



The 11th Japan-ASEAN seminar

Into a New Epoch

Capitalist Nature in the Plantationocene and Book Launch

本セミナーでは、自然と人間の関係を問い、地球と現代社会が直面している諸問題を理解するために、Anthropocene（人新世）に代わる Plantationocene（プランテーション新世）という人類史の区分概念を提示します。プランテーションに関する考察を通して、人間中心的な環境の理解や自然 vs. 社会の二元論を超えた新しい学際研究の可能性を探ります。また、セミナーは、以下2冊の出版記念も兼ねています。

This seminar presents yet another geological epoch, which we term the Plantationocene. While the idea of the Anthropocene has gained considerable currency in recent years, we instead use this concept of Plantationocene to offer fresh perspectives that go beyond conventional, human-centric understandings of nature as well as the human/nature dichotomy through case studies of multispecies in plantation systems. Through this approach, we aim to bridge a deep divide between the natural sciences and social sciences, combine ethnographic and data-driven methodologies, and present an empirically grounded and historically informed study of human, non-human and their environments. The seminar will be followed by the book launch of the following two new books.

Fri, 25 October 2019 13:30-17:00

京都大学稲盛財団記念館3階 中会議室

Middle-sized Meeting Room, 3F, Inamori Foundation Building, Kyoto University



Plantationocene Life in Past and Coming Ruins

Anna Tsing University of California, Santa Cruz



Anthropogenic Tropical Forests Human-Nature Interfaces on the Plantation Frontier

Noboru Ishikawa Kyoto University



Whale and Orangutan A Possible Link between Whale Oil and Palm Oil

Jun Akamine Hitotsubashi University

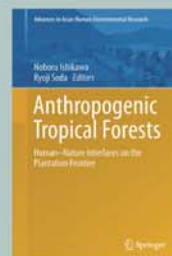


Book Launch



アナ・チン
「マツタケ：不確定な時代を生きる術」
赤嶺淳訳，東京：みすず書房，2019年

Japanese translation of *The Mushroom at the End of the World: On the Possibility of Life in Capitalist Ruins* by Anna L. Tsing, Princeton U.P., 2015.
Translated by Jun Akamine, published by Misuzu Shobo, Japan, 2019.



Ishikawa, Noboru & Ryoji Soda (eds.),
Anthropogenic Tropical Forests: Human-Nature Interfaces on the Plantation Frontier. Singapore: Springer Nature, 2019.



Program

13 : 30	MC: Julie Ann Delos Reyes, Kyoto University Opening Remarks Noboru Ishikawa Kyoto University
13 : 40	Plantationocene: Life in Past and Coming Ruins Anna Tsing University of California, Santa Cruz
14 : 10	Anthropogenic Tropical Forests: Human-Nature Interfaces on the Plantation Frontier Noboru Ishikawa
14 : 40	break
14 : 50	Whale and Orangutan: A Possible Link between Whale Oil and Palm Oil Jun Akamine Hitotsubashi University
15 : 20	General Discussion
15 : 50	MC: Miles Kenney-Lazar, National University of Singapore Book Launch
17 : 00	Reception

Presentations

■ Plantationocene: Life in Past and Coming Ruins

Anna Tsing University of California, Santa Cruz

Landscape structure matters in constituting the Anthropocene. This talk discusses the connections between the plantation form—a mode of modular simplification in which ecological complexity gives way to genetic homogeneity—and the “feral proliferation” of pests and pathogens. Modular simplification and feral proliferation work together, spreading the environmental dangers of the more-than-human Anthropocene. Attention to landscape morphology offers a necessary “horizontal” dimension to the discussion of “vertical” carbon circulations that have defined attention to our planet. Furthermore, the plantation form is not a matter of the amassment of individual human acts, the most common way of understanding environmental problems; instead, it directs us to infrastructures and assemblages.

■ Anthropogenic Tropical Forests: Human-Nature Interfaces on the Plantation Frontier

Noboru Ishikawa Kyoto University

This talk discusses the characteristics of impacts and changes brought about by the expansion of oil palm plantations in the biomass-rich interior region of Malaysian Borneo, looking into the temporal compression of succession—the transplanting, mobilization, proliferation, reduction and extirpation of fauna, flora and human communities in a relatively short time. It also attends to the genesis of a mixed landscape consisting of first nature and capitalist nature, where habitats, produced by infrastructure development, connect local communities, both human and non-human, with distant peoples and markets, leading to a new kind of rural–urban/local-global continuum. I argue that along newly created commodity chains, there emerge numerous encounters and displacements of individuals and social groups, adding a new social amalgam to local communities.

■ Whale and Orangutan: A Possible Link between Whale Oil and Palm Oil

Jun Akamine Hitotsubashi University

Both palm oil and soy oil have been two major global materials used over the past several decades. Tropical forests and cerrados have been transformed into such plantations. Before these two oils became dominant, there were several other oils circulating in the global oil market. Whale oil was one of them until the market was collapsed in the 1960s. This presentation provides a brief sketch of the history of the whale oil industry and a possible scenario in which palm oil replaces whale oil from the 1970s onwards. I argue that the global “save orangutan” campaign may have been ironically founded on the sacrifices of whales. The idea of the Plantationocene may provide a clue to understanding terrestrial capitalism in relation to marine capitalism.

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INTO A NEW EPOCH

CAPITALIST NATURE IN THE PLANTATIONOCENE

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