



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

EAST ASIAN STUDIES CENTER

**2023** THE INSTITUTE FOR  
JAPANESE STUDIES  
PRESENTS:

**"FINESSING ECOLOGY: EXPERIMENTS IN THE  
(N)ATURE OF POST 3.11 JAPAN"**

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Climate change appears to be unstoppable, putting our future under an increasing threat of global ecological collapse. Thus, it is no surprise that in recent years ecology has become a matter of central concern for anthropologists. Despite the flurry of publications on the topic, many with ecology in the title, there has been little reflection among scholars on the nature of the guiding presuppositions behind the term. My talk examines the conceptual and technological possibilities of ecology through an exploration of various ecological projects underway as part of the post 3.11 disaster reconstruction in Northeast Japan. Moving from massive concrete seawalls to efforts to re-establish vibrant coastal communities within a dynamic environment, I question the way in which the state and local residents are mobilizing ecological thought for new coastal futures. Only by reconceptualizing ecology, I argue, will we be able to establish a viable future framework for ecological governance.



**Free and open to the public**

<https://easc.osu.edu/events/ijs-lecture-michael-fisch-finessing-ecology-experiments-nature-post-3.11-japan>

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7  
SEPTEMBER

Thursday  
4:00-5:30pm  
Journalism Building 251