

# Catastrophe and Aesthetics: The Arts after Fukushima

Columbia University

Sponsored by the Donald Keene Center of Japanese Culture and  
The Weatherhead East Asian Institute

March 31, 2014  
1:00-6:00  
Kent Hall 403

**Introduction**            **1:00-1:10**

**Peter Eckersall**        **1:15-2:00**        **"Performance and the Long View of Nuclear Space"**

**Kristina Iwata-Weickgennant**    **2:05-2:50**        **"Fukushima, My Love: Wagō Ryōichi's Singing of Home as Resistance"**

**BREAK: 2:50-3:10**

**Marilyn Ivy**            **3:10-3:55**        **"Catastrophic Photography: Thinking the Image after 3.11"**

**Barbara Geilhorn**    **4:00-4:45**        **"On the Dialectics of Living in a Time of Crisis – Okada Toshiki's  
*Genzaichi* (Current Location)"**

**Thomas Looser**        **5:00-5:45**        **"Love after Fukushima (Art, Affect, and Community)"**

**Discussion**            **5:45-6:00**

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## Notes on the Presenters

Peter Eckersall is Professor of Asian Theatre, Graduate School City University of New York. Recent publications include *We're People Who Do Shows, Back to Back Theatre: Performance, Politics, Visibility* (co-edited with Helena Grehan, Performance Research Books, 2013), *Theatre and Performance in the Asia-Pacific: Regional Modernities in the Global Era* (co-authored with Denise Varney, Barbara Hatley and Chris Hudson, Palgrave 2013) and *Performativity and Event in 1960s Japan: City, Body, Memory* (Palgrave 2013). He is a visiting fellow in the Centre for Interweaving Performance Cultures, Berlin. He has the cofounder of Dramaturgies and is the resident dramaturg for the performance group Not Yet It's Difficult. He is co-convenor of the Dramaturgy and Performance Studies Working Group at PSi.

Barbara Geilhorn, Ph.D., is a lecturer in Japanese Studies at the Institute of East Asian Studies, Free University of Berlin. Her research interests include classical and contemporary Japanese theatre, gender studies, and cultural sociology. She held a postgraduate scholarship from the German Institute of Japanese Studies (Tōkyō) and participated in international projects on nō theater. Recent publications include *Women in Noh* (In: A History of Japanese Theatre, Cambridge University Press, forthcoming 2014), *Enacting Culture – Historical and Contemporary Contexts of Japanese Theatre* (co-edited with Eike Grossmann, Miura Hiroko and Peter Eckersall; iudicium 2012), *Weibliche Spielräume – Frauen im japanischen Nō und Kyōgen Theater* (Female Spaces – Women in Japanese Nō and Kyōgen Theatre, iudicium 2011).

Marilyn Ivy is a professor of anthropology at Columbia University. Her book *Discourses of the Vanishing: Modernity, Phantasm, Japan* (University of Chicago Press, 1995) was given the Hiromi Arisawa Memorial Award; she has published essays on Japanese folklorism, neonationalism, criminality and textuality, media and advertising, contemporary art and youth, photography, and mass culture. She is currently working on a book about aesthetics and politics in the post-3.11 present.

Kristina Iwata-Weickgenannt is Associate Professor of Japanese modern literature at Nagoya University. She received her PhD in Japanese Literature with a thesis on constructions of gender and ethnic identity in the literature of *zainichi* Korean writer Yū Miri from Trier University, Germany, in 2007. From 2008-13 she was a senior research fellow at the German Institute for Japanese Studies, Tokyo. She has taught at Trier University, the University of Zurich, and the International Christian University Tokyo. Her research interests include *zainichi* Korean minority literature, representations of precarity in contemporary literature and popular culture, and literary negotiations of the Fukushima nuclear disaster.

Thomas Looser is Associate Professor of East Asian Studies at New York University. His areas of research include cultural anthropology and Japanese studies; art, architecture and urban form; new media studies and animation; and critical theory. A senior editor for the journal *Mechademia*, he is the author of *Visioning Eternity: Aesthetics, Politics, and History in the Early Modern Noh Theater* (Cornell University East Asia Book Series, 2008) and has published articles in a variety of venues including *Japan Forum*, *Mechademia*, *Shingenjitsu*, *Journal of Pacific Asia*, and *Cultural Anthropology*.