



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

EAST ASIAN STUDIES CENTER

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2023 THE INSTITUTE FOR JAPANESE STUDIES PRESENTS:

"ART OF WAITING: ACTS OF CITIZENSHIP AMONG THE ASYLUM SEEKERS IN JAPAN"

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This lecture provides an overview of Japan's asylum policies, and their dire consequences for asylum seekers. In so doing, it highlights the temporary dimension of those asylum seekers with a contingent legal status. Based on my ethnographic fieldwork among the asylum seekers who are "provisionally released" from detention by the Japanese government, I argue that the central struggle of those asylum seekers and their citizen allies is the utter absence of temporal certainty in their lives. The struggle forces them to create a meaningful living in the "here and now," as their lives are indefinitely suspended by the state. These efforts, such as securing housing, employment, and child care, and improving Japanese language proficiency, then, can be understood not only as what Engin Isin calls daily "acts of citizenship" that produce them as legitimate members of the host society, but also as defiant acts of taking control of their own temporality.



Free and open to the public

<https://easc.osu.edu/events/ijs-lecture-taku-suzuki-art-waiting-acts-citizenship-among-asylum-seekers-japan>

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