

Paul Dumouchel & Reiko Gotoh

On February 20-21, 2013, the International Symposium *Places of Sociality---Resilience & Plasticity after Catastrophe---* was held in the Soshikan Conference Room, of Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto. It was organized by the Research Center for Ars Vivendi, the Graduate School of Core Ethics and Frontier Sciences, and Tsunagaru Kyoto Project, and co-organized by Institute of Language and Culture, Study Group on Regional Studies, Study Group on Places of Sociality, and Tsunagaru Sakyo. This was actually the 9th International Conference of the Faculty of Core Ethics and Frontier Sciences. The goal of the conference was to confront the experiences of practitioners responsible for the creation of *places of sociality* and academics who reflect upon such places and the socio-economic situations that fosters or hinders their development. The symposium began with three key note speakers: a founder, an architect, a sociologist; followed by a political philosopher as well as young practitioners and students. During the second day, four Japanese researchers, a foreign researcher from Aberdeen University, Scotland intervened. It was a really exciting symposium, which suggests us that in a society like ours, where abstract anonymous relations or technologically mediated exchanges play an ever more important role, *places of sociality* provide occasions for concrete embodied relations that escape the narrow functionality of interactions either in the workplace or in commercial contexts.