Archiving and Memorialising Disasters International Workshop

Recording, remembering and learning from past disasters

This public forum will discuss how ‘remembering disasters’ through archives and memorialization forms a critical basis for countries and communities around the world to understand, anticipate and recover from future natural hazards.

Place: Tohoku University
North Kawauchi Campus, C206

17:30- Opening Address
Akihiro Shibayama, Japan

17:40- The Promise of Digital Archives for Remembering and Learning
Ted Bestor and Andrew Gordon, USA

17:55- Digital Archive of Tsunamis in Aceh (DATA)
Muzailin Afan, Indonesia

18:10- Voices from Tohoku: Memorialising through Video Archives of Disaster Japan
David Slater (with Maja Veselic), Japan

18:35- Urban Flooding and Landscapes of Memory
Susann Baez Ullberg, Sweden

18:50- Archiving and Memorialising Disasters Through Expressive Culture:
Art, Story, Song, and Legend
Susanna Hoffman, USA

19:05- Mainstreaming Memorialisation in Disaster Risk Reduction
Sébastien P. Boret, Japan

19:20- Atoms for Memory: Some challenges for Archiving and Memorializing
the Fukushima Nuclear Disaster
Ryo Morimoto, USA

19:35- Discussion
19:55- Closing remarks
Theodor Bestor, Harvard University, USA
Professor of social anthropology and Japanese studies at Harvard and Director of Harvard’s Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies and a past president of the Association for Asian Studies. His research has included community organization, Tsukiji Wholesale Fish Market, recovery in Tohoku, and Japanese cuisine as a marker of identity in international interactions.

Andrew Gordon, Harvard University, USA
Historian of modern Japan and former director of Harvard’s Reischauer Institute and funder of the digital archive of the compound disasters and their aftermath. He has written several books on the history of labor and politics in modern Japan and on the emergence of modern consumers, and a textbook on the history of Japan from the 19th century through the present.

Muzailin Afan, Syiah Kuala University, Indonesia
Researcher and lecturer of Informatics at Syiah Kuala University, Indonesia and PhD Candidate at Tohoku University. Muzailin has been engaged in research for post-disaster recovery of Aceh tsunami since after the tsunami disaster 2004. He is working as university researcher and local government expert for the reconstruction program in Aceh, Indonesia.

David H. Slater, Sophia University, Japan
Director of the Institute of Comparative Culture and Professor of Cultural Anthropology at Sophia University, Japan. Since 2011, he has led a project entitled "Voices of Tohoku," the largest video oral narrative archive of the 3.11 disasters and their aftermath.

Susann Baez Ullberg, National Defense College, Sweden
Anthropologist working as a senior analyst at the Centre for Crisis Management Research and Training and the Centre for Natural Disaster Science in Sweden. Her research interests involve the anthropology of disaster and the environment, social memory and material culture, with a regional focus on Latin America.

Ryo Morimoto, Brandeis University, USA
Ph.D. candidate in Anthropology at Brandeis University, Japanese Digital Humanities and Social Sciences at Harvard University and project Manager of the Digital Archive of Japan’s 2011 Disasters. He published articles on 3.11 such as "Message without Coda: On Rhetoric of Photographic Records," and "Interpretative Frameworks of Disaster in Society Close-Up".

Susanna Hoffman, Hoffman Disaster Consulting, USA
Ph.D. U.C. Berkeley, disaster anthropologist, author, co-author and editor of ten books, including The Angry Earth and Catastrophe and Culture, two ethnographic films, and over forty articles. She writes, speaks, and consults worldwide on disaster issues.

Sébastien P. Boret, Tohoku University, Japan
PhD Oxford Brookes University and an MPhil from the University of Oxford. Sébastien is Assistant Professor at Tohoku University, associate researcher at the University of Oxford and co-leader of DATA Project (Digital Archives of Tsunamis in Aceh), Tsunami Museum Aceh. His research areas include death, memory, disaster and the environment in Japan and Indonesia. rememberingdisasters.com