

English summary

„Reconstructing ‚Cool Japan’? Japanese identities after ‚Fukushima’“

Lecture and Research Colloquium

Goethe-University, Japanese Studies dept. in cooperation with the Interdisciplinary Centre for East Asian Studies (IZO), Frankfurt / Main

Date: 5.2.2013, 16:15 – 19:30 Uhr

Venue: Goethe-University Frankfurt / Main, Japanese Studies dept.,

Campus Bockenheim, Senckenberganlage 31, „Juridicum“, 6. floor room „Jur 604“

In line with their research initiative on the analysis of the global and national impact of Japanese popular culture the Japanese Studies dept. in cooperation with the Interdisciplinary Centre for East Asian Studies (IZO) of Goethe-University in Frankfurt invites to a lecture of Prof. Dr. Shion Kôno (Sophia-University, Tôkyô / currently guest professor at the Japanese Studies dept. of Leipzig-University). The lecture will be followed by a research colloquium with Prof. Kôno, Prof. Dr. Steffi Richter and members of the „Cool Japan“-working group (lecture and discussion language: English).

The event is supported by Japan Foundation.

Program:

16:15 – 17:45

Lecture by Prof. Dr. Shion Kôno on the subject of *„What happened to 'postmodern' Japan? Reading Post-Bubble Japanese ‚hihyô’ in national and transnational contexts“*

Abstract:

In my presentation, I wish to examine the development of contemporary Japanese critical discourse since the 1990s in the contexts of translational flows of ideas, texts, and people and the (self-) representation of Japaneseness in the world with a special consideration of the post-Fukushima-situation. Especially after the rise of the critical journal *Hihyô Kûkan* as a premier critical journal in the 1990s, Japanese critics actively sought interactions with foreign critics -- not only through the introduction of Western theories to Japan, but also collaborations with theorists and Japan specialists. But as critics represent "Japan" to the outside world, it invoked the questions reminiscent of the "discourse of Japaneseness" (*nihonjinron*). Here the term "postmodernity" became a curious intersection between the theoretical approach to Japanese criticism and Japan's self-image.

As the critical discourse underwent a transformation in the last 20 years, the relationship of the critical discourse to the outside world and its approach to "Japaneseness" also changed: while the studies of popular culture begin to gain momentum in the Japanese Studies in North America and Europe, with cultural studies as a key approach, in Japanese criticism the sociological theories of modernity began to replace postmodernism. I wish to discuss these changes in terms of changing media and the developments in Japanese Studies outside Japan.

17:45 – 18:00 Break

18:00 – 19:30

Research colloquium on the subject of *„Reconstructing ‚Cool Japan’? Japanese identities after ‚Fukushima’“* with Prof. Dr. Shion Kôno, Prof. Dr. Steffi Richter and members of the „Cool Japan“-working group (Hannah Jantz, B.A., Christopher Derbort, B.A., Yôichi Sakai). Moderation: Dr. Cosima Wagner