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# Political subjectification around digital media in post 3.11 Japan

Monday September 16 2013 12:30pm-1:30pm

**Associate Professor David H. Slater** Director, Institute of Comparative Culture, Sophia University

**Barton Theatre, Level 1, JG Crawford Building 132, Lennox Crossing, ANU**



This lecture explores the diverse ways in which social media has facilitated new forms of political engagement and emergence of what might be called political subjectivities during the last three years. Like all crises, 3.11 presented challenges not to only the state and the configurations of capital, but also to a wide range of individuals and groups—challenges to reach out beyond our usual territories, our compromised patterns of sociality and untenable labour situations simply as a condition of survival. This ‘reaching out’ can be seen as the kernel of political subjectivity, the start of a ‘politics of alternatives.’ Social media often allows us to respond to those challenges in tactical ways, not only providing tools to subvert entrenched relations of power and control, but reconstituting an environment of connection.

In this lecture David will address key questions including - what are the moments of connection and transgression where social media played a key part; how do these connections develop into more regular patterns of sociality, and even mechanisms of political engagement; what are the limits of social media, and where have these connections fallen apart?

About the speaker:

Associate Professor David H. Slater is the Director, Institute of Comparative Culture; Associate Professor, Cultural Anthropology, Faculty of Liberal Arts and Graduate Program in Japanese Studies, Sophia University.

His early research primarily focuses on the youth and education, and the trend of labor markets in Japan in recessionary phase after 1990s, and he has written articles and books including a co-edited volume *Social Class in Contemporary Japan: Structures, Sorting and Strategies* (Routledge, 2011). After March 2011, he started volunteer activity with his students in the affected areas. Related publications include “HOT SPOTS: 3.11 POLITICS IN DISASTER JAPAN” as a special issue of *Cultural Anthropology* and the co-authored paper with Keiko Nishimura and Love Kindstrand “Social Media, Information and Political Activism in Japan’s 3.11 Crisis,” in *Japan Focus*. His most recent volume, co-entitled with Tom Gill and Brigitte Steger, is 東日本大震災の人類学: 津波、原発事故と被災者たちの「その後」(Jinbunshoin 2013). An English “version”, entitled *Coping with Calamity*, is due out in November from Peter Lang Press. This presentation is from a book project tentatively entitled *Washed Away*.

Presented by

Japan Institute

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Registration required

**Registration:** [crawford.anu.edu.au/events](http://crawford.anu.edu.au/events)

This lecture is free and open to the public

**Enquiries** E [jill.mowbray@anu.edu.au](mailto:jill.mowbray@anu.edu.au) T 02 6125 1667

**Further information:** [japaninstitute.anu.edu.au](http://japaninstitute.anu.edu.au)

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