



# Comparative Asian Research Network

Organized by the Department of Japanese Studies, CUHK

## Art Triennale, Local Festivals, & Rural Revitalization: Ethnographic Observation from Setouchi Islands, Japan



All Are  
Welcome!!

**Speaker: Dr. TU Shiu Hong, Simon**

**3 December 2021 (Friday), 2:00 – 3:00 pm**

**Room 401, Leung Kau Kui Building, CUHK**

**Registration: <https://bit.ly/3klSMX7> or**



### Abstract:

Since the beginning of the twenty-first century, hundreds of contemporary art projects and festivals have emerged in Japan. Many of these art events are funded by local governments in the hope of revitalizing respective regions amidst the depopulation crisis. The Setouchi Triennale, which takes place once in every three years since 2010 across a dozen of island communities in the Seto Inland Sea, is one of the renowned examples. Besides quantitative results such as visitor numbers or economic effects, how should we understand the changes the Triennale brought to local communities? How have the communities been revitalized? In this talk, I shift the focus and introduce my ethnographic observation from traditional local events in the region, and demonstrate how these events are indicative of the social consequences of major revitalization measures exemplified by the Setouchi Triennale.

Dr. **Simon Tu** is a postdoctoral fellow at the Department of Japanese Studies, the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Trained in anthropology, his research covers urban and rural revitalization in Japan, Japanese visual cultures, socially-engaged art, as well as artist space in Hong Kong.

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