

MSIA2

‘Modernism and Multiple Temporalities’

The Second Annual International Conference of the Modernist Studies in Asia Network (MSIA)

12-14 September 2019

Aoyama Gakuin University, Tokyo

Confirmed Keynote Speakers

Prof. Laura Marcus (Oxford)

Prof. Douglas Mao (Johns Hopkins)

Prof. Aaron Gerow (Yale)

Call for Papers

Following its highly successful inaugural conference held in June 2018, the Modernist Studies in Asia Network (MSIA) calls for abstracts for its second annual international conference on the subject of ‘Modernism and Multiple Temporalities’.

The concept of psychological time has long been a central theme of modernist studies, particularly with reference to textual features such as the stream of consciousness and narrative fragmentation. In recent years, however, increasing attention has been paid to the ways in which the ‘politics of time’ (Peter Osborne’s term) has defined the very experience of modernity and generated a variety of modernist innovations such as the avant-garde rhetoric of rupture or attention to the communal rhythm of the everyday. Starting with Karl Marx’s observation on capitalism’s ‘annihilation of space by time,’ many critics have examined how the dominant versions of time (such as Walter Benjamin’s ‘homogenous, empty time,’ or what E. P. Thompson called ‘time discipline’) colluded with capitalism, colonialism, and imperialism; meanwhile, they have also observed the ways in which the dominant ideologies were often contested through the multiplicity of temporality in various locations.

Building on these observations, we might revise the agenda of ‘New Modernist Studies’ formulated by Douglas Mao and Rebecca Walkowitz ten years ago—the agenda to expand modernism temporally, spatially, and vertically. While we continue to pursue the vertical expansion of modernism to include a variety of popular genres, we might now consider the temporal and the spatial in conjunction and note how the spatial expansion of modernism urges us to confront the multiplicity of experiential time across the world. We might also explore how the expanded field of global modernism is itself constituted by competing or conflicting temporalities that were lived or generated in the specific locations of modernity.

In this spirit, we invite papers that engage with multiple temporalities in the texts of modernism (literature, art, cinema, music, and other cultural products). How do they represent, reproduce, or reconfigure the experiences of time in modernity? How does the modernist obsession with innovation contain the utopian desire for the future while also being charged by a nostalgic longing for the past? How do the multiple temporalities of modernism challenge, contest, or sometimes conform to the dominant versions of time? Or how do the texts of modernism themselves travel across time and space, through the specific temporalities of transmission, reception, and translation? We welcome papers that tackle these questions with reference to modernism in its global as well as local—European, American, African, Oceanian, Asian, or elsewhere—manifestations.

Topics may include, but are not limited to:

Modernism and the Histories of Modernity
Modernism and the Uneven Development
Synchronicity and Non-synchronicity
Dominant/Residual/Emergent
Dailiness and the Everyday
Internal and External Time
Psychological and Physiological Time
Secular and Sacred Time
Linear and Cyclical Time
Global and Local Time
Deep Time
Time and the Modernist Narrative

Cinematic Time
The Ideas of Tradition and Innovation
Affect and the Perpetual Present
Gendered Experience of Time
Utopia
Nostalgia
Rhythm
Primitivism, Futurism, and Presentism
Temporalities of Transmission, Reception,
and Translation
The Ideas of the Contemporary
Legacies of Modernism

Please send 200-word abstracts for 20-minutes papers along with a short bio to multitemporalities@gmail.com by 25 December 2018.

Conference Organizers (in alphabetical order):

Fuhito Endo (Seikei University)
Asako Nakai (Hitotsubashi University)
Kohei Saito (Aoyama Gakuin University)
Motonori Sato (Keio University)
Kunio Shin (Aoyama Gakuin University)
Yoshiki Tajiri (the University of Tokyo)
Kyoko Yoshida (Ritsumeikan University)

The conference website will be ready by March 2019. For further information about MSIA, please visit our website:

<https://modernismasia.wixsite.com/main>