

Foreword

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We live in a world where all changes have been accelerating, as has our way of thinking. During the 21st century, Japan and France, two political, economic, and cultural powers with long traditions, must face a relativization of their status in the international community. Our values must be reexamined with regard to two perspectives: the estimation of the world about us and the legitimacy of our visions of the world. It has become vital for all of us to question what the values are that we should (or can) conserve and what are those that will (or should) change, all the more because we can no longer isolate ourselves entirely because of the circulation of goods and information in today's world. Neither research nor pedagogy in the humanities can avoid this reexamination; even more, if the humanities deeply and directly affect our vision of world, happiness, well-being, history, and even future, the updating of the humanities is crucial for preparing our younger generation to face the changes and diversity of the world.

The international and interdisciplinary collaborations in humanities between Tohoku University and Grenoble Alpes University (today called TOGA: Tohoku-Grenoble Alpes), established owing to the initiative of Estelle Doudet, aims to confront multi-dimensional themes about our cultures, societies, and lives. This is also the case of the theme "The Values of the Other," which implies both the evaluation that we make of the Other and the vision(s) of a world conceived by the Other. Being at the confluence of Japanese and French institutions, our meetings point to exchanging our ways of thinking and researching to explore today's models of research and pedagogy.

The present volume has resulted from the symposium "The Values of the Other," organized on March 7th and 8th, 2019, at Grenoble Alpes University, and contains nine contributions from diverse disciplines. Far from being limited to a monolithic object or method of research, these contributions cover multiple cultural and social phenomena such as arts, immigration, cultural transfer, and even soft-power politics in the modern era. The colorful diversity of papers gives us precious insights that could permit us to see not only how diversely we can face the Other, but also how these reflections about the Other lead us to know more about *us*.

To end this foreword, I would like to express my profound gratitude to our colleagues and laboratories of Tohoku University and Grenoble Alpes University. Mainly, I could never overstate the crucial role played by the International Graduate Program of Japanese Studies (GPJS) of Tohoku University. The support and encouragement of the GPJS has always been indispensable to the realization of our meetings, not only in its material aspects but also in its conceptual and institutional framework. In fact, the intellectual dynamism of the GPJS has always inspired me to go further in our collaborations, and I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Ozaki Akihiro and Ōno Kōji, director and vice-director of the GPJS, respectively. In addition, I will never forget all the efforts of my friends from Grenoble, Corinne Denoyelle (LITT&ARTS), and Daniel Rojas (ILCEA4), who played a crucial role in organizing the symposium. This volume would not have been here without their support and advice. Finally, I also thank Thierry Ménissier, Murayama Tatsuya, Francisco Calvo del Olmo, Wu Hao, Monire Akbarpouran, Nora Juurmaa, Pierre-Martial Abossolo, Higashi Tomoko, and Estelle Doudet who contributed greatly to enriching our discussions by their presence at the symposium.