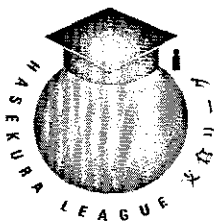


JAPAN



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EDITORS' PREFACE

This volume is a collection of essays based on papers presented at the Hasekura League International Symposium held on 15-16 November 2018 at Ca' Foscari University of Venice. The title of the conference was "Furusato: 'Home' at the Nexus of Politics, History, Art, Society, and Self", and a group of European, Japanese, and North American scholars assembled to consider the theme from a diverse array of academic approaches. Setting out from the multifaceted Japanese concept of '*furusato*' (written variously as 故郷, ふるさと, or 古里 and translatable as home, hometown, or place of origin), participants identified and ruminated upon both its forms in Japan and related ideas in the outside world.

The papers included in the current book are divided into 4 major sections. After an introductory essay by Aldo Tollini that explores the place of *furusato* in Buddhism and Buddhist enlightenment, the first section is concerned with *Furusato* in Image and Imagination. Tijana Žakula presents an account of the transportation of Dutch art theory from Europe to Asia and the processes by which it found a home in Japan (Chapter 1), Ozaki Akihiro's essay focuses on the imagination and understanding of *furusato* as an essential element of disaster recovery (Chapter 2), and Myōki Shinobu offers a look at one community's mobilization of its unique folklore to promote local revitalization (Chapter 3). Section 2 is entitled Being at Home and includes an essay examining poetry and philosophy in the search for a more inclusive form of *furusato* by Marcello Ghilardi (Chapter 4), another considering vastly different genres of writing to find a