

Comparative Asian Research Network

Monthly Lecture Series on Issues and Research in the Asian Region

Organized by the Department of Japanese Studies, CUHK



A Different Portrait of Disaster: Children and the Earthquake that Destroyed Tokyo in 1923

All are Welcome!!

Speaker: Professor Janet Borland

Assistant Professor and Director of the Department of Japanese Studies,
The University of Hong Kong

Date: 22 October 2015 (Thursday)

Time: 12:00 – 13:30

Venue: Leung Kau Kui Building, Room 401

Language: English

Abstract

When a magnitude 7.9 earthquake struck Tokyo on September 1, 1923, the disaster completely uprooted the lives of the capital's youngest residents. The Great Kantō Earthquake and fires destroyed two-thirds of Tokyo's primary schools, displaced 145,000 students, killed over 5,000 children, and left thousands more hungry, homeless, and helpless. This disaster revealed the extent to which Japan's government had failed to safeguard children or prepare society for a national emergency or crisis. The vulnerable place of children in Tokyo on the eve of disaster, their firsthand experiences of death, destruction and daily life in the aftermath, and the long-term legacies of the Great Kantō Earthquake such as the reconstructed primary schools will be examined.

No registration necessary.

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