

WORKSHOP SERIES

JAPANESE PHILOSOPHY



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The following essay announces a new series of workshops on Japanese philosophy hosted at the Nanzan Institute. In 2022, the workshops were held on 25 June and 19 December. We are currently preparing publications stemming from the presentations and discussions among participants in the workshops.

THE NANZAN Institute for Religion and Culture (NIRC) has a long tradition of research and publications on the topic of Japanese and intercultural philosophy. Through the efforts of James Heisig, the Institute has published *Japanese Philosophy: A Sourcebook* (translated into several languages), several volumes of the *Frontiers in Japanese Philosophy* series, and various translations of texts of the best-known Japanese philosophers. All of these activities have contributed to creating a network of relationships between scholars in Japan and the rest of the world, which has enabled the NIRC to serve as a platform for intercultural philosophical dialogue.

On the base of the success of these initiatives, our intention is to continue to offer the opportunity for discussions in various languages, whether online, in person, or in a hybrid format. In fact, the intercultural encounter must, in our opinion, be first and foremost a meeting between people, in accordance with that spirit that has marked the Institute's activities for decades, and which has enabled it again this year to become a "place" for dialogue in all forms: interreligious, philosophical, and this year even artistic. With the cooperation of anyone ready to share ideas in frank and friendly discussions, we hope to be able to offer more and more opportunities for the development of thought in the years to come as well.

In 2022 the NIRC has begun a new cycle of international workshops dedicated to Japanese philosophy. We organized two meetings, one dedicated to Nishida Kitarō and the other to Miki Kiyoshi. The meeting on Nishida held on 25 June was dedicated to the 1939 text *Absolutely Contradictory Self-Identity* 絶対矛盾的自己同一.

Each of the ten speakers were invited to engage the text from different points of view. The second meeting was held on 19 December and focused on Miki's *Logic of the Imagination* 構想力の論理. Again, we were honored to host several participants from all over the world, this time to discuss the topic of myth within Miki's text on the basis of an English translation provided by John W. M. Krummel.

The premise of this new series of international workshops is to bring together scholars from around the globe to discuss a single text by a specific author. Participants are asked to prepare brief presentations on a portion of the text, which will then be the basis of discussion at the workshop. Therefore, the Japanese philosophy workshops combine translation with philosophical debate on the content of the texts. The NIRC plans to publish the results of the workshops in a new book series, which will include translations in multiple languages along with commentary.

These initiatives will continue in the coming years, extending the scope of meetings to other Japanese authors and beyond. Efforts will also be made to initiate a permanent seminar on Nishida's philosophy on a monthly basis, in a hybrid form, open to all and without language limits. Such meetings devoted to topics in contemporary philosophy that have cross-cultural relevance aim to involve as many people as possible, not just specialists in Japanese thought, and without necessarily privileging the use of English or Japanese.

FIRST MEETING OF THE JAPANESE PHILOSOPHY WORKSHOP

25 June 2022

Morning session (9:00–12:00)

Afternoon session (13:30–17:00)

Along with *The Position of the Individual in the Historical World* 歴史的世界に於ける個物の立場 (1938), *Absolute Contradictory Self-Identity* 絶対矛盾的自己同一 (1939) is arguably one of Nishida's most important texts in which we find the essential framework of his mature philosophy presented in a concise manner. At this workshop, which focused specifically on this 1939 text, emphasis was placed on the joint-creative process of collective dialogue. There were a total of ten short presentations. Each presenter was asked to isolate one passage in the text they find particularly important or interesting and to speak briefly (10 min) about it from their own perspective. Jacynthe Tremblay opened the workshop by situating *Absolute Contradictory Self-Identity* within the work of Nishida and speaking to its importance in the development of his thought.

Stephen Lofts, *King's University College*
Jan Gerrit Strala, *Kinjo Gakuin University*
Tobias Bartneck, *Kyoto University*

Sova Cerda, *Kyoto University*
Yoneyama Masaru, *Nagoya University*
Jacynthe Tremblay, NIRC
Felipe Ferrari, *Yokkaichi University*
Enrico Fongaro, NIRC
Hans Peter Liederbach, *Kwansei Gakuin University*
Morten Jelby, *Ecole Normale Supérieure*

SECOND MEETING OF THE JAPANESE PHILOSOPHY WORKSHOP:
ON MIKI'S *THE LOGIC OF THE IMAGINATION*

19 December 2022

Morning session (8:30–12:00)

Afternoon session (13:00–16:00)

The workshop primarily focused on the topic of myth in Chapter One of Miki's *The Logic of the Imagination*. Presenters were asked to discuss a specific passage they find interesting and important. We then discussed as a group the presenter's interpretation of this passage, with the aim of clarifying the philosophical potential and power of Miki's thought.

John W. M. Krummel, *Hobart and William Smith Colleges*
Stephen Lofts, *King's University College*
Fernando Wirtz, *Kyoto University*
Takushi Odagiri, *Kanazawa University*
Nobuo Kazashi, *Hiroshima City University*
Hans Peter Liederbach, *Kwansei Gakuin University*
James Heisig, NIRC
Enrico Fongaro, NIRC