

WORKSHOP SERIES

JAPANESE PHILOSOPHY



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The following essay is a summary of workshops on Japanese philosophy hosted at the Nanzan Institute during the 2024 academic year. It was possible to organize many international workshops and talks thanks in large part to the presence of outstanding scholars at the Institute. In addition to the workshops noted below, we continued monthly seminars on the philosophy of Nishida. We are currently preparing publications stemming from the presentations and discussions among participants in the workshops.

AS THE GLOBAL center for intercultural research on Japanese philosophy, the NIRC offers workshops and seminars designed to bring together scholars, both domestically and from abroad, to share their work and discuss philosophical issues. Since 2022, we have hosted monthly seminars on the thought of Nishida Kitarō. We have also held workshops on the work and thought of Nishitani Keiji and Miki Kiyoshi. This year, we continued the Nishitani workshops, with additional workshops on Karl Jaspers, Martin Heidegger, and Nakai Masakazu.

The basis of the Japanese Philosophy Workshop schedule are sessions on the philosophy of Nishitani Keiji. We again hosted two sessions of the Nishitani Keiji Workshop in 2024. The third session, “Nishitani Keiji: Nietzsche’s Zarathustra and Meister Eckhart,” was held 10–11 May. The main reference for the workshop was a 1938 text by Nishitani entitled “Nietzsche’s Zarathustra and Meister Eckhart” ニイチェのツアラツストラとマイスター・エックハルト, published in volume one of Nishitani’s *Collected Works*. Based on both the original Japanese text and an English translation produced for the workshop, an international cohort of scholars discussed Nishitani’s relation to Nietzsche, Eckhart, and Heidegger. The fourth session held 22–23 November was devoted to a later text by Nishitani, “The Standpoint of Zen” 禪の立場, published in volume eleven of Nishitani’s *Collected Works*. A stimulating

discussion of Nishitani's thought in its relation to Buddhism continued through the workshop, which we hope to build upon in future sessions.

This year we also hosted several gatherings on theology between East and West, deep ecology, the history of philosophy in the Meiji period, and the role of the "self" in socio-political context. Visiting Project Researcher Bendik Manum organized a workshop on "place" that brought together scholars of Japanese philosophy and architecture to discuss the relationship between nature and culture. Thanks to the commitment and support of this year's two Roche Chair Fellows, Steve Lofts and Yoko Arisaka, and the JSPS scholar and Visiting Project Researcher Piergiacomomo Severini, we were able to host international workshops on Heidegger and on Jaspers's thought in relation to Japanese philosophy. Under the guidance of Lofts, we also organized the first ever international workshop on an often neglected Japanese philosopher, Nakai Masakazu. Recordings of presentations and discussions of this year's workshops, as well as the Nishida seminar, can be viewed on the NIRC YouTube channel (@NIRC-nanzan).

NISHITANI KEIJI WORKSHOP ON THE PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION: THIRD SESSION, "NIETZSCHE'S ZARATHUSTRA AND MEISTER ECKHART"

10–11 May 2024

The goal of the workshop was to analyze Nishitani's interpretation of Nietzsche and Eckhart based on his 1938 text 「ニーチェのツァラトゥストラとマイスター・エックハルト」 and discuss it in the broader context of Nishitani's own thought.

Steve Lofts, *King's University College at Western University*

Seung Chul Kim 金承哲, *Nanzan Institute for Religion and Culture*

Sova Cerda, *Kyoto University*

Tobias Bartneck, *Kyoto University*

Alessandro Calefati, *University of Calabria*

Alberto Giacomelli, *Padua University*

Francesca Greco, *Hildesheim University*

Lorenzo Marinucci, *Tohoku University*

Felipe Ferrari, *Yokkaichi University*

Ian Moore, *Loyola Marymount University*

Katō Chika 加藤千佳, *Kansai University*

Anttoni Kuusela, *University of Jyväskylä*

Emma Lavinia Bon, *Turin University*

Graham Parkes, *University of Vienna*

NISHITANI KEIJI WORKSHOP ON THE PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION: FOURTH SESSION, NISHITANI'S "THE STANDPOINT OF ZEN"

22–23 November 2024

The workshop focused on analyzing Nishitani's interpretation of Zen in his essay 「禅の立場」, which was translated into English by John Marlado as "The Standpoint of Zen" (*Eastern Buddhist* 17 [1984]).

John Maraldo, *University of North Florida*
Anttoni Kuusela, *University of Jyväskylä*
Akitomi Katsuya 秋富克哉, *Kyoto Institute of Technology*
Steve Lofts, *King's University College at Western University*
Ōhashi Ryōsuke 大橋良介, *Japanese-German Culture Institute in Kyoto*
Aldo Tollini, *University Ca' Foscari Venice*
Michiel Herman, *University of Antwerp*
Liao Chinping 廖欽彬, *Sun Yat-sen University*
Griffin Werner, *University of Hawai'i*
Leon Krings, *University of Hildesheim*
Abe Hiroshi 安部浩, *Kyoto University*
Zhang Zheng 张政, *South China Normal University*
Friso Timmenga, *University of Groningen*

THINKING OF PLACE ILLUMINATED FROM JAPAN

8 April 2024

The goal of this workshop was to challenge our understanding of the relationship between nature and culture that characterizes our time through an discussion of the Japanese philosopher Watsuji Tetsurō and the Norwegian architectural thinker Christian Norberg-Schulz.

Bendik Manum, *Norwegian University of Science and Technology*
Gro Lauvland, *Norwegian University of Science and Technology*
Thomas Daniell, *Kyoto University*
Inutsuka Yū 犬塚悠, *Nagoya Institute of Technology*
Ōhashi Ryōsuke 大橋良介, *Japanese-German Culture Institute in Kyoto*

ILLUMINATING THE HUMAN CONDITION: JASPERS'S TRADITION IN DIALOGUE WITH JAPAN

25–26 October 2024

The aim of this conference was to explore the contribution of the existential perspective of Jaspers's tradition to the reflection on the human condition, seeking to point out the originality of Karl Jaspers and his former students Hannah Arendt

and Jeanne Hersch on the one hand, and to investigate the significance of such originality in the Kyoto School and the Japanese philosophical tradition on the other hand.

Nakayama Tsuyoshi 中山剛史, *Tamagawa University*
Stefania Tarantino, *University of Salerno*
Roberto Garaventa, *D'Annunzio University of Chieti-Pescara*
James Heisig, *Nanzan Institute for Religion and Culture*
Ōsawa Hironori 大沢啓徳, *Nihon University*
Hirano Akihiko 平野明彦, *independent scholar*
Akitomi Katsuya 秋富克哉, *Kyoto Institute of Technology*
Matsumaru Keiko 松丸啓子, *Takachiho University*
Piergiacomo Severini, *Nanzan Institute for Religion and Culture*
Stefania Achella, *D'Annunzio University of Chieti-Pescara*
Dominic Kaegi, *Heidelberg Academy of Sciences and Humanities*

JAPANESE PHILOSOPHY AND ITS AUSEINANDERSETZUNG WITH HEIDEGGER

7–8 March 2025

This workshop challenged the presupposition about the primacy of the Heideggerian framework of interpreting Japanese philosophy by examining the critical engagement with Heidegger's thoughts in Japanese philosophy.

Yoko Arisaka, *University of Hildesheim*
Steve Lofts, *King's University College at Western University*
Abe Hiroshi 安部浩, *Kyoto University*
Hans Peter Liederbach, *Kwansei Gakuin University*
Morten Jelby, *Ecole normale supérieure, Paris*
Sova Cerda, *Kyoto University*
Fernando Wirtz, *Kyoto University*
Akitomi Katsuya 秋富克哉, *Kyoto Institute of Technology*
Lucy Schultz, *University of Tennessee at Chattanooga*
Francesca Greco, *University of Hildesheim*
Ōhashi Ryōsuke 大橋良介, *Japanese-German Culture Institute in Kyoto*
Nukui Takashi 貫井隆, *Kyoto University*
Okada Yūta 岡田悠汰, *Tohoku University*

THE CONTEMPORARY SIGNIFICANCE OF THE WORK OF
NAKAI MASAKAZU 中井正一

4–5 April 2025

Although Nakai's work is widely recognized in media studies, it is all but absent in philosophy. This conference's goal was to focus on the contemporary philosophical significance of the work of Nakai Masakazu in the context of the so called "Kyoto School."

Otabe Tanehisa 小田部胤久, *Tokyo University*

Kyle Peters, *The Chinese University of Hong Kong*

Michel Lucken, *Institut national des langues et civilisations orientales (INALCO)*

Oda Kazuaki 織田和明, *Osaka University*

Philip Kaffen, *The University of North Carolina*

Steve Lofts, *King's University College at Western University*

Takehana Yōsuke 竹花洋介, *Fukuoka University*