



Scuola Italiana di Studi  
sull'Asia Orientale  
ISEAS



École Française  
d'Extrême-Orient  
EFEO

CO-HOSTED BY



ecaf  
european consortium  
for asian field study

# KYOTO LECTURES

Wednesday, May 21th, 18:00h

Diego Pellecchia

SPEAKER

## Beyond the Black and White Amateurs and Professionals in the World of Noh Theatre

Amateur practitioners have constituted the economic and social foundation of the Noh theatre establishment since the Meiji restoration, when teaching to private students became the principal source of income of most Noh professionals. However, while the number of Noh amateurs witnessed an increase during the post-war leisure boom period, partially due to the attempt to popularise Noh among the middle-class, in recent times the amateur population has suffered severe decline. Simultaneously, the average age of the audience has increased considerably, impacting on the economic conditions and on the artistic welfare of professionals. Today, Noh amateurs are artistically marginalised by a hierarchical social environment that foregrounds performers belonging to families where the art is transmitted from father to son: amateurs are expected to fulfill the duty to support their teachers financially and socially, in a one-way relationship that excludes outsiders from contributing to the aesthetic development of the art. Drawing from historical research and extensive fieldwork, this talk examines the complex, mutually dependent relationship between amateurs and professionals, sketching trajectories of solution that reconsider the role of amateurs in the world of Noh.

**Diego Pellecchia** holds a PhD in Drama & Theatre from Royal Holloway, University of London. Since 2007 he practices Noh with Udaka Michishige (Kongō school): in June 2013 he has taken the shite (main role) in the full performance of the Noh Kiyotsune at the Kongō Noh Theatre in Kyoto. Pellecchia has published widely on Noh theatre and on its reception outside Japan. In 2013 he received the International Federation for Theatre Research (FIRT/IFTR) New Scholars Prize. His research focuses on the relationship between professionals and amateur practitioners in the world of Noh, and has been sponsored by Japan Foundation in 2013-2014. Pellecchia is visiting lecturer at Konan University, and associate researcher at Italian School of East Asian Studies and at the Art Research Centre, Ritsumeikan University.

**This lecture will be held at the Institute for Research in Humanities (IRH), Kyoto University (seminar room 1, 1st floor).**

**École Française d'Extrême-Orient (EFEO)**

29 Betto-cho Kitashirakawa, Sakyo-ku, Kyoto, 606-8276 Japan

**Italian School of East Asian Studies (ISEAS)**

4th Floor, 4 Yoshida Ushinomiya-cho, Sakyo-ku, Kyoto, 606-8302 Japan

EFEO | T: 075-701-0882 F: 075-701-0883 E: efco.kyoto@gmail.com

ISEAS | T: 075-751-8132 F: 075-751-8221 E: iseas@iseas-kyoto.org

