

THE ICLA OBENTO

OCT 2022 | ISSUE: 3

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



INTERVIEW WITH AYUSH & DANIEL

CLUB LEADERS OF RADIANITE GAMING CLUB

Radianite Gaming Club is one of eight clubs currently established at iCLA.

The club, which focuses on video games and e-sports, provides a space for members to relax, meet people who share the same interests, and enjoy video games together.

Find the club in Classroom C207 in the evenings at 8 PM. Students can drop by at their leisure.

The club welcomes members of all levels.



Q: How did you get the idea of starting a gaming club?

DANIEL: I think the idea was to be more competitive. 5 of us played together in a team in one of the most popular games, Valorant – and we were thinking, why not create a gaming club and start something competitive? Ayush presented the idea and I went with it. With time, it went from competitive more to just relaxing.

Q: What kind of process did you go through to set up the club and what support did you receive? I know you probably came to the iCLA Admin Office a lot?

DANIEL: It took us more than a month just to acquire the classroom and the documentation. We were also the first club to actually promote ourselves and try to get new members. We wanted to interact with people so that's why we promoted as much as possible with posters and social media. We started with 8 members and this number is fluctuating every day.

AYUSH: We have 20 members right now.

DANIEL: The number fluctuates because in order to join the community, you need to pay a fee, which is 1,000yen per month.

Q: Do you feel that there was a benefit to starting a club?

AYUSH: The whole idea of opening a club was to provide other students a better place. So if it was just friends, we could have just played in our rooms. iCLA is a small community, but during weekends, many people don't come out of their rooms. But we are giving an opportunity for people to come out of their rooms, enjoy, relax, and meet new people. After opening the club, we made lots of new friends.

Q: What kind of activities does Radianite get up to?

DANIEL: The Gaming Club is providing 3 things overall – one is the PS5, another is VR, and a classroom where you can bring your set up. For example, if you have a gaming laptop, monitor, or keyboard, doesn't matter. We can provide extension cords. We can provide almost everything usually a gamer needs. We don't have laptops yet though (laugh). With this budget that we have, we reinvest in equipment, so we believe that we will provide a better atmosphere to the club.

Each month, we also usually have a tournament where people can join. At the tournament, we can have prize winning, and we are thinking of streaming it online on Twitch.

Q: What are the plans for the future of the club?

DANIEL: In the near future, we will try to invest in new PS5 games for example, or VR games.

AYUSH: Basically, it's what other students want, it's not what we want. We sense the atmosphere, right now people play FIFA a lot, so we're thinking of making a FIFA tournament.

DANIEL: We see what games people are interested in. On the application form, we ask, "which games are you interested in?" so we can gain more knowledge.

Q: So I saw you were doing something for the upcoming Jutoku-sai.

DANIEL: We want to participate in the Jutoku-sai so we can provide our activities to other YGU members. Our main objective is to establish a bridge between iCLA and YGU people, as not many YGU students come here. That way we can show that there is a Gaming Club at iCLA, and if people want to join and interact with iCLA students, we would love to do that. As for the organization, Ayush is in charge of it.

AYUSH: We are planning to do tournaments with YGU and iCLA students. Whatever they're interested in – so like FIFA tournaments – whoever is interested in FIFA can sign up and play. And there will be, I guess, some prizes. So, FIFA, PUBG, Apex, Valorant... if there are enough sign ups.

Q: Finally, what is your message to students who are interested in joining Radianite?

DANIEL: Join the club! Just come, experience, enjoy!

AYUSH: Whenever. Everyday.

DANIEL: From 8PM usually.

THE ICLA OBENTO

OCT 2022 | ISSUE: 3

ICLA CLUB INFORMATION

ICLA has many clubs which are led by students for students. Explore the clubs here:

Yoga & Meditation Club

In our club we would like to create a space where you can unwind, clear your mind, feel your heart and be present in your body through Yoga and Meditation.

How do you feel when you wake up? What do you feel during the day and how do you feel at the end of your day, before you go to sleep? Yoga and Meditation is a way of becoming more aware of that, but also a way of actively changing that. Taking responsibility for the way you go through your day, for how you think, feel and act.

If you are interested or would like to join contact Matilda via this email or scan the QR-Code to join the WhatsApp group.



Film Club

Film Club is a free and interactive community hub for cinema enthusiasts. The club offers no less than four main film screenings every month with a feedback and discussion session afterwards with professors. Along with offering a space for members to chill, study and casually watch films during the week or weekends. Cinema is an international language we speak through storytelling and culture. Join us!



Radianite

The Radianite Gaming club is focused on having fun, trying new games and meeting new people. This club was founded with love by passionate gamers. The Gaming club provides PlayStation 5 and Meta Quest 2 with a bunch of popular games which you can enjoy. Anyone is welcome to join the club anytime! Whether you're a student looking to get into gaming, or a veteran gamer, this club is the perfect opportunity for relaxing and enjoying free time!

MMA

Intentions of the MMA are mainly categorised under health, exercise and recreational activities. In order to improve physical and mental wellbeing aspects like cardio. My brother in Christ Junichiro Natsu (mr.president) who focuses on muay thai, and Gabriel Sheppard (vice presi) who focuses on MMA and wrestling. Activities such as target boxing, education about the art of muay thai, MMA and wrestling will be commonplace. However, we do draw the line at sparring as we have no further plans to entertain this aspect of muay thai, MMA and wrestling for the time being.

iCLA Dance Team

Zen and Japanese
Culture Club

Literature Club

Kpop Dance Club



THE ICLA OBENTO

OCT 2022 | ISSUE: 3



INTERVIEW WITH DR. HAJA RAJAONARISON PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

COURSE LIST:

- POLITICAL THOUGHT
- INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY
- POLITICAL ECONOMY OF DEVELOPMENT

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Q: What sparked your passion for Political Science?

I was always very interested in development issues. And I learned that, to make things happen, we need politics. That was the big motivation for me to study politics.

Q: Was there a specific event that happened when you felt like you wanted to spark change?

I think it was when I was in junior high school. It was around 2002. There was a big revolution in Madagascar and a political crisis at that time.

Q: Please tell me about your area of specialization, Political Economy.

The unique feature of political economy is its versatility. You can use the disciplines of political science, economics, and sociology, and you can even go beyond that. Now, we have Data Science. So we can tap into anything to understand how to make things work or why something didn't work in terms of policy. All of those complex issues, like climate change, food security, energy crisis, development and poverty, and financial crisis. Political economy is the best discipline for comprehending them all. I wrote a Master's Thesis about global food security, and I wrote my dissertation on "The New Political Economy of Agricultural Development and Food Security in Sub-Saharan Africa." I'm very passionate about food.

Q: What do you find most enjoyable about your field of study?

We can always discover new things with Political Economy. You can really adjust to the problem by tapping into different disciplines to help you come up with a better understanding of the problem. When I was writing my dissertation about food security, I wondered how we could, for instance, help poor countries to get rich. We know the ingredients, but we don't know the recipe. We know that if we invest in some projects, that might trigger development. But still, the issue is that we don't know the recipe. How do we combine all of that to create something spectacular? I started in 2010 with agriculture, because at that time, I was just very interested in development. But after I started to read and explore the literature on agriculture, I discovered that only two economies in the world did not use agriculture to develop other activities. And these economies are Singapore and Hong Kong. Agriculture in 2008 was a very hot topic because there was a food crisis, a financial crisis, and an energy crisis. So we had multiple crises emerging at the same time. That sparked my curiosity - there's this new dynamic that is very interesting to study. I spent my time thinking about how we can better understand the trajectory of different countries, their capacity and capability to produce food, and what kind of solution we can offer to countries with high agricultural potential.

(Continued)



THE ICLOBENTO

OCT 2022 | ISSUE: 3

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT (CONTINUED)

Q: What is your favourite piece of research that you've conducted and why?

Recently, I've also been working on the case of Madagascar, my own country. Geographically, I would say Madagascar is disadvantaged. Everyone is aware of its location on the map. However, in terms of development issues, it is in the middle of nowhere. For example, we have had some episodes of famines recently. Such a tragic event elicited no international response.

Since I worked with Japanese experts and JICA when I was in Madagascar, I'm focusing on what Japan has been doing since 2013 until now. Japan envisions a "free and open Indo-Pacific." I'm conducting research to learn more about what Japan is doing on the ground. Is it consistent with its global perspective, or is the reality quite different? I intend to integrate it with other countries later on. This is a personal battle to keep Madagascar in the spotlight, or at the very least to raise awareness of the problems there. I hope that my research and other activities will help to raise public awareness of Madagascar.

Q: Can you tell me about the journey about how you came to study and teach in Japan?

I got very interested in the language when I was undergraduate student. They invited a Japanese teacher and volunteer from JOCV (Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers) and JICA also manages this programme. To motivate me, my teacher at the time took me to various events and introduced me to the Japanese community.

When I graduated, I was introduced to people who were conducting an official development aid evaluation of the Japanese aid in Madagascar, and that was something I was very interested in. I didn't know anything about it, but I was good enough to search for information. I was involved in different projects: agriculture, education, and health. But in 2008 - 2009, there was a big political crisis that happened in Madagascar because of the food (everything is related in my story).

The government was pushed out, and the Japanese government also decided to suspend all of their projects there. So I decided to apply for the MEXT Scholarship to study in Japan. I got it and I came in 2010. I did my Master's programme, I did my PhD, and then, after that, I was hired as a researcher at the Graduate School of Economics at Kyoto University. I also started to teach at Doshisha and Ritsumeikan. The topics I was teaching were related to development, economics, and politics—in general, all of these I would call "political economy". I was very much interested in a teaching position that was specifically about Political Economy.

Q: How would you describe your class style?

In class, we will learn basic theories of Political Economy and, slowly, we'll be practicing it. It is hard to understand Political Economy if we don't practice it. So I usually share different cases with my class. I guide them, like, "how do you understand the problem?", and there is no perfect answer for that. It's based on their understanding of the problem, their discussions, and the way they defend their arguments. I also teach them that "when you identify a particular issue, you should be able to explain why you think that it is the most important problem that you need to tackle". It gradually improves their ability to conduct political economy analysis. We need a lot of exchange in Political Economy, it's not just a lecture. We always try to improve our understanding of things and our way of coming up with specific solutions. But the solutions are not coming from me, they're always coming from the students. Students should be able to conduct political economy analysis on any specific case by the end of the semester.

Q: What is your tip for students who want to pursue a deeper understanding of Political Economy?

The first thing is to learn the basics of political science theory. Second, Economics theory. And now we are slowly trying to introduce Data Science. Issues are constantly changing. If we want to better understand those issues, we first need to learn about the basics: how politics works, how the economy works, and what is the data telling us about those two things. By combining those three disciplines, I think students can take advantage of the opportunity they have here to really study and dig deeper on the topic of their interest. We have professors here who can guide them all along their journey at ICLO.

THE ICLA OBENTO

OCT 2022 | ISSUE: 3

DEPARTMENT NEWS

DR. TERENCE FONG (ICLA) HOLDS JOINT LECTURE ON MEDITATION, BRAIN, AND CREATIVITY WITH DR. NICK LEE (JSLH)



Do you want to be more CREATIVE? On October 7th, iCLA held the very first joint lecture with one of our partner universities! There were students, faculty members and staff from both universities joining us on Zoom and in person at iCLA and at Jindal School of Liberal Arts and Humanities (JSLH).

The discussion of the lecture centred around the practical effect of meditation on improving creativity with Dr Nick Lee (JSLH) introduced a theoretical framework that highlights the neurocognitive mechanism of meditation while Dr Terence Fong (iCLA) showed us the neurological evidence on how practising meditation can change our brain structurally and functionally.

Archaeologists believe that the idea of meditation can date back to 7000 years ago. Although meditation used to be seen as more of a ritual to evoke spiritual experiences across different cultures and religions, modern psychologists including our speakers Dr Lee and Dr Fong tend to see meditation as a method to improve our cognitive control, stress management, mental stability and of course, creativity – the focus of this lecture. Research studies have shown that practising meditation facilitates more coherent intra-cortical communications across certain brain regions which would lead to a more efficient allocation of brain resources. In addition, regular meditation could slow down the baseline activities of our brain cells. Such changes offer an opportunity for our brain to connect seemingly unrelated ideas together instead of automatically linking thoughts and concepts in an ordinary way, as a result, enhancing the meditators' creativity in multidisciplinary subjects, for instance, music, art, and literature.



THE ICLA OBENTO

OCT 2022 | ISSUE: 3

UPCOMING EVENTS



Jutoku-sai ~Revival~

October 29, 10:00am - 6:00pm

October 30, 10:00am - 6:30pm

Enjoy the 52nd Jutoku-sai, the YGU School Festival, after a 2 year hiatus due to COVID.

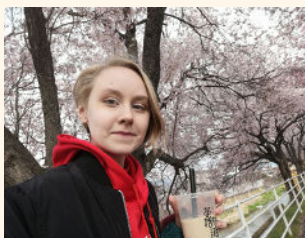


Nihongo Fun Tables

October 26, 12:40pm-1:40pm (and Nov. 16th & 30th)

Do you want to speak more Nihongo? Come and join Nihongo Tables #1!

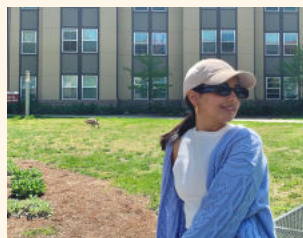
SOCIAL MEDIA FEATURES



[Check out Anastasiia's social media takeover on Instagram!](#)



[The Kawara Workshop was held at the soon-to-open Icci Coffee Salon.](#)



[Read about Nisha's advice for study abroad.](#)



[Congratulations to our Graduates of Fall 2022!](#)

iCLA CONNECT

Are you an iCLA student that wants to connect with other iCLA students?
Get involved in the iCLA community with iCLA Connect.

SIGN UP

RE-CONNECT

Find and reminisce with fellow graduates, see what they have been up to and stay in touch.



EXPAND

Leverage your professional network to get introduced to people you should know.



GET INVOLVED

Join on and off campus events and get involved in YGU community and Yamanashi life.



STUDY ABROAD

Find students from partner universities, connect with each other and get ready for study abroad.

