

Social Fabrics
Italian and Japanese design approaches to sustainability
in crafts, textiles, and fashion

February 23rd-24th 2019
Kyoto University Graduate School of Management
Kyoto University International Science Innovation Symposium Hall

Organizing Committee
Yutaka Yamauchi, Associate Professor,
Kyoto University Graduate School of Management
Dr. Margherita De Giorgi, Kyoto University Graduate School of Management (Visiting Researcher)
Prof. Ota Yasuhiro, Faculty of Economics, Tokuyama University
In partnership with: Mr. Kitabayashi Isao, founder of COS KYOTO and DWK Kyoto



REPORT

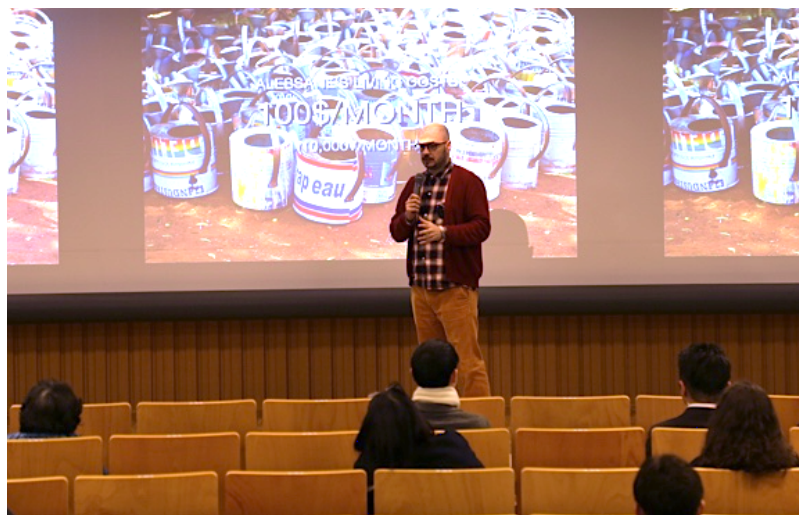
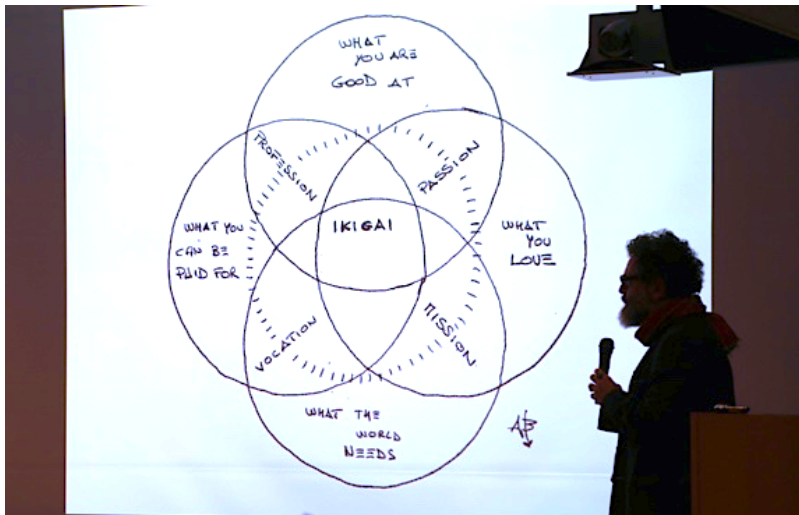
“Social Fabrics” is a collaboration between Kyoto University Graduate School of Management and Design Week Kyoto supported by Istituto Italiano di Cultura, Osaka. It comprises a workshop (“Upcycling Workshop with Reborn Kyoto: New life for traditional Japanese garments”, Saturday, February 23rd), and an international conference featuring prominent academics and professionals from Italy and Japan (Sunday, February 24th). The final goal of this project was fostering interactions between professionals from both countries. This report summarizes its general features and achievements.

The workshop aimed at sharing practical skills in *upcycling*. Thirteen participants, among which Kyoto ESMOD Fashion School students, reused fabrics from donated silk *kimono* to create small pouches. They were further encouraged to discuss how to use the same techniques to create everyday clothing and accessories. The conference showcased sustainable entrepreneurial strategies for design, crafts, local manufacturing industries, and their related communities. Alessandro Biamonti, Associate Professor at the Design School, Politecnico di Milano, opened the symposium as keynote speaker. The morning session, “Thinking/Designing/Crafting Sustainability”, focused on theoretical implications for design and crafts. It featured presentations by Prof. Yutaka Yamauchi (Kyoto University Graduate School of Management) and Dr. Giovanni Innella (AIIT, Tokyo Metropolitan University). The afternoon sessions opened with “Textiles, Crafts, and Technologies”, introducing projects on business, technological and community advancements in textiles manufacturing. Presentations were held by Prof. Yasuhiro Ota (Faculty of Economics, Tokuyama University), Mr. Takeshi Mitani (MITTAN KYOTO), Mr. Kazuya Kawasaki (Fashion designer and researcher, Keio University) and Ms. Yuki Uchida

(RE:PUBLIC Inc.). The closing panel, "Sustainability and Inclusiveness; Branding, Teaching and Practicing", focused on community-building and social empowerment through hand-crafts and ethical fashion. Dr. Margherita De Giorgi (Kyoto University GSM, Visiting Researcher), Ms Masayo Kodama and Ms Shigeyo Nakajima (Reborn Kyoto NPO), followed Ms. Giulia Houston (Institutional Relations Manager for Progetto Quid, via videoconference) presented several case studies between Italy and Japan.

The two-days event was successfully concluded with more than 90 participants from and beyond the Kansai area (both Japanese and non-Japanese speakers), and from various backgrounds such as students, researchers and entrepreneurs.

Upcycling Workshop with Reborn Kyoto: New life for traditional Japanese garments, animated by Ms. Kodama and Ms Nakajima. February 23rd 2019, Kyoto University Graduate School of Management.





Conference "Social Fabrics". February 24th, International Science Innovation Symposium Hall, Kyoto University.