

# American Public Figures and Gay Rights: The Repeal of

## “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell”

Miki Kano

2007FB074

### Abstract

The history of how weak minorities advanced their rights tells us the importance of speaking up for rights in public. Especially, the environment around gay rights movements has totally changed since it started in the 1960s in the United States. Their situation is changing even at this moment. In 2011, the American Defense Department announced one thing; the official repeal of the US military’s “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy which prohibit gay members from serving openly in the military. It must be the moment that gay rights groups had waited for a long time. After “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy was repealed, a newspaper reported about comments with pleasure from two American public figures; American pop singer Lady Gaga and President Obama. This paper will examine how they tried to communicate to repeal “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy, and how people and the media reacted. There is one point of Lady Gaga’s way to communicate for the repeal of the policy; use of the star power. Because of her star power, the media and her fans are paying a great deal of attention and immediately respond to her fashion, words, and action. She tried to involve many people in the repeal effort. In the case of the President Obama’s speech about the repeal, he tried to inspire an even wider range of generation. His State of the Union address in 2010 drew the attention of the whole country. In the paper, I will clarify more details that their ways to communicate was effective or not for telling people their repeal effort.

# Both Sides of Globalization: Good vs. Evil

Hiroki Fujikake

2008FB017

## Abstract

Globalization is what almost all people are facing, and it influenced a lot of matters. On the one hand, some people can benefit from globalization, for example, by selling their products worldwide. On the other hand, globalization can be harmful to other people unconsciously. In this paper, as representatives of the age of globalization, two big companies are featured and studied in order to see what globalization really brings to us. One is McDonald's, and another one is Toyota. They are widely known and have a strong influence on people all over the world. The first company is McDonald's which is a big food chain marketing globally and mainly offer hamburgers. McDonald's supplies good taste products with low price immediately. It helps people who do not have much money or time. However, in order to offer the cheap food, McDonald's nearly exploits people who work there because it pays little. The second company is Toyota which is a Japanese automaker expanding in many countries. Toyota has its unique system of car building which helps Toyota sell a big number of their cars outside Japan. However, as Toyota grows its business, other automakers of foreign countries hate Toyota because they cannot sell their cars because people buy Toyota. As shown above, globalization has two sides of good and evil. Other big companies probably hold similar issues. So, big companies like McDonald's and Toyota should have a resolution to decrease the effect of the evil side of globalization; otherwise, they would suffer from objection of the people who act based on the idea that the big companies brings something bad.

# Illegal Immigration in the U.S.: Political Values behind Arizona's New Immigration Law

Azusa Hashimoto

2008FB028

## Abstract

Due to globalization, not only people but also varieties of things, such as information and resources, more than ever, cross easily through national boundaries. Similarly, globalization makes it easier for people to flow into other countries illegally. Illegal immigration is one of the most serious problems in the United States. On April, 2010, the Arizona State Government decided to pass a new immigration law and it was criticized as one of the toughest law in United States. On the other hand, it is a fact that the majority of Americans support it. What kind of principles has divided Americans into different positions? In order to research this question, this paper mainly focuses on the both the pro and the con opinions of this issue. This paper will first analyze a questionnaire which is on the website of ABC News. Secondly, after adding up and categorizing the opinions, the paper will examine both opinions in greater depth. Furthermore, the paper attempts to approach the opinions from the view of political philosophy, egalitarian liberalism and communitarianism. Through the research of Arizona's new immigration law, this paper hopes to come up with an ideal in the way communities in America function.

# English Imperialism in Japan

Eri Ishiguro

2008FB048

## Abstract

Language is not only a signal transduction tool, but sometimes it can be an identity of the culture or country. In this world, there have been many different cultures and many languages. Differences sometimes can be bothersome and it takes time and effort to communicate. Now, the world has become increasingly globalized. The globalization provides the convenience in exchange of diversity. Today, the United States has taken a central role in that “rule”. A good deal of business and cultural activities are conducted based on the rule the U.S. has designed. Language has been also globalized: now English is used as global common language. It affects Japanese. Many Japanese seem to believe without thinking that as many Japanese as possible should be able to speak English to keep up with globalization. Many Japanese companies have tried to bring up the human resources who have a strong command of English-language ability and parents give their children early English education. I will analyze the present situation of English promotion in Japan first. After that, I will propose the future directions of language policy, education to protect Japanese and Japanese identity. How should we deal with English promotion in Japan? I will argue that having a conscience and responsibility of being Japanese is important.

# Hong Kong in between Mainland China and the United Kingdom

Yuma Kato

2008FB073

## Abstract

Hong Kong has one of the most unique histories in the world. It was a colony of the United Kingdom for a long time, and the colonial period had a strong effect on Hong Kong even after it was returned to China in 1997. Now, Sino-British Joint Declaration that made an assurance that Hong Kong has the right to keep their life style for the next 50 years has been implemented in Hong Kong. On the other hand, after the handover to China 15 years ago, the effects from Mainland China are also getting stronger and stronger. Therefore, Hong Kong is currently right in the middle of the United Kingdom and Mainland China. This paper analyzes the disagreements of the problems over Radio Television Hong Kong RTHK, which is a public broadcast station, and examines what kind of issues are behind these problems. The independence of editing rights is built in RTHK philosophy during the colonial period of the United Kingdom. Based on this philosophy, it sometimes criticized the government even though it is funded by the government. Some people were against this attitude, and others supported it. Regarding these arguments about RTHK, we can find some controversial points: Should the public broadcast station watch the government, or support the government? Whom should public broadcast station be responsible to? We can find that these points are caused by the confrontation between pro-China and pro- United Kingdom people. It is a fact that Hong Kong is suffering from this confrontation, but it is also an opportunity to take a neutral position. Moreover the citizens in Hong Kong are attentive enough to pay attention to their problems because their position is not always stable.

# The Analysis of the Ideal Woman: Analyzing the Connection Between Media and Feminism

Shiori Nagata

2008FB113

## Abstract

Through analyzing the connection between the media and feminism, we can recognize that the media have a big influence on feminism today. This paper aims to explore the relationship between famous female public figures and the media as this relationship reflects on the connection between society and the image of the ideal woman. This, in turn, shows the current position of women in society and the effectiveness of the feminist movement. As examples of the movements of feminism, I would like to look at the connection between the second wave feminism and Audrey Hepburn and the third wave feminism and Lady Gaga. During the period of the second wave feminism, women claimed their right to be “women”, an idea based on radical autonomy. Audrey Hepburn was a good model of an ideal woman because of her appearance and the roles which she plays in some movies. The third wave feminism was under individualism and democracy. The person who had a good life attitude and had good mental health was regarded as the ideal figure by people at that time. Lady Gaga is a good model because she shows the importance of being independent and having a confidence in oneself. Both Audrey Hepburn and Lady Gaga contribute to connect the media and the movements of feminism. However, we should recognize that the media can create trends by showing people some specific aspects of famous people. We should be aware of the danger of taking one-sided opinion. Instead, we should consider things from other sides to live in this multicultural society.

# Affirmative Action: Diversity and Equality in the U.S. Society

Shuku Nakano

2008FB116

## Abstract

The U.S. is a nation that has mixed race factors. People from all over the world created this multicultural nation and have overcome some difficulties under the American Creed. Therefore, the U.S. has required creating equality for all the citizens. However, it has a tragic history. It was the slavery. The descendants of slaves are still suffering from inequality that has been set up in the history. In order to solve the problem, affirmative action was introduced. Affirmative action that I mention in this paper is a system of practices or policies to create fairness by giving special treatment to African Americans. However, some people insist that affirmative action does not promote true equality. In this paper, I would like to analyze affirmative action in the university entrance examination. I also look at some judgments about affirmative action and the philosophy of Michael Sandel. Through the analysis, I will consider the true fairness and diversity society.

# Wikileaks and Journalism: Changing Media and Communication

Mayu Nonoyama

2008FB125

## Abstract

Wikileaks is an international non-profit organization that publishes submissions of private, secret and classified media from anonymous news sources and news leaks in cyber space. It means Wikileaks is not doing a Brick and Mortar business. Thus, the government faces a difficult situation, because they cannot control the accusing site even diplomatic official telegrams are revealed by Wikileaks. Wikileaks has won many awards like the Index on Censorship Freedom of Expression. People all over the world have argued whether Wikileaks is journalism or not. Whether Wikileaks is journalism or not, the fact is those sites accusing and the spread of the Internet are changing conventional journalism. I consider someday, the Internet will replace newspapers. As Wikileaks disclose huge amounts of information, there is unlimited space and more freedom of expression in cyber space. This is the strongest advantage of future journalism. However, people are facing problems of its quality or management systems as a publishing company in the Internet society. Because of its quality and quantity, people would suffer gathering information which is believable or not in the future.



# Democracy and the Internet: How the Internet Works on Democracy

Satoshi Oda

2008FB127

## Abstract

We are surrounded by information technology. They make our lives more convenient. Without them, we cannot live any more. One of the most useful tools is the Internet. It is a necessary tool for the globalized society. It can change our lifestyles and values easily. It also changes the world dramatically. However, one of the most troublesome tools is the Internet, too. It is rapidly developing day by day and is out of control. It is too efficient for us to master perfectly. Such a situation brings new incidents. A journalistic association helps whistleblowers with spreading secret information of the authorities online. A comment of an Arabian man on Facebook is the prologue of a series of demonstrations against an unfair dictatorship. This paper focuses on the effect of the Internet on “democracy” through the study of two recent democratic cases, WikiLeaks and Arab Spring. Additionally, I would like to mention the changed value of democracy by the Internet, the difference between mass media and social media and the desirable relationship between democracy and the Internet.

# Sexual Minorities in Japan and the U.S.

Chiharu Okuya

2008FB135

## Abstract

Sexual minorities often referred to as LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) have recently gained attention in Western countries. With the news of the legalization of gay marriage and huge parades celebrating it in the state of California still fresh in our minds, the movement calling for equal rights of gay people to heterosexual people is getting more vocal in those countries. Then, what is the situation in Japan with regards to this issue? Is this country a good place for gay people to live? I believe the answer is no. In Japan, 2.74 million people are estimated to be LGBT, however, many heterosexual people have not knowingly met LGBT people a great deal in their lives. It is because sexual minorities tend not to come out, keeping their true sexual identity secret. Also Japanese society is not yet prepared to deal with issues regarding gay people, including issues of gay marriage. Thus, compared to the U.S, Japan is definitely not an easier place for gay people to live. Both nations are equally advanced, yet what is the difference between them? In this paper, I will consider the reason why Japanese society still does not accept gay people, focusing on the relationship between gay people and society. To examine the connection, I will refer to two points: the way media represents gay people and gay marriage.

# Gender Bias in Media

Akiko Shigeyoshi

2008FB148

## Abstract

In recent years, women's achievements stand out all over the world. For example, the fact that three women got the Nobel Peace Prize in 2011 is still fresh in our memory. The media surrounding us gave a great deal of focus on this news; such as "3 Women Awarded Nobel Peace Prize" (The New York Times, 2011). On the other hand, we have to still face the gender bias in our society. Some women are featured in the news, TV and magazines, but those women and their lives are not the majority, many women cannot live as they do. Therefore, why doesn't society change? In this paper, I will focus on "media" as a cause for gender bias, and give you a new perspective of "gender bias".

# Nuclear Peace

Minami Soga

2008FB153

## Abstract

Nuclear weapons. When we hear this word, we recall a dangerous image of war. Especially, Japanese people remember the atomic bombs in 1945. Many people died because of the atomic bombs. So, some people think nuclear weapons must be erased. However, other people think nuclear weapons are needed. One reason is the deterrent power to help us live without being attacked by other nations. Thanks to the existence of nuclear weapons, big wars have not happened. Moreover, in order to gain a strong international position, it is necessary to have nuclear weapons. It links to peace and avoiding attacks from other countries. In order to keep world peace, I would like to think deeply about the demand of nuclear weapons.

# Working Class in the UK: Policy and Media

Shota Takagi

2008FB166

## Abstract

One of the social features in the United Kingdom is class system. There are three classes which form British Society; upper class, middle class and working class. In particular, working class is very characteristic. There are a lot of famous artists who are born in working class like John Lennon or Noel Gallagher. In spite of such cultural contribution, there are some social obstacles because working class people have been placed in poorer position historically. This case is an important issue, so I would like to present and answer this question. That is, "What is the problem that working class people confront? To solve it, how do they act in British society?" To answer this question, I focus on policy and media. In the aspect of policy, I referred British ex-prime minister Tony Blair. As he supported the activity of the working class, working class people should be respected and they should take more chance or opportunity to advance into society. In the aspect of media, I picked up a famous British film director Ken Loach. He composes many realistic films which are concerned about working class. Investigating his films, they are disadvantaged due to two factors; working conditions and educational process. To solve these obstacles, they should organize with each other and stand up to the government. In my view, to succeed, the working class must get enough social opportunity to play an important role in the UK.

# Food Culture in Globalization: Analyzing Conflicts and Possibilities in Diversified Perspectives

Suguru Yamashita

2008FB199

## Abstract

In 2010, one documentary film, *The Cove*, won Best Documentary Award and aroused much controversy all over the world. This film deals with drive fisheries of dolphins in Taiji, Wakayama Prefecture, by an elite team of activists, filmmakers, and free divers, using hidden microphones and cameras and exposes how dolphins are killed. It raised the climate of public opinions against dolphin fishery, and the active discussions on freedom of expression or discrimination against Japan. However, is it true what the filmmakers insist on, based on the idea of “slaughter”? What is the true nature of this problem? There is actually something hidden behind the surface of the problem, deceiving the whole world. The globalization of food culture is a very complex and difficult problem. This paper focuses on how we should deal with the problems caused by the globalization of food culture, and focuses on two more big issues; the actual state of the activist group of Sea Shepherd and the crisis of tuna, that they may be in danger of extinction, in order to let us think about it from the diversified points of view and find out what is needed for us to deal with these phenomena.

# A Reconsideration of Criticisms about Little Mermaid

Minori Yokoi

2008FB206

## Abstract

There is a great deal of criticism about the Disney Animation Little Mermaid from around the world. In this paper, I examine the criticisms and the opinion of Disney's supporters and judge whether the criticisms are valid or not. To analyze this question, I divide the criticisms into four categories: 1) racial discrimination, 2) gender discrimination, 3) drastic changes from the original plot and 4) negative effects on children. First, the paper will examine Sebastian as a research object. He is a sub-character and a Jamaican sounding crab. Critics claim that he is a stereotype of lazy Jamaican. Second, the paper focuses on the story and the character of Ariel. In regards to the story, the outline of the princess story is viewed with suspicion from critics. And about Ariel, critics insist that her characteristics contain problems. In the third section, critics said that the Disney Animation's arrangement of the original plot contains some problems. Finally, the criticism is that the film contains all of these negative issues above, so it would have a negative effect on children's way of thinking and their lives. After examining whether these four criticisms are valid or not in each section, I claim that critics should have two balanced spirits; mind to make things better and rebelling spirit.

# For a Multicultural Society: Evolution and Unsolved Issues of the Canadian Multiculturalism Act

Ayaka Seki

2008FB223

## Abstract

In 1980, Canada established the Multiculturalism Act. They received remarkable attention from the world as the first country which established a policy to create an equal society. However, is it true that all immigrants can live comfortably in a different country? They have different languages, cultures and backgrounds. To live together with different people, what kind of action does a country need to take? Until the Canadian Multiculturalism Act was established, there were issues of language, culture, population, residence and other issues. Even after the policy was established, Canada still has various issues such as language, employment and income. In spite of these continuing concerns, it is true that there are a large number of immigrants living in Canada. In the midst of globalization, the country which is welcoming immigrants may come across the same issues as Canada has. Japan is now in a serious situation, because Japanese acceleration of demographic aging will not stop. We need more foreign laborers so that we could face the same issues as Canada. The Canadian multiculturalism movement may give us some hints. This paper will examine the Canadian Multiculturalism Act for creating multicultural society.