



Demonstration in Shimjuku, Tokyo, June 11, 2011. © Julia Leser / radiactivists.org

Activism in Contemporary Japan

New Ideas, Players and Arenas?

International Conference, Zurich, November 5–6, 2015

The absence of large-scale confrontative public demonstrations and citizen protest has led to the impression of an “invisible” civil society in Japan, but Japan’s voluntary sector is multifaceted and dynamic, and NPOs saw a boom in the late 1990s. At the same time, small niches of subcultural activism developed, enriching Japan’s protest culture with new tactics. The triple disaster of 3/11 came as a turning point in terms of activism, as new citizen groups formed and large-scale anti-nuclear demonstrations emerged. Moreover, in reaction to recent controversial legislation, e.g. the planned ‘reinterpretation’ of Article 9, new movements like the SEALDS student groups have been emerging. In this light, renewed attention must be paid to the scope and relevance of civic engagement in

contemporary Japan. This conference brings together scholars with Japanese activists to critically discuss the latest developments, theoretical aspects and emerging issues.

Location

University of Zurich, Institute of Asian and Oriental Studies
Room RAA G-15, Rämistrasse 59, CH-8001 Zurich

Registration

Please register by October 31: julia.obinger@aoi.uzh.ch

Further Information

www.asienundeuropa.uzh.ch/events/conferences/activism.html

