



PR-07-DAM-1-E

Synopsis of the research project (Head : David Antoine Malinas)

Starting Date : Autumn 2007

News forms of collective action by the poorest in to-day Japan

Japan, since the nineties, had to face three crises: national in the first half of the nineties, regional in the second half of the nineties and, nowadays, a world crisis. One after the other, these crisis deeply transformed the Japanese social system and not only inequality is strengthening, but people living in poverty are getting more and more numerous.

Taking into consideration these changes, our post-doctorate research aims at bringing to light and analyzing social protest of the weakest and the poorest in nowadays Japan. Research program develops in two directions. Firstly, I focus on groups that live in poverty and extreme poverty, insisting on the fact that it is not only a massive phenomenon – 35 percent of precarious workers, 15 percent of the Japanese population under the poverty line – but also a complex one that shapes into various forms: homeless, internet café refugees, and recently “Nabakari tencho (managers only by name)”. Secondly, I study various organizations that negotiate with the Japanese local and central administration in order to improve the situation of the poor.