As a consequence of the geopolitical transition from a Eurocentric towards a polycentric world order, appeals to cosmopolitanism seem either historically outdated, ethically naive or politically dangerous. The presentation challenges this impression by arguing for a revised account of cosmopolitanism. This new account departs from human existence instead of human essence (as it has been done from Stoicism to Kant). A modern, existential notion of cosmopolitanism focuses on human plasticity and self-determination in increasingly complex lifeworlds. It will be demonstrated that Max Scheler’s vision of a coming age of adjustment, realignment or equalization (Ausgleich) between nations and cultural traditions, together with an ethos of balancing acts, promises to better understand and come to terms with the specific challenges facing human existence today.

Cosmopolitanism in the Age of Adjustment

July 19th (Fri) 15:00～
東京大学駒場キャンパス 101号館 2階 研修室

Photo by Hans-Peter Gaust

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東京大学ヒューマニティーズ・センター LIXIL 朝日東アジア人文研究拠点企画研究「21世紀における共生の理論と実践」