

## Preface

Daisuke Kamei

The Research Center for Intercultural Phenomenology at Ritsumeikan University organized the symposium *Downcast Eyes and Interculturality: The Whereabouts of Vision in the 21st Century* on the 28<sup>th</sup> of March 2018. This symposium was organized in commemoration of the publication of the Japanese translation of *Downcast Eyes: The Denigration of Vision in Twentieth-Century French Thought* (translated by Daisuke Kamei, Daisuke Kanda, Masafumi Aoyagi, Yuichi Sato, Takuji Kobayashi, Masatoshi Tanabe, and published by Hosei University Press, 2017) written by a great historian of ideas, Martin Jay.

Martin Jay is a world-famous historian of ideas, who is known even in Japan through many Japanese translations, including *Dialectical Imagination*, *Marxism and Totality*, and *Adorno*. *Downcast Eyes* is an important book depicting the history of the vision of European thought from the ancient Greek to contemporary French thought; the arrival of the Japanese translation was much anticipated. Seizing on the opportunity of this publication 25 years after the original version, the Center (to which all translators belong as researchers) organized the symposium and invited Jay.

In fact, this was a third lecture by Jay at Ritsumeikan University. The first was the fifth lecture meeting of the Study Group on Violence in 2005, where Jay presented “No place of grace: Violence in the Garden.” This gave us the idea to translate his book. The second visit featured his lecture, “Dialectic of

Counter-Enlightenment: The Frankfurt School as Scapegoat of the Lunatic Fringe,” organized by the Study Group on Rehabilitation in 2012. This was an opportunity to tell him that we had decided to translate his book. Thus, these visits of Jay at our university were accompanied by our process of translation. We would like to express our gratitude to Prof. Jay for his kind acceptance of a third visit.

In the symposium, following the opening remarks of Prof. Takashi Kakuni, the workshop “Starting from the works on the history of ideas of Martin Jay” was held, in which six translators gave presentations on their own research topics by referring to Jay’s work in two sessions (Session 1: Vision and the History of Ideas, Session 2: Philosophy and Anti-vision) ; Prof. Jay then commented on the presentations in each discussion. This was followed by the lecture by Jay, “Fused Horizons? *Downcast Eyes* in Japan.” His lecture is a brave attempt to address the problem of vision in Japanese culture, which should be called a sequel to – or special edition of – his *Downcast Eyes*, and Jay answered with sincerity the many questions in the discussion. The symposium concluded with the closing remarks of Prof. Toru Tani.

This issue includes Jay’s lecture papers (English and Japanese translation) and articles based on the presentations in the workshop (in English and Japanese). I appreciate that publication in both languages has been permitted. We, the members of the Research Center for Intercultural Phenomenology, gained a great deal from the translation of Jay’s book and from this symposium, and I am sure that this experience will be precious food for our future research activity.