

Symposium | Trauma : [Symposium 64] The long-term effects of the Asia-Pacific War and its transmission across generations in individuals, collectives and societies

📅 Sat. Sep 27, 2025 10:40 AM - 12:10 PM JST | Sat. Sep 27, 2025 1:40 AM - 3:10 AM UTC 🏢 Session Room 5  
(Conference Room A)

## **[Symposium 64] The long-term effects of the Asia-Pacific War and its transmission across generations in individuals, collectives and societies**

Moderator: Koh Eugen (University of Melbourne), Tadashi Takeshima (Taisho University)

### **[SY-64-01] The transmission of Second World War Trauma across generations**

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Even though 80 years and three generations have passed since the end of the Second World War, the long-term effects of that war remain. In individuals, the psychological effects of the trauma of one generation affect the development of their children and grandchildren – we call this phenomenon transgenerational trauma. In groups and society, the impacts are embedded in their social, collective or shared consciousness - which is their culture – causing cultural trauma. *Cultural trauma can be defined as the distortion or destruction to a culture resulting from widely shared experiences that cannot or have not been processed.* These changes affect the behaviour of individuals and large groups, including social institutions and processes, and government policies and operations. The impact of cultural trauma on a country can continue for generations if it remains unexamined and unaddressed. This presentation highlights the potential long-term impacts of the war through cultural trauma and discusses a unique project to address them in Japan, through a series of interdisciplinary symposia involving over a thousand participants over 7 years, and the subsequent formation of the Japanese Society for Interdisciplinary Studies on the Long-Term Effects of War (J-SISLEW).