

# 2+1 Travelogues: Memories from the Empire of Japan

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Moderator: M. Downing Roberts | UTCP

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Bld. 18, Collaboration Room 3

The University of Tokyo, Komaba

Language: English | Admission Free | No Registration Required

Organized by Uehiro Research Division for Philosophy of Co-existence

This project analyzes rare home movies, elucidating the time when two "cultured figures" [*bunka-jin*] — Katsuo Nose, a jurist and editor of the newspaper *Doyobi* (Saturday), and the Japanese-style painter Kansetsu Hashimoto — filmed them in the 1930s. The Great Japanese Empire expanded its territory through the Sino-Japanese and Russo-Japanese Wars. Japanese people crossed national borders to observe "new" territories, and they left their memories as travelogues. It is apt for us to think that the late 1930s were the time of political darkness, economic chaos, and cultural gloom, but the images that these cultured authorities captured are unexpectedly bright with hope and humor. My presentation will examine this gap between the images in the actual footage and historical preconceptions, by applying the philosopher Tetsuro Watsuji's *Fûdo* (Climate and Culture) as "+1" travelogue, which is a product of his 1927 visit to Germany.

