



Scuola Italiana di Studi  
sull'Asia Orientale  
ISEAS



École Française  
d'Extrême-Orient  
EFEO

CO-HOSTED BY



International  
Research Center (IRH)  
Kyoto University



# KYOTO LECTURES

Thursday, February 25th, 18:00h

Jin Baek SPEAKER

## Climate, Sustainability and the Space of Ethics Watsuji Tetsuro's Cultural Climatology and Residential Architecture

In the contemporary discourse of sustainability in architecture and urbanism, climate is often understood through the collection of data related to natural phenomena, such as rains, seasonal directions and intensities of winds. What is overlooked in this approach, however, is the notion of climate itself. Cultural context leads us to rediscover the value of Watsuji Tetsuro's (1889-1960) notion of "climate" (*fūdo*). With reference to Watsuji's philosophy, this presentation will demonstrate: first, how climate is not merely scientific, but intertwined with humane qualities; second, how climate operates as the context for discovery of "who we are"; third, the relationship between climate and inter-personal ethics; and lastly, how inter-personal ethics operate as the basis for efficient, sustainable building performance. In this lecture, the spatial composition of exemplary residential works—both traditional and contemporary—will also be discussed with reference to the intermeshed schema of climate, sustainability and ethics.

**Jin Baek** teaches theory and design studio as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Architecture, Pennsylvania State University. He completed his Ph.D. in the History and Theory of Architecture at the University of Pennsylvania, after studying at Yale University (M.A.) and Seoul National University (B.S.). His articles dealing with cross-cultural issues between East Asian and Western modern architecture have been published in leading architectural and philosophical journals, including *Architectural Research Quarterly*, *Architectural Theory Review*, *Journal of Architectural Education*, and *Philosophy East and West*. He is also the author of *Nothingness: Tadao Ando's Christian Sacred Space* (Routledge, 2009).

**This lecture will be held at the Institute for Research in Humanities (IRH), Kyoto University (seminar room, 1st floor).**



**Italian School of East Asian Studies (ISEAS)**  
**École Française d'Extrême-Orient (EFEO)**  
4th Floor, 4 Yoshida Ushinomiya-cho, Sakyo-ku Kyoto, 606-8302 Japan

ISEAS | T: 075-751-8132 F: 075-751-8221 E: [iseas@iseas-kyoto.org](mailto:iseas@iseas-kyoto.org)  
EFEO | T: 075-761-3946 F: 075-761-3947 E: [efeo.kyoto@gmail.com](mailto:efeo.kyoto@gmail.com)