



# SOPHIA SYMPOSIUM

DATE: **July 4th, 2016**

TIME: **10am-5pm**

LOCATION: Sophia University, Yotsuya Campus

Library Building; Room 911

## Critical Japanese Studies in Asia Network

### Political Cultures and the Politics of "Japanese Studies" in Japan and the Asia Pacific

"Japanese Studies" is different things in different places and different times. What constitutes it as an academic pursuit, a coherent field of inquiry, a productive site of relevant knowledge about and for Japan shifts accordingly. With each shift we see a different mobilization of scholarly and economic resources; with each new initiative, a new politics is developing. This conference is devoted to identifying some of these emerging politics in the study of Japan within Asia.

By inviting innovative scholars from 8 top Japanese Studies universities across Asia and the Pacific to address these issues with our Sophia faculty, we are hoping to widen the scope of inquiry.

#### Morning Session

**10:00am: Welcome**

**Sugimura Miki**, Vice-President of Academic Affairs, Sophia University

**David H. Slater**, Director of the Institute of Comparative Culture, Sophia University

**Why Japan? Why Asia? And the Importance of Developing a Critical Japanese Studies**

**10:30am:**

**The Politics of the Popular Culture**

#### Afternoon Sessions

**1:30pm: Greetings:**

**Hayashita Takashi**, University President

**1:40pm: Civil Society and Engagement**

**3:30pm: Japanese Politics in and across Asia**

The "Critical Japanese Studies in Asia Network" is designed to bring together scholars working on the study of Japan in the global context of the Asia Pacific. Japan's connection to the rest of Asia is often overlooked by Japanese Studies scholars, and yet these connections are necessary for any full understanding of Japan in today's globalized world. As such, our effort is to enhance and enlarge Japan scholarship beyond national boundaries, and to better understand the multiple perspectives and dynamic sets of regional and indeed global connections within Asia.





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## Panels



### 10:30 The Politics of Popular Culture



**Kono Shion**

Sophia U, Area Studies  
as a Mode of Reading Literature



**Jinghui Tsau**

National Taiwan University,  
Current status and future perspectives  
of Japanese Studies in Taiwan



**Jin Ying**

Chinese Academy of Social Sciences,  
Another Japan: The Influence of Japanese  
Pop Culture on Chinese Citizens



**Karl Ian Cheng Chua**

Ateneo de Manila University, The Use of  
Popular Culture for Historical Research:  
Japanese Manga and history memory



**Kukhee Choo**

Sophia U, The Politics of Cool Japan in  
Asia and Beyond



### 1:40 Civil Society and Engagement



**Thang Leng Leng**

NUS, Studying Japan in Southeast Asia:  
“Asia as method” and Japan + model in  
Japanese Studies



**Lynne Nakano**

CUHK, Parallel Life Course Developments  
in Asia, with Reference to Single Women  
in Tokyo, Hong Kong, and Shanghai



**Hyojin Kim**

Seoul National University, Crisis of  
Japanese Studies? Japanese Studies in  
Korea after 3.11



**David H. Slater**

Sophia U, Japanese Youth Activism and  
the Rise of Protest Cultures Across Asia



### 3:30 Japanese Politics in and across Asia



**Sven Saaler**

Sophia U, Studies on Transnationalism  
in Asia



**Simon Avenell**

ANU, Rethinking Civil society in Postwar  
Japan through the Lens of “Asia”



**Mark Mullins**

U of Auckland, Contemporary Japanese  
Nationalisms: Unraveling the Cultural,  
Political, and Religious Dimensions



**Koichi Nakano**

Sophia U, Challenges of Neoliberalism  
and Democracy in Post-Cold War Asia