23 FEBRUARY 2016



TALK EVENT

The New Wave of Activist Culture in Post-3.11 Japan



The Japan Foundation, Sydney presents <u>'The New Wave of Activist Culture in Post-3.11 Japan'</u>, a public talk by **Prof Akihiro Ogawa** (Asia Institute, University of Melbourne) on **April 1 (Friday)**, **6:30pm – 7:30pm** at The Japan Foundation, Sydney. This talk is part of an event program titled, **After 3.11: Have you met the new Japan?**, commemorating the 5th anniversary of the earthquake and tsunami that hit Japan on March 11, 2011.

March 11, 2011 was a trigger point in the social movement history of postwar Japan: the triple disaster of the earthquake, tsunami and nuclear power plant explosion disrupted everyday life and caused Japanese people to reflect upon their way of living. Post-3.11, citizens across the country began to protest against nuclear power, awakening the nation's activist culture from decades of slumber. Since then, new large-scale actions on different issues have shown that post-3.11 activism was not a lone spike, but the beginning of a broader trend.

This talk outlines the rise of a new activist movement in post-3.11 Japan, making connections with the social activism of Japan's early postwar-era as well as pro-democracy movements across Asia.

Akihiro Ogawa says, "The post-3.11 protest culture is a very interesting phenomenon because it follows a period of very limited citizen activism. Prior to 3.11, the last sustained, large-scale protests in Japan happened in the 1970s. We're also seeing a new culture, new ideologies and new strategies among people who are organizing protests. The rebirth of activism is a long-awaited development in Japanese society, and it is also intriguing to note how it has coincided with social movements in greater Asia in recent years."

This talk is part of the event program, <u>After 3.11: Have you met the new Japan?</u>, which runs March 1

– April 15 and includes an exhibition, pottery demonstration, film screening and further talks.

PROGRAM DETAILS

After 3.11: Have you met the new Japan?

[EXHIBITION]

March 1 – April 15 Icons of Time by Tomohiro Muda

Gallery Hours

Monday – Friday: 10am – 6pm Selected Saturdays (March 19, April 9): 10am – 3pm Closed Sundays & public holidays

Admission is free.

Opening Reception & Artist Talk

March 4, 6:30pm – 8:00pm Admission free. RSVP essential.

[DEMONSTRATION]

March 10 Obori Soma Ware: Rebuilding Kiln & Kin

Masanori Sue (Ceramicist) & Takeshi Matsunaga (Speaker)

6:30pm – 7:30pm (doors open 6pm) @ The Japan Foundation, Sydney. Admission is free. RSVP essential (via website).

[TALKS]

March 18 AfterLandscapes: Designing in Uncertainty

Marieluise Jonas (RMIT University)

April 1 The New Wave of Activist Culture in Post-3.11 Japan

Akihiro Ogawa (Melbourne University)

April 15 3.11 in Literature and Film

Tamaki Tokita (University of Sydney)

6:30pm – 7:30pm (doors open 6pm) @ The Japan Foundation, Sydney.

Admission is free. RSVP essential (via website).

Free CHOYA tastings available at venue.

[FILM]

April 8 Tell the Prime Minister (2015; 109 mins; Japanese with English subtitles)

Feat. Q&A with director Eiji Oguma

6:30pm (doors open 6pm) @ University of Technology Sydney (Bldg 2, Lecture theatre 3.02)

Admission is free. RSVP essential (via website).

Venues: [EXHIBITION, DEMONSTRATION & TALKS]

The Japan Foundation, Sydney

Level 4, Central Park (access via lifts)
28 Broadway, Chippendale NSW 2008

[FILM]

University of Technology, Sydney (UTS)

Building 2, Lecture Theatre 3.02 (via UTS main entrance, Broadway)

Admission: Admission is free.

RSVP essential for talks, film and opening reception.

RSVP via website.

Enquiries: reception@jpf.org.au / 02 8239 0055

Website/RSVP: <u>www.jpf.org.au</u>



Free **CHOYA** tastings available on talk nights

ABOUT AKIHIRO OGAWA



Akihiro Ogawa is Professor of Japanese Studies at the University of Melbourne's Asia Institute. He was born in Japan, and worked there as a journalist before starting his academic career. He earned his PhD in 2004 at Cornell University, and went on to positions at Harvard University and Stockholm University before coming to Australia in 2015 for his current appointment. As a social anthropologist, his research interests include Japanese civil society, social movements, politics, peace, security, education and energy. Ogawa's current project is a book titled, *New Energy Culture: Lessons for a Post-Fukushima Japan*, exploring how ordinary citizens are translating lessons from 3.11 into renewable

energy projects that aim to improve natural disaster resilience. His publications include *The Failure of Civil Society?: The Third Sector and the State in Contemporary Japan* [2009], winner of the 2010 Japan NPO Research Association Book Award, and *Lifelong Learning in Neoliberal Japan: Risk, Knowledge, and Community* [2015].

ABOUT 3.11

On March 11, 2011 a magnitude 9.0 quake struck Japan, causing the nation's biggest tsunami in over a millennium. The wave hit the northeastern Tōhoku region, destroying thousands of homes and sparking the explosion of a nuclear power plant in coastal Fukushima. This triple disaster of earthquake, tsunami and plant explosion is known in Japan as "3.11". Five years on, the effects still echo in the physical, civil and artistic landscape. The *After 3.11* program shines a spotlight on some of these changes.

ABOUT THE JAPAN FOUNDATION, SYDNEY

The Japan Foundation, Sydney is the Australian arm of the Japan Foundation, which was established by the Japanese government to promote cultural and intellectual exchange between Japan and other nations. It runs a diverse range of programs and events, including exhibitions, talk events, grant programs and Japanese language courses for all levels from beginner to advanced. The Japan Foundation was established in 1972 with a global network of 22 offices in 21 countries. The Australian office was founded in 1978.





For more information please see www.jpf.org.au or contact: Elicia O'Reilly (02) 8239 0055 / elicia_oreilly@jpf.org.au or Jessica Chow (02) 8239 0055 / jessica_chow@jpf.org.au

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