

Fukuoka conference report

Miikael-Aadam Lotman

The International Conference on Japanese Philosophy took place from 7-9th October and was held in Fukuoka, Nishijin Plaza of Kyushu University. The presentations were thematically organized into groups of four or three, covering a variety of topics from translation theory to comparative philosophy. There were two keynote speakers, professors Uehara Mayuko and John Krummel. Professor Uehara gave a talk on the possibility of women's philosophy in Japanese thought, while professor Krummel compared Heidegger's and Nishida's concept of "nothing".

During the three days, I had a chance to get an overview of the current state of Japanese philosophy studies, make new contacts and present on my own research. I presented in the second organized panel ("Frontiers of Japanese Philosophy Research: Young Scholars of Kyoto University") along with Iuliana Popescu, Simon Ebersolt and Ota Hironobu. This panel was centered on the Kyoto School of Philosophy, treating the philosophies of Nishida, Kuki and Hisamatsu. I was grateful for the chance to get feedback for my presentation, especially because I will be writing my M.A. thesis on the same topic.

I felt that it was challenging a times to stay focused on each individual presentation, since the schedule was tightly packed with diverse content. However, I believe that the conference was a major success in that it created an intellectually stimulating atmosphere where scholars from different backgrounds could share their interests and perspectives on Japanese philosophy.