



# ASIA ASSOCIATION FOR GLOBAL STUDIES



## Populism in a Post-Truth World: A Multidisciplinary Conference

Asia Association for Global Studies  
(in association with Kyoto Sangyo University's Institute for World Affairs)  
12th Annual International Conference -  
Kyoto, Japan, March 2-4, 2018  
<http://www.aags.org/forthcoming-events>

Welcome to the 12th annual international AAGS conference, this year being held for the first time in association with Kyoto Sankyo University's Institute for World Affairs. We have a good line up of interesting presentations for you from academics, activists, researchers, students, and teaching practitioners, and hope you enjoy their sessions and the rest of conference events. In addition we hope you continue to attend future AAGS events, including the 2019 conference wherever it is held. We will have more on the future events of AAGS at the AGM held at the end of the conference on Sunday.

Yours sincerely,

The AAGS Executive Team:

Rab Paterson - AAGS Director  
Patrick Strefford - AAGS President  
Brian Berry - AAGS Vice President  
Tingting An - AAGS Membership Secretary and Treasurer,

Kyoto Sangyo University's World Affairs Institute:  
Professor Kazuhiko Togo- Director

## **Friday March 2nd: Day 1 - Kyoto City**

2000 - onwards, informal pre-conference evening / dinner / drinks in downtown Kyoto (venue TBA)

## **Saturday March 3: Day 2 - Building 5 of Kyoto Sangyo University**

0900 - 1000 Registration / Networking Time

### **1000 - 1015 Opening remarks**

Patrick Strefford - Kyoto Sangyo University, Japan / AAGS President

Kazuhiko Togo - Kyoto Sangyo University`s World Affairs Institute,  
Director

Brian Berry - Yokohama National University, Japan / AAGS Vice  
President

### **1015 - 1115 Session 1 - Perspectives on Populism**

Ling-Yi Huang, Linnaeus University, Sweden.

*"Populism in a Post-truth World: Anti-immigrant voices on Twitter in Sweden"*,

James I. McDougall, Shantou University, China.

*"Technology-Induced Populism, Deterritorialization, and the Virtual State"*

1115 - 1130 Break

### **1130 - 1230 Session 2- Media and (Mis-) Truths**

Rab Paterson, Toyo University, Japan.

*"Examining the Legitimacy and Illegitimacy of News: A Scottish Case Study"*

Saad Allah Khan, Manipal University, India

*"Assessing the Relevance of Propaganda as a Tool of Media Induced 'Psychological Warfare': An Analytical Overview"*

1230 - 1330 Lunch

### **1330 - 1430 Session 3 - New Media and (Mis-) Truths**

Julian Piggot, Ryukoku University, Japan.

*"The battle for the Overton window: How the new media are pushing the boundaries of acceptable public discourse"*

Jeremy Breningstall, University of California Berkeley, USA.

*"Media archeology and the digital afterlife(s) of Sun Weishi",*

1430 - 1500 Break/ Extra Time

**1500 - 1600 Session 4 - Conceptualizing Post-Truth**

Joff P.N. Bradley, Teikyo University, Japan.

*"On deterritorialized truth claims"*

Richard Forrest, Hijiyama University, Japan.

*"Our Present Predicament: Is the Key Concept "Post-Truth" or "Pre-Truth?"*

1600 - 1615 Break

**1615 - 1715 Session 5 - Keynote Presentation #1**

Kazuhiko Togo, Director of Kyoto Sangyo University`s World Affairs Institute, Japan.

*"What is the 'World Thinking' emanating from Japan?"*

1715 - 1745 Q & A/ Discussion (Break)

1745 - 1815 Travel by taxi to conference dinner location

1830 - 2100 Conference Dinner (Venue TBA, downtown Kyoto)

2100 - onwards, post-dinner social evening / drinks in downtown Kyoto.

## **Sunday March 4: Day 3 - Building 5, Kyoto Sangyo University**

0830 - 0930 Visit Kamigamo Jinja, World Heritage Site (near Kyoto Sangyo University campus).

0930-1000 Travel to Conference site

### **1000 - 1015 Opening remarks**

Rab Paterson - Toyo University Center for Global Education, Japan  
/ AAGS Director

TingTing An - University of Tokyo, Japan / AAGS Membership  
Secretary and Treasurer

### **1015 - 1115 Session 6 - Political Reverberations of Populism/ Post-Truth**

Thomas Osborne, University of Bristol, UK.  
*"Post-truth Politics and the Liberalism of Fear"*

S. Jonathon O'Donnell, Aoyama Gakuin University Japan.  
*"Border Li(n)es: Demonology, Hegemony, and Securitization in Post-Truth America"*

1115- 1130 break

### **1130 - 1230 Session 7 - Other perspectives on Populism/ Post-Truth**

Patrick Strefford, Kyoto Sangyo University, Japan  
*"Truth and Lies: An IR perspective"*

Pete Kutschera, Don Honorio Ventura Technological State  
University, Philippines.  
*"Gauging Proper Fit for Military Filipino Amerasians in Diasporic and  
Ethnic Studies"*

1230 - 1330 Lunch

### **1330 - 1430 Session 8 - Economic Leverages and Populism/ Post-Truth**

William Ashbaugh, State University of New York College at  
Oneonta, USA & Shintaro Mizushima, Doshisha University.  
*"Global Warming and the Mobile Suit Gundam Anime Franchise in  
the United States"*

Hadit Fikri Falah, Universitas Airlangga, Indonesia.  
*"Hoax in Indonesia: Capital Deception and Catalyze of Postruth"*

1430 - 1445 break

**1445- 1545 Session 9- Informal Discussion on Post-truth and Populism**

Chaired by Saad Allah Khan

1545-1600 break

**1600 - 1700 Session 10 - Keynote Presentation #2**

Sandra Fahy, Sophia University, Japan  
"Asian Studies in an Era of Populism and Post-Truth"

1700 - 1730 Q & A/ Discussion (Break)

1730 - 1800 AAGS Meeting

**1800 - 1815 Closing Remarks**

Patrick Strefford, Kyoto Sangyo University, AAGS President.

1815 - onwards post-conference social evening / dinner / drinks in Kyoto.

## Detailed Outlines of Conference Sessions

### Friday March 2nd: Day 1 - Kyoto City

2000 - onwards, informal pre-conference evening / dinner / drinks in downtown Kyoto (venue TBA)

### Saturday March 3: Day 2 - Building 5 of Kyoto Sangyo University

0900 - 1000 Registration / Networking Time

#### **1000 - 1015 Opening remarks**

Patrick Strefford - Kyoto Sangyo University, Japan / AAGS President

Kazuhiko Togo - Kyoto Sangyo University`s World Affairs Institute, Director

Brian Berry - Yokohama National University, Japan / AAGS Vice President,

#### **1015 - 1115 Session 1 - Perspectives on Populism**

**Ling-Yi Huang, Linnaeus University, Sweden.**

***“Populism in a Post-truth World: Anti-immigrant voices on Twitter in Sweden”***

**Bio:** Ling-Yi Huang is a post-doc researcher at the department of media and journalism of Linnaeus University in Kalmar, Sweden. Ling-Yi Huang worked as the Lecturer at department of Literature and Media in Nanfang College of Sun Yat Sen University in Guangzhou in China in 2015-2017. She earned her Ph.D. at National Chengchi University in Taipei, Taiwan. She has been teaching and studying in the area of “new media”. During her teaching in China, she is responsible for the courses “Web Journalism”, “Introduction to New Media”, “New media literacy”, “Feminism and Communication Studies”, Internet communication” and “News Writing and critical thinking”. Now her research interests include: social media analysis and the alternative media and voices in Europe.

**Abstract:** In Sweden, immigration-critical alternative voices have managed to establish themselves as new players in the representation of the truth in a way that challenges the mainstream voices. "Ensamkommande flyktingbarn" or "unaccompanied refugee children" is an important debate. If refugees are below 18 and coming alone they are considered "unaccompanied refugee children". Many claim they are below 18 which is hard to prove against since they have no documentations. In alternative media, this is mocked and it is claimed

these are mostly adult men. This study attempted to ask the following questions: Regarding to the debate, who creates the 'alternative truth' on Twitter? How did they colour the 'alternative truth' on Twitter? The goals of this study are: (1) reveal the anti-immigrant alternative voices on social media in Sweden, (2) understand how the alternative voices build a post-truth reality on social media. Hopefully, this study can contribute to understand the situations of populism in a post-truth world.

**James I. McDougall, Shantou University, China.**

***“Technology-Induced Populism, Deterritorialization, and the Virtual State”***

**Bio:** James I. McDougall is an associate professor of American Studies at Shantou University where he teaches courses in cultural history, digital humanities, and globalization. He has published on literature, cultural nationalism, space and spatial practice, media technology, and the globalization of higher education. His current research focuses on the interdisciplinary intersection of global American Studies and Chinese treaty port history, as well as the relationship between technology and cultural nationalism.

**Abstract:** In what seems to be an infinite sequence of ironies, technology is being used on the one hand to eliminate working-class jobs, thus, creating populist outrage; on the other hand, it is also being used to manipulate and direct this outrage away from the political establishment that benefits from the evisceration of the working class. This study examines the ways that digital social media technology has been used to enhance, create, or mimic populist political behavior by constructing virtual political movements: technology has enabled capacities for reconstructing political landscapes with new depths and intensities, which deterritorialize populist movements. Previous waves of populism in the US are analyzed in this project in order to understand the discursive and linguistic markers of populist engagement that help members cognitively map their movement. Hallmarks of past populist expression and cultural nationalism are then compared and contrasted with populist texts embedded in contemporary media. The same is done for technologies and spaces used to transmit populist messages. For example, the discourse on “Globalist” in the 2016-2017 election will be analyzed to show how emergent populist slogans gain traction through past uses, and how the new deployment these terms appear in different “interactive” spaces, and can be scaled and mobilized. Since nation states are always already virtual and imaginary, the power of techno-populism will continue to be a source of contention creating challenges for freedom of expression and political participation in open democracies, and a powerful force for coercion and control in repressive states.

1115 - 1130 Break



## 1130 - 1230 Session 2- Media and (Mis-) Truths

**Rab Paterson, Toyo University, Japan.**

### ***“Examining the Legitimacy and Illegitimacy of News: A Scottish Case Study”***

**Bio:** Rab is Principal Instructor for Toyo University's Center for Global Education and Exchange, Director of the Asia Association for Global Studies, Fellow of The British Royal Asiatic Society and The Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce, an Apple Distinguished Educator, Apple Certified Teacher, Google Innovator, Google Trainer, Google Certified Educator and Google Educator Group Leader. His publications range from peer-reviewed academic journal papers, conference proceedings, a book chapter in an anthology on globalisation and human rights, and he has presented at many international academic conferences worldwide including TEDx events. He has a BA(Hons.) in Pacific Asian History and an MA in Pacific Asian Studies from London University(SOAS), a Certificate of Educational Technology and Information Literacy and an MS in Multidisciplinary Studies from SUNY(Buffalo), and he's a doctoral candidate at University College London's Institute of Education.

**Abstract:** The popular image of fake news is of misleading or factually wrong stories disseminated online via alternative / independent media websites normally portrayed as being of low credibility and quality. This output is usually contrasted with the so-called real news which is usually seen as accurate and as coming from well-established and therefore credible media outlets. However this is often not the case at all, especially in post-IndyRef Scotland. Therefore this paper provides an analysis and comparison of a range of political news coverage of events as portrayed in alternative and established media in Scotland to illustrate how the popular media model of fake news is itself misleading and skewed, often purposely by the pro-Westminster parties and their supporters in the Scottish media.

**Saad Allah Khan, Manipal University, India**

### ***“Assessing the Relevance of Propaganda as a Tool of Media Induced ‘Psychological Warfare’: An Analytical Overview”***

**Bio:** Dr. Saad Ullah Khan is currently working on the post of Assistant Professor in Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, Manipal University Jaipur. His area of research and specialization is “Culture, Media and Communications”. He has authored various Research Papers in journals of National as well as International repute. He was awarded Rajat Jayanti Vigyan Sancharak Fellowship-2009 by Ministry of Science and Technology for his contribution to the field of Science Communication. A PhD from prestigious Aligarh Muslim University, Dr. Saad Ullah Khan has presented 52 Research Papers in various National and International Conferences.

**Abstract:** Since time immemorial propaganda has been used to control the masses. Even today, virtually almost all governments deploy it to influence, control or even frame public opinion. The most effective use of propaganda has been witnessed in conflicts with media playing forefront role in this regard. The most lethal among all, the psychological warfare, by the nature of its instruments and missions, begins long before the declaration of war. Psychological warfare continues after overt hostilities have stopped. As per norms of propaganda, though exercising one of the finest media strategies, the propagandist avoids identifying itself. The propagandist can be disguised as the voice of home, of God, of the church, of the friendly press etc. Success or failure is often known only months or years after the execution of the entire strategy. Yet success, though incalculable, can be overwhelming; and failure, though undetectable, can be mortal.

In a nutshell, this paper tends to explore the role of media as a tool of psychological propaganda and the way media can control the masses by feeding them a well-crafted narrative carefully spin by the propagandists. It will also zero in on the various techniques involved in creating and executing the propagandist message and how effectively it has been used by the successive governments from previous century till today.

1230 - 1330 Lunch

### **1330 - 1430 Session 3 - New Media and (Mis-) Truths**

**Julian Piggot, Ryukoku University, Japan.**

***“The battle for the Overton window: How the new media are pushing the boundaries of acceptable public discourse”***

**Bio:** Julian Pigott is a lecturer at the Department of Global Studies (Faculty of International Studies), Ryukoku University, Kyoto, Japan. He earned his Ph.D. in Applied Linguistics from the University of Warwick in 2016. His research interests include education, philosophy of education, language policy, motivation and language learning, global studies, and political ideology and culture. He has published works in *Studies in Second Language Learning and Teaching*, the *Japan Journal of Multilingualism and Multiculturalism*, the *OnCue Journal*, and the volume *Resistance to the Known: Counter-conduct in Language Education* (Palgrave Macmillan). He is a member of the British Association of Applied Linguistics.

**Abstract:** The Overton window, named for the political activist Joseph Overton, refers to the range of ideas tolerated in public discourse. In recent years, web-based news and social networking platforms have been acting, through nature or by design, to wrest control of the Overton window from the legacy media. In doing so, they threaten not only the old media, but also other ‘establishment’ political

and economic institutions or ideologies, including that of globalization. In this presentation I suggest that fears of 'fake news' and descent into 'post-truth', while certainly justified at times, act to hide this more serious consequence of the democratization of the media. Discourses at opposite ends of the Overton window seek to challenge foundational aspects of globalization. On one side, for example, there is widespread disillusionment with 'unbridled' capitalism and free trade; on the other side there is opposition to 'unbridled' immigration and multiculturalism. In order to avoid a conventional analysis in terms of the political left and right, in this presentation I adopt the metric proposed by Overton which categorizes discourse in terms of its advocacy for more or less freedom in terms of government intervention.

**Jeremy Breningstall, University of California Berkeley, USA.**

***"Media archeology and the digital afterlife(s) of Sun Weishi"***

**Bio:** Jeremy Breningstall worked as a newspaper reporter before moving to China to spend six years as a university instructor in Handan, Nanjing and Shanghai. He is currently finishing graduate work in Asian Studies at University of California Berkeley where he is studying with Xiao Qiang and Bao Weihong. He holds master's degrees in liberal arts and philosophy from St. John's College and San Francisco State University. He previously presented at the AAGS conference in 2014.

**Abstract:** Zhou Enlai's adopted daughter was killed in 1968 at the height of the Cultural Revolution. In recent years, a series of competing narratives about her life have emerged on the Chinese internet. Whether she is viewed primarily as a patriotic daughter, accomplished artist or the helpless victim of dark political forces might depend on the corner of the internet where you look. This paper will look at the characterization of her story by Chinese 'patriotic' television shows, the memoirs of her peers, research directors and journalists, and the broad mass of netizens. Along the way, I'll be considering what role photography plays in this archeology of knowledge, as aged photos circulate across the internet, in a variety of platforms and presentations. What does the information flow of this story tell us about the nature of history, memory and the archive on the modern internet? How is this story shaped– or not shaped– by China's censorship regime. And what are we to make of history's unknowables?

1430 - 1500 Break

**1500 - 1600 Session 4 - Conceptualizing Post-Truth**

**Joff P.N. Bradley, Teikyo University, Japan.**

***"On deterritorialized truth claims"***

**Bio:** Dr. Joff P.N. Bradley is an associate professor in the faculty of foreign languages at Teikyo University, Tokyo, Japan. Although born and

bred in northern England, he is a resident of Japan and applies his long-standing interest in schizoanalysis, European philosophy, literature and critical thought to the social and political problems affecting his students. He has published articles in China, Japan, Korea, Singapore, Taiwan, Australia, Europe, the UK, North America and the Middle East. He has published two books with Prof David R. Cole on cinema and French philosophy and with Prof Tony See on Deleuze and Buddhism. His new book on transversality is due for publication in 2018.

**Abstract:** In the wake of the 'Degrees of Racism' report on the attitudes of black and minority ethnic students attending the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) in London - (BME Attainment Gap project, 2016) - and the resultant verdict of the Students' Union at the university on the realities and prospects of a 'decolonized education', this paper, with the concept of transversality operating at its core, reflects not only on the possibility of writing new truth claims - contra 'epistemic violence' - but also how one might compose a kind of global philosophy consistent with such a goal. Transversality is thus pitched as a tool to critique non-inclusive epistemological claims. The paper aims to set out principles for what can be termed a transversal geophilosophy of truth. I shall make the case that a transversality of truth cannot be thought of as anything other than outlandish or deterritorialized -- which is to say, free of imagined nation or abode. So from precept to precedent, the very premise of transversality is transformatory, which is to say, that it grasps the matter radically, as it were at the very root of truth itself.

**Richard Forrest, Hijiya University, Japan.**

***"Our Present Predicament: Is the Key Concept "Post-Truth" or "Pre-Truth?"***

**Bio:** Richard Forrest lectures on international communications and social studies at Hijiya University and Hiroshima University of Economics. He earned B.A. and M.A. degrees in Asian Studies (University of Michigan) and a Master's of Public Policy (University of Maryland). Recently, he conducted research on climate change advocacy processes in the United States at the Otto Suhr Institute of Political Science, Freie Universität Berlin (Germany). He has had a decades-long career working for environmental and international development NGOs, and has authored numerous articles on environmental policy, citizens' organizations, and Japan's foreign aid (ODA). Current research interests include citizen participation in decision-making and the communication of scientific knowledge. (More information at Google Scholar: <http://bitly.com/2gb7pLB>)

**Abstract:** Lamentations over a "Post-Truth" era may be fundamentally prejudging trends. This paper argues that a new era -- possible with unprecedented global information access -- appears to be dawning, empowering citizens to better interrogate those claiming to

speak in their name, enhancing transparency and accountability. Rather than the beginning of “Post-Truth,” we may witness the end of a “Pre-Truth” era, when would-be gatekeepers asserted “Truths” to be accepted. It recounts the case of international climate change institutions that dismissed outsiders’ concerns, resulting in a loss in public trust. To navigate these perilous times, the global community needs innovators who can forthrightly address inadequacies in existing systems, engaging the public for an improved appreciation of the value of truth and the norms now necessitated for public policies to be accepted as legitimate. It may also be seen that currents in the United States demonstrate that Americans’ traditional healthy skepticism of governmental authority can -- if guided in constructive directions -- help to realize a deepened and revitalized democratic ethos on a global scale.

1600 - 1615 Break

### **1615 - 1715 Session 5 - Keynote Presentation #1**

**Kazuhiko Togo, Director of Kyoto Sangyo University`s World Affairs Institute, Japan.**

***“What is the ‘World Thinking’ emanating from Japan?”***

**Bio:** Kazuhiko Togo, (Ph.D. 2009, Leiden University) is Professor and Director of the Institute for World Affairs, Kyoto Sangyo University (since 2010). He served in the Japanese Foreign Ministry from 1968. Half of his career was devoted to Russia, and he retired in 2002 as Ambassador to the Netherlands. Since then, he taught at universities around the world, including those in Leiden, Princeton, Santa Barbara, Seoul and Taiwan. His recent publication in English includes Japan's Foreign Policy 1945-2009, (editor) Japan and Reconciliation in Post-war Asia: The Murayama Statement and its Implications; and (co-editor) East Asia's Haunted Present: Historical Memories and the Resurgence of Nationalism; (co-editor) Building Confidence in East Asia: Maritime Conflicts, Interdependence and Asian Identity Thinking  
For other books and articles refer to <http://kazuhiko-togo.com>

**Abstract:** Japan has arguably reached its height of ‘modernization’ at the end of the Cold-War, and since then is navigating through its hard voyage of ‘post-modern world’. Changing social structure, globalization, rise of Chinese civilization, challenge from Islamic world are, among others, issues which it is facing, and ‘truth’ has become less discernible than before. But are we really living in a ‘post-truth’ era? And whether ‘post-truth’ or not, what should be the criterion with which Japan is expected to navigate through this era of uncertainty? There is no doubt about the necessity of seeking answers to these questions by facing contemporary emerging phenomena squarely. But another way might be to go back into the history and tradition of thoughts within the Japanese Islands, and seeking guidance

from there with sufficient transparency and universality, to guide Japan and the World into the future.

1715 - 1745 Q & A/ Discussion (Break)

1745 - 1815 Travel by taxi to conference dinner location

1830 - 2100 Conference Dinner (Venue TBA, downtown Kyoto)

2100 - onwards, post-dinner social evening / drinks in downtown Kyoto.

## **Sunday March 4: Day 3 - Building 5, Kyoto Sangyo University**

0830 - 0930 Visit Kamigamo Jinja, World Heritage Site (near Kyoto Sangyo University campus).

0930-1000 Travel to Conference site

### **1000 - 1015 Opening remarks**

Rab Paterson - Toyo University Center for Global Education,  
Japan / AAGS Director

TingTing An - University of Tokyo, Japan / AAGS Membership  
Secretary and Treasurer

### **1015 - 1115 Session 6 - Political Reverberations of Populism/ Post-Truth**

**Thomas Osborne, University of Bristol, UK.**

***"Post-truth Politics and the Liberalism of Fear"***

**Bio:** Thomas Osborne was educated at the University of Oxford, the London School of Economics and Brunel University, West London. He is currently Professor of Social and Political Theory at the University of Bristol, UK. He is the author of two books broadly in the area of social theory – *Aspects of Enlightenment: social theory and the ethics of truth* (1998) and *The Structure of Modern Cultural Theory* (2008) – and of many research articles in journals such as *History of the Human Sciences*, *Economy and Society*, and *The British Journal of Sociology*. He is a member of the editorial board of the journal *Economy and Society*, in which journal he has recently published on the expansion of populism. He currently holds a Leverhulme Trust Major Research Fellowship for research into aspects of political ethics in contemporary liberal democracies.

**Abstract:** Is the recent growth of post-truth politics related to the growth of populism around the globe? This paper argues that the answer is yes in so far as both phenomena have a common root in the crisis of liberalism. Following Bernard Williams in his book *Truth and Truthfulness* (2002), the paper argues that it is the liberal rather than the democratic dimension of liberal democracies that prioritises truthfulness. The demand for truthful politics is related to the liberal idea of holding political representatives to account; hence truthfulness and trustfulness are related. Populisms – right or left – tend, however, to be hostile to liberal ideas of representation, demanding the 'immediate' expression of popular power. This places less of a premium on truthfulness and more on expressing the 'popular' will in a performative sense. The issue is that for various reasons mainstream liberalism has lost much of its currency. The paper argues instead for a reconceptualization of liberal values around the more minimalist concept of the liberalism of fear.

**S. Jonathon O'Donnell, Aoyama Gakuin University Japan.**

***"Border Li(n)es: Demonology, Hegemony, and Securitization in Post-Truth America"***

**Bio:** S. Jonathon O'Donnell is a Part-Time Instructor at Aoyama Gakuin University and Adjunct Professor of Religion at Lakeland University, Japan. He earned his B.A. from Bath Spa University, and his M.A. and Ph.D. from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. Dr. O'Donnell's teaching and research interests cover demonology and demonization, religion and politics, secularism, colonialism, and critical theory. His works have appeared in journals such as *Patterns of Prejudice* and *Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science* and edited volumes such as *The Hermeneutics of Hell and Gender: Sources, Perspectives, Methodologies*. He is an active member of the International Association for the History of Religions and International Association for the Study of Religion and Gender.

**Abstract:** Although over eighty percent of white evangelicals voted for Donald Trump, religion has often been marginalized in discussions of Trump's rise and reign in favor of analytics based on race, class, or gender. This paper addresses this absence, analyzing discourse around Trump's campaign and presidency by conservative neo-charismatic Christians. Drawing on a cross-section of public materials (books, blog posts, sermons) published during and since the 2016 election campaign, the paper traces intersections between Trump's "America First" emphasis on national sovereignty and security and neo-charismatic concepts of "spiritual warfare," which envision the world as a site of unseen struggle between good and evil, angels and demons, over hegemonic perceptions of reality. It unpacks how Trump's attempts to define the borders of "Real America" by asserting truth-claims over reality and undermining his opponents' reflect and reinforce neo-charismatic spiritual warfare practices, which deploy discourses of (divine) truth and (demonic) lies to delineate spatial boundaries and stake sovereignty claims over the nature of the world. In doing so, this paper elucidates the dynamics of religion and politics in Trump's "post-truth" America.

1115- 1130 break

**1130 - 1230 Session 7 - Other perspectives on Populism/ Post-Truth**

**Patrick Strefford, Kyoto Sangyo University, Japan**

***"Truth and Lies: An IR perspective"***

**Bio:** Patrick Strefford is an Associate Professor of International Relations at Kyoto Sangyo University. He earned his BA at Hull University, his MA at Leeds University and his PhD at Kobe University. Dr. Strefford's teaching and research interests cover the International Relations of East



Asia, focusing on Myanmar's foreign relations, as well as on Development Studies in general, and development in Myanmar in particular. Dr. Strefford has published articles on Japanese ODA diplomacy towards Myanmar, American foreign policy towards Myanmar, and on Myanmar's humanitarian crisis, among others. In 2013, Dr. Strefford was awarded a Japan Society for the Promotion of Sciences grant to support research into ODA for the transition in Myanmar.

**Abstract:** This paper will use an International Relations perspective to look at the issue of lying and truth. To begin with, this paper will provide a theoretical framework for the issue of lying in international relations, meaning how does theory explain the existence of lying, or non-truths between states? This will include a discussion of the range of truths and lies. Following this, the paper will investigate the types of lies that exist in international relations, using concrete examples from the real world.

**Pete Kutschera, Don Honorio Ventura Technological State University, Philippines.**

***“Gauging Proper Fit for Military Filipino Amerasians in Diasporic and Ethnic Studies”***

**Bio:** ‘Pete’ Kutschera is executive director of the Philippine Amerasian Research Center, Angeles City, and visiting professor and research fellow, Don Honorio Ventura Technological State University, Pampanga, Luzon, Philippines. He is an expert on the plight of military Filipino and Pan Amerasian offspring abandoned by the U.S. military in the 20th and 21st Centuries. His scientific findings have appeared in numerous research journals and he has lectured tirelessly at conferences and symposia throughout East Asia and North America. A licensed social worker Dr. Kutschera is director of the Amerasian Research Network in New York. He also serves on the editorial board and is a contributing editor with Social Work Journal in Washington D.C.

**Abstract:** Whilst a plausible case for recognition of military Filipino Amerasians and Pan Amerasian multi-racial and bi-national diasporic enclaves residing throughout East and Southeast Asia is underway, further classification within the academic dialogue is essential. As many as 250,000+ first and second generation Amerasians reside in the Philippines alone, and these progeny abandoned and estranged in the 20th and early 21st Centuries cry out for further categorization and study by responsible researchers. This paper explores the notion that the Amerasian experience resembles other historic diasporic precedents. Among them are the victim diaspora (Jewish, African and Armenian) or the imperial diaspora (British, Dutch, French, German, Portuguese, Spanish empires, etc.). Examined also is a hybrid or blended imperial-military diasporic model such as that originated in the Philippines during the Philippine-American War (1899-1902) ghosts and detritus from which still linger in the archipelago to this day.

1230 - 1330 Lunch

**1330 - 1430 Session 8 - Economic Leverages and Populism/ Post-Truth**

**William Ashbaugh, State University of New York College at Oneonta, USA  
Shintaro Mizushima, Doshisha University.**

***“Global Warming and the Mobile Suit Gundam Anime Franchise in the United States”***

**Bios:** William Ashbaugh is professor of history at the State University of New York, College at Oneonta. He received his M.A. in history from San Diego State University and his Ph.D. in history from Temple University. His current research interests and recent article-length publications include Japanese anime and manga through the Mobile Suit Gundam franchise and U.S.-East Asian relations from 1931-1941. Shintarō Mizushima is a lecturer of U.S. cultural history and gender studies at Ritsumeikan University and Doshisha University. He received his M.A. from Fukuoka University of Education and Ph.D. in American Studies from Doshisha University. His research interests include gender theory, postwar American literature, and anime and manga associated with Mobile Suit Gundam franchise. His recent book on gender studies, *Manga de wakaru dansei-gaku [Men's studies through manga]* (Ōtsu, Japan: Kohrosha, 2016), is a mix of manga and prose for classroom use. Together Dr. Ashbaugh and Dr. Mizushima are in the midst of writing a book-length manuscript on the Gundam phenomena in time for the April 2019 fortieth anniversary of the airing of the first anime series.

**Abstract:** Although primarily stories about the need for nations to keep the peace, the fantastically popular Mobile Suit Gundam franchise—which includes television, film, and home-video anime; novels; comics; model-kits; video games; and even board- and role-playing games—also displays important concerns for the environment, specifically when dealing with the twenty-first century's biggest threat, global warming. The United States is the only nation where climate change is debated and not settled science by all its political actors. In fact, the current administration has appointed global warming deniers into important government positions, including head of the EPA. But in multiple cases since 2001, the creators of Gundam properties that have been published, broadcast, or for sale in the US market have made it a point to show the effects of global warming on humanity's future and thus challenge the deniers. This presentation discusses what happens when artists fight back against wrong-headed politics.

**Hadit Fikri Falah, Universitas Airlangga, Indonesia.**

***“Hoax in Indonesia: Capital Deception and Catalyze of Postruth”***

**Bio:** Hadit Fikri Falah is an undergraduate student International Relations at Universitas Airlangga in Surabaya, Indonesia. He has experience as a lecture-assistant for a year in Strategy and Good Governance study subject. His research interests in Dynamic of Hoax, Post-truth, Monetary and Hoax, Mass Media, Maritime, and Indonesian Culture. He has several achievements in academic and non-academic. In academic, he has attended the environment training in Kumamoto, Japan for 10 days, also he got a scholarship from Djarum Foundation for one year. Now he interns in Airlangga Global Engagement for 6 months as an outbound administrator and international researcher

**Abstract:** The hoax is a phenomenon that we often encounter in this current era, the breadth of aspiration space in the virtual media creates a distortion of information so wide. In addition of the breadth of aspiration space, the post-truth phenomenon is also a factor why hoax news can spread so fast in Indonesia. But if we examined more deep, it can be seen that this phenomenon is a deception done by the elements who want to get the capital and material. To see this phenomenon the author uses the monetary hoax approach by Laura A. Pellegrini, which contains that the movement of hoaxes in the contemporary era is a business activity that can generate so much capital. Post-truth becomes a dilemma in the development of information and can sometimes increase progressiveness and sometimes can be counter-productive for community, especially in Indonesian Society.

1430 - 1445 break

#### **1445- 1545 Session 9- Informal Discussion on Post-truth and Populism**

**Chaired by Saad Allah Khan, Manipal University, India**

1545-1600 break

#### **1600 - 1700 Session 10 - Keynote Presentation #2**

**Sandra Fahy, Sophia University, Japan**

**“Asian Studies in an Era of Populism and Post-Truth”**

**Bio:** Sandra Fahy is Associate Professor of Anthropology at Sophia University in Tokyo Japan. Her research has focused on structural violence and collective social suffering with particular reference to North Korea, and by extension South Korea, Japan and China. She is especially interested in the relationship between language and political violence, globally, but with special attention to East Asia. Her first book was nominated for several awards. Her publications include: *Marching through Suffering: Loss, Survival and North Korea*. New York: Columbia University Press (2015), peer review articles in *Anthropology Today*; *Food, Culture and Society*: an interdisciplinary journal, among others. She has published policy pieces on the Japan-ROK-US alliance, health and

human rights in North Korea, and Internally Displaced People in DPRK, in the Harvard Journal of Health and Human Rights, and Asia Policy. Her second book Human Rights and North Korea is under contract with Columbia University Press.

**Abstract:** The 12th Annual International Conference of the Asia Association for Global Studies has framed the theme of our conference around the question of post-truth and populism in the wake of political decisions in Europe and North America. What makes these shocking political choices in the UK and the United States more shocking still is that they were made by those citizens most badly affected by globalization. Seeking to find improvement for their individual lot, the disenfranchised made decisions that reasserted nationalism and the power of the sovereign through subscribing to populism and post-truth. Populism, sometimes manifesting as xenophobia, has pushed forward a view of two antagonistic camps of 'pure people' against the 'corrupt elite' who disempower and cannot be trusted. In an effort to improve the lot of the poor from the costs of global capitalism, their political choices have made things worse. The era of populism and post-truth is with us, but this is a frame lifted most notably from surprising political events in the UK and the United States, namely Trump and Brexit. What interests me in our contemporary time is the question of what it means to study Asia in an era of populism and post-truth emerging from two architects of the global system. This is not to suggest that populism and post-truth are exclusive to the UK and the United States, but rather to acknowledge that these states have long self-identified as the seat of global truths born through democratic process. This leads me to ask what it means to study contemporary Asian conflict and crises when the UK and the United States contributed to these. While the United States and the UK are letting a thousand flowers of populism and post-truth bloom, what impact does this have upon regions of continued conflict in Asia, and our study of these?

1700 - 1730 Q & A/ Discussion (Break)

1730 - 1800 AAGS Meeting

### **1800 - 1815 Closing Remarks**

Patrick Strefford, Kyoto Sangyo University, AAGS President.

1815 - onwards post-conference social evening / dinner / drinks in Kyoto.