



ATOMIC  AGE IV SYMPOSIUM

# 福島生物の記録

FUKUSHIMA: A RECORD OF LIVING THINGS

October 28, 2017 • University of Chicago

## Schedule

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| 9:00  | Coffee   |
| 9:30  | Opening Remarks with Director Masanori Iwasaki   |
| 10:00 | <b>Fukushima: A Record of Living Things (Episode 2): Disruption</b>                          |
| 11:30 | Discussion with Masanori Iwasaki & Shin-ichi Hayama  |
| 12:00 | Lunch (2nd Fl, Tea Room)   |
| 13:00 | <b>Fukushima: A Record of Living Things (Episode 5): Follow-up</b>                           |
| 14:35 | Testimonies:<br>Trisha Pritikin, "Hanford's Downwinders"<br>Mary Olson, "Gender & Radiation" |
| 14:45 | Break  |
| 15:00 | Discussion with panelists  |
| 16:00 | Panel Q&A  |

## About Atomic Age IV

It is a fortunate coincidence that Atomic Age IV can contribute to the University of Chicago's quarter-long observation of the 75th anniversary of "the first controlled, self-sustaining, nuclear chain reaction" on December 2. (The 70th anniversary was marked not by the University but by a distinguished roster of activists at the International House on December 1-3, 2012: "A Mountain of Waste, 70 Years High" (see Nuclear Energy Information Service website at <http://neis.org/2012-conference/> for conference materials).

The screening of Masanori Iwasaki's *Fukushima: A Record of Living Things* picks up on a theme explored in evolutionary biologist Timothy Mousseau's presentation at Atomic Age III, on the state of "non-human biota" following Fukushima. (In fact, Mousseau himself appears in Episode 2.) Iwasaki, with a long and distinguished career in making environmental and wildlife documentaries, completed his first work on post-Fukushima plant and animal life in 2013 and proceeded to release a film each subsequent year, numbering

five to date. The annual documenting of changes in the plant and animal world provides a distinctively fresh, quietly arresting angle on the nuclear disaster. The investigators in these films are both interested citizens and specialists. Shin-ichi Hayama, professor at Nippon Veterinary and Life Science University, is one specialist who appears in several episodes. His long-term study of the Japanese monkey ("snow monkey," "Japanese macaque"), especially in relation to proximate habitat with humans, prepared him, surely unexpectedly, to study the impact of radiation exposure on the species.

In titling his film series, Director Iwasaki was inspired by Akira Kurosawa's 1955 "A Record of Living Things" (known in English as *Record of a Living Being* or *I Live in Fear*), in which a startlingly young Toshiro Mifune plays the role of an autocratic patriarch so terrified by Pacific nuclear testing coming only ten years after Hiroshima and Nagasaki that he attempts to transport his exasperated family to Brazil. What is madness, what is sanity in the nuclear age, the film seems to ask, over a distance of sixty-five years, as Japanese society hurtles toward the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

## **Participants**

**Masanori Iwasaki**, from Akita Prefecture in northern Japan, entered the film-making world as a freelancer in 1968, producing documentaries and TV programs for the Hokuto Film Company, Iwanami Productions, and public broadcaster NHK. Together with cinematographer colleagues, he established Gunzoshu Corporation in 1981, dedicated to the production of documentaries on wildlife and the global environment. Iwasaki has won multiple prizes in Japan and abroad for films featuring the Japanese monkey, the golden eagle, the grey-faced buzzard, or the snow leopard, or issues such as the increased appearance of bears in human habitat or the troubling consequences of reclaiming for rice production Hachirōgata Lake, once the second largest in Japan. He began the series *Fukushima: A Record of Living Things* in 2013.

**Shin-ichi Hayama** is a professor at Nippon Veterinary and Life Science University who specializes in wild animal medicine. From his student days he has researched endangered mammals and birds native to Japan. Since the Great East Japan Earthquake of 2011, he has also been dedicated to the training of Veterinary Medical Assistance Teams. His long-term research into the human-snow monkey relationship has a new significance post-Fukushima since non-human primates were not found in the wild in the vicinity of either in Three Mile Island or Chernobyl. In English, Hayama and fellow researchers have published such reports as "Concentration of radiocesium in the wild Japanese monkey (*Macaca fuscata*) over the first 15 months after the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster" (PLOS ONE, 2013); "Low blood cell counts in wild Japanese monkeys after the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster" (*Scientific Reports*, 2014); and most recently, "Small head size and delayed body weight growth in wild Japanese monkey fetuses after the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster" (*Scientific Reports*, 2017).

**Robert (Bo) Jacobs**, a historian of nuclear technologies and radiation technopolitics, has been a professor at the Hiroshima Peace Institute and Hiroshima City University since 2005. His early work on the cultural representations of the early Cold War U.S. resulted in the book, *The Dragon's Tail: Americans Face the Atomic Age* (2010; Japanese translation, 2013). His most recent work is the co-edited *Reimagining Hiroshima and Nagasaki: Nuclear Humanities in the Post-Cold War* (2017). He has been pursuing the social as well as cultural consequences of radiation exposure for communities and families at nuclear test sites, nuclear production sites, and nuclear power plant disaster sites. He is the project leader of the Global Hibakusha Project, which works to link radiation-affected communities around the globe.

**Martha McClintock** is the David Lee Schillinger Distinguished Service Professor Emerita in Psychology and founding director of the Institute for Mind and Biology at the University of Chicago. She is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a member of the National Academy of Medicine. She has a career-long interest in the processes by which the social and physical environment shape biological mechanisms, particularly in disease and fertility and has followed these processes in both animals and humans.

**Mary Olson** has been Senior Radioactive Waste Policy Specialist with Nuclear Information and Resource Service (NIRS, an educational non-government organization) since 1991 and is founder of the Gender and Radiation Impact Project. Olson's independent analysis of gender and radiation has formed the basis of her core work since 2011. She educates, writes, and speaks on radioactive waste policy from a health, safety, and humanitarian perspective both domestically and internationally, including at the United Nations. The preamble to the UN treaty prohibiting nuclear weapons, in referring to "disproportionate influence on women and girls," reflects the significance of Olson's work. In 2016, Olson was featured speaker in a 5-week educational tour of Japan, where her own experience of being contaminated with radioactive material as a young lab worker provided common ground with those subjected to the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster.

**Trisha Pritikin** was born and raised in Richland, Washington, in the shadow of the Hanford nuclear weapons plant that produced the plutonium for the Trinity Test in July of 1945 and the atomic bomb that destroyed Nagasaki on August 9, 1945. Public pressure and Freedom of Information Act requests have led to the disclosure that Hanford's production harmed unsuspecting populations downwind and downriver beginning in 1944 and for decades thereafter. Both Pritikin's parents died of radiogenic cancers, and she herself suffers from parathyroid disease and other health effects from exposures to Hanford's radiation releases. An attorney and former occupational therapist, Pritikin has been an advocate for Hanford's Downwinders for over thirty years and is currently president of Consequences of Radiation Exposure (CORE) Museum and Archives, a nonprofit organization dedicated to advocacy for radiation-exposed populations worldwide. Her forthcoming book is titled *The Plaintiffs: Hanford Downwind*.

### More About the "Atomic Age" Series

It was in the fall of 2010 that Norma Field (University of Chicago), Yuki Miyamoto (DePaul University), Tomomi Yamaguchi (Montana State University) and Masaki Matsumoto (University of Chicago) began planning a symposium to draw together the issues of nuclear weapons and nuclear energy through the screening of M.T. Sylvia's *Atomic Mom* (featuring two mothers, Pauline Sylvia, a biologist at the Nevada Test Site, and Emiko Okada, a Hiroshima survivor; 2010) and Hitomi Kamanaka's *Ashes to Honey* (featuring a decades-long struggle by Iwajima Islanders to prevent the nearby siting of a nuclear power plant and Swedish efforts to develop sustainable energy models; 2010).<sup>\*</sup> We did not of course anticipate the Fukushima disaster that would occur three months before the symposium, in May of 2011. Nor could we have foreseen how newly pressing the nuclear issue—this time, in the form of weapons—would become when we began planning Atomic Age IV. Between the first and current symposia, we have organized two Atomic Age symposia. Atomic Age II (2012), highlighting Fukushima, featured special guests Hiroaki Koide (Kyoto University Reactor Research Institute, since retired) and Ruiko Mutō (Fukushima Nuclear Disaster Complainants), but it also included speakers with overlapping weapons/energy concerns: the late Jeffrey Patterson of Physicians for Social Responsibility; peace and environmental justice activist Bobbie Paul, monitoring the Savannah River nuclear reprocessing and storage site; Dean Wilkie, a retired nuclear plant operator and manager for the Department of Energy; and Nancy Foust, online media expert and key figure in the SimplyInfo website, addressing support the "technical, environmental, and humanitarian evolution" of the disaster. Atomic Age III (2016) was held at DePaul University and notably included DePaul student presentations: a slide show of Illinois reactors by Kelsey Haslam, a presentation on "Responsibility in the Atomic Age" by Robert T. Johnston, and "Environmental Injustice through the Lens of Racism" by Jasmine Dela Luna. The keynote speakers were Timothy Mousseau, Biological Sciences, University of South



Carolina, on “From Hiroshima to Fukushima: What We Have Learned about Radiation Effects on Non-Human Biota (And, Why Don’t We Know More?)” and Marian Naranjo, director of Honor Our Pueblo Existence (HOPE, based in Santa Clara Pueblo, New Mexico), on “Atomic Age: A Pueblo Woman’s Experience.” (Information on past symposia and other resources, as well as an ongoing news blog in English and Japanese may be found on the Atomic Age website at <https://lucian.uchicago.edu/blogs/atomicage/> )

Other than the Atomic Age symposia, support from the Committee on Japanese Studies at the Center for East Asian Studies has made possible the hosting of Hitomi Kamanaka for the screening of *Rokkasho Rhapsody* (on the contested Rokkasho nuclear reprocessing plant in northern Japan and the Sellafield nuclear reprocessing plant and its impact on both sides of the Irish Sea; 2006); the hosting and screening of Kamanaka’s most recent film, *Little Voices from Fukushima* (on those who have stayed and those who have left Fukushima, and Chernobyl-impacted people in Belarus; 2015). In 2016, for the fifth anniversary of the Fukushima disaster, we screened *Little Voices* with antinuclear lawyer and now film director Hiroyuki Kawai’s *Nuclear Japan: Has Nuclear Power Brought Us Happiness* (on the multiple problems entailed by nuclear power in Japan, 2014) with discussion by Kennette Benedict (*Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*), Judy Hoffman, Cinema and Media Studies, University of Chicago), Kazu Haga (East Point Peace Academy, Oakland), and Noritsugu Fujimoto (regional economic policy, Fukushima University, now Toyo University). With the sponsorship of the city of Hiroshima and in collaboration with other area institutions, we participated in a “Voices of Hiroshima” program and heard the testimony of Hiroshima survivor Takashi Teramoto in October of 2016.

\*Most of the films mentioned here, along with many other related works, are available for checkout from the film library at the Center for East Asian Studies.

We would like to support:

**The 3.11 Fund for Children with Thyroid Cancer** on this occasion. Humans appear for the first time as a subject of investigation in Episode 5 of *Fukushima: A Record of Living Things*, the documentary series featured in this symposium. The topic is children and thyroid cancer. As the organization established to support children diagnosed with cancer and their families states, “The years following the Chernobyl nuclear disaster saw a rapid rise in the incidence of thyroid cancer among children. The Fukushima Prefectural Health Survey has also resulted in many children being diagnosed with thyroid cancer and undergoing surgery. There are reports of serious cases, such as spread to the lymph nodes, distant metastasis, and recurrence” (from “Aims of the Fund”). We will collect and send donations to the fund. For more information and online contributions, please visit the Fund site at <http://www.311kikin.org/english>

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This event is sponsored by the Committee on Japanese Studies at the University of Chicago Center for East Asian Studies (CEAS) with support from a Title VI National Resource Center Grant from the United States Department of Education. It was organized by Norma Field (University of Chicago, retired) and Yuki Miyamoto (DePaul University) with the help of Satoko Bourdaghs (Columbia College, Chicago), Yoko Katagiri (University of Chicago), and Rieko Tomomatsu (former vice principal, Hosei University Junior and Senior High School and now community member). Field thanks her fellow organizers for assistance with interpretation at the event. We all thank Myra Su, Connie Yip, and Abbey Newman of CEAS for their unflinching support.