

Topic	:	Where is Political Thought? Concerning the In(significance) of Location and the Problem or Recognition in Comparative Political Thought
Speaker	:	Professor Chris Goto-Jones
Date	:	Thursday, 17 February 2011
Venue	:	AS1-04-01 – PS Staff Lounge
Time	:	2.00 pm - 4.00 pm
Chair/Discussant	:	

Abstract

The field of Comparative Political Thought remains anxious about its form and function. In particular, it is caught between the imperative to be geo-culturally non-exclusionary, on the one hand, and the need to identify comparable differences, on the other. Hence, CPT exists in the tension between the need to dissolve and the need to (build and then) bridge boundaries.

In this paper, I will consider some of the ways in which the problem of (geo-cultural) location functions in the field, both as its ostensible focus and potentially as a form of misdirection. I will also consider the related issues of how and whether we recognize the political thought of others, and the connection between such recognition and the problem of location.

About the Speaker

CHRIS GOTO-JONES is Professor of Comparative Philosophy & Political Thought and Director of the Modern East Asia Research Centre at Leiden University, where he is also Dean of Leiden University College The Hague. He is the principal researcher of the NWO-sponsored VICI project: *Beyond Utopia – New Politics, the Politics of Knowledge and the Science Fictional Field of Japan*. His work focuses on how and where to find innovation in political thought, and his publications include: *Political Philosophy in Japan: Nishida, the Kyoto School and Co-Prosperity* (London & NY, 2005); *Re-Politicizing the Kyoto School as Philosophy* (London & NY, 2007); *A Very Short Introduction to Modern Japan* (Oxford, 2009).

For enquiries

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All are Welcome!