The Practicalities and Ethics of Dealing with Disaster Remains and Cultural Heritage

February 19-22, 2020

Schedule

Feb 19, 16-19:00 Film session, “The Most Beautiful Village in the World” and Talk by Mr. Ishikawa (Director), Sendai Mediatèque 7F Theater Room

Feb 20, 9-17:00 Workshop in Japanese/English with translation (followed by a reception PM)

Feb 21-22, 9:30-12:00 AM Presentations by Japanese and Nepalese experts of Cultural Heritage, followed by a Disaster Heritage Tour to the coastline areas of 3.11 (in Japanese/English with translation)

Organizers: Toshiaki Kimura, Sébastien P. Boret, Sakura Kudo (Disaster Humanities)

Background: Tohoku University became a Designated National University to represent. One of its objectives is the development of an interdisciplinary research cluster of disaster scientists. One of its groups is the Disaster Humanities Unit that brings together anthropologists, sociologists, folklorists, museum curators and artists. Together they set activities and events such as ethnographic movies, exhibitions, and field research connected with the context of disaster. Part of these events is the annual workshop series Born in Disasters organized by the public health, well-being and social recovery group. Its aims are to explore the cultural elements and social phenomena that find their origins in crisis. The first event focused on the issue of Dealing with Death and Remains in the Aftermath. The participants brought a variety of case studies from France, Indonesia, Hong Kong and Japan. Their papers collectively argued that disasters leave behind them human remains (bodies, souls) and affected people (bereaved) that human societies must deal with. They also showed that communities are compelled to rescue documents, personal objects, and other artefacts curated in museums.

Summary: During the 2020 workshop, the presenters and their audience will be invited to engage with The Practicalities and Ethics of Dealing with Disaster Remains and Cultural Heritage. By exploring further the practical processes of rescuing and preserving bodily and disaster remains bodily and spiritual dimensions of the victims as well as cultural heritage and the benefit for social recovery. The participants are invited to discuss the broader ethics of these processes by introducing their impacts to group identity and representation, collective memory, community bond, education and knowledge.

Topics: corpses, spirits, disaster remains, cultural heritage.
Workshop Program 20 February

Venue: Tohoku University, New Aobayama Campus, IRiDeS, 1F Seminar Room

Session 1: The Practicalities and Ethics of Dealing with Disaster Remains and Cultural Heritage

WELCOME ADDRESS: 09:00-09:20; Kimura Toshiaki, Tohoku University, Sébastien P. Boret, Tohoku University; English/Japanese

PRESENTATIONS: Each presentation will last 20 minutes plus 10 minute Q&A.

Session 1 HUMAN REMAINS 09:20-10:50

1. Elisabeth Anstett, CNRS, The Difficult Issue of Incomplete Bodies and Cadaver’s Fragments in Mass Death
2. Shiho To Shibab, JSPS Research Fellowship for Young Scientists, The Transformation of the Burial System after the Great Kanto Earthquake
3. Sébastien P. Boret, Tohoku University, Managing Mass Fatalities during the Crisis of 2011 Japan Disasters

Break 10 mins

Session 2 SPIRITUAL REMAINS 11:00-13:00

1. Tetsuo Ohmura, Tohoku University, Diplomas for the Dead: Memorial Services for the Children Victims of 3.11 in Non-Religious Public Schools
2. Yu Fukuda, Tohoku University, Commemorations of the Tsunami by religious minorities in Banda Aceh

Lunch Break 90 mins

Session 3 MATERIAL REMAINS 14:30~16:30

1. Ryusuke Kodani, Tohoku History Museum, The Methods and Effects of Transmitting Cultural Heritage Damaged by Disaster to Future Generations
2. Sakura Kudo, Tohoku University"Post-disaster Resilience and Uninhabited Resettlements in Nepal: A study of a Model Village following the Gorkha Earthquake"
3. Toshiaki Kimura, Tohoku University, Material Remains and Revival of Local Festival in Post-3.11 Japan

Break 10 mins
DISCUSSION 16:30~17:30

Coordinator Toshiaki Kimura and Sébastien P. Boret

The general discussion will be an opportunity to discuss the outcomes of the workshops, including a publication.

DINNER RECEPTION 18:00; location to be confirmed.

---

Cultural Heritage Preservation in Disasters

21-22 February

FEBRUARY 21

Venue: Tohoku University, New Aobayama Campus, IRIDeS, 1F Seminar Room

Session 2: A Comparison of Preservation Programs of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Asia

9:30-9:35 Opening by Prof Hiroki Takakura

9:35-11:05 Prof Satoru Hyoki (Folklorist) Seijo Gakuen University, Efforts for Safeguarding Folk Performing Arts in Japan: Focusing on the Communities Concerned and the Problems Facing Them

Ass. Prof Satoru Ishigai, Tokyo Kasei University, "Present state and issues regarding the protection of intangible folk cultural properties. What should be protected? What can be protected? "

11:05-11:35 Mr. Jayaram Shrestha, Nepal National Museum, "Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) of Nepal: Role of Community"


Disaster tour

13:00 departure from Sendai

14:00-15 Okawa Elementary School Site, Ishinomaki City

15:30-16:30 Arrival in Rias Ark Museum, Kesennuma City
17:00 Hotel, Kesennuma City (Hotel IKKEIKAKU)

FEBRUARY 22

10:00-12:00 Intangible Cultural Heritage Performance : Tiger Dance

12-13:30 Lunch

13:30-14:30 Kensennuma Disaster Memorials, Kesenuma City

16:30 Return to Sendai

Copyright https://kesennuma-kanko.jp

※国立大学経営改革促進事業（世界トップレベル研究拠点（災害科学））及び 受託研究：無形文化遺産保護条約（文化庁）予算にて実施