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SCUOLA DOTTORALE IULM

Phd in Visual and Media Studies
Tema attività formativa a.a. 2018/2019: *Le forme del simbolo*

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Seminario del 17 gennaio 2019 ore 10.30
Spatiality and Human Beings in Japanese Culture

Abstract:
Sensibility concerning space and place in Japanese culture is special and different from that which appears in artistic expressions in Western culture. To clarify this point, we will be based on the thought of Tetsuro Watsuji (1989-1969), a Japanese philosopher who questioned the notion of modernity imported from the West and criticized its individualism and dualism. His philosophy is based, to a certain extent, on the traditional Japanese conception of spirituality and sensitivity. This is particularly apparent in his emphasis on the value of the relationship between man and his surroundings. On the basis of his analysis on the status of human beings and the relation to nature, we will reflect on characteristics of Japanese art. A comparative examination will lead us to a fruitful dialogue between Japanese and Western cultures.

Bio:
Makoto Sekimura is a Professor at Hiroshima City University who specializes in Plato's aesthetic thought and is also interested in comparative studies of Occidental and Japanese cultures. He studied aesthetics and philosophy in Tokyo, in Dijon and in Brussels. He received the Ph.D. at the Université Libre de Bruxelles. He is vice president of the Association des Sociétés de Philosophie de Langue Française (ASPLF). His publications include the book, Platon et la question des images, Ousia, Bruxelles, 2009.

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