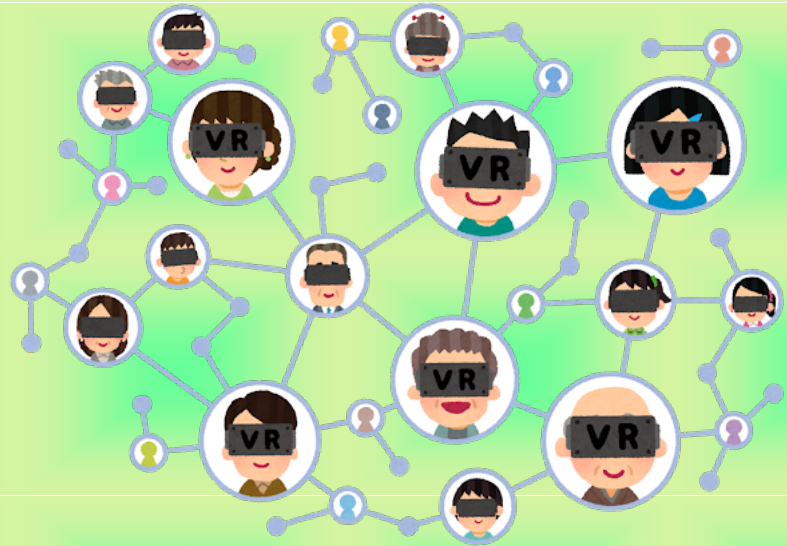


Comparative Asian Research Network

Monthly Lecture Series on Issues and Research in the Asian Region

Organized by the Department of Japanese Studies, CUHK

The Telepresence Enclosure: Virtual Reality and Demographic Change in Japan



Speaker : Professor Paul Roquet

(Massachusetts Institute of Technology)

Time : 11:00 am – 12:30 pm

Date : 6 March 2019 (Wednesday)

Venue : Room 401, Leung Kau Kui Building, CUHK

Language : English

All are welcome!!

Abstract:

Virtual reality is increasingly offered as a solution to the problems raised by Japan's aging population and intensifying labor shortage. Japanese researchers propose using VR-controlled avatars to allow bedridden seniors to continue working remotely. They also propose this VR-enabled "telepresence" could give Japanese companies access to overseas labor markets, bypassing contentious immigration issues by allowing workers to physically remain in their home countries even as they are employed in Japan. Evaluating these proposals from the perspective of biopolitics and technological enclosure, this lecture offers a critical examination of how VR's promise of virtual mobility might simultaneously fix individuals ever more firmly in place.



Speaker:

Paul Roquet is Associate Professor of Japanese Studies in the Global Studies and Languages Section, School of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. His research has focused on the atmospheres of Japanese media and culture; how media aim to produce feelings of ontological security and emotional control, and what this tells us about the role of aesthetic experience in contemporary culture.

No registration necessary. Enquiries: Misaki Nagaoka (mnagaoka@cuhk.edu.hk)