

## Report

Theme	Kyoto University International Symposium: Does Nature Think ? / La nature pense-t-elle ?	
Date	From: June 6, 2019 Until: June 8, 2019 (3 Days)	
Organizing faculty/department	Graduate School of Letters	
Cooperating faculty/department(s)		
Place	Country	France
	City	Paris
	Venue	UNESCO (June 6, 7), Maison de la Culture du Japon à Paris (June 8)
Co-organizers	Research Institute for Humanity and Nature, UNESCO, Maison de la Culture du Japon à Paris, Expo '90 Foundation, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, École Nationale Supérieure des Mines de Paris	
Symposium summary	<p>Globally, our environment is no longer in a state about which we can be optimistic. The Anthropocene compels us to fundamentally reconsider the modern conception of nature as a mere object. Augustin Berque, a French advocate of mesology (Uexkül's Umweltlehre, Watsuji's fūogaku, i.e. the study of milieu) suggested the strange question “does nature think?” as the theme of this international conference. The aim of the conference is to re-examine the modern view of nature, whereby human beings are seen as holding a transcendental position. We invited 26 researchers from different fields (anthropology, geography, philosophy, Buddhism, human environmental studies, primatology, agricultural science, oceanography, law, history of Western art, etc. ), as well as practitioners who directly face and work within nature, to discuss together, in an intercultural and interdisciplinary approach, a series of questions centering on the problem of what may or may not distinguish human thinking from the diverse types of self-awareness and communication discovered by ethology and biosemiotics to exist among other living beings.</p> <p>The symposium comprised the following three sub-themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Milieu (Fūdo) and Environment (June 6)</li> <li>· Representations and Spokesmen of Nature (June 8)</li> <li>· Sensitive Intelligence of the Living (June 9)</li> </ul>	
Symposium URL	<a href="http://nihontetsugaku-kyoto-2.site/">http://nihontetsugaku-kyoto-2.site/</a> <a href="https://www.mcjp.fr/ja/la-mcjp/actualites/la-nature-pense-t-elle">https://www.mcjp.fr/ja/la-mcjp/actualites/la-nature-pense-t-elle</a> <a href="https://www.ehess.fr/fr/colloque/nature-pense-t-elle">https://www.ehess.fr/fr/colloque/nature-pense-t-elle</a> <a href="https://www.crc.mines-paristech.fr/fr/focus/la-nature-pense-t-elle/">https://www.crc.mines-paristech.fr/fr/focus/la-nature-pense-t-elle/</a>	
Total number of participants (including audience)	100	