

'Places of Sociality – Resilience and Plasticity After Catastrophe,' the recently held symposium superbly organized by the Research Center for Ars Vivendi, the Graduate School of Core Ethics and Frontier Sciences and Tsunagaru Kyoto Project, offered a sustained engagement with the problem of sociality under conditions of crisis, and the more urgent task of its re-making. Bringing together community activists, practitioners and scholars, the two-day event enabled a lively exchange on multiple pathways to re- conceptualizing the 'social' beyond its conventional locations in the state, market and family, and outlined diverse approaches to re-imagining and re-building the social at alternative sites in Japan. A rich set of papers addressed the work of grass-roots community building by volunteers, social workers and 'ordinary' citizens, in the context of heterodox conceptual work that sought to outline the conditions of possibility - and the limits - of recuperating the social in 21st century Japan. It was, by far, one of the most energizing events I have had the good fortune to be part of in Japan.