



## Library Guidance Tour for International Students: Welcome to Tohoku University and Sendai!

At the beginning of each semester, the Main Library of Tohoku University at Kawachi campus offers guidance and tours to newly arrived international students. This September 27<sup>th</sup> we held two consecutive library guidance tours in English for students who came from various countries from all over the world.

The guidance started with a detailed presentation given by International Student Concierge members who introduced the Tohoku University Library and its facilities in detail. They covered topics such as navigating the library, using the online public access catalog (OPAC) system, as well as accessing various helpful resources and services provided at the library, one of them being the International Student Concierge Desk which offers student support for international students in English, among other languages.



Library Guidance

Following the presentation, the students were divided into smaller groups each

guided by an International Student Concierge member. During the tours, students were given a more hands-on introduction of various learning spaces in the library, such as the group study rooms, flexible working areas, the PC area, the lounge and quiet study places. Some students were especially impressed with the Global Learning Room which holds numerous Japanese books translated into English and several other languages. Their second favorite were the mysterious moving shelves of the Building 2.

The main goal of the library guidance is to help new students become familiar with various facilities and services that Tohoku University Library offers for their successful academic research. We hope to see many new students using the library and enjoying all the resources it provides.



Library Tour

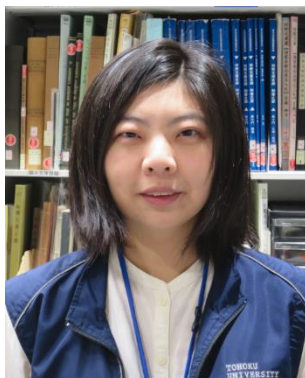
Reported by **Hristina Petrovikj**

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## New Members!!

*This section introduces new members of the International Student Concierge.*

### Wang Haomiao



Hello everyone! My name is Haomiao Wang. I come from Beijing, the capital of China, which is located in the north of China. I live in the suburban area of Beijing, which is not as busy as the center of the city, but it is very suitable for living.

My undergraduate degree is from a university in China, majoring in logistics management. After graduation, I studied Japanese by myself and passed the Teacher License Examination in China. I decided to come to Japan to study in order to improve my study of Education.

I have lived in Japan for 5 years so far (2 years in Tokyo, 3 years in Sendai), and I think I will live here for another several years. This is my first-year of my Doctoral course in the Graduate School of Education. My current research focuses on the relationship between educational policy and equity in China.

During my spare time I like to read a variety of books, especially when it's raining or cloudy, I find it enjoyable to hide at home and read a book.

### Yin May Zin Han

Hello everyone! My name is Yin May, and you can call me Mapo as well. My hometown is Yangon, Myanmar, where

you can see many golden pagodas. Currently I am the second year Master student, studying Cognitive Neuroscience at Human Brain Science Department, Institute of Development, Aging and Cancer. My main research interest is in Social Communication and Leadership using functional MRI.

I got a Bachelor's Degree in Medicine and Surgery from the University of Medicine (2) in Yangon. After receiving my Bachelor's Degree, I worked as a resident doctor at "Japan Heart", a non-governmental organization based in Sagaing region in Myanmar, mainly working on surgical trainings. During my elementary school education, I studied in Japan for 3 years. Since then, I have always been dreaming of studying in Japan again and now I am pursuing my masters here at Tohoku University.

I am extremely passionate about making handcrafts in my free time and my other favorite leisure activities are traveling, reading, and watching movies. I enjoy exploring Sendai City where you can enjoy the nature, as well as walking through the Ichibancho shopping arcade. These would never get me tired. I also love spending my time at our Library because I can feel the power of books and the motivation for learning from other students. I am looking forward to seeing you in the Library and if we have a chance, let's be friends.

Let me introduce our traditional Burmese attire called "Longyi" in the photo below:





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## My Hometown: Los Barrios

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

Hello, my name is Antonio and I am from Spain. In this section, I would like to introduce my hometown of Los Barrios, located in the southern province of Cadiz. Situated within the region known as 'El Campo de Gibraltar,' which includes several towns near the British territory of Gibraltar.



View of Gibraltar from Palmones (Los Barrios beach). Picture taken by the author.

Los Barrios is a charming little town with a population of approximately 24,000 inhabitants, spread across a vast area of 331.49 km<sup>2</sup>. The town is divided into two main areas: the urban center, where most residents reside and the majority of festivals are held, and the nearby Palmones area. Palmones is located close to a river with the same name that flows into the sea and is home to Palmones Beach, where visitors can enjoy a beautiful view of the Gibraltar. Additionally, the Palmones area is home to an industrial sector, playing a significant role in the economic growth of the entire Campo de Gibraltar region.

One of the most appealing aspects of Los Barrios is its breathtaking natural scenery. With small rivers, a beach, and scenic mountain trails, there are plenty of

opportunities for hiking and outdoor activities. One of my favorite hikes is 'La Garganta del Capitan', a path that leads through a valley, culminating in a refreshing spring and a small waterfall, making it a popular spot among locals and tourists alike.



View of the spring in 'La Garganta del Capitan'. Picture taken by the author.

Another highlight of Los Barrios is its traditional festivals, such as the 'Romeria' and 'La Virgen del Carmen.' These celebrations are deeply rooted in the town's Catholic heritage, though people of all backgrounds are welcome to participate. The Romeria is the most anticipated event of the year and requires months of preparation. Groups and associations in the town create beautifully decorated carts, which are pulled by tractors or horses. The carts slowly ascend a mountain, and the journey takes almost an entire day. Throughout the trip, people sing, dance, and enjoy refreshments. For the youngest attendants (although everyone can join) the event culminates with an all-night party at the end of the path, where the entire town comes together to celebrate.

Another important event is 'La Virgen del Carmen,' honoring the patron saint of seafarers. In summer, a large statue of the Virgin is carried through the Palmones river down to the sea. For religious residents, this event is incredibly meaningful and emotional.

Los Barrios is a town steeped in tradition, with warm and friendly residents. I highly recommend you try the delicious local cuisine and explore all that this town has to offer. Located just an hour and a half by car from the International Airport of Malaga, Los Barrios might be an interesting destination to visit during your next trip to Spain!

Written by **Fernandez Caro Antonio**

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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 pick your interest and fill your grey matter with intellect and emotion. Sit back and enjoy it!*

"Tomorrow is another day."

The novel *Gone with the Wind* is set against the backdrop of the American Civil War (1861-1865) between the South and North over the expansion of slavery into the West, and Reconstruction (1865-1877), the post-war period. The story depicts a young woman, Scarlett O'Hara, the spoiled daughter of a Southern plantation owner, living through these turbulent times.

*Gone with the Wind* was popular with American readers from its release and it was the top American fiction bestseller in 1936 and 1937. More than 30 million copies have been printed worldwide. Mitchell received the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction for this book in 1937. It was adapted into the 1939 film of the same name, which is considered to be one of the greatest movies

ever made and it also received the Academy Award for Best Picture during the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Academy Awards Ceremony.

Many readers have been captivated by the Scarlett's tenacity to lose to no man and the love story between her and Red. However, I prefer to focus on another angle of the story, which is the portrayal of white southerners and slavery. In 2020, another Black Lives Matter movement has erupted in America because of the murder of George Floyd. Then the movie *Gone with the Wind* was banned from screening because of racial discrimination.

*Gone with the Wind* is indeed an older novel, but it is worthy of being discussed no matter when, especially now with the escalation of racial discrimination. It surely deserves your attention.

Book: *Gone with the Wind*

Author: Margaret Mitchell

Publisher: Iwanami Shoten

Translated to Japanese: Konomi Ara

Call No.: ks164/088

Location: Gakuetsu Shinsho IwanamiBunko

Written by **AiPing Zhao**

## Manga Corner

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

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



Are you looking for a place to study together or to do a group project?

I can't do it anymore...

Don't give up!

The Main Library has 4 areas for group study.

1. Global Learning Room

2. Flexible Working Area

No reservation is needed for these two.  
Just come and sit as you like!

You can freely arrange the desks and chairs

3. Box Seats

4. Group Study Room

Max 4 hours.  
Equipped with TV monitors.

You have to reserve via My Library to use these two facilities.

Max 3 hours.  
My favorite spot.

Conversations are allowed in these 4 areas, but please make sure you won't disturb others.

We made it!!! Finally!!!

Hooray!!!

More details are available at the Concierge Desk or the Main Counter.





## 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 'waku-waku' 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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