

June 23, 2023

IGU Thematic Conference on “Islands in Relations: Conflicts, Sustainability, and Peace”

Report on the IGU Travel Grant Program for Early Career Scholars

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The IGU Thematic Conference on “Islands in Relations: Conflicts, Sustainability, and Peace” (IGU-TC Osaka) was held on April 4-9, 2023, at Osaka Metropolitan University, Japan. The National Supporting Committee for the IGU-TC Osaka was organized within the Japan National Committee for the IGU to review and select applications for IGU Travel Grant for Early Career Scholars. Travel grants, JPY equivalent to USD 500 to 1,000 per person depending on travel distance or a registration fee waiver, were offered to assist early career (non-full-time or non-faculty) scholars in attending the Conference. Due to financial limits, the grant was given to selected applicants. Virtual participants could apply only for a registration fee waiver.

Applicants submitted their abstract (200 to 250 words) and their paper’s description (maximum 500 words) through the Conference website by October 15, 2022. The application form contained information about the year for the highest degree earned, the applicant’s academic status, gender, and nationality or citizenship (applications from non-OECD countries were preferred), and a signed endorsement letter. Any personal information collected through the Conference website was not disclosed outside the Committee. Review results were notified on October 31.

After careful application review by the Committee, fourteen Award winners were selected. Out of thirty-one applications, the Committee first selected fourteen grantees. Several grantees, however, shifted their in-person status to virtual one, and two grantees who would be awarded USD 1,000 and 750, respectively, could not attend the Conference even virtually. As a result, the Committee selected two more grantees and reallocated the grant budget to other grantees (see the table below). The total grant amount was USD 4,880. The currency exchange fees and other expenses (e.g., for printing award certificates) amounted to USD 120.

Award grants in JPY cash were handed to in-person participant grantees at the Conference venue with award certificates. Virtual participant grantees were given registration fee waivers and digitized award certificates.

At the opening ceremony, Shuya Niu from South China Normal University received her grant cash and certificate on behalf of the grantees. She made a short speech (see <https://youtube.com/live/qSVFOwYLpMk?feature=share>).

<i>Grantee's name</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Grant (USD)</i>
Shuya Niu	South China Normal University	750
Elise Yan Zeng	National Taitung University	750
Geneve Phillip-Durham	University College of Cayman Islands	80*
Yi Feng	Princeton University	750
Dionisia Koutsi	National Technical University of Athens	50*
Meagan Harden	University of Hawai'i at Mānoa	550
Brittany Wheeler	Clark University	50*
Angelo Brian Tantoy Castro	National Chengchi University	550
Shane Canup	University of North Carolina at Greensboro	50*
Nazifa Ahmed	Jawaharlal Nehru University	50*
Kai-Yang Huang	National Taiwan University	400
Maryam Farmani	Allameh Tabataba'i University	50*
Yan Huang	South China Normal University	400
Shiva Stephen Mohan	Toronto Metropolitan University	400
<i>Sub-total</i>		4,880
<i>Currency exchange transaction fees</i>		20
<i>Other expenses</i>		100
<i>Total</i>		5,000

* Registration fee waiver.