

1. "The Privilege of Distance" by Dr. Claire Maree (Asia Institute, University of Melbourne, Linguistics; Japanese Studies)

In moments of crisis, how do we voice needs that are negated as “extravagance”? This paper seeks to consider how the privilege of distance may (or may not) enable negotiation of politics of difference which re-emerge within the “here” and “there” of a crises. The paper examines emerging discourses of post-311 Japan which are linked to politics of distance and intricately bound to an unspoken understanding of what is "here" and what is "there".

2. "Performance and the Long View of Nuclear Space" by Associate Professor Peter Eckersall (School of Culture and Communication, University of Melbourne, Theatre Studies)

Distance becomes a temporal and geopolitical factor in artistic responses to the Fukushima conflation. While haunted by the extended millennial rate of decay for radioactive material, our perceptions of time and place are also stretched beyond our capacity for remembering. This paper reflects on two different kinds of responses to Fukushima in the performing arts. The first involves geo-performative actions (Fancy 2011) that aim to return to and transform the meaning of spaces damaged by the earthquake and nuclear meltdown. The second, arguably, take the longer view and suggest haunting and residue. The paper will consider works by Chim Pom, Koyamada Toru and Okada Toshiki.

'Present' Crisis, 'Distant' Voices

