

審査の結果の要旨

氏名 李信愛

The Final Review Committee Members :

Prof. Yee-Kuang Heng (Chair)

Prof. Hideaki Shiroyama

Prof. Kenichi Ueda

Prof. Toshiro Nishizawa

Prof. Chiyuki Aoi

At the final review, the dissertation was deemed to have fulfilled the standard of scholarship required for conferment of the Ph.D degree. The candidate was instructed to submit the finalized dissertation as is (after technical proofreading).

Specifically, the submitted paper made the following contribution to the academic field.

1. The paper successfully bridged existing gaps amongst the academic fields of International Relations, International Security and Public Policy, with a conceptually well-delineated empirical study that focuses on Japanese strategic communications practice and policy implementation. The study critically evaluates the meaning and implication of former prime minister Shinzo Abe's use of the narrative of Proactive Contribution to Peace and the role it played in the achievement of Japan's security objectives. As such it is a timely contribution to the growing literature on evaluation of Abe's national security policy. It is also a contribution to the emerging strategic communications literature that provides an empirical and policy dimension to the discussion to date, which has tended to focus on the technical/informational aspects of the subject.
2. The dissertation presented a new interpretation of the key Abe administration narratives, such as Proactive Contribution of Peace and the concept of a Free and Open Indo Pacific (FOIP), presenting them as essentially identity narratives endowed with constitutive functions intended to elicit desired changes in audiences' perceptions and behavior. As such, the study goes beyond the existing IR framework that tended to focus on dichotomy between the interests and the norms/identities of Japanese security policy. The dissertation presents a comparative case study involving three cases of Japanese strategic communications activities: maritime security

cooperation with Southeast Asia, participation in UN peacekeeping operations, and new partnerships with Europe.

3. The results yielded fresh perspectives on the implementation of Abe administration security policy where the effectiveness of communications strategy fluctuated significantly across the cases examined. The explanation provided by the study illuminates the essentially political nature of strategic communications practice, where credibility and consistency of messages is intricately intertwined with diverse perceptions of national interests and values, which, at times, worked to undermine the intended communicative results. As such, the study sheds new light on the elusive nature of strategy in the communications sphere, where the complexity of cross-cutting interests can inhibit focus on values-led diplomacy.

The committee then recommended some steps towards future publication. The conceptual framework and data generated during the study would best be *consolidated*, without unnecessarily expanding its focus to other unexplored areas, e.g. other countries' practices. Suggested issues to be taken into consideration include the following.

1. To add depth, consider adding reference to the Abe administration's closeness to Russia, which undermined Abe's strategic messaging to emerging European partners;
2. Further articulate the nuances and differences existing in stances towards China amongst Southeast Asian countries and Japan, as well as the varied meanings of 'inclusiveness' in the FOIP construct, depending upon nations and circumstances;
3. Further tease out and articulate the (evolving) relationships, overlaps and differences among soft power, public diplomacy and strategic communications in the Japanese mindset, along with resultant institutional and practical implications.

よって本論文は博士（公共政策学）の学位請求論文として合格と認められる。