

For Katsukata=Inafuku sensei, in appreciation

Because of a chance meeting, Waseda University will forever feel like home to me. When I first arrived at Waseda as an exchange student in 2004, I happened to take a class in gender studies. Little did I know that the Professor teaching it would come to mean a great deal for my life development. That Professor was Katsukata=Inafuku sensei.

From almost the first day, sensei took me under her wing, and although I was only enrolled as a BA student at the time, she allowed me to sit in on her MA level seminars and soon gave me the chance to work as a TA in some of her undergraduate classes. Later, when I became a PhD research student, it was only due to her help that I was given the status of Visiting Researcher, which provided me with all-important library rights and membership in the Waseda University community. And still now, whenever I come back as a visiting academic during leave periods from Newcastle University, it is due to her kind introduction to the Gender Studies Institute that I continue to feel a strong connection to Waseda.

What I have learned through all these years from Katsukata=Inafuku sensei—not only in terms of our mutual disciplinary interest, but also in terms of how to navigate the academic world itself—continues to be extremely valuable for me, and I shall be forever grateful for the opportunities and support she has bestowed on me. I hope one day I can repay her generous kindness to another young mind trying to find their place in the world.