

**Name :** Natsuyo Ishibashi

**Organization** (at the time of the grant): Indiana University

**Title of Research:**

Germany and Japan Respond to the U.S. Invasion of Iraq:

A Comparative Study of Foreign Policymaking

**Purpose of Research:**

In my dissertation research, I investigate why Germany and Japan responded so differently to the American invasion of Iraq in 2003. Japan supported the American intervention, whereas Germany did not.

The purpose of this research is to test major international relations theories of state behavior. I set up four hypotheses in order to examine the effects of four factors on Japan's and Germany's decision to support or oppose the U.S. invasion: international security concerns, domestic political institutions, personal characteristics of political leaders, and domestic political culture.

**Content/Methodology of Research:**

My research is essentially a qualitative research project that rests upon primary and secondary sources. Given that the project covers recent events, the primary source materials will include an extensive examination of newspaper accounts, survey of public opinion, and the public speeches of key political actors. In addition, interviews will be conducted in both countries in order to fill gaps in the written record and to test my hypotheses. I will also use the secondary sources such as scholarly books and journal articles in order to understand not only the events which took place during the Iraq crisis but also past events that are relevant to the behavior of the two states during the crisis.

I used the Matsushita International Foundation Research Grant (200,000 yen) for conducting my field research in Japan from January to March 2008. I used the grant for purchasing a round-trip ticket from Indianapolis to Tokyo, a round trip ticket from Bloomington to Indianapolis airport, a roundtrip ticket from Narita airport to Tokyo, many short-distance subway tickets to go to places where interviews were taken place within Tokyo, and one round trip ticket from Tokyo to an outside prefecture where one of my interviewee was living.

**Conclusion/Observation**

Although I finished my field research in Japan, I am still in the process of doing my research. The process of foreign policymaking is a complex subject that requires careful analyses. Until I complete writing up my dissertation, I cannot make a definite conclusion about which variable(s) will prove to be the strongest in explaining the behavior of the two states during the Iraq crisis. In any case, I will try to make the results of my research generalizable. My study should appeal not only to people who are interested in the specific countries or the specific event, but also to those who are interested in theories of state behavior.