

3.11: Disaster and Trauma in Experience, Understanding, and Imagination

The Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami of March 11, 2011 was a complex event. It was a disaster of multiple dimensions, unleashing the linked forces of seismic shock, tsunami, and nuclear radiation. This confluence left multifarious forms of damage in its wake. The personal traumas of death and loss combined with the social trauma of ruptured families, the economic trauma resulting from the physical destruction, and the psychic trauma arising from an uncertain future.

Such a complex disaster demands a multifaceted exploration into its nature, implications, and meaning. It transcends the boundaries between academic disciplines, opening a space for scholars from different fields and academic backgrounds to collaborate and exchange ideas. The disaster was also inherently transnational in character. While the epicenter of the initial earthquake was in Japan, the unfolding disasters took on global significance and exerted an influence felt worldwide.

This symposium brings together scholars from across Japan and Europe to explore the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami from a wide range of perspectives and to apply the analytical and interpretive tools of multiple disciplines to the study of the disaster and its various forms of trauma.

We invite all interested parties to submit their presentation/paper proposals for inclusion in the symposium. Submissions from all disciplines are welcome, including the humanities and social sciences, fine arts, law, the sciences, policy studies, and any others that can be fruitfully applied to the conference themes.

International Conference:
**3.11: Disaster and Trauma in Experience,
Understanding, and Imagination**

Monday, March 12

Venue: Het Pand, Room: Vermeylen

9:00 Greetings / 挨拶

Panel 1: The Perception of Catastrophe

9:15 Adachi Hiroaki (Tohoku University): "Historiography and the Great Earthquake and Tsunami"

9:45 Christopher Craig (Tohoku University) "Front Page Disaster: The 1933 Sanriku Earthquake and Tsunami in Media"

10:15 Coffee Break

Panel 2: Catastrophe, Apocalypse and Trauma

10:45 Andreas Niehaus (Ghent University): "Catastrophe and Disaster"

11:15 Enrico Fongaro (Tohoku University): "On a newly arisen apocalyptic tone about Fukushima"

11:45 Marcello Ghilardi (University of Padua): 'Techne, Catastrophe, and the Buddha-nature. On the Traumatic Dimension of Experience'

12:15-14:15 LUNCH BREAK AT VENUE

Panel 3: Coming to Grips: Hiroshima and Fukushima

14:15 Luca Milasi (Sapienza University Rome): “Hiroshima Inside Me: Mishima, Ango, and Nuclear Power”

14:45 Naoe Kiyotaka (Tohoku University): “Fukushima and the Responsibility for the Nuclear Disaster”

15:15-15:45 Coffee Break

Panel 4: The Aftermath of Disaster and the Everyday

15:45 Ozaki Akihiro (Tohoku University): “After 3.11: Toward a Rehabilitation of the Mind”

16:15 Tine Walravens (Ghent University) “Food risk and consumer confidence after Fukushima”

19:00 Conference Speakers Dinner/懇親会

Tuesday, March 13

Venue: Campus Aula, Paddenhoek 1-3, Building 06.22, Room Paddenhoek 1.2

Special Panel

9:00 Hara Saku (Tohoku University): Techno-scientific Risk and Emotion—Conflict between Scientists and Citizens after the Great East Japan Earthquake Disaster (in Japanese)

9:30 Abe Tsuneyuki (Tohoku University): Shifts in Norms: The Manners of Survivors after the 2011 Disaster (in Japanese)