

Dance Dramaturgies of Aging in East Asian and Euro-American Contexts

with Japanese dance dramaturg and scholar **Nanako Nakajima** and discussant Dr. Pirkko Markula (Faculty of Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation)

Friday December 1st, 3pm - 5pm
Fine Arts Building, Room 2-20



“Dance is an art form that is particularly concerned with age. That is, to discuss aging in Euro-American dance culture is a provocation. In most Euro-American theatrical dance forms, a performer is considered “old” at thirty-five and generally “finished” after the early forties. Except in rare cases, dancing into one’s sixties is unheard of in the field.

In this lecture, I aim to clarify that intercultural dance dramaturgies of aging negotiate age cultures differently from the Euro-American. As age cultures that coexist in East Asian and Euro-American contexts are explored for artistic purposes, barriers to meaningful collaborative exchange must be addressed, starting with critical examination of past appropriations and contradictions.

In addition, I introduce some of my recent performance-research projects such as “Noh to Trio A,” “Beyond Kata (Form),” and a project in Beijing, which illuminates aging performers who transmit traditional dance knowledge and engage the missing past of Euro-American youth dance culture. This lecture will be a part of chapters in my upcoming book, *Dance Dramaturgies of Aging: A Journey of Negotiating Identity Across Generations, Dance Cultures, and Embodied Histories in between Continents.*”



Media and Technology Studies



Prince Takamado Japan Centre for Teaching and Research

