



Theme:



2019 The 4th PKU-WASEDA

Workshop

*"Peace and Conflict in the Developing World:  
Resources, Technology and Trade"*  
November 1, Peking University

### Speakers:



#### **Topic: "Electoral Blind Spot in Africa"**

--by Takashi Nagatsuji, PhD candidate, Waseda University

Does an electoral turnover improve the quality of elections in the future? I argue that an electoral turnover decreases the quality of the following election by creating electoral blind spot. The conventional wisdom dictates that an electoral turnover is one of the key elements in democratization and democracy, and a country gains a good reputation from citizens and the international community when an election changes the political leaders. However, an assumption that the newly elected leaders will hold free and fair elections in the future creates an electoral blind spot where the international community becomes soft in monitoring the following election. The international community mistakenly extends the reputation for the leaving leaders to the new leaders who constitute the new governments. The former opposition leaders who endured electoral manipulation in the past know the strategies of manipulation from the former leaders who dominated the government. They may take advantage of the blind spot and use the same old manipulation strategies in the following election. I test implications of this argument through the statistical analysis of electoral data in Sub-Saharan Africa. By theoretically and empirically unveiling the negative impact of electoral turnovers, this research contributes to the literature on democracy and also helps election observation missions to have appropriate plans for their observer dispatches.