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Postcolonial Critique in the Context of Japan

Panel: Aspects of History

This paper will examine the work of postcolonial criticism, its reception, translation and creative transformation in the context of Japanese contemporary culture and thought from 1990s onward. This overview will emphasize the difficulty but also to urgency to engage with the history and politics of Asia, and particularly East Asia. The work of important critics such as Kenzaburo Oe, Ukai Satoshi, Motohashi Ted, Takahashi Tetsuya and others have focused on the crucial position the relationship between Okinawa and Japan play as a pivotal point in the way Japan connects to Asia, but also to the Asia Pacific community. The purpose of this paper is to emphasize the importance of postcolonial critique and its various modes in which the national cultures are critically reassessed in promoting interest, concern and solidarity within the broader region of the Asia Pacific.