International Graduate School of Japanese Studies - Tohoku University  
(TOGA – Project)

International meeting

The past as a source of imagination and inspiration

February 27th, 2020

2nd Floor, Multidisciplinary Research Building (総合講義棟：C19, 法学部第一小講義室)  
Tohoku University, Kawauchi South Campus  
27-1 Kawauchi, Aoba-ku, Sendai, Miyagi, 980-8576, Japan

Organized by  
KUROIWA Taku (Tohoku University)  
Lorenza BOTTACIN-CANTONI (University of Padua)  
MURAYAMA Tatsuya (Tohoku University)

The act of representing personal or collective past is a great source of artistic achievements, which can sometimes influence the real life of the people who live in the present. Also, as we can see in our everyday life, the narrative based on imagination and personal experiences are much more appreciated than those that are based on academic methods. From a scientific point of view, these imaginative or even chimeric narratives are considered invalid; nevertheless, they must be analyzed seriously because of their strong influence.

Furthermore, the way of recording and telling people about the past has, in itself, a great diversity if we deem the phenomenon worthy of the worldwide range. Then, what kind of strategy would each narrative take? How would each society exploit these accounts? Finally, what would be today’s model of historical chronicle given the globalization of our world?

For this occasion, we aim to discuss and compare diverse strategies about representing the personal or collective past in philosophy, history, literature, or other artistic and social achievements, from every cultural sphere of the world.

For more information:  
KUROIWA Taku (taku.kuroiwa.a1@tohoku.ac.jp)  
Lorenza BOTTACIN-CANTONI (lorenza.bottacincantoni@gmail.com)  
MURAYAMA Tatsuya (murayama110@tohoku.ac.jp)
PROGRAM

10:00 Opening by OZAKI Akihiro (Tohoku University)
10:05 Introduction by KUROIWA Taku (Tohoku University)

Morning Session

10:15-10:45 WANG Xinyong (Tohoku University)
   State Shinto as a long-term historical narrative- from its “death” to present day
10:45-11:15 FU Wenting (Tohoku University)
   Fictionalization and Portrayal of the Historical Shinsengumi

11:15-11:30 Pause

11:30-12:00 Alain HIEN (Tohoku University)
   Joking relationships in Burkina Faso: A strategy for peace building in traditional Burkinabe communities

12:00-12:30 LUO Han (Tohoku University)
   Guided by Teramura Hideo’s research on Japanese grammar

12:30-13:00 NISHITATE Kunie (Tohoku University)
   Stereotypical Edo Setting for a Boys’ Love manga: Sakura Sawa’s Momo to Manji

Pause 13:00-14:30

Afternoon Session

14:30 Beginning: Introduction of speakers by MURAYAMA Tatsuya (Tohoku University)
14:40 ŌHASHI Ryōsuke (Japanisch-deutsches Kulturinstitut)
   Anti-Nature in Nature itself. Some reflections based on Levinas and Nishida

15:20 KOTEGAWA Shōjirō (Kokugakuen University)
   Who is Responsible for Refugees in Japan? From a Levinasian Perspective

16:00 Lorenza BOTTACIN CANTONI (University of Padua)
   The im-memorial. “Abgrund” of being and “Anarchie” of time in Levinas’ critique of Heidegger

16:40 Closing remarks

16:40-16:50 Conclusion