

**Research Activity Report**  
**Supported by “Leading Graduate Program in Primatology and Wildlife Science”**

2018. 10. 13	
<b>Affiliation/Position</b>	Wildlife Research Center (D1)
<b>Name</b>	Kristin Havercamp

<b>1. Country/location of visit</b>
Kyoto University Sasagamine Hütte, Myoko-kogen, Niigata Prefecture, Japan
<b>2. Research project</b>
PWS Sasagamine Hütte fall course
<b>3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)</b>
2018. 09. 26 – 2018. 09. 29 (4 days)
<b>4. Main host researcher and affiliation</b>
Matsuzawa-sensei, Sugiyama-sensei, Fukushima-sensei, Morimura-sensei; Kyoto University
<b>5. Progress and results of your research/activity</b> (You can attach extra pages if needed)
Please insert one or more pictures (to be publicly released). Below each picture, please provide a brief description.
<p>During the Sasagamine Field Course, despite on and off cool weather and light rain, we were able to take multiple excursions to explore the areas around the Hütte, including to the Karasawa creek. We were also lucky enough to observe wild macaques foraging in a field where cows are enclosed. Later, when back in the hütte, we even spotted two macaques passing through the backyard! Sugiyama-sensei is very knowledgeable about the plants, animals and geography of the region and he shared so much interesting information and stories with us along the way.</p> <p>On the third day we were able to begin early to hike up Mount Hiuchi (火打山), making it to the Kouyaike Hütte just before the cold rain began. The decision was made to return, so we hiked back and were able to enjoy the autumn leaves and sun on the descent down. Unfortunately, we were just about 90 minutes from the peak, so I hope to return one day to complete the entire hike.</p> <p>On the last day we visited Jigokudani Snow Monkey Park, where the macaques are famously known to bathe in natural hot springs. The scenery is beautiful, especially the river and the mountains surrounding the “park”, as well as the steam rising from the hot springs that fills the air. I even saw a public onsen for humans (from the monkey-onsen side) and really wished I could go. It was interesting to learn about how only certain females of higher rank (and their offspring) enter the hot springs, whereas others seemingly never do. I was also really surprised how close the macaques were to visitors, and that I never saw one make an aggressive act towards a person. It seems this is because there is a strict no food or plastic bag policy, which means the macaques do not associate visitors with food – unlike on Koshima Island (even though we students were not feeding the macaques!).</p> <p>This field course was an absolutely wonderful experience that I will never forget, a big part of that is due to the nice people I was able to share it with. Some things I learned include how to read and fold a topographic map, tie multiple kinds of useful knots, use/set up a bivouac, and fly a drone (I was able to fly a drone 800 meters from the take off position, however landing was not very successful and needs more practice!). I really enjoyed getting to know Kinoshita-san, Shibata-san, Akami-san, Kagami-san, Judyta-san, Maciej-san and the four hosting professors (Matsuzawa-sensei, Sugiyama-sensei, Fukushima-sensei, Morimura-sensei). And thanks to Sugiyama-sensei’s preparations, we were able to cook the most おいしい meals (see photos on the following pages!).</p>

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Sugiyama-sensei sharing information about the trees in the area.



A Torii, the entrance to a nearby shrine, which in the winter is nearly covered by snow.



A macaque trying to hide from view...



A mother and offspring walking in the field of cows.



Searching for macaques along the cow pasture.



A flower (or weed?) near the cow pasture.

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Views of the creek and path nearby the Hütte.

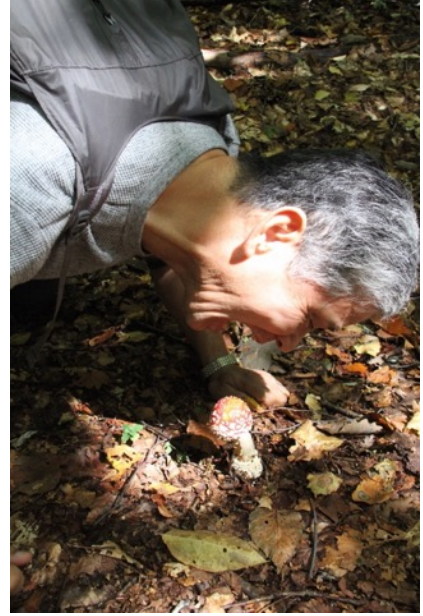


Beautiful fall colors.



Enjoying the nice views.

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Our attempt at mushroom foraging :-)



Hot springs and bathing macaques.



A macaque passing behind Sasagamine Hütte.

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More mushrooms!



Welcome sign at Sasagamine Hütte – hopefully see you again!



And finally, food!!! [It was the first time I ever saw chopsticks used for stirring fondue cheese :’)]

## 6. Others

I am thankful to PWS for providing me with the opportunity to stay at Sasagamine Hütte and visit the beautiful area in Myoko-kogen. A huge thank you to Sugiyama-sensei who put so much effort into organizing things for our stay and for sharing all of his interesting knowledge with us along the way – I learned so much! Also to Fukushima-sensei for all of her hard work organizing the trip and Morimura-san for providing us with a session on learning how to fly drones. And finally to all other professors, students, JMC staff and visitors for making the time there possible and enjoyable.