

International Workshop :

“Humanistic Approaches towards Global Environmental Change”

Organized by Core Research Hub, Research Institute for Humanity and Nature (RIHN), Japan

16-17 March 2013 | Inamori Hall, Kyoto University

The “Future Earth” research agenda, convincingly presented at RIO+20 as a 10-year overarching international framework for integrated environmental research, unequivocally calls for a new transdisciplinary science. Academic investigation of global environment problems cannot be only inter- or cross-disciplinary (or based solely in academic institutions), but should also involve appropriate societal stakeholders from the outset, in the design and production of solution-oriented research projects. Co-design and co-production are therefore critical components of this science of the future.

To date, there have been important successes in combining the approaches of the natural and social sciences, but we have yet to witness a full-scale contribution of humanistic studies. The humanities, however, investigate human culture and beliefs directly—they investigate the social values and meanings that lie at the core of social understanding of environmental problems and their feasible solutions. Transdisciplinarity will therefore not achieve its potential without humanistic knowledge included as equal partner alongside other traditions of knowledge. Humanity must bring its full range of intelligence to contemporary socio-environmental crises.

The Research Institute for Humanity and Nature (RIHN), a national research institute in Japan, was founded in order to advance humanistic approaches to global environment change. RIHN has recently established collaboration with the International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies (ICPHS), which places a secretariat in UNESCO, in order to further these efforts. Globally, we are joined by a small but growing number of organizations and initiatives with similar goals. The time is ripe for a joint discussion of our individual and collective objectives, successes and challenges.

RIHN and ICPHS will jointly sponsor a workshop to gather national and international researchers specifically interested in exploring and expanding humanistic approaches to the prospects and problems of global environment change. Selected from across the full breadth of the humanities, researchers will be prompted to describe the relevance of their work to contemporary global environmental change and the real potential for stimulating investigations that take full benefit from humanistic knowledge. Results of the workshop will be disseminated widely, including as a special issue of the journal *DIOGENES* published by ICPHS.

Program (tentative)

March 16 (Saturday)

10:30 **Opening** **Environmental Humanics beyond Environmental Humanities**

Jumpei Kubota (RIHN)

10:45 **I : Definition of Humanistic Approach**

Daniel Niles & Takashi Kurata (RIHN)

Gregory Quenet (University of Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines, France)

12:15 -lunch- (*A WOMB*)

13:30 **II : Methods and Activities of Humanistic Approach**

Shin Muramatsu & Kengo Hayashi (RIHN)

Patrick Degeorges (Ministry of Ecology, France)

15:00 -coffee break-

Syun Ishiyama (RIHN)

Sally Kitch (Arizona State University, USA)

18:00 -reception- (*Shojoan*)

March 17 (Sunday)

09:00 **III: Needs for International Platform of Humanistic Approach**

John Crowley (UNESCO)

Maurice Aymard (Ecole des Hautes Etudes en sciences sociales, France)

& Luca Scarantino (IULM University of Milan, Italy)

10:30 -coffee break-

10:45 **Round-table Discussion & Meeting on Publication**

12:30 **Closing**