

**1. Animal Cognition by Professor Thomas Icard**  
**Wednesday, 3rd (13:10-14:40) AND 4th (14:55-16:25)**

The study of non-human thought and cognition raises distinctive methodological and philosophical challenges, often putting pressure on orthodox views in cognitive science. What are animal minds like, and how do they compare to our own? What exactly can we learn about these questions from controlled experiments? Does failure at a task imply absence of an ability or trait? What other methods do we have for understanding animal cognition? How might what we learn about other animals shed light on our own mental processes?

This course will address these and other many issues through a combination of readings, discussions, and visits with researchers who conduct such research. Topically, we will focus attention on learning and memory, causal thought and reasoning, planning, language and communication, social cognition, metacognition, consciousness, and moral psychology.

Prof. Thomas Icard is Professor of Philosophy and (by courtesy) of Computer Science at Stanford University. He earned his Ph.D. in Symbolic Systems from Stanford University and Master of Science degree in Mathematical Logic from the University of Amsterdam.

**2. Queer Culture and Life in Japan**  
**by Professor Yuka Kanno**  
**Thursday, 3rd (13:10-14:40) & 4th (14:55-16:25)**

“Queer,” writes Eve Sedgwick, “refers to the open mesh of possibilities, gaps, overlaps, dissonances and resonances, lapses and excesses of meaning when the constituent elements of anyone’s gender, of anyone’s sexuality aren’t made (or can’t be made) to signify monolithically.” Or according to David Halperin, queer “describes a horizon of possibility whose precise extent and heterogeneous scope cannot in principle be delimited in advance.”

Yet, queer is not a term meant only to fantasize a utopian “somewhere.” It has been used to question and challenge homophobia, sexism and racism, under which run the ideas of “heteronormativity.” Thus, by paying particular attention to the politically critical potential of “queer,” this course explores queer lives and cultural practices in Japan through film, literature, theater, art, and personal testimonies. We will look at queer culture as a “lived experience” and queer life as a “cultural experience” at the same time. What does it mean to

be queer in Japan? How does the term “queer” signify differently from a US context? What is the critical potential of “queer” and under what conditions can it become potential? And what is the possible danger or risk of mobilizing the term/concept of queer? We will tackle these questions by closely analyzing a wide range of texts and events. This class is designed for students interested in cultural studies, feminism, queer studies, gender and sexuality studies, LGBT activism and community in Japan.

Prof. Kanno gained her Ph.D. in Visual Studies with an emphasis in Feminist Studies from the Department of Women’s Studies, University of California, Irvine. She is Professor in the Graduate School of Global Studies at Doshisha University and a founding member of Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (FGSS) Research Center, Doshisha University. Her research interests include queer theory and criticism, gender and sexuality studies, visual culture, feminist film studies and Japanese cinema. Her current projects focus on queer film festivals and transnational queer girls’ cinema and culture. The author of numerous publications on queer and film theory, Prof. Kanno has also organized several queer themed-film screenings in Japan. She has taught in the Stanford Program in Kyoto since 2017.