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HASEKURA LEAGUE INTERCULTURAL STUDIES EDITIONS

n. 2

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KNOWLEDGE AND ARTS ON THE MOVE

Transformation of the Self-aware Image
through East-West Encounters

Edited by

Christopher Craig, Enrico Fongaro and Akihiro Ozaki



MIMESIS
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This book has been subjected to peer review process.

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www.mimesisinternational.com
e-mail: info@mimesisinternational.com

Isbn: 9788869771323
Book series: *Hasekura League Intercultural Studies Editions*, n. 2

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P.I. C.F. 02419370305

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FOREWORD

This book collects a selection from the papers presented at the symposium Knowledge and Arts on The Move: Transformation of the Self-Aware Image through East-West Encounters, held on 13-14 February 2017 at Tohoku University. Japanese Studies scholars in a variety of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences from 13 universities in Europe and Japan presented on a stunning array of topics. Ideas surrounding the encounter between the monolithic constructs of ‘East’ and ‘West’ and the ways in which this encounter shaped conceptions of the self are the shared concerns linking these disparate works.

The papers in the pages that follow apply methodologies and concerns from history, literature, art history, aesthetics, sociology, political science, law, and anthropology to issues relating to the creation and transformation of self-image through the encounter between East and West. The first section is concerned with European receptions of ideas about and from East Asia. Rolando Minuti examines changing understandings about Japan in Italy from the 17th to the 19th century, exploring how these understandings intersected with connections among and between Italian scholars and others from elsewhere in Europe. Estelle Doudet’s chapter traces the influence of the Japanese dramatic forms of kabuki and nō on the avant-garde in 20th-century French theatre and illuminates processes of hybridity and transnational innovation. The reception of Chinese artefacts in the Netherlands is the topic of Willemijn van Noord’s chapter, in which she demonstrates the

roles of misinterpretation and misrepresentation in the Dutch construction of a Chinese other through the consumption of imported cabinets and antiques.

The book's second section flips the perspective to focus on Japanese encounters with the West and changes in Japanese conceptions of the self. Andreas Niehaus delves into the thought of Jigorō Kanō, the creator of modern jūdō, highlighting the factors within and outside Japan that shaped his formulation of moral principles. Matilde Mastrangelo presents a portrait of Japanese educator Ōgai Mori and examines the ways in which he incorporated explicitly foreign ideas in shaping his familial relationships. Glenn Hook's chapter centers on the contemporary situation in Okinawa, unravelling the competing actors and concerns surrounding the conflict over the placement of American military facilities in the prefecture. Finally, Ikuko Sagiya presents a detailed analysis of concepts of good fortune and their links to gender in *The tale of Genji*, a work of literature that is foundational to both Japanese self-image and foreign understandings of Japan.

The last section of the book brings together Japanese scholars who had direct experience with the 3.11 earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disaster, an event of global significance which connected Japan and the world in multiple ways. Hiroo Satō reflects on the place of the dead in Japanese society, charting its evolution over time and situating it in an international and historical context. Akihiro Ozaki discusses the ongoing Fukushima nuclear disaster as an event without end and relates it to the perpetual war against terror in the United States in the 21st century. Hiroshi Kabashima closes out the book with an explanation of the legal issues surrounding liability for the nuclear disaster and the key concepts at work in determining who bears responsibility and what amends must be made by the responsible parties.

This collection represents the second volume in the Hasekura League Intercultural Studies Series. The series is a forum for

research produced in conjunction with the member institutions of the League in Europe and Japan and in pursuit of the goal of promoting innovative collaboration in Japanese studies across disciplinary and geographic boundaries.

December, 2017
The Editors