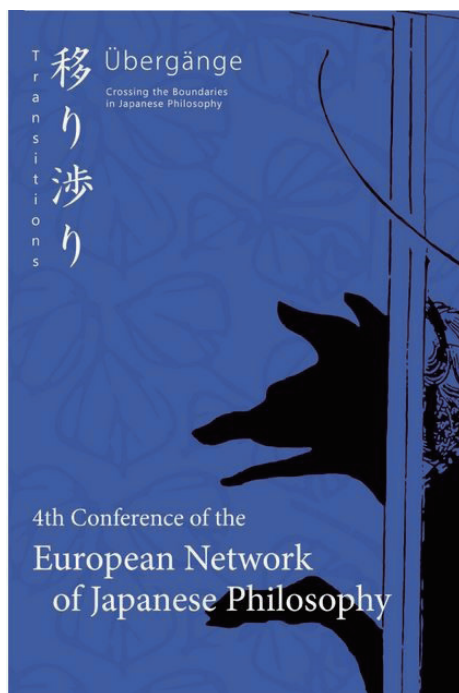


シンポジウム報告

The 4th Conference of the ENOJP: Übergänge – Transitions – 移り渉り : Crossing the Boundaries in Japanese Philosophy

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1) Introduction



After 3 very successful conferences in Barcelona (2015), Brussels (2016) and Paris (2017), the European Network of Japanese Philosophy (ENOJP) held its 4th Conference on September 5th – 8th 2018 at one of its founding places at the University of Hildesheim in Germany. It was the biggest conference in Japanese Philosophy in Germany so far. Like the previous conferences of the ENOJP, the 4th Conference featured presenters from a wide variety of European as well as international institutions and included participants from Germany, France, Switzerland, Spain, Italy, Portugal, Ireland, Czech Republic, Poland, Denmark, Estonia, Serbia, Japan, China, Taiwan, the US, Columbia, Mexico and Brazil.

The conference was open for presentations on all aspects of Japanese Philosophy, with a thematic focus on “Übergänge – Transitions – 移り渉り”, to show how Japanese Philosophy can help in dealing with transitions

and intersections between Philosophy and other scientific fields, transitory phenomena such as *ki* 気, processes of translation and transformation as well as transitions between apparently contrary notions such as “mind and body” or “nature and culture/technology”. To this end, keynotes, panel presentations, and roundtable discussions were complemented by focused workshops on selected topics. While the panel presentations have been delivered by a mixed array of established as well as young, aspiring scholars, the 3 keynotes and the roundtable discussion have been given by an international team of veteran experts who ventured to explore new paths and possibilities in the field of Japanese Philosophy and beyond.



2) Objective and Importance of the Project

A key feature of the conference was its wide range of international scholars and a focus on promoting



Opening ceremony with Prof. R. Elberfeld and Prof. J. G. Strala and Kikuko Kato

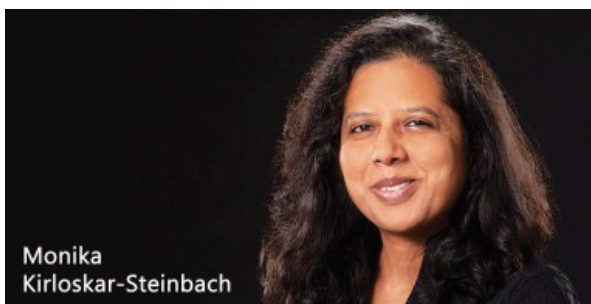


Consul General of Japan

the exchange between young, aspiring scholars and established experts to maintain and further develop the international network of scholarship on Japanese Philosophy. Additionally, students of philosophy at the University of Hildesheim have been integrated by a special seminar on Japanese Philosophy which required them to actively engage with the conference. In this way, all levels of academic research have been able to benefit from and come into contact with scholarship on Japanese Philosophy.

The primary objective was to strengthen the position of Japanese Philosophy in the global network of intellectual exchange and intercultural philosophy, a field that proves to

become more and more important for Japan, Europe and the rest of the world. The current researches and engagements towards a World Philosophy in various philosophical fields make it ever more apparent that both Japan and Europe should intensify their position and collaboration in the global project of both dealing with their own Philosophical traditions as well as developing them further. This conference opened up new possibilities on how to achieve this aim by focusing on the problem of transitions and intersections and, most of all, connecting Japanese Philosophy to current debates in global Philosophy to show its innovative potential.



Monika
Kirloskar-Steinbach

[Monika Kirloskar-Steinbach](#)
(Universität Konstanz)

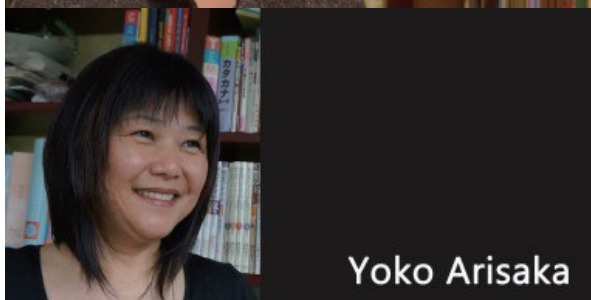
Why Bother? Relational Knowing and the Study of World Philosophies



Mayuko Uehara

[Mayuko Uehara](#)
(Kyōto University)

Questioning the Gender Difference in Human Existence: Contemporary Problems of Equality, Dignity and Absolute Alterity
(実存の性差を問う一絶対的他性、対等、尊厳の現代的問題)



Yoko Arisaka

[Yoko Arisaka](#)
(Universität Hildesheim)

Transition and the "Eternal Present": Theory and Responsibility in Our Context Today

Another aim we wanted to particularly emphasize is the strengthening of female philosophers in the field of Japanese Philosophy. This objective was addressed by the inclusion of 3 female keynote speakers and a generally high percentage of women in the panel presentations.

3) Thematic Focus

The thematic title of the conference was “Übergänge – Transitions – 移り 渉り : Crossing the Boundaries in Japanese Philosophy”. The three languages used in the title description also functioned as the primary modes of presentation and communication at the conference and the keynote speakers and presenters had the opportunity to speak in different languages, including German, English, and Japanese. It has been a consistent aim of the ENOJP Conferences as well as of the network's journal (European Journal of Japanese Philosophy, EJJP) to promote transitions between different languages, showing the fundamental relevance of linguistic plurality to a global way of philosophizing.

The transition of boundaries was also featured in the thematic focus of the conference as a whole: The workshop on “Transforming the Bodymind: Towards a Phenomenology of Ki 気 and Kata 型” dealt with the interrelatedness of body and mind in Japanese Philosophy as well as with practices of self-cultivation like the martial arts (budō) or the “artistic ways” (geidō), for example chadō, shodō, or Nō-Theater. Prof. Hisayama Yuhō gave a presentation on his interpretation of ki (気), drawing on his extensive scholarship on the phenomenon of ki at the intersection between Japanese accounts and “New Phenomenology”, initiated by German philosopher Hermann Schmitz. Enrico Fongaro, an expert on Japanese Aesthetics as well as a 7th Dan master in the traditional Japanese art of drawing the sword (Iaidō), talked about the meaning of Kata (型) in Japanese practices of self-cultivation. The presentations by Tani Tōru, Itabashi Yūjin and Leon Krings further elaborated on linguistic, systematic and embodied approaches to the phenomena of ki and Kata.

The second workshop on “Translation and Tradition: Intersections between Philology and Japanese Philosophy” focused on the importance of processes of translation in the formation of traditional and modern Japanese Philosophy as well as its significance for contemporary thinking. To this end, eminent scholars of classical philology discussed with experts on Japanese Philosophy about the topic using an interdisciplinary approach. Overall, presenters have been encouraged to build groups and conceive collaborative panels on other forms of transitions and transformation in the context of Japanese Philosophy and showed how a transition from Japanese philosophical concepts to

contemporary theories can enrich current debates on a variety of interdisciplinary topics. The Roundtable discussion featured a mix of Zen scholars and practitioners to talk on “Transitions between Philosophy and Zen”.

4) Results of Research and Future Projects

Selected presentations are currently developed into elaborated essays and will be published in a dedicated conference volume as well as in the European Journal of Japanese Philosophy (EJJP), the official academic organ of the ENOJP in late summer this year. The close collaborations with this journal and the publisher Chisokudō (Nagoya, Japan) will enable us to further develop the scholarly outcomes of our conference and work on collective publication and translation projects in the aftermath of the conference itself. The EJJP has already proven to be a thriving new medium of intellectual production in the field of Japanese Philosophy and it is again one of the platforms to disseminate the fruits of this conference.

The previous years have shown that the ENOJP Conferences are a very productive forum to form new bonds and create collaborative networks for future projects which will lead to the execution of new conferences, workshops, and publications in the future.

One of these future conferences will be held to celebrate the 5th anniversary of its founding. The ENOJP will organize an international conference with the Nanzan Institute of Religion and Culture at Nanzan University in Nagoya on August 29th – September 1st 2019. It is expected that there will be over 100 presentations on various aspects of Japanese philosophy centering around a thematic focus on “Philosophy and Beauty (哲学の美・美の哲学)”. Two senior scholars from within Japan and one from abroad will be invited to deliver keynote addresses. In addition, two workshops, one on the topic of the conference



and a second on the work of Izutzu Toshihiko (井筒俊彦) will take place within the conference. Furthermore, a seminar especially designed with local junior high school children in mind will run during the conference.

5) European Network of Japanese Philosophy

The European Network of Japanese Philosophy (ENOJP) is an international network of scholars from Germany, France, Switzerland, Spain, Italy, Portugal, Ireland, Czech Republic, Poland, Denmark, Estonia, Serbia, Japan, China, Taiwan, the US, Columbia, Mexico and Brazil which

aims to support and advance the knowledge of Japanese Philosophy in European languages. The ENOJP welcomes scholars that work in the field of Japanese philosophy in other European languages. For suggestions regarding a specific language not mentioned above, please contact us at [contact\(at\)enojp.org](mailto:contact(at)enojp.org) or the contact form.

The previous conferences drew over 150 participants from across the world and had a lasting impact on the intellectual landscape of research in Japanese Philosophy by breaking down traditional barriers between different institutions and enabling intensive collaborations



between a wide variety of scholars in an open-minded and international atmosphere. A portfolio of ENOJPs previous conferences can be seen at <https://enojp.org/conferences/>

