



Living in Convenience: From Japanese Convenience Stores to Platformed Convenience

Venue (Hybrid) Hirai Kaichiro Library Conference Room, Ritsumeikan Kinugasa Campus+Zoom
 Date: Friday, May 16, 2025
 15:00–16:15 Keynote [English]: Marc Steinberg (Concordia, Montreal)
 16:30–17:30 Roundtable [日本語]: Marc Steinberg and Koichi Iwabuchi (UTS, Sydney).
 Moderator: Shinji Oyama (Ritsumeikan)

The keynote lecture examines how digital platforms are structured around the pervasive promise of convenience. The talk traces this logic to a surprising origin: the Japanese convenience store, whose tightly networked and just-in-time model anticipates the infrastructure of today's smartphone-driven platforms. What emerges is a critical reflection on convenience as a governing rationality in contemporary culture and economy.

Marc Steinberg is Professor of Film Studies at Concordia University in Montreal. He is the author of *The Platform Economy* (2019), and *In/Convenience: Inhabiting the Logistical Surround* (2024)

The roundtable explores how Japan-based research on media, culture, and society can engage with international debates, using themes such as platform capitalism and cultural globalization as shared points of departure. It also serves as a preparatory discussion for **the Neo-Japan Studies Forum**, a new research initiative currently in development, with an official launch planned for early summer 2025, aiming to connect Japan-based scholarship with global scholarly conversations beyond the limits of conventional Japan studies.

Koichi Iwabuchi is an adjunct professor at the University of Technology, Sydney, who has shaped the debate on cultural globalization for decades. His publications include *Recentering Globalization* (2002) and *Resilient*

Borders and Cultural Diversity (2015).

Registration:

All participants are welcome, but registration is required. Please register using the following QR code.



The Zoom link will be sent to registered attendees.

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