

WORKSHOP SERIES

JAPANESE PHILOSOPHY



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The following essay announces a series of workshops on Japanese philosophy hosted at the Nanzan Institute. In 2023, the main workshops were held on 11-12 May and 1-2 December. During this period, we also launched a series of monthly seminars on the philosophy of Nishida. We are currently preparing publications stemming from the presentations and discussions among participants in the workshops.

IN KEEPING with the long tradition of intercultural research on Japanese philosophy at the Nanzan Institute, we began a series of workshops in 2022 focusing on the thought of Nishida Kitarō and Miki Kiyoshi. This year, in addition to continuing these international workshops, we commence a series of monthly seminars on Nishida Kitarō, which host speakers from around the world. These seminars, along with the annual workshops, further expand the international network of the Nanzan Institute as an interest in Nishida's thought continues to grow beyond the boundaries of Japan.

As we continue to host workshops on Japanese philosophy, the need arose to document the results of these gatherings. Therefore, we will launch a series of multilingual publications as collections of essays and translations based on the results of the Japanese philosophy workshops. We plan to inaugurate this series next year with an initial publication devoted to Nishida, hopefully followed by many others. Related to this publication endeavor and the Japanese Philosophy workshops is an ongoing digital project to create a database of essential works in Japanese Philosophy and their respective translations in multiple languages. Check the Nanzan Institute website (<https://nirc.nanzan-u.ac.jp>) for updates.

In an effort to bring together scholars from around the globe to discuss a single text by a specific author, we held the first Nishitani Keiji Workshop on Philosophy of Religion on 11–12 May followed by a second on 1–2 December 2023. The first Nishitani Keiji Workshop was entitled “Nishitani Keiji and Mysticism.” The main

reference for the workshop was the 1956 text *Mysticism* 神秘主義, published in volume three of Nishitani's *Collected Works*. Based on either the original Japanese text or an English translation produced for the workshop, various scholars from around the world discussed the meaning of mysticism between East and West, while drawing on Nishitani's views. The second Nishitani Keiji workshop was devoted to a late and famous text of Nishitani, the 1982 text *Emptiness and Soku* 空と即, published in volume thirteen of Nishitani's *Collected Works*. The second workshop also allowed for a passionate and fruitful discussion of Nishitani's thought, reinforcing our intention to continue with this initiative.

This year we were also able to host several meetings on translation, the history of philosophy from a cross-cultural perspective, the problem of nihilism between East and West, contemporary theology, and an international workshop on the concept of "expression." 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. In addition, many of these meetings are now available on the institute's new YouTube channel, so even those who were unable to attend due to scheduling conflicts or difference in time zone can watch the presentations from various speakers.

NISHITANI KEIJI WORKSHOP ON THE PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION: FIRST SESSION, NISHITANI KEIJI AND MYSTICISM

11–12 May 2023

Morning session (9:30–12:30)

Afternoon session (15:00–18:30)

The goal of the workshop was to contextualize and elaborate on Nishitani's notion of "mysticism" and to use his reflections as groundwork for further explorations into the philosophical significance of the encounter between religions, in particular Buddhism and Christianity.

Ryōsuke Ōhashi 大橋良介, *Japanese-German Culture Institute in Kyoto*

Sova Cerda, *Kyoto University*

Joseph O'Leary, *Sophia University*

Gregory Moss, *Chinese University of Hong Kong*

Gerald Nelson, *Penn State University*

Marcello Ghilardi, *Padua University*

Chika Katō 加藤千佳, *Kansai University*

Tobias Bartneck, *Kyoto University*

Ian Moore, *Loyola Marymount University*

Stephen Lofts, *King's University College*
Seung Chul Kim 金承哲, *Nanzan Institute for Religion and Culture*
Lorenzo Marinucci, *Tohoku University*
Morten Jelby, *Ecole Normale Supérieure*
Emma Lavinia Bon, *Turin University*
Francesca Greco, *Hildesheim University*
Alberto Giacomelli, *Padua University*
Fernando Wirtz, *Kyoto University*

**NISHITANI KEIJI WORKSHOP ON THE PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION:
SECOND SESSION, NISHITANI'S "EMPTINESS AND SOKU"**

1–2 December 2023

Morning session (9:30–13:00)

Afternoon session (15:00–18:00)

The workshop's goal was to contextualize and elaborate on Nishitani's notions of "emptiness" and "soku" and to use his reflections as groundwork for further explorations into the philosophical significance of the encounter between religions.

Ryōsuke Ōhashi 大橋良介, *Japanese-German Culture Institute in Kyoto*
Akitomi Katsuya 秋富克哉, *Kyoto Institute of Technology*
Keta Masako 氣多雅子, *Kyoto University*
Odagiri Takushi 小田桐拓志, *Kanazawa University*
Marcello Ghilardi, *Padua University*
Emma Lavinia Bon, *Turin University*
Abe Hiroshi 安部浩, *Kyoto University*
Stephen Lofts, *King's University College*
Tobias Bartneck, *Kyoto University*
Nobuo Kazashi, *Hiroshima City University*
Francesca Greco, *Hildesheim University*
Robert Lehmann, *Hochschule für Philosophie München*