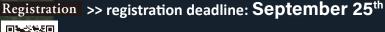


The 7th Annual Hasekura International Japanese Studies Symposium

Naraku: Discord, Dysfunction, Dystopia



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Conference Language English

2022. **9.27**тие. **- 29**тни.

Venue Sendai International Center Conference building 2F and 3F

The world we know is unravelling, beset by problems ranging from the collapse of decaying capitalist orders, to never-ending wars, to global pandemics. *Naraku* (奈落) is a Japanese term that resonates with the current state of the globe. Originally a religious term, its meaning has evolved in recent times to refer to deeply flawed conditions more generally, becoming "the worst of all possible worlds" in its longer form of *narakuno soko* (奈落の底). This symposium draws its inspiration from *naraku*, here interpreting it as describing states of discord, dysfunction, and dystopia. Historical concerns with decline, systemic failure, and the betrayal of hopes; literary and other depictions of failed and failing societies and futures of death and destruction; religious prophecies of spiritual and worldly decay; and philosophical musings and lamentations concerning the multifold failings of humanity and the futility of human civilization are a small sampling of the ways that *naraku* intersects with scholarly concerns. This symposium brings together scholars from five continents specializing in a wide range of disciplines to explore dysfunction and systemic failure in all their forms and discuss *naraku* in past, present, and future.



Sep. 27 (Tue.) 9:15-10 FAILUP 15:15-1

9:15-10:45MURDER, DISASTER, AND WAR IN CLASSICAL JAPANESE LITERATURE | 11:00-12:00CAUTIONARY TALE: JAPAN ANDFAILURE IN WORLD IMAGINATION | 13:00-15:00PROGRESSING INTO RUIN: CIVILIZATION, CLASS, EMPIRE, AND RELIGION15:15-16:45POLITICS OF APOCALYPSE, FAILURE, AND DEATH



CONCEPTUALIZING COLLAPSE | 13:00-15:00 POISONOUS CONTINUITIES AND HISTORICAL DYSFUNCTION IN JAPAN THE DEATH OF INEVITABILITY OR THE INEVITABILITY OF DEATH

10:00-12:00 THE NEED FOR NEW LEADERSHIP IN THE FACE OF DYSTOPIAS OF FREEDOM AND HARMONY



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