

Asian Research Institute for International Social Work (ARIISW)  
Shukutoku University

## The 8th International Academic Forum, featuring Prof. L. Healy, Prof. M. Pawar, and Dr. T. Akimoto

The 8th ARIISW-Shukutoku University International Academic Forum, titled *International Social Work Beyond its Centennial Anniversary: A Theory Debate (Disappearance or Expansion; Reform or New Construction)*, was successfully held on 27 February, 2024. We invited Professor Emeritus Lynne Healy from the University of Connecticut and Professor Manohar Pawar from Charles Sturt University as keynote speakers. The hybrid-style forum held in Tokyo was attended by 22 in-person and 65 online participants. We are sincerely thankful for the support and participation from around the world, especially to the Japanese Association for Social Work Education for their invaluable support.

Following the opening addresses by Ven. Dr. Masatoshi Hasegawa, the Head Advisor (President of Daijyo Shukutoku-Gakuen), the keynote speaker, Dr. T. Akimoto, Honorary Director, delivered his speech with the theme “*International Social Work Beyond Centennial: Why do we question it now?*”. Subsequently, three lectures were presented: “*Still searching?: The quest for definition, theory, and roles of international social work*” by Prof. Healy, “*My international social work journey: Reflections and forereflections*” by Prof. Pawar, and “*Re-examining international social work theory*” by Dr. Masateru Higashida (ARIISW). This was followed by a panel discussion conducted by Dr. Akimoto, focusing on questions from the participants, and then a round-up session conducted by Senior Researcher Ms. Kana Matsuo. Overall, the discussions not only deeply examined international social work but also visualized its future.

On February 28, 2024, a closed expert meeting was convened in response to the international academic forum. It included an intense discussion about international social work from various perspectives. ARIISW will continue to explore the nature of international social work in cooperation with you.



Panel discussion



Group photo

◆ News from ARIISW is available on the following website:  
<https://www.shukutoku.ac.jp/en/about/facilities/asiancenter.html>