

Editor's Preface

This compilation, entitled “Globally Shared Common Sense from the Philosophy of Imagination: Bridging Eastern and Western Perspectives,” brings together an international spectrum of young researchers with a focus on Asian and Japanese philosophies as compared to Western philosophy, each of whom has already written stimulating works about Asian and Japanese philosophies from various aspects. I would like to offer all of them my gratitude and appreciation for their contributions.

Today, we in the global society are confronting extreme hardship caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, retrospectively speaking, our global society has reached to a time in which the limitations of the present social economic system are appearing in serious problems such as economic disparity, climate change, violent confrontations, extremist politics, increasing mental disorders and so on and so forth.

There is an urgent need to confront these limitations. On the other hand, many people have started to elaborate a “new normal” in which the socio-economic ways of our lives can co-exist with the virus. However, many of the arguments over the “new normal” are quite impractical and short-sighted. They can be expressed as; “Oh, COVID-19 has come so let's change the way of social life. It's going to be OK!” In this rush to adapt and get on with our imagined normal lives there is a critical lack of curiosity about the profound questions which underlay the superficial everyday normalities; “Where do we come from? What are we? Where are we going?”

Modern life does not assign people a time for such thought and reflection, but as philosophers we carry the responsibility to answer these questions. We cannot leave our societies “laissez faire, laisser passer.” Thus, in coining the title for this brief work, I have used

the terms “Globally Shared Common Sense” and “Imagination” and “Bridging Eastern and Western Perspectives” because I believe philosophy can recover our sense of time, and gather the temporal imagination of our pasts and futures to the present with its conceptual activities from transregional perspectives. Furthermore, it is my hope that the authors of these chapters will respond to our predicament, and provide us with meaningful suggestions, and that together we can show mankind a path to self-discovery and a meaningful social roadmap for a sustainable future.

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Chapter 3: What is the Globality of the “Common Sense”? Somatesthesia in the Age of Chaotic Capitalism

Nobuyuki Matsui is a visiting assistant professor at the Asia-Japan Research Institute, Ritsumeikan University, Japan. He received his Ph.D. in International Relations from Ritsumeikan University, and he is mainly involved in a research project on bridging contemporary Japanese and Western philosophy on global and social transformations through media technologies. Since his doctoral course, his research concern has been human pathos, the human body, and its historicity based on the philosophy of Charles Taylor. His current research interest extends to social transformation through ongoing relationships between digitizing capitalism and the bio-politics based on “common sense,” rhythm, and ecology, especially through reinterpretations of Nakamura Yūjirō. His recent publication is “‘Common Sense’ and Encounters after the ‘Capital-Nation-State’ in the Digital Age: Nakamura Yūjirō vs. Karatani Kōjin in their Philosophies of Imagination” (2021, *Journal of the Asia-Japan Research Institute of Ritsumeikan University*, vol. 3).