



# Tourism and the **S**word

An interdisciplinary discussion  
of environmental humanities  
and sustainability in Tourism.

Researchers in environmental humanities from 5 countries will present critical and thought provoking work. The symposium is a rare opportunity in Japan to hear important new research. While sustainability is the theme of so many texts, how well are we really doing in this area? We welcome audience participation in this dynamic program of critical tourism studies with an Asia Pacific focus.



Dr. Georgette Leah Burns  
(Griffith University, Australia)



A/Prof. Adam Doering  
(Wakayama University, Japan)



Dr. Mary Mostafanezhad  
(University of Hawai'i at Mānoa,  
USA)



Prof. Kumi Kato  
(Wakayama University, Japan)



Dr. Joseph Cheer  
(Monash University, Australia)



Mr. Simon Wearne  
(Wakayama University, Japan)

**March 8, 2016 10.00 to 15.30**  
**Wakayama University - Faculty of Tourism T101**

\*No registration required.

\*This symposium will be conducted in English.





A/Prof. Adam Doering is originally from Canada and obtained his PhD in New Zealand. He is currently exploring the themes of freedom, relationality, praxis and “world” within the current debates of sustainable transitions, mobility studies and critical tourism studies.

Dr. Mary Mostafanezhad is currently an assistant professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. Her research interests lie at the intersection of critical geopolitics and cultural, development and tourism studies.

Dr. Georgette Leah Burns recently returned to Australia after two and a half years in Iceland. She is currently a Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Environmental Sciences at Griffith University. Her research focuses on the interactions between people and wildlife in nature-based tourism settings.

Mr. Simon Wearne is a professional cinematographer and documentary maker. He is currently a PhD student at Wakayama University where he is an assistant professor lecturing in Visual Communication. His research centres on creative conservation of cultural and natural heritage.

Dr. Joseph Cheer has a background in international tourism, international development and business. He is currently a lecture in the Master of International Sustainable Tourism Management at Monash University. His current projects include forthcoming edited books, *Understanding Tourism Resilience: Adapting to Environmental change* (Routledge).

Prof. Kumi Kato is a Professor in the Faculty of Tourism at Wakayama University. Prof Kato spent more than 20 years in Australia before returning to Japan. Her main research areas are sustainability and tourism, tourism and heritage, disaster recovery and community resilience.

**Program:**

10:00-10:10 Opening

10:10-11:40 Session 1 Theme: “Sensitive Practicalities”

Critical Tourism Studies and The World: Opening up debate on sense, praxis and creation (Associate Professor. Adam Doering)

Sentimental Sojourns: The Geopolitics of Volunteer Tourism in Northern Thailand (Dr. Mary Mostafanezhad)

Tourism building Community of Compassion - Restoring spiritual connections with the land in the evacuated village of Fukushima, Japan (Professor. Kumi Kato)

11:40-12:10 Panel Discussion

12:10-13:10 Lunch break

13:10-14:40 Session 2 Theme: “Practical Sensitivities”

Pan Asia Pacific Perspectives of Tourism and Traditional Culture: Sustainable and Beneficial or Profane and Incongruous? (Dr. Joseph Cheer)

Sustainable Wildlife Tourism? Exploring ethical approaches to managing interactions between tourists and wildlife. (Dr. Georgette Leah Burns)

Whaling heritage and tourism development (Mr. Simon Wearne)

14:40-15:10 Panel Discussion

15:10-15:20 Closing

Contact: Wakayama University Center for Tourism Research  
Sakaedani 930, Wakayama-city 640-8510, JAPAN  
TEL: 073-457-7025 E-mail: [info-ctr@center.wakayama-u.ac.jp](mailto:info-ctr@center.wakayama-u.ac.jp)  
HP: <https://www.wakayama-u.ac.jp/en/ctr/>