

The third session of Talking with Fulbrighters Series took place online, after four years' absence due to COVID19. Mr. Joseph Henares, Ph.D. Candidate at Princeton University, currently affiliated with Kyoto University, shared his ongoing research work under the title, "Iwanami Personalists: The Personality [*jinkaku*] Discourse of Nishida Kitarō and Abe Jirō." Active discussion followed among the participants beyond the scheduled time.

Abstract:

Scholars of Japanese thought typically do not read Nishida Kitarō, the philosopher and founder of the Kyoto School of Japanese philosophy, together with Abe Jirō, author of the classic work of autofiction *Santarō no nikki*. However, both men were important figures within the intellectual networks linked to the eminent publishing house Iwanami Shoten. Both men also possessed a distinct inclination towards engagement with contemporary trends in Western philosophy, largely because of the liberal arts-based education they received during their undergraduate studies at Tokyo Imperial University. In this talk, I undertake a close study of the ways in which Nishida and Abe dealt with the concept of "personality" (*jinkaku* 人格) in their writings. This concept, which was linked to discourses of "personalism" in Europe and the Americas, was pivotal to the thought of both men, and it offers a window into the various ways in which prominent Japanese thinkers engaged with Western discourse on the nature of the human person.