The Limits of Hope: Discourses of the Future Among Contemporary Japanese Younger Adults

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https://asu.zoom.us/j/82308354714

Abstract:

This presentation considers how contemporary younger adults discursively articulate the availability of possible futures under conditions of marginalizing neoliberal capitalism (Brinton 2010). Contemporary university students in Japan face difficult circumstances, including a prolonged recession that has left many without stable employment. The ‘exhaustion’ (Povinelli 2011) of life in extended precarity (Allison 2013) has further given rise to narratives of disaffected younger adults who are seen as lacking will or ability compared to ‘hardworking’ older adults. At the same time, university students inhabit a liminal space where post-graduation life still constitutes a horizon of multiple potential futures.