

The “Challenges in Disaster Education Workshop” was held at IRIDeS (2026/3/16-17)

Topics: Disaster Education, Disaster Preparedness, Disaster Memory, Disaster Definitions, International Collaboration, Great East Japan Earthquake.

Venue: IRIDeS, Arahama District, Sendai City

On March 16, 2026, TU Dortmund Prof. Lothar Wigger, Kyoto University Assoc. Prof. Yuzo Hirose, and IRIDeS faculty Assoc. Prof. Elizabeth Maly (International Research Collaboration Office), Assistant Prof. Ryo Saito (Cognitive Sciences Lab) and Research Assistant Yumiko Saito (Uehiro Disaster Risk Reduction Research Division) presented on recent issues in disaster education in Japan and Germany in a workshop organized by Assoc. Prof. Julia Gerster (Disaster Memory Studies Lab). The workshop continued with a field visit to the disaster heritage site Arahama Elementary School guided by the former principal Kawamura, a guided tour by Yumiko Saito to the former residential area and disaster memorial, a visit to the Sendai 3.11 Memoria Community Center and a research meeting among the participants.

Presentations:

Catastrophe and Pedagogy. Some remarks from a German Perspective (Prof. Lothar Wigger, TU Dortmund)

Can we trust nature, the world? Bosai education from a philosophical perspective (Assoc. Prof. Yuzo Hirose, Kyoto University)

The Disaster Picture Book Project (Assoc. Prof. Elizabeth Maly, IRIDeS)

Crossing boundaries in disaster education: time, space, and research disciplines (Assistant Prof. Ryo Saito, IRIDeS/Graduate School of Information Sciences)

Introduction to the Arahama District of Sendai City (Research Associate Yumiko Saito, IRIDeS)

Moderation and Organization: Julia Gerster (Assoc. Prof. IRIDeS)

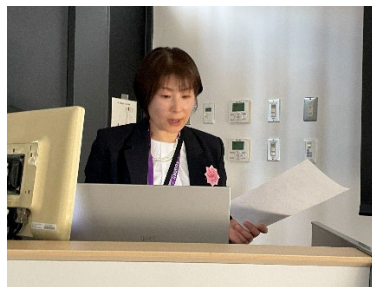
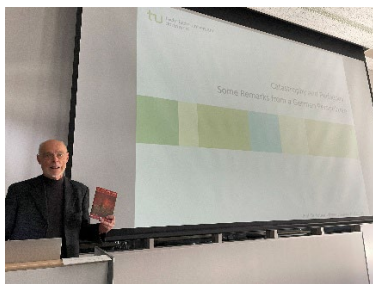
Text: Julia Gerster (Disaster Memory Studies Lab, International Research Collaboration Office)

Elizabeth Maly (International Research Collaboration Office)

Ryo Saito (Cognitive Sciences Lab/ Graduate School of Information Sciences)

Yumiko Saito (Uehiro Disaster Risk Reduction Research Division)

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Day 1. The presenters (from left to right):
 Lothar Wigger, Yuzo Hirose, Elizabeth Maly, Ryo Saito, and Yumiko Saito.
 Day 2. Field visit to the Arahama Area of Sendai City.

