

## **Workshop “Political and Social Dynamics of Crisis and Innovation in Japan, Asia and the World”**

Discussion published by Sebastian Maslow on Saturday, January 13, 2018

Dear List Members

We are pleased to invite you to attend the workshop on “Political and Social Dynamics of Crisis and Innovation in Japan, Asia and the World” hosted by the Tohoku Forum for Creativity at Tohoku University on February 9, 2018. The workshop is preceded by a roundtable discussion on February 8 on the theme of “Japan as ‘Number Three?’: Revisiting Academic and Public Discourses on Japan’s ‘Lost Decades’”. We look forward to welcoming you in Sendai.

### **Project Overview**

While East Asian developing countries’ economic growth has become a major driving force of global change, many advanced countries struggle to readjust their social, economic and political institutions to the challenges imposed by financial crises, shrinking populations, and global power shifts. As an economically and technologically advanced society, Japan finds itself at the intersection of these East Asian and global developments. Thus, understanding Japan’s policy choices is critical for understanding the future of East Asia and the world. As Japan seeks to define its role and responsibilities in global affairs, two decades of low economic growth, rapid demographic change, and the implications of the 11 March 2011 triple disaster have generated a sense of national decline. This project revisits these notions of decline and demonstrates how the pertaining discourses of crisis have been a crucial force for innovation and the reform of public policy institutions. To show how fears of national decline in the past and the present shape - and are shaped - by social and political transformations, this project brings together scholars of political science, economics, sociology, media and cultural studies, and history.

URL: <http://www.tfc.tohoku.ac.jp/junior-research-program/program/8002.html>

### **Roundtable: Japan as ‘Number Three?’: Revisiting Academic and Public Discourses on Japan’s ‘Lost Decades’**

Date and Time: February 8, 2018 16:00 - 18:00

Venue: TOKYO ELECTRON House of Creativity 3F, Lecture Theater, Katahira Campus, Tohoku University

### **Speakers**

Chair

Sebastian Maslow (Tohoku University / Kobe University)

Panelists (Tentative)

David Chiavacci (University of Zurich)

Koichi Hasegawa (Tohoku University)

Paul O’Shea (Lund University)

Saori Shibata (Leiden University)

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Hiroko Takeda (Nagoya University)

URL: <http://www.tfc.tohoku.ac.jp/junior-research-program/event/9006.html>

**Workshop: “Political and Social Dynamics of Crisis and Innovation in Japan, Asia and the World”**

Date and Time: February 9, 2018 9:00 – 18:15

Venue: TOKYO ELECTRON House of Creativity 3F, Lecture Theater, Katahira Campus, Tohoku University

URL: <http://www.tfc.tohoku.ac.jp/junior-research-program/event/9007.html>

**Time Schedule**

**9:00 – 9:10 Introductory Remarks**

Sebastian Maslow (Tohoku University / Kobe University) and Christian Wirth (GIGA Institute of Asian Studies)

**9:10 – 9:20 Welcome Address**

Toshiya Ueki (Vice President, Tohoku University)

**9:20 – 10:15 Keynote Speech (including Q&A)**

David Leheny (Waseda University), “Chapters of Crisis: Narratives and Status in Japan’s International Relations”

Coffee Break

**10:30 – 11:00 Introduction**

Sebastian Maslow (Tohoku University / Kobe University) and Christian Wirth (GIGA Institute of Asian Studies), “Crisis Narratives and Institutional Change”

**11:00 – 13:00 Session 1: Narrating Japan’s Social Crisis**

Moderator: Paul O’Shea (Lund University)

Hiroko Takeda (Nagoya University), “A Nationalized Crisis: Demographic and Life Style Changes, the Institutional Reforms and State-led Moral Panics”

David Chiavacci (University of Zurich), “Japan’s Evaporating Core: Narratives of Rising Inequalities and Their Political Impact”

Koichi Hasegawa (Tohoku University), “Japan’s Civil Society Before and After the Fukushima Disaster”

Lunch Break

**14:30 – 16:30 Session 2: Narrating Japan’s Political-Economic Crisis**

Moderator: Ra Mason (University of East Anglia)

Iris Wiczorek (GIGA Institute of Asian Studies), “Deep Crisis of Science, Technology and Innovation in Japan? Narratives of Urgency for Structural Reforms and Their Impacts on Science Policy”

Saori Shibata (Leiden University), "Contradiction and Discontent in Japan: Abenomics as a (Failing) Path Dependent Response to Long-term Economic Stagnation"

Bryce Wakefield (Leiden University), "Populism without popularity: Abe Shinzo's Dual Discourse and the Conquest of Unrepresentative Democracy"

Coffee Break

**16:45 - 18:00 Session 3: Narrating Crisis in Japan's Foreign and Defence Policy**

Moderator: Christian Wirth (GIGA Institute of Asian Studies)

Paul O'Shea (Lund University), "The Role of Narratives of Crisis Mismanagement in Japan's Foreign Policy"

Ra Mason (University of East Anglia), "Conflated Crises on the Korean Peninsula as a Catalyst for Restoring Japan's Standing"

**18:00 - 18:15 Concluding Remarks and Next Steps**

Sebastian Maslow (Tohoku University / Kobe University) and Christian Wirth (GIGA Institute of Asian Studies)

Contact

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