

Beyond Nationalism? Peacebuilding and Religion in Asia

SSRI-IGC International Symposium AY2014

Sponsors: Social Science Research Institute (SSRI - ICU)
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Beyond Nationalism? Peacebuilding and Religion in Asia

First Plenary Session: Beyond Nationalism? Tagore and Modern India
Prof. Sudipta KAVIRAJ (Columbia University)

Second Plenary Session: Nationalism in Abe's Japan
Prof. Shin CHIBA (Director of PRI, ICU)
Prof. Koichi NAKANO (Sophia University)

Nationalism, Religion and Peacebuilding in North-East Asia
Prof. Jun-Hyeok KWAK (Soongsil University, ROK)
Prof. Atsuko ICHIJO (Kingston University, UK)
Prof. Kosuke SHIMIZU (Ryukoku University, Kyoto)
Prof. Takeshi DEGUCHI (University of Tokyo)

Convener: Prof. Giorgio SHANI (Director of SSRI, ICU)

Admission: Free
Japanese-English simultaneous translation provided

10:30- 17:30, Saturday December 20, 2014

Venue: International Conference Room,
Kiyoshi Togasaki Memorial Dialogue House,
International Christian University (ICU)

<http://ssri-igc.com/>

Date

10:30 – 17:30, Saturday, 20 December, 2014

Venue

International Conference Room, Kiyoshi Togasaki Memorial Dialogue House, ICU

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Morning Session (the first few minutes lacks the sound)

<https://youtu.be/6GgE82CLmFw>

Afternoon Session (The sound level varies after 10mins)

<https://youtu.be/GH8xdQand-0>

Opening Remarks

Prof. Junko HIBIYA (President of ICU)



Overview of Symposium

Prof. Giorgio SHANI (Director of SSRI, ICU)



Beyond Nationalism? Tagore and Modern India

Tagore and Critical Nationalism

Prof. Sudipta KAVIRAJ (Professor, Columbia University) [[Profile](#)]

Abstract

Discussant: Prof. Giorgio SHANI (Director of SSRI, ICU)

Chair: Prof. Katsuhiko MORI (Professor, ICU)



Nationalism in Abe's Japan

Japanese Politics at the Crossroad and the Future of East Asia: *Coup d'état* against the Constitution, Yasukuni Nationalism, and the Task of Peace-building

Prof. Shin CHIBA (Director of PRI, ICU) [[Profile](#)]

Abstract

History, Politics and Identity in Japan

Prof. Koichi NAKANO (Professor, Sophia University) [[Profile](#)]

Abstract

Discussants: Prof. Masaki INA (Professor, ICU)

Discussants: Prof. Takashi KIBE (Professor, ICU)

Chair: Prof. Toshiro TERADA (Professor, Sophia University)



Nationalism, Religion and Peacebuilding in North-East Asia

Religious Nationalism with Reciprocal Non-domination: Ahn Changho's Humanitarian Cosmopolitanism

– Prof. Jun-Hyeok KWAK (Associate Professor, Soongsil University)
[【Profile】](#)

Abstract

Moments of Subversion and Resistance: Unintended Consequences of Nationalist/Imperialist Ideas in the Japanese Empire

– Prof. Atsuko ICHIJO (Associate Professor, Kingston University)
[【Profile】](#)

Abstract

Buddhism, Reason, and Great East Asian Co-prosperity Area: Multiculturalism and Nationalism in the Pre-war Period Japan

– Prof. Kosuke SHIMIZU (Professor, Ryukoku University) [【Profile】](#)

Abstract

Two types of Nationalism in Modern Japan: Authoritarian Dictatorship and Narcissistic Aggressiveness

– Prof. Takeshi DEGUCHI (Associate Professor, University of Tokyo)
[【Profile】](#)

Abstract

Discussants: Prof. Takashi KIBE (Professor, ICU)

Discussants: Prof. Jae-Jung SUH (Senior Associate Professor, ICU)

Chair: Prof. Wilhelm VOSSE (Professor, ICU)



Joint Prayer

Prof. Juan HAIDAR S.J. (Professor, Sophia University)
Prof. Johannes Unsok RO (Senior Associate Professor, ICU)



Closing Remarks

Prof. Nina HASEGAWA (Professor, Sophia University)



Concept Note

The centenary commemorations of the First World War serve as a stark reminder of the perils of nationalism which have as yet remained unheeded throughout Asia. In a lecture given in Japan as the war unfolded, the Bengali poet and Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore criticized the nation-state and offered a vision of a society independent of it. This symposium seeks to pose the question of what has happened to that vision with special reference to Asia and Europe. Although the spectacular rise of the People's Republic of China (PRC) and India, along with other members of the BRICS, has constituted a powerful challenge to the hegemony of the West in world politics, the dominant form of political community in contemporary international relations (IR) remains the nation-state. A product of European political history, the nation-state model has been globalized, first coercively through the colonization of much of Asia by European powers, and then subsequently through decolonization. In Japan, however, the nation-state was adopted after the Meiji Restoration and is widely accepted as a 'natural' political community built upon pre-existing ethnic foundations. In recent years, the revival of Japanese 'ethno-nationalism' which has remain dormant since the Second World War, and the increasing use of nationalist rhetoric by the PRC has threatened peace and stability in the region. These have come to a head with the territorial disputes over the Senkaku islands which are also claimed by Taiwan. In many ways, the rise of ethno-nationalism in East Asia mirrors the prior emergence of religious nationalism in South Asia with the added danger posed by the possession of nuclear weapons by both India and Pakistan. It remains to be seen what the impact of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and their controversial leader, Narendra Modi, will be on peace and stability in the region.

This symposium, the 34th joint symposium held by SSRI and the

Institute for Global Concern (Sophia University), will critically interrogate the prospects for peace in Asia by posing the following question: What can be done to counter the rise of nationalism within Asia and what role, if any, can inter-faith dialogue play in peacebuilding in the region?