モラルサイエンス研究会(令和2年11月18日)発表要旨

Chikuro Hiroike and Westernization

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After examining various definitions of Asia and the West, the dual character of westernization, as technology transfer and sociocultural reform, was outlined. The Turkish experience of westernization, including its connection to Japan, was offered as a case study illustrating why westernization is a complex concept, akin to a reaction between chemical compounds. The disruptive sociocultural aspects of Japanese westernization were then explored, with a focus on Yukichi Fukuzawa, *rinrigaku*, and the displacement of neo-Confucian values by 'rationality'. As to the impact of westernization on the early life of Chikuro Hiroike, questions were raised about how he and his family responded to the Satsuma Rebellion of 1877, the 'Matsutaka deflation' of the 1880s and the contentious new world of education in a westernized era. Finally, the effects of westernization and the West on Hiroike's thinking were detailed. It was concluded that while westernization may have influenced his analysis of moral causality, the fact that he included Socrates and Jesus among the sages indicates that, for him, the West far more than merely the source of westernization; rather, he used aspects of it to help him craft solutions to the problems created by westernization in Japan and modernity in the wider world.