

PDM Seminar Series 2024 (2) (3)

PDM Ph.D. of Disaster Management Program, Graduate School of Societal Safety Sciences

Conference of Dr. Wolfgang Herbert

2nd PDM Seminar 2024, Kansai University Graduate School of Societal Safety Sciences

2024 December 17 10:40-12:10 Takatsuki Muse Campus M905

The ubiquity of cults and cultic movements

Aum Shinrikyô was (is!) a paradigmatic textbook example for an extremist religious cult and will serve as a backdrop for my descriptions of cultic movements. These do not necessarily have to be religious. Nowadays they come in the disguise of self-improvement, psychotherapy, lifestyle-counseling, coaching for more happiness, fitness and beauty seminars or even investment scams. It is important to understand the structure, characteristics, practices, interactional processes and thought-reform programs regarding cultic phenomena. Although realistically no one is immune to cults, one can inoculate oneself by becoming able to identify the most important warning signs.

3rd PDM Seminar 2024, Kansai University Graduate School of Societal Safety Sciences

2024 December 18 13:00-14:30 Takatsuki Muse Campus M706

The transformation of the Japanese criminal underworld

*Beginning with the heyday of the old-school 'boryokudan' in the post-world war II period up to their commercial prosperity during the "bubble economy" (late 1980s) I want to outline the development of Japanese organized crime from small local gangs to hegemonic, large-scale semi-official enterprises. The enactment of the "Anti-boryokudan-law" in 1992 was a watershed and led to harsh repression instead of laissez-faire and a fatal decline of the criminal institutions. In their stead however, new loosely knit, (inter)network-based groups (*hangure* or *tokuryû*) dominate crime and wire transfer frauds in the cyberspace and even replace the Boryokudan in the nightlife districts as a brutal protection force. It is a generational and structural change of tectonic dimensions.



Wolfgang Herbert, born in the Alps of Western Austria, studied philosophy, comparative religious studies, (criminal) sociology and Japanese studies at the University of Vienna 1979-1993 (PhD), lives permanently in Japan (Kansai & Shikoku) since 1992;

Professor for Comparative Cultural Studies at the University of Tokushima since 2013, Visiting Professor i.a. in Vienna, Berlin and Cambridge. Research and publications (mostly in German) about: organized crime, labour migration, transmission of Zen-

Buddhism to the West, history of martial arts (holds 6th Dan in Karate-dô). <https://tokushima-u.academia.edu/WolfgangHerbert>

高槻ミュージックキャンパス M905 関西大学社会安全研究科 PDM 2024 年度 PDM セミナー

ウルフガング ヘルベルト 徳島大学大学院総合科学研究部 教授 比較宗教学 カルト・武道・犯罪研究
カルト宗教や犯罪から身を守るには。歴史的考察。豊富な国際経験から外国語で異文化を研究する秘訣等についても言及。

第2回セミナー 2024.12.17 10:40-12:10 高槻ミュージックキャンパス M905 カルト宗教の偏在性

第3回セミナー 2024.12.18 13:00-14:30 高槻ミュージックキャンパス M706 反社会勢力の変遷

*第1回は12月14日に実施。入場無料。学外者要申し込み（前日まで）：メール kamei@kansai-u.ac.jp