

# Doshisha University

## 2012 Report on the Individual Research Allowance – Research Progress and Results

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Department	Title	Name
The Institute for the Liberal Arts	Assistant Professor	David Uva
Research Topic	Gotō Shinpei	
Summary of Research Results	<p>According to various official Japanese sources Gotō Shinpei visited the city of Leuven in Belgium in July of 1919 (during an official visit to Europe) to investigate the damage the city sustained during the aerial bombings by of World War I. I tried to find traces and records of his visit to Belgium by examining local newspapers at the Leuven City Archive and official records of Leuven City Hall. However, I was unable to find any mention of him or a visit by a Japanese delegation to the city at the period specified in the Japanese sources. At the library of the Catholic University of Leuven I examined newspapers from the Belgian national newspaper archive and the university itself, however also there I could not find any traces of Gotō Shinpei's visit to Leuven. I consulted a specialist on the history of Belgian-Japanese relations at the Department of Japanese Studies of the university but also he did not know of any visit by Gotō Shinpei. This leads me to conclude that either his visit to Leuven would not have been in official capacity (not registered or recorded by the local authorities and the press) or that the official Japanese sources are mistaken. Further research (such as examining documents at the Royal Palace Archives in Brussels and documents from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan) will be needed to reach a final conclusion.</p>	