

Call for Papers

UTCP International Graduate Student Conference 2011

Reconsidering the Dynamics of “Boundaries”: Subjectivity, Community and Co-Existence

Keynote Speaker: **Professor Trinh T. Minh-ha** (University of California, Berkeley)

March 5, 2011

The University of Tokyo (Komaba Campus), Tokyo, Japan

Organized by the University of Tokyo Center for Philosophy (UTCP)

It may be said that a boundary is a real or imagined line that is drawn to mark the limits of something and to separate it from other things or places. Boundaries are drawn to create individuals, communities, and countries. They are drawn to separate humans from animals, facts from imagination, and present from past and future. We are surrounded by boundaries, and we draw them repeatedly.

A boundary establishes two sides, and connects them together. It not only brings stability to both sides, but also generates gaps, tensions, and sometimes keen conflicts between them. These conflicts often provoke a reaction, re-emphasizing the role that boundaries play in creating stability. However, in such gaps, tensions and conflicts, we also encounter the moment that a boundary itself often shifts, becomes plural, or fails to perform its function. We no longer take the boundary for granted. Then, how do we make sense of boundaries? How do we redraw or cross existing boundaries? How do we understand the power dynamics involved in boundaries?

UTCP is an international center for the humanities, committed to questions such as how we think of the possibility of co-existence [共生]. The UTCP International Graduate Student Conference aims to provide an interdisciplinary forum for graduate students and postgraduates all over the world to exchange ideas.

At this one-day conference, we would like to explore the dynamics of boundaries in a broad, interdisciplinary manner, hopefully to come up with new questions, especially under the following topics in which the concept of “boundary” must be reconsidered critically: **Subjectivity, Community and Co-Existence**.

Philosophical, historical, psychoanalytical, literary, aesthetic, and other critical approaches are welcome. Papers that address the following or related themes are especially welcome:

- * Borders between Self and Other
- * The Inhuman or the Limits of the Human
- * Boundaries between Fact and Fiction
- * Making, Maintaining or Changing Communities
- * Memory and Temporalities in the Formation of Subjectivity and Community
- * Figures of Immigrants, Refugees, Exiles, Travelers, etc.
- * Border Affaires: Conflict, Traffic, Emigrant, Uprooting, Invasion, etc.
- * Post-colonialism, or the Transfiguration of Historical Cultures by Invasion, Exchange, etc.
- * Representations of Foreignness in Film, Photography, Painting, etc.
- * Communications in Plural “Languages”: Translation, IT Communication, etc.

* How possible is communication between the incommensurable?

Submission and Schedule:

Please submit the title of your presentation and an abstract of no more than 300 words as an attachment in MS-Word format by **December 20, 2010** to: **utcpjsc2011[at]gmail.com**

In addition to the abstract, please include the following in the body of the e-mail: 1) full name, 2) title of your presentation, 3) institutional affiliation, 4) major field of study, 5) contact information, and 6) brief academic CV. All proposals will be reviewed.

Authors of accepted abstracts will be notified via e-mail by **December 31, 2010**. Completed papers for presentation must be submitted via e-mail by **February 20, 2011**.

Travel Grants:

Since our grants are limited, presenters are encouraged to apply for funds from their home institutions. However, travel and accommodation grants within 50,000 yen may be available for a few presenters traveling from a distant place, both domestic and overseas. Applicants requesting travel grants must include a brief statement of need when submitting the abstract.

Notes:

- The Language of conference presentations is English.
- Presentations will be limited to 20 minutes. Papers should be no more than 20 minutes in length.
- Presenters must bring their own laptop for computer presentations.
- There is no registration fee.
- Presenters will be responsible for making their own travel and accommodation arrangements.
- A visa is required for citizens of countries that do not have visa-exempt agreements with Japan.
- The conference will take place in one day (March 5, 2011). However, after the day of conference, we plan a workshop with **Professor Trinh T. Minh-ha**. Presenters are encouraged to attend. Details will be announced as soon as they are available.

Keynote Speaker:

We are pleased and honored to announce that our keynote address will be delivered by **Dr. Trinh T. Minh-ha**, professor of the Gender & Women's Studies Department and the Rhetoric Department at the University of California, Berkeley. She is a world-renowned filmmaker, critic, academic, writer, poet and composer. Her work ranges from feminism and post-colonialism to cultural politics, contemporary critical theory, film theory and the arts. She has been making films for over thirty years, and written many articles and books. Her most recently published book is *Elsewhere, Within Here: Immigration, Refugeeism and the Boundary Event* (Routledge, 2010).

Conference Organizers:

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