

**The 2012 University of Tokyo - University of Hawai'i
Summer Residential Institute in Comparative Philosophy**

at the

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

July 30—August 17, 2012

Organizers and Sponsors

The University of Tokyo

University of Hawai'i

Asian Studies Development Program

APPLICATION DEADLINE: March 1, 2012

Introduction and Purposes

The University of Tokyo and the University of Hawai'i are two institutions of higher learning that have had a sustained commitment to promoting literacy on non-Western traditions of philosophy.

Since its inception in 1991, the Asian Studies Development Program (ASDP), a joint program of the East-West Center and the University of Hawai'i has sought to enhance teaching about Asia at American two-year and four-year colleges and universities at the undergraduate level. ASDP offers a variety of content-focused faculty and institutional development programs and activities centered around summer residential institutes, field seminars in Asia, workshops on the U.S. mainland, and an annual academic conference.

In the summer of 2012 these three institutions will combine resources in sponsoring a three week residential institute in comparative philosophy. The curriculum outlined below will contain a combination of topical lectures in Chinese and Japanese philosophy and sessions that focus on a close reading of relevant classical and modern texts.

The 2012 program will be led by professors **Kobayashi Yasuo** (University of Tokyo), **Nakajima Takahiro** (University of Tokyo), **Kajitani Shinji** (University of Tokyo), **Roger T. Ames** (University of Hawai'i), and **Masato Ishida** (University of Hawai'i).

In the first decade of the 21st century, the Asia Pacific region is rising and reshaping the world's economic and political order. Over the past two decades, trade in this zone has

risen 400% and GDP has tripled. At the center of the Asia Pacific are China and Japan. Beyond political economy, what influence will these countries and their long-enduring civilizations exert upon an emerging world culture?

Over the past quarter century, estimating the depth and extent of East Asia's continuing influence has become a serious academic preoccupation in the Western academy. One result of this effort has been a dispelling of the presupposition that modernization is equivalent to Westernization. A second has been growing awareness that understanding East Asian cultural traditions in their own terms opens possibilities both for gaining new vantages on global concerns, and for expanding the critical resources on which we might draw in discerning effective means-to and shared meanings-of a flourishing and sustainable global community. In order to contribute to these processes, this and succeeding generations of scholars must be up-to-date on the dynamic relationship between East Asia and the rest of the world. But understanding the complex drivers of China's and Japan's contemporary evolution also requires an appreciation of the conceptual and cultural currents flowing through the histories of the region. Studying the canonical texts defining of these cultures and their interpretive contexts is crucial. The purpose of this UTUH Institute is to assemble a select group of scholars who are committed to learning-about and learning-from these traditions, to reading these texts carefully and critically, and to fathoming their significance to the emerging world order.

Historically, East Asian philosophy has been read and interpreted too often through a decidedly Western cultural lens, and as a consequence it has been forced to answer to Western cultural assumptions. While East Asian cultures have evolved enormously over the centuries, there are nevertheless enduring cosmological commitments that have given continuity and coherence to these changing and fluid traditions. The challenge for us, then, will be to adopt a hermeneutical approach to these canonical texts that will allow us to discover the uncommon assumptions that give them their philosophical contexts, and through a careful reading, to come to appreciate the structural differences that make them distinct. In order to accomplish this goal, we will undertake a careful, critical reading of the primary texts that will be sensitive to alternative worldviews and different modalities of thinking, as well as to fundamental linguistic differences.

Participants

This UTUH Institute will draw senior graduate students from the University of Tokyo and the University of Hawai'i as its core of participants. In addition, it will complement this group with an international cadre of advanced graduate students and scholars from philosophy programs around the world. The lectures will be conducted in English, and Chinese and Japanese language ability although helpful will not be presupposed. All participants should have English language skills sufficient to follow and understand academic lectures. The program will accept twenty participants.

Program

Every weekday there will be classroom sessions that will be a mix of lectures and seminar-style discussions. These sessions will provide the academic and scholarly substance of our program in which we delve into the texts to broaden and deepen our understanding of them. Please refer to the schedule.

The Faculty

Yasuo KOBAYASHI is Professor at the University of Tokyo, and director of the University of Tokyo, Centre for Philosophy (UTCP) since its creation in 2002. Graduating from the department of French at the University of Tokyo in 1974, he worked under the influence of contemporary French philosophy on interdisciplinary criticism of art and literature. In 1981, he completed his doctorate in Semiotics at the University of Paris X-Nanterre, with a thesis on the philosophical problematic of time and text (jury members including Jean-François Lyotard and Jacques Derrida). He has published over fifteen books on the subjects of literature, art, architecture, photography, philosophy, and science, including (in Japanese): *Origin and Root* (Miraisha, 1991); *Body and Space* (Chikuma Shobō, 1995); *The Optics of Representation* (Miraisha, 2003); and *The Odyssey of Savoir* (Tōkyō Daigaku Shuppankai, 2009). *Le Coeur/La mort* (UTCP, 2007) is available in French and English. He has proposed a new university-level curriculum, and edited a number of anthologies on the subject of pedagogy. His translations from French include the works of Duras, Lyotard, Derrida, and Levinas.

Takahiro Nakajima is Associate Professor of Chinese Philosophy and Executive Director of UTCP (University of Tokyo Center for Philosophy). His publications include *Practicing Philosophy between China and Japan* (Tokyo: UTCP, 2011), *Praxis of Co-existence: State and Religion* (Tokyo: University of Tokyo Press, 2011), *Deconstruction and Reconstruction: The Possibilities of Chinese Philosophy* (Tokyo: UTCP, 2010), *Humanities Philosophy* (Tokyo: Iwanami shoten, 2009), *The Zhuangzi: Announce The Hours With Becoming A Cock* (Tokyo: Iwanami shoten, 2009), *The Reverberation of Chinese Philosophy: Language and Politics* (Tokyo: University of Tokyo Press, 2007), *The Chinese Turn in Philosophy* (Tokyo: UTCP, 2007). He also published translations of French sinology: *Anne Cheng: L'Histoire de la Pensée chinoise* (Tokyo: Chisen-shokan, 2010, with Yoshinobu Shino and Reiko Hirose), *François Jullien: La Propension des choses Pour une histoire de l'efficacité en Chine* (Tokyo: Chisen-shokan, 2004); *François Jullien: Fonder la morale*, (Tokyo: Kodansha, 2002, with Yoshinobu Shino). He is now interested in the phenomenon on Confucian revival in China and Japan.

Shinji Kajitani is Associate Professor of Philosophy and Intercultural Studies at the University of Tokyo. His main research field is phenomenology, cultural studies and medical history. His recent publications are “Leib und Seele vor und nach der Modernisierung der japanischen Medizin – an Hand von Büchern zur Kinderpflege” (in: *Neue Phänomenologie zwischen Praxis und Theorie*, Karl Alber: Freiburg/München, 2008), “Die Fremdheit der Natur und die Funktion des Fests in der volkstümlichen Religion Japans” (in: *Was bleibt von Gott? Beiträge zur Phänomenologie des Heiligen und der Religion*, *Neue Phänomenologie* Bd. 9, Karl Alber: Freiburg/München, 2006), “The Change in Understanding of the Body in the Edo-Period, and its Philosophical

Connotations - Research into Japanese Childcare Books before and after the Introduction of European Medicine” (in: *Annals of Existential Thought*, vol. 23, 2008). *Basic Problems of the Phenomenology of Hermann Schmitz* (Kyoto: Kyoto University Press, 2002). He is now interested in the change of understanding of the human and the world in the process of modernization.

Roger T. Ames is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Hawai`i at Mānoa and Editor of *Philosophy East & West*. His recent publications include translations of Chinese classics: *Sun-tzu: The Art of Warfare* (1993), *Sun Pin: The Art of Warfare* (1996) and *Tracing Dao to its Source* (1997) (both with D.C. Lau), the *Confucian Analects* (1998) and the *Classic of Family Reverence: A Philosophical Translation of the Xiaojing* (forthcoming) (both with H. Rosemont), *Focusing the Familiar: A Translation and Philosophical Interpretation of the Zhongyong*, and *A Philosophical Translation of the Daodejing: Making This Life Significant* (with D.L. Hall) (2001). He has also authored many interpretative studies of Chinese philosophy and culture: *Thinking Through Confucius* (1987), *Anticipating China: Thinking Through the Narratives of Chinese and Western Culture* (1995), and *Thinking From the Han: Self, Truth, and Transcendence in Chinese and Western Culture* (1997) (all with D.L. Hall), and *Confucian Role Ethics: A Vocabulary* (2011). Recently he has undertaken several projects that entail the intersection of contemporary issues and cultural understanding. His *Democracy of the Dead: Dewey, Confucius, and the Hope for Democracy in China* (with D.L. Hall) (1999) is a product of this effort. Almost all of his publications are now available in Chinese translation, including his philosophical translations of Chinese canonical texts. He has most recently been engaged in promoting a conversation between American pragmatism and Confucianism.

Masato Ishida is Assistant Professor of Philosophy at the University of Hawai`i at Mānoa, specializing in traditional Japanese philosophy, classical American philosophy, and the history and philosophy of mathematical logic. His recently published articles include: “Nishida, James, and Peirce: Revisiting *Logic* in *An Enquiry into the Good*” (Nishida Philosophy Association, 2011); “Classical Japanese Buddhist Philosophy” (Oxford University Press, 2011); “Peirce and the Indeterminacy of Models in the Languages of Mathematics” (The Semiotic Society of America, 2009); “C. S. Peirce’s Definition of Symbol in §14 of the *New List* (*The Public Journal of Semiotics*, 2008); “C. S. Peirce and the Early Phases of Model-theoretic Logic” (Philosophy of Science Society Japan, 2008). He currently works on a project that explores the philosophical accomplishments of Ifa Fuyū, a Japanese intellectual contemporary with Nishida, and also develops a thematic project on perception drawing upon the works of Watsuji, Nishida, and Whitehead.

The Facilities

The Institute will be hosted on the adjacent campuses of the University of Hawai`i at Mānoa and the East-West Center in Honolulu, Hawai`i. The University of Hawai`i is a Research I institution with over 23,000 students and 2,200 faculty on its main campus.

More than 300 faculty members are Asia specialists and the University regularly offers more than 600 courses a year dealing with Asia. The University of Hawai'i collection of Asian materials is among the best in the country, including a substantial body of audiovisual material.

The East-West Center is a public, non-profit research and educational institution established in 1960 with a U.S. Congressional mandate to promote better relations and understanding among the nations of Asia, the Pacific and the United States through cooperative study, training and research. To date, nearly 30,000 students and research professionals, primarily from Asia and the Pacific, have participated in Center programs. The Center considers professional development programs for K-12 teachers, college and university faculty, and journalists an integral part of its missions of community building.

Institute sessions will take place at the University of Hawai'i, while participants will have the opportunity of reduced cost housing in Hale Manoa—a guest house for graduate students offering easy access to all University and Center facilities, including libraries and sports facilities.

Fees

\$300 program fee. Participants are responsible for their own travel and living expenses.

Application information

Applications are due by March 1, 2012, but we would be glad to receive them before that date. A complete application will include 1) an application form (attached below), 2) a two-page statement indicating why you are interested in the program and how it would benefit you, and 3) an application fee of \$100 US dollars.

For more information

If you have any questions, please contact Roger Ames at:

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