1. A few sentences (1-2 paragraphs) about your reason for liaising with the Ralph Bunche Institute

I have obtained from my university a sabbatical and I need to further explore the issues of care, human security, and intersectionality …. in a global perspective. CUNY seems the best place imaginable, since the topics the Ralph Bunche Institute for international studies is engaged with are very appropriate to the progress of my research.

The concept of contemporary global problem solving is a wonderful way to bring together all the fieldwork, and the various international approaches, and the theoretical background I have intertwined in the recent years.

1. Your fellowship dates

From March 1st, 2018 to August 30th, 2018

3.      If you are working on a specific project while you are here, please provide a brief research overview of 1-2 pages.

Background

As a professor at the Graduate School of Global Studies, Doshisha University, based in Kyoto (Japan), Anne is trained in sociology. Since 2004 and more March 11, 2011 and the beginning of the Fukushima nuclear disaster, her research has been taking two directions 1) Protection and Vulnerability: Public Policies and the Variety of Responses to Disasters: what kind of human protection can be conceived and enacted in situations of total vulnerability? 2) Knowledge, Society, and Democracy After Fukushima: this research focuses the place of information and knowledge in a nuclear society, and it aims to bring out the articulation between information/knowledge and human protection. The key words of her current research are: vulnerability; human security; care, empowerment; risk paradigm; nuclear social studies; socio-politics of knowledge and ignorance.

Research project

During my sabbatical, I plan to collect of my previous research on Forms of life and Human security with a strong point on ethics of care and write a book. It will mainly focus on the way Japan deals with human security through the case of the Fukushima nuclear disaster which is the central “empirical experience” I mobilize.

But base on previous research conducted by other scholars in different cases as Katrina in the United States, Chernobyl in Russia, Minamata in Japan, I want first to observe strong tendencies in the forms of life - existential vulnerability and agency. The focus will be put on the cognitive process, how ordinary people access to technological knowledge and manage, translate it, through different practices into their own norms in order to be able to decide their own liveThe present research starts with aims to analyze the ways in which people who have faced a disaster reconstruct their lives. But it will not focus only on the individual level but on the forms of life that emerge from this experience. The point is that a specific form of life is produced and can become the way people are living long after the disaster’s effects ended. The notion of form of life has many origins - Wittgenstein, Hegel but also in sociology through Norbert Elias’s notion of configuration. What does it mean to have the experience of facing death and how people reconstruct their life not only in order to return to a normal life but carrying some new perspectives? That is why the notion of life, understood in both its biological dimension and its social dimension is an important notion. Indeed, coming through a disaster is both a physical and emotional experience but one which also brings changes in the material life. The research will focus on the cognitive process which create these changes.

At the individual level, a disaster is an experience which confronts people with death, loss andphysical weakness. Suddenly, modern people who inhabited a life from which death was absent have to face death. We can speak of an existential vulnerability - people become aware once more of their human condition. This vulnerability is at the core of the new form of life they will build. For the needs to the research, I make the distinction between individual and collective dimensions but in practice, this existential vulnerability is founded on the collective experience of the new form of life. This new form of life is understood as the way people face new conditions in which the disaster put them and the new form of life is founded on agency. At this point, the role of women is quite important, as they are the first concern by health, food security, to protect children’s life. So the research wants to elucidate how people work together in order to survive and to create a new environment in which, even if they know they are vulnerable, they decide to stay and live. The relation to nature takes on a new dimension. Agency means also, as many case studies reveal, to confront oneself to knowledge. Given that a disaster always has some technological dimensions, experts are required to explain the causes and to give advices on how to deal with it. That means that ordinary people have to decide some aspects of their life in relation with technical whereabouts. How people decide in these conditions is an important aspect of the research. A great deal of research on disasters is placed within the framework of risk - how to protect oneself against the risks. The present research is concerned by a wider understanding of people’s agency in which vulnerability is seen as unescapable, and is at the ground for a new form of life, an enemy but as a part of their life.

4.      Please give us a list of your most relevant publications

1. « Le politique en question - Hiratsuka Raichô et l’Association des femmes nouvelles », Lefèvre, Brigitte and C. Lévy (Ed.), Parcours féministes dans la littérature et la société japonaises de 1910 à 1930, Paris, Éditions l’Harmattan, 2017, p.161-179.
2. « Quand les femmes s'engagent dans la politique nationale: quelques considérations sur la féminisation et la démocratisation du monde politique japonais " Christian Galan, J・P Giraud (ed.), Individu-s et démocratie au Japon, Presses universitaires du Midi-Tempus, 2015, p.175-189.査読あり
3. « Le féminisme à l’épreuve d’une catastrophe nucléaire. Mères, nature et care dans le Japon d’après-Fukushima », Genre et Environnement - Nouvelles menaces, nouvelles analyses au Nord et au Sud, Cahiers du genre, (dir. Pascale Molinier, Sandra Laugier et Jules Falquet), Nº59/2015, p.153-171.
4. « Quelles vies pour des corps irradiés? Désorientation et résistance après l’accident nucléaire de Fukushima », Raison publique - Care, Capabilités, Catastrophe, Novembre 2015. http:[www.raisonpublique.fr/article770.html](http://www.raisonpublique.fr/article770.html)
5. « Entendre la souffrance des enfants - la loi relative à la prévention de la maltraitance », Japon Pluriel 10, Décembre 2014, p.89-100.
6. « Vulnerability in times of disaster- Study on aid in response to the triple disaster in Tohoku on 11 March 2011 », Iride Filosofia e discussione publica, December 2013, p.551-563.査読あり

5.      A link to the homepage of your home university/ department

Graduate School of Global Studies

http://global-studies.doshisha.ac.jp/en/