time limitations, these rooms are perfect for individuals seeking to spend extended periods immersed in their work.



Individual Research Room

Please note that food is not permitted in either the Group Study Rooms or Individual Research Rooms.

We look forward to seeing you utilize these facilities for your academic endeavors.

\*Please reserve these rooms via MyLibrary.

Written by *Yisianjiang Yumiti*

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## Reader's Choice: What to Read Next?

*This section introduces a book from our available selection at the Tohoku University Main Library. It is intended to pique your interest and fill your grey matter with intellect and emotion. Sit back and enjoy it!*

Among the many branches of literature, speculative fiction has gained the favor of many readers by virtue of its unique writing style and reading pleasure. The first speculative fiction I read was Agatha Christie's "And Then There Were None", a representative of the mystery genre. During her lifetime, she wrote 80 detective novels and short story collections, 19 screenplays, and 6 novels published under the pen name 'Mary Westmacott'. The sheer number of her books is second only to Shakespeare.

The novel "And Then There Were None" tells the story of a serial murder case that happened on a deserted island, called "Black Island", where eight people who have never known each other are invited. Upon their arrival, they are greeted only by the butlers, Mr. and Mrs. Rogers. During dinner, the gramophone in the dining room suddenly sounds, accusing the guests, the butler and his wife of murder. The nightmare begins when one of the guests suddenly dies.

In this work Agatha's writing style is very subtle, she utilizes multiple narrators to create a blind spot in the reading, making it difficult for the reader to guess who the real murderer is. The story takes place on an isolated island surrounded by the sea with no assistance, and the closed environment creates an atmosphere of treachery and panic, which immerses the read-

ers in it and makes them unable to extricate themselves from the situation. This model is also known as the "Closed circle of suspects".

Impressively, at the end of the novel, the author reveals the truth of the whole story through the confession of the murderer, and with the death of the murderer, the story finally closes the loop like an Ouroboros. The exploration of crime and punishment, justice and law left behind by the work also triggers deeper thoughts: what should people do when the law fails to administer justice?

Book: *そして誰もいなくなった*

Author: Agatha Christie/清水俊二訳

Publisher: 早川書房

Call No.: KE211/06

Location: 本館 2F 学閲

Language: Japanese

*Written by Wang Haomiao*

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## My Hometown: General Roca city, northern Patagonia (Argentina)

*In this column, we introduce the hometowns of our members, giving you a glimpse into their culture and some traveling tips from locals!*

Let me introduce you to my hometown named General Roca, located in the Province of Rio Negro, in the northern part of Argentina. It is a city of about 380,000 inhabitants and although it's not very known in the Patagonia, it has many beautiful places to enjoy.

Rio Negro province means "Black River" in English, and is one of the largest rivers in the Patagonia Region. This river is divided into three areas: High Valley, Medium Valley and Lower Valley. General Roca is in the High Valley, which is the Argentina's main fruit exporting area. The city is specially known for its apple production (they are delicious!). Each February the National Apple Festival is celebrated in my hometown, where you can enjoy local products and shows from national and regional artists.



*The city monument, an apple-shaped fountain.*

Another interesting place in my hometown is called "Canal Grande Park", which is the main irrigation canal that allows the city's productive lands to be irrigated. Part of this irrigation canal was paved in 2006, with pedestrian paths, metal safety railings and lighting that transformed the appearance of this area of the city, becoming a tourist attraction. It was very nice to see that transformation personally, since I lived right in front of the canal and I was able to observe the change before and after the renovation.



*Canal Grande Park at night.*

The last place I'm going to introduce is the Red Moon Valley and is one of my favorite places in my hometown. Actually, there are four Valleys of the Moon in Argentina. And two of these are in General Roca city! They are called Red Moon Valley and Yellow Moon valley and are located about 22 km from the city center. Although both are really beautiful, my favorite one is the Red Moon Valley due to its vibrant colors.

In Spanish we call this form of landscape as "bardas", and they constitute an extreme version of the desert because the ground is almost devoid of vegetation. The appearance of these *bardas* resembles Mars due to the red soil, and the wind and scarce rains that shape it. The Red Moon

Valley is within a municipal protected area, since its soils are rich in fossil deposits, becoming an area of strong paleontological interest.



*The Red Moon Valley. With my friends.*

I hope you liked these corners of my hometown, and that my recommendation can motivate you to visit my country someday. Thank you!

\*All photos taken by author

\* Consulted sources: General Roca Municipality. <https://www.generalroca.gov.ar/>

Written by **Maria Laura Martelli Giachino**

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## Quote of the Month

*This section introduces famous quotes from a recommended book from our available selection at the Tohoku University Main Library. The quotes have been meticulously chosen by our Concierge members with the intention of promoting interest in books and providing motivation to our readers. We hope that you will enjoy our selection!*

**“And once the storm is over, you won’t remember how you made it through, how you managed to survive. You won’t even be sure, whether the storm is really over. But one thing is certain. When you come out of the storm, you won’t be the same person who walked in. That’s what this storm’s all about.”**



**Book:** Kafka on the Shore

**Author:** Haruki Murakami

**Publisher:** London : Vintage

**Call No.:** KH384/47

**Location:** Main Library2F

Written by **Petrovikj Hristina**

## Manga Corner

At Manga Corner, you will see scenes that frequently happen to newly enrolled students.

Hi! I am Andhika from Indonesia! I like reading and drawing manga, and I hope you enjoy my short manga.



## Editors



### **Petrovikj Hristina** [Editor-in-Chief]

A graduate student from North Macedonia enrolled in the Graduate School of International Cultural Studies. She has many hobbies, some of which include: singing, journaling, travelling, reading, watching movies, and photography. She has lived in 3 different countries so far, travelled across Europe, and is hoping to embark on an Asian tour in the near future. Her secret dream is to be a member of a rock band, but since that has not come true yet, you can often find her in a karaoke booth instead!

### **Helen Li**

A 3rd year PhD student from Economics and Management Department, majoring in monetary economics and financial time series analysis. She previously lived in the USA and came to Japan in 2019. She has been playing the piano for over 10 years, and is also a semi-professional athlete of speed skating since before she was 14. She is an excellent female gamer of MOBA games such as DOTA and Honor of Kings. Her dream is to become a university professor or a diplomat, but a superior professional athlete of Esports if she was 10 years younger.



### **Andhika Wijaya**



A graduate student from Innovative Japanese Studies Major, who was born and raised in Jakarta, Indonesia. She never had seen snow before she came to Japan, so she's always going 'wakuwaku' when the snow is falling down even though she has to struggle a lot with the cold temperature. She loves drawing, reading comics, travelling to scenic places, enjoying nice music, singing at karaoke, and playing with cute animals. Please don't mind her if she makes strange noises when she saw a photo of cute animals. Aside of those, one of her major passion is enjoying food and making review notes about it.

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## How to reach us?

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