

Motohashi, Ted, Tokyo University of Economics, Japan

Provincializing Non-Europe: The Re-Articulation and Non-Institutionalization of Cultural Studies under Neo-liberalism in Japan

In the words of Jaques Derrida, “Deconstruction is an institutional practice for which the concept of institution remains a problem” (from Yuji Nishiyama’s film “The Right to Philosophy”), and re-examination of the historical process of institutionalization of Cultural Studies under different socio-economic climates will be vital against the urgent crisis of Humanities education in general under Neo-liberalism. This paper analyzes the trans-nationalization of Cultural Studies in the light of its ‘re-articulation’ within the particular academic and economic context in Japan. It will argue that the introduction of Cultural Studies into Japanese milieu under the neo-liberalistic politico-economic climate has encouraged a group of individuals to form a non-institutionalized network of cross-cultural and trans-boundary exchange and community-buildings. Furthermore, this specific process of re-articulation of Cultural Studies in Japan indicates what Japanese Studies, or Area Studies in general, might learn from this always already contextualized formation of Cultural Studies. This paper will further ask questions as to how Cultural Studies in their locally re-articulated forms would contribute to the project of ‘provincialization’ of Anglo-American Cultural Studies by maintaining a constant reshaping of theoretical approaches and cultural traditions of both marginalized and centralized formations of Cultural Studies.