



SPECIAL LECTURE

Myth as a Pedagogy of Dwelling

Blumenberg, Gadamer, and the Ecological Imagination of Contemporary Anime

July 23, 2026 (Thu) | 13:30–15:00

Sophia University, Kioizaka Building Room 111

In English | In Person Only | No Registration Required

Presenter: Leonardo Marques Kussler

Discussant: Ken Matsumoto

This lecture examines the contemporary significance of myth under the ecological conditions of the Anthropocene through a dialogue between Hans Blumenberg's philosophy of myth and Hans-Georg Gadamer's philosophical hermeneutics. While Blumenberg interprets myth as an anthropological response to the 'absolutism of reality,' Gadamer's concepts of play, symbol, and festival illuminate the participatory structures through which symbolic forms remain historically effective. From this perspective, myth is not a primitive explanation of natural phenomena but a hermeneutic practice through which experiences of vulnerability and uncertainty are transformed into shared horizons of meaning and dwelling. The lecture applies this framework to Hayao Miyazaki's works, including *Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind* and *Princess Mononoke*, interpreting them as forms of ecological mythopoiesis. Drawing on contemporary theorists, it argues that such narratives function as pedagogies of dwelling that cultivate relational and ecological modes of inhabitation in the face of climate crisis.

Leonardo Marques Kussler is a Brazilian researcher currently working as a visiting researcher at Takachiho University in Tokyo. He is a professional translator from Greek, English, and other languages, and an assistant editor for the *Filosofia Unisinos* journal, and is affiliated with the University of Vale do Rio dos Sinos, a Jesuit university in Brazil. He is a member of the Gadamer Society of Japan, and his main research areas lie within hermeneutics and ethics, intersecting with education, the philosophy of design, and Japanese philosophy, with a particular focus on Kitaro Nishida. His current research project investigates forms of cosmic inhabiting in the Anthropocene, with a specific focus on climate issues and education for climate resilience.

