

**Sapienza University of Rome,
in cooperation with
Tohoku University
and
The University of British Columbia,
presents**

The 8th Annual Hasekura International Japanese Studies Symposium
Embodied Discourse, Embodied Practice
The Body as Text, Medium, and Testimony in Japan
2024 January 25-26
Sapienza University of Rome

Central to the human experience both as a definer of identity and as a means for social interaction, bodies - real or imagined, individual or collective - are also essential to our perception of what surrounds us. In Merleau-Ponty's words, "The body is our general medium for having a world." Starting with the earliest records of human expression, bodies have been at the core of manifold discourses spanning from epistemology and religion to art and literature, creating connections between the myriad aspects of human experience while separating the phenomenal and the metaphysical realms. At the same time, they have also functioned as a privileged site for practices aimed at controlling, disciplining, and punishing individuals, groups of people, or entire nations.

This symposium aims at investigating discourses and practices connected with the body as they relate to Japan, bringing together scholars of different disciplines from across the world. We invite scholars in all fields of the humanities and social sciences to join us and present their research.

Relevant topics for the symposium include, but are by no means limited to, the following:

- The body as a site for artistic expression
- The embodiment of memory
- Bodies and trauma
- The exploitation of bodies in media
- The commodified body
- Colonial bodies
- Disciplined bodies
- Ideology and the body as metaphor
- The body politic

Researchers interested in joining us and presenting their work at the symposium should send a proposed title and brief description to hasekurasymposiumrome@gmail.com by November 15, 2023. Selected participants will be responsible for their own travel and accommodation costs.

We will also be separately issuing a CFP for a graduate student workshop to be held in connection with the symposium.