



Newsletter

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Between Texas and Japan

Ramón Saldívar

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In late May and early June of 2003 I had the great good fortune to travel to Japan to attend the Japanese Association for American Studies (JAAS) conference in Kobe and to present several lectures on topics in American studies at four Japanese colleges and universities in the following weeks. This interaction between the JAAS and the American Studies Association (ASA) is the second year of a five year joint project for fostering scholarly exchanges between the ASA and the JAAS. The joint Associations aim to strengthen the exchange by building upon what has already been a highly stimulating and ben-

eficial series of interactions.

For me, one of the exciting moments of my lecture series was the opportunity I had to visit the University of Tokyo and the Center for Pacific and American Studies and the seminar in American studies directed by Professors Masako Notoji and Yujin Yaguchi. My trip to Japan in its entirety was one of the most rewarding intellectual experiences I have ever had in my entire twenty-four year academic career. Quite apart from my satisfaction with the responses to my separate presentations at the different venues, I was delighted to have developed what I am certain will

continue to be excellent professional and personal relationships with JAAS colleagues, Professor Masako Iino of Tsuda College in Tokyo, and Professors Notoji and Yaguchi. In the case of my visit to CPAS, our interaction continues a near fifty-year history of interaction between Stanford University and the Center for Pacific and American Studies at the University of Tokyo, going back to the immediate post-World War II era.

The JAAS conference sessions had focused on the theme of "Japan-United States Dialogues Across the Pacific: New Dimensions of American Studies." The