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## Preface and Acknowledgments

This book is a volume of collected papers which were presented in the international symposium titled ‘The Logic and Conception of History: Cross-field approaches from around the world’ held on 1 March 2019 in Osaka, Japan. This symposium was the second one in the new symposium series ‘Research Trends Roundtable’ started in the 2017 academic year and was programmed by the Department for Cross-Field Research of the National Museum of Ethnology.

As an organiser of this international symposium and editor of this book, I wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to those who blessed us with grants and resources that made the research for book possible on behalf of the Department for Cross-Field Research. We are deeply grateful to Professor Ma Guoqing (Minzu University of China) and Vučinić Nešković Vesna (University of Belgrade) for giving us two keynote lectures about the intersection of anthropology and history in East Asia and addressing the role of history in anthropological research in Southeast Europe. Professor Yoshida Kenji, the Director General of the National Museum of Ethnology, provided opening remarks and gave a high evaluation of the significance of this symposium.

We wish to thank Professor Sasaki Mamoru (Kobe University), Professor Mori Akiko (National Museum of Ethnology), and Assistant Professor Roman Pasca (Kyoto University) for their stimulating comments and discussions at this symposium and we extend our gratitude to Associate Professor Ota Shimpei (National Museum of Ethnology) for participating in the planning of this symposium and this book, and Professor Kashinaga Masao (National Museum of Ethnology) for chairing the first session. We also wish to thank Yoshimura Mieko for her dedicated work on the symposium and for her help in compiling this book. Finally, we wish to thank Ruan Li (the Graduate University for Advanced Studies, SOKENDAI) and Xu Sujuan (the University of Osaka) for their translation and interpretation services. We appreciate the anonymous reviewers for their valuable comments and appreciate the editing room staff for their professional help throughout the publication process. We wish to acknowledge all the others who have helped us, even though we cannot mention all of their names here.

During the symposium, 46 researchers from China, Serbia, and Japan attended. The discussions in the symposium and this book will contribute to deepen contemporary understandings of the logic and conception of history as a fundamental and contemporary issue for humanity. Historical research helps to link the past, present, and future in diverse ways and through diverse co-texts. Although we could address only a small range of topics in this symposium, the apparent contrasts and connections between them provide a good starting point for reflecting upon the logic and conception of history.

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