

Sophia University Institute of Comparative Culture Research Unit "3.11 as Crisis and Opportunity" Youth Activism in Post-War Japan: Workshop Series

In light of the rise of youth activism in Japan today, this series will invite specialists on youth culture and political activists in order to give us a fuller comparative context to understand the shape, distinctiveness and significance of the current moment.

Workshop 2.

Sunflowers and Umbrellas: The Rise of Youth Activism in Taiwan and Hong Kong

Kinman Chan, Chinese University of Hong Kong
Hwa-Jen Liu, Taiwan National University

Moderator: **David H. Slater**, Sophia University

December 5th, 2015, 13:00pm-16:00 pm

Bldg. 10-301, Sophia University Yotsuya Campus

During the past few years, we have seen a rise in the intensity, focus and scope of youth activism in East Asia. In the rhetorical context of "Arab Spring" and Occupy, these events in Asia have brought a wave of optimism and engagement, leading both activists and theorists to compare across national boundaries. We see a shared issue emphasis on democracy, representational government, and pacifism. The street protests have become a media spectacle sometimes the world over. We see similar organizational structures, performative repertoires and social media strategies. On the other hand, they each took place within very different sorts of political landscapes, party political structures and state responses, different relationships to labor politics, and of course different activist histories and left-alliances.

These talks will give us a chance to examine the ethnographic, and thus, theoretical, shapes of these East Asian movements in comparative perspective. But in a more pragmatic, activist tone, to ask "what worked, what did not work, why and how?" And finally, to see what sort of lessons there might be for Japanese activism at this moment.

Talks in English / Open to all / No registration required