The Politics of Pain: Japanese Grassroots Politics across National Boundaries

a Public Lecture by Prof. Joseph Hankins
University of California, San Diego
Nov. 6, 2015, 1:15-2:45pm
302 Schaeffer Hall
University of Iowa

How do we come to care about the pain of others? How do we learn who and what to care for, and who and what to ignore? What types of politics might such care give rise to, what type of politics might it preclude? Following a group of Japanese activists and sanitation workers on a solidarity trip from Tokyo to Chennai, India, Joseph Hankins examines both the internationalization of Japanese grassroots politics, and a larger, more global phenomenon of politics motivated by humanitarian interest. Working through an ethnography of that trip, he explores the limits of humanitarian politics and push to a new understanding of its possibilities.

Joseph Hankins is associate professor of Anthropology at the University of California, San Diego. He is also director of the UCSD Studio for Ethnographic Design and affiliated with the University of California Center for New Racial Studies and the UCSD programs on critical gender studies and Japanese studies. He is the author of Working Skin: Making Leather, Making a Multicultural Japan (University of California Press 2014) and the co-editor of Sound, Space, and Sociality in Contemporary Japan (Routledge 2013).

Co-sponsored by the Center for Asian and Pacific Studies & Dept. of Anthropology, the University of Iowa