

Ways of not forgetting: Japanese citizen scientists' artistic responses to the 2011 Fukushima disaster

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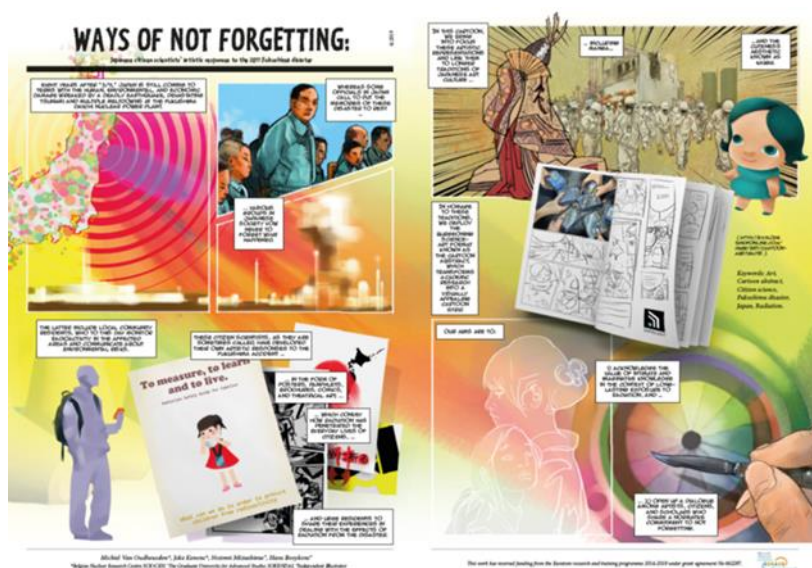
Panel: The art and culture of the radiological

RICOMET Conference – Barcelona – 3 July 2019



3 things

1. Citizenship.
2. Art.
3. Science.



3/11: Citizen scientists and ways of 'not forgetting'

SPECIAL EDITION EDITORIAL

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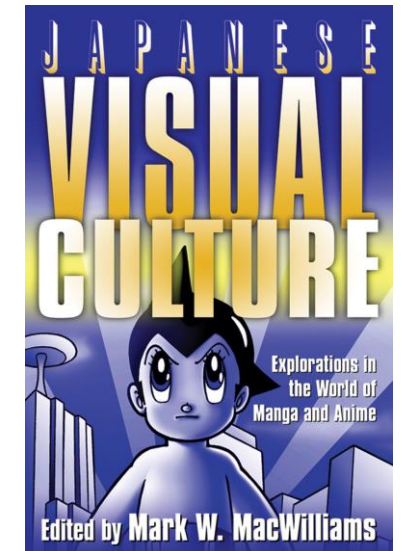
Cute studies: An emerging field

WHAT IS 'CUTE'?

Cuteness is a phenomenon widely experienced yet little understood. It is first of all a physical, affective response – a feeling we may refer to as the 'Aww' factor – to the set of visual and behavioural attributes outlined below. When this response is manipulated for artistic or commercial purposes, it becomes an aesthetic category. This aesthetic first appeared in European and North American popular culture in the nineteenth-century, but had an earlier expression in Edo-era Japan (1603–1869), when kawaii images often appeared in paintings and prints (Museum of Fuchu City 2013). Kawaii flourished in the 1970s and dominated Japanese popular culture by the 1980s (Kinsella 1996: 220), when it began to spread around East Asia beginning with Taiwan (Chuang 2005: 21).

KEYWORDS

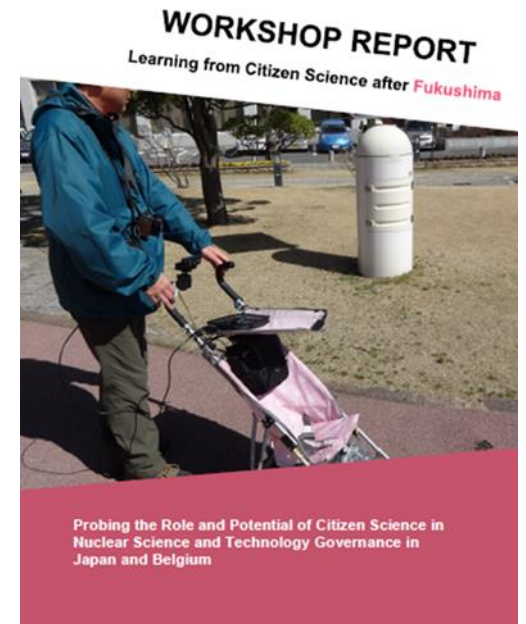
cute
cute studies
cuteness
cuteness studies
kawaii
cute aesthetics



Our role as SSH researchers: document and facilitate...

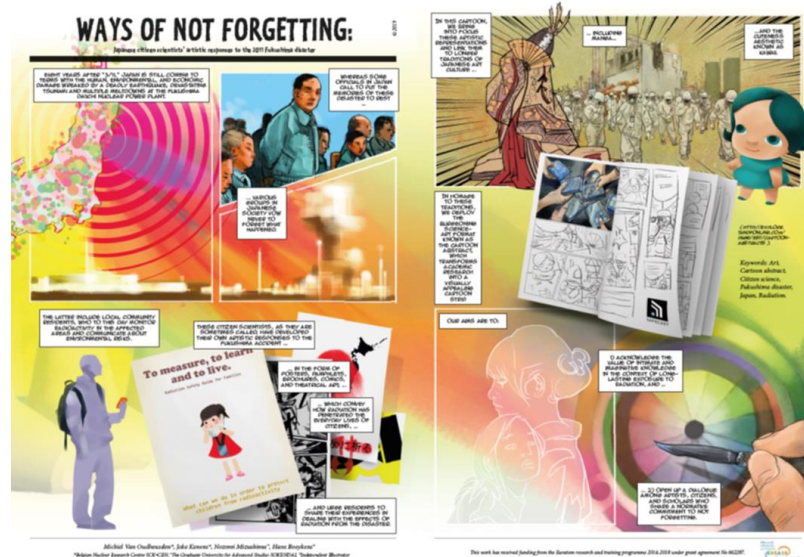
- CS challenges and potentially complements formal institutional approaches to RP and nuclear safety governance.
 - How?
 - When?
 - To what effects?
- Open up a **dialogue** among citizens, scholars, and artists... ultimately, with the aim of integrating societal and ethical considerations into RP work (and S&T innovation more broadly).

PERKO, Tanja, VAN OUDHEUSDEN, Michiel, TURCANU, Catrinel, et al. Towards a strategic research agenda for social sciences and humanities in radiological protection. Journal of Radiological Protection, 2019.



...as well as question 'what is' and offer alternatives.

Citizen science will not just go away. Even its staunchest opponents will have to engage with motivations, processes and results that do not fit their way of knowing and that they find uncomfortable or disconcerting. But that is how knowledge can grow, and science and society can progress. It is also what generates public trust in the event of a crisis and in the long run.



Academics can change the world—if they stop talking only to their peers

- *Research and creative thinking can change the world. This means that academics have enormous power. But **the overwhelming majority are not shaping today's public debates.***
- *Instead, their work is largely sitting in academic journals that are read almost exclusively by their peers. ...an average journal article is “read completely by no more than ten people.”*

- *The Conversation*, 21 March 2016; <http://theconversation.com/uk>

Academics can change the world—if they
stop talking ~~only to their peers~~

... and do a better job of observing and listening.

Nurture *‘technologies of humility’*:

‘Researchers and policy-makers need ways for accommodating the partiality of scientific knowledge and for acting under the inevitable uncertainty it holds.’

- Sheila Jasanoff, Nature 450, p.33 (1 November 2007)

WAYS OF NOT FORGETTING:

Japanese citizen scientists' artistic responses to the 2011 Fukushima disaster

EIGHT YEARS AFTER "3/11", JAPAN IS STILL COMING TO TERMS WITH THE HUMAN, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND ECONOMIC DAMAGE WREAKED BY A DEADLY EARTHQUAKE, DEVASTATING TSUNAMI AND MULTIPLE MELTDOWNS AT THE FUKUSHIMA DAIICHI NUCLEAR POWER PLANT.



...VARIOUS GROUPS IN JAPANESE SOCIETY VOW NEVER TO FORGET WHAT HAPPENED.

WHEREAS SOME OFFICIALS IN JAPAN CALL TO PUT THE MEMORIES OF THESE DISASTERS TO REST ...



THE LATTER INCLUDE LOCAL COMMUNITY RESIDENTS, WHO TO THIS DAY MONITOR RADIOACTIVITY IN THE AFFECTED AREAS AND COMMUNICATE ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS.

THESE CITIZEN SCIENTISTS, AS THEY ARE SOMETIMES CALLED, HAVE DEVELOPED THEIR OWN ARTISTIC RESPONSES TO THE FUKUSHIMA ACCIDENT ...

To measure, to learn and to live.
Radiation Safety Guide for families



What can we do in order to protect children from radioactivity

IN THE FORM OF POSTERS, PAMPHLETS, BROCHURES, COMIC AND THEATRICAL ART ... WHICH HOW RADIATION PERSEES EVERYDAY LIFE ...

...AND LIVE & SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES DEALING WITH THE RADIATION FROM ...

IN THIS CARTOON, WE GO INTO FOCUS THESE ARTISTIC REPRESENTATIONS AND LINK THEM TO LONGER TRADITIONS OF JAPANESE ART CULTURE ...



IN HONOUR TO THESE TRADITIONS WE DEVELOP THE BUREAUCRATIC ART FORMAT KNOWN AS THE CARTOON ABSTRACT, WHICH TRANSFORMS ACADEMIC RESEARCH INTO A VISUALLY APPELLING CARTOON STORY.

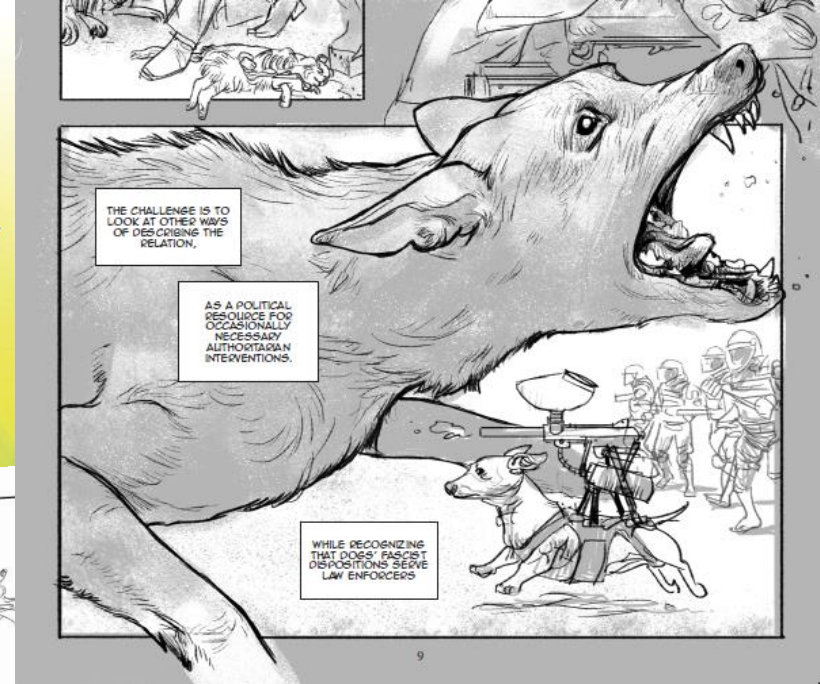
... INCLUDING MANGA ...

... AND THE CUTTING-EDGE ARTISTIC KNOWLEDGE KNOWN AS KANBA.

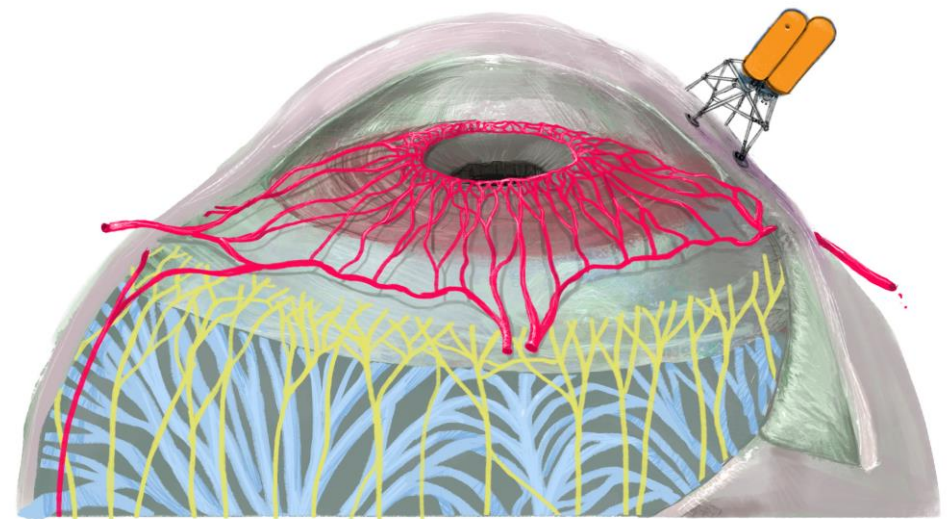
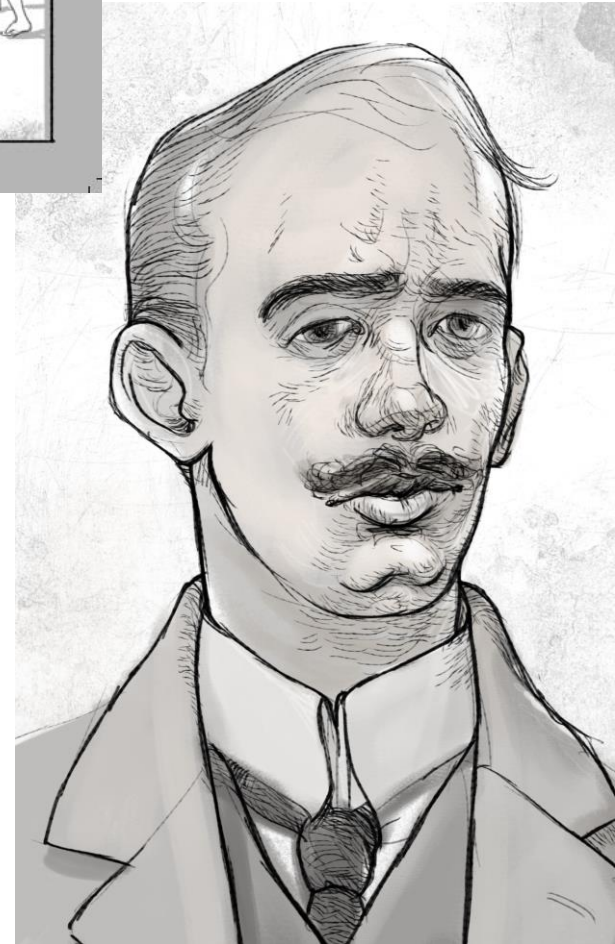
(<http://expose.danpouline.com/radiationcartoon-abstracts/>)

Keywords: Art, Cartoon abstract, Citizen science, Fukushima disaster, Japan, Radiation.

OUR AIMS ARE TO:



Inspired by: Taylor & Francis



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In conclusion: Show, tell, show and tell?

- Good academic writing: 'Show and tell'
 - Spell it out, state information explicitly (also when it is patently obvious, and by using plenty of jargon)
 - *We conclude that the public engagement experiment successfully redefined audience participation for reasons x, y, z.*
- Good creative writing: 'Show, don't tell'
 - Subtext, implied messages, 'reading between the lines'
 - *Participants yawned or sighed audibly. A young man looked out the window. Learning there was only a dead brick wall to see, he reached for his iphone.*
- Show more, tell less?
 - Engaging with reason, emotion, ethos, rhetoric, and all the senses