

TALK EVENT

3.11 in Literature and Film

Artistic responses to the earthquake and tsunami in Japan, 5 years on



The Japan Foundation, Sydney presents '3.11 in Literature and Film', a public talk by Tamaki Tokita (University of Sydney) on April 15 (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.

This year marks the 5th anniversary of the magnitude 9.0 quake which struck Japan on March 11, 2011, causing the nation's biggest tsunami in centuries and the subsequent explosion of a nuclear power plant. This triple disaster is known in Japan as "3.11".

The literary response to 3.11 was almost immediate. Five days after the disaster, Fukushima poet and high school teacher Ryoichi Wago began to share glimpses of his experience as a nuclear evacuee from tsunami-ravaged Minami-Soma City on Twitter. In the months and years that followed, literary responses continued to emerge.

In this talk, Tamaki explores how 3.11 has manifested in the popular imagination through literature, manga and film, and gives insight into the latest literary developments in Japan.

Says Tamaki Tokita, "What's interesting about 3.11 literature is not only the volume and speed of literary responses to the disaster, but also the nature of the responses. They're not just the usual documentary works: what we're seeing most is fiction by mainstream authors from Tokyo, which is far from the most acutely affected areas. This talk looks at how and why this may have happened, and reveals common themes and trends which capture the zeitgeist of post-3.11 Japan."

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.

[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>

ABOUT TAMAKI TOKITA



Tamaki Tokita is a postgraduate teaching fellow in Japanese Studies and Comparative Literature at University of Sydney. She recently submitted her PhD thesis on 3.11 literature, examining representations of the Japanese national character in Japanese, English and French literary responses to 3.11. Prior to her PhD, Tamaki worked on several research projects at the University of Auckland, New Zealand, and also has extensive experience as a Japanese-language translator. She is currently working on a book on 3.11 literature.

ABOUT RYOICHI WAGO

Ryoichi Wago was born in 1968 in Fukushima City, Fukushima Prefecture, Japan. He was a high school teacher at a school in Fukushima's Minami-Soma City at the time of 3.11. Minami-Soma City was one of the areas hardest hit by the tsunami, and was designated as a mandatory evacuation zone following the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant explosions. Wago was a prize-winning published poet prior to the disaster, having released his first solo anthology in 1998. His 3.11 poems have since been released in book form in Japan.

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 / <u>elicia_oreilly@jpf.org.au</u> or Jessica Chow (02) 8239 0055 / <u>jessica_chow@jpf.org.au</u>

Presented by



Supported by









