

lunch seminar

Research Institute
at Maison franco-japonaise
UMIFRE 19 CNRS-MAEE

Wed. April 24th, 2013

12:30 - 14:00 | room 601 | in English (no translation)



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GNH instead of GNP: Is happiness measureable?

Speaker Florian COULMAS (German Institute for Japanese Studies [DIJ])

Discussant Hélène LE BAIL (UMIFRE 19, MFJ)

Ever since the defeat in World War II, nothing seemed more important in Japan than how the GNP developed. However, after two so-called lost decades doubts have arisen as to whether GNP figures should be the only benchmark of social progress. Orientation is being sought elsewhere. Happiness is much en vogue. Why is it that in the complex population-economy-environment-culture system that forms our life governments of many advanced and some developing countries have lately taken an interest in happiness? What do they mean by 'happiness' and how do they measure it? This seminar offers some answers to these questions, with regard to Japan and more generally. It traces the beginnings of the happiness boom, looks at new indices to measure happiness, and tries to make sense of the observation that high rankings on important objective parameters such as life expectancy, wealth, and education do not necessarily add up to a high degree of happiness.



Florian COULMAS is director of the German Institute for Japanese Studies, Tokyo.

He is directing two research programmes, one, "The demographic challenge," dealing with social, economic, and political consequences of ageing and population decline; and the other an interdisciplinary approach to subjective well-being and quality

of life in Japan entitled, "Happiness in Japan." His most recent books are *Imploding Populations in Japan and Germany* (with Ralph Lützel), Leiden (2011) and *Fukushima. Vom Erdbeben zur atomaren Katastrophe* (with Judith Stalpers), Munich (2011).

More information :
http://www.dijtokyo.org/about_us/director



Hélène LE BAIL is a research fellow at the French research center on Japan, MFJ, Tokyo, where she conducts research on new Chinese migrants and expatriates. She holds a doctorate in political science from the Paris Institute of Political Studies and a master degree in Chinese studies.

She is the author of:

– *Migrants chinois hautement qualifiés. Le cas du Japon*, Paris, Indes savantes, 2012;

– "Integration of Chinese Students into Japan's Society and Labour Market", in Vogt and Roberts (ed.), *Migration and Integration*, Stiftung, 2011.

What is the Lunch Seminar at MFJ?

This typical event has been organized at the Maison franco-japonaise (Nichi-Futsu Kaikan) since 2004. It offers a presentation followed by a discussion dedicated to a specific issue of the time and it aims at bringing a better understanding of Japanese economy and society.

This is a brown bag lunch seminar (please bring your bento or sandwiches). Coffee available.

How to attend the Lunch Seminar?

The participation to the Lunch Seminar is free but registration is strictly required.

Please apply by e-mail to contact@mfj.gr.jp or by fax (03-5421-7652) specifying your name, company or institution, position, address, phone and e-mail.

For more information, see: http://www.mfj.gr.jp/web/lunch_seminar/lunch_seminar.html.

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Information

from Monday to Friday from 9:30 to 18:00

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