

The Winner of the 2018 (26th) International Cosmos Prize

Dr. Augustin Berque

Director of studies at the EHESS

(École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales)

Dr. Berque has made his own research and suggestions regarding The Harmonious Coexistence between Nature and Mankind, on the basis of the concept “the Earth as our fūdo (風土 milieu).”

Dr. Berque’s environmental anthropology seeks to reconsider the relationship between nature and people, and provides us with an important philosophical insight that helps determine a better direction for human survival in the future.

Dr. Augustin Berque

- Date of Birth: September 6, 1942
(Born in Rabat, Morocco)
- Nationality: French
- Current Position:
Director of studies at the EHESS
(École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales)



Education:

Studies geography, Chinese and Japanese at Paris University (1959-1963), at the School of oriental languages, Paris (1960-1963, 1965-1967) and at Oxford University, Wadham College (1963-1964)

Doctor in geography (PhD, 1969, Paris University)

State doctor in letters (professoral dissertation, 1977, Paris IV University)

Major Honors:

1995 Prize of the Japanese society for cultural design, for his works in the theory of landscape

1997 Yamagata Bantô Prize for his works in Japanese studies

2006 Cultural prize of the Japanese society of architects, for his works on human settlements in Japan

2009 Fukuoka Asian Culture Grand Prize

2011 Japan Foundation Award for Japanese studies

2012 NIHU Prize in Japanese studies

2015 Order of the Rising Sun, gold rays with neck ribbon

2017 Kyoto Earth Hall of Fame inductee



Dec. 1970 (When he was teaching French at Hokkaido University)
He was preparing his doctoral thesis themed on the history of development in Hokkaido.



June 24, 2011 (Lecture at Rikkyo University)
We can see the words “S/P” (subject/predicate) and “Uexküll” on the blackboard.

July 7, 2011 (Following in the footsteps of Tokuryu Yamauchi; at Shin-Hirayu Onsen in Oku-Hida Hot Spring Village)

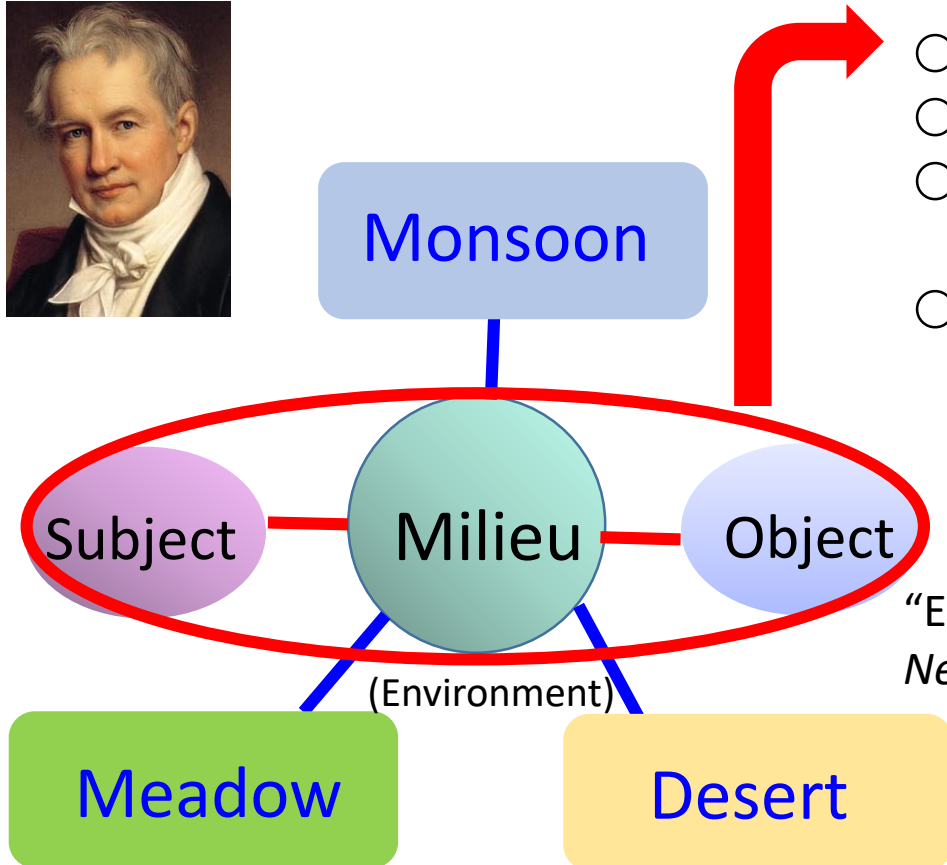


Achievements of Dr. Berque

1. Establishment of “mésologie”
2. Proposed a theory about the subjecthood of nature, which holds that nature has subjectivity, while critically overcoming anthropocentrism in the nature-culture dualism and environmental ethics.

1. Establishment of Mesology by Dr. Berque

- *Fudoron* (= Mesology) by Tetsuro Watsuji: Focused on the relationship between milieu and culture → Influenced Berque. [Discussions on placeness](#).
- Environmental determinism? → [Criticism against globalization](#) that ignored milieu
- Understanding of the world based on Western science → [World-building based on ideas and senses](#) is essential.
- Nature is something both internal (culture) and external. [Polycentrism](#)

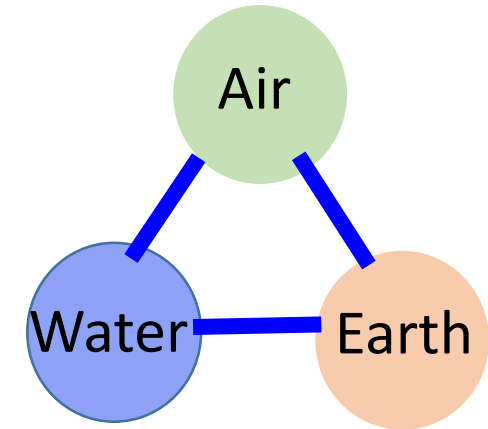


- Sensual and symbolic representation of the milieu = Paysage
- Trajection of mutual interaction between human and milieu
- Human beings cannot live on “earth” (= nature) without “air” (= culture) → Ecumene (Humboldt)
- “Hot”: 1) Atmosphere or 2) Sense?

[Air-earth \(= milieu\) /air-water/water-earth](#)

Cf. “Land ethics”

“Environment” appears in
New Book of Tang, published in 1060



Example of words including the *kanji* character “air” when expressed in Japanese:

- Appearance, panache, ethos, presence, visual aspect, looks, packing
- Manners, customs, features, national character, Japanese style, god of wind

2. Theory on the subjecthood of nature: General deterioration of the contemporary environment = Modern subjects denied the médiance and generated “starkness” (literally translated as “killing paysage” in Japanese)
– Words by the late Tang Dynasty poet, Li Shangyin

Perspective,
humanism

Art

Milieu

Scientism,
reductionism

Science

- Science of milieu and paysage that goes beyond the modern dualism of physical things (nature) and phenomenal things (culture)
- Unique environmental anthropology based on an Oriental view of nature that is different from the environmental science and ethics based on the conventional Western view of nature
- Criticized the “logic of the North” in environmental conservation
- Philosophical theory determining that nature also has subjecthood

Morals

Environmental ethicism,
environmental imperialism

Reinstatement of the Trinity

交錯する世界 自然と文化の脱構築

フィリップ・デスコラとの対話

秋道智彌 編

フィリップ・デスコラ 寄稿



京都大学学術出版会

Akimichi ed. 2018
Kyoto University Press

Dr. Descola received the
International Cosmos
Prize in 2014.

A. Descola, P.

		Physicality	
		Resemblance	Difference
Interiority	Resemblance	Totemism	Animism
	Difference	Naturalism	Analogism

Ontology that studied the relationship between human and nature from the perspectives of physicality/interiority and their resemblance/difference

B. Berque, A.

		Physicality
		Resemblance/ Difference
Interiority	Resemblance	Subjectivity Subject: Human

C. Uexküll, J. von

		Physicality
		Resemblance/ Difference
Interiority	Difference	Umwelt Subject: Organism

Three paradigms on ontology (Akimichi 2016; 2018)

Dr. Berque's commitment to reconstruction after the Great East Japan Earthquake

Dr. Berque has often come to Japan to visit affected areas and participate in many symposiums. In addition, he has provided valuable advice for reconstruction plans in affected areas with the keyword of “starkness” (literally translated as “killing paysage” in Japanese)



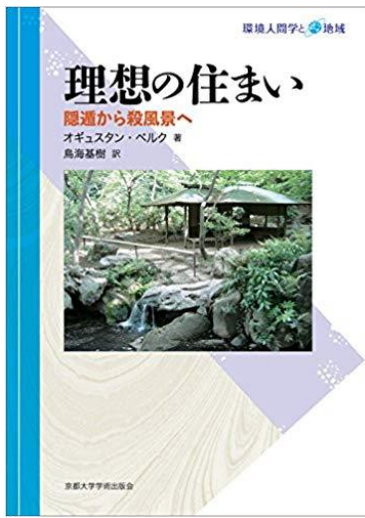
Dr. Berque offering a prayer at Namiwake Shrine to console the souls of the victims.

March 11, 2012

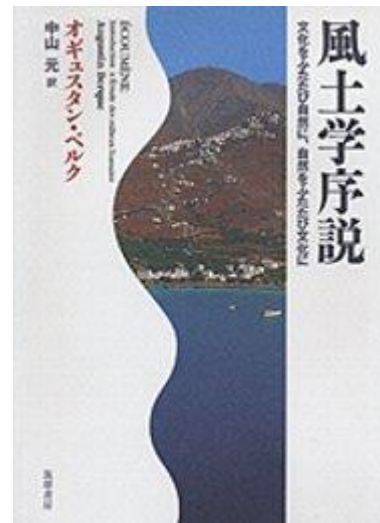


Memorial service in front of the site of Otsuchi Town Hall, Iwate Prefecture. The then-Mayor Kato lost his life at this place due to the tsunami after the earthquake.

March 11, 2013



Kyoto University Press:
2018



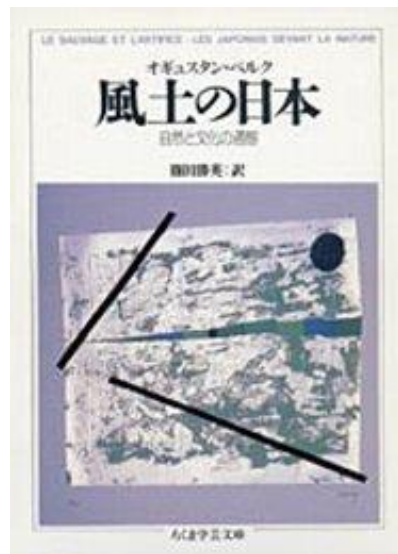
Chikumashobo
2002



Chikumashobo
1996



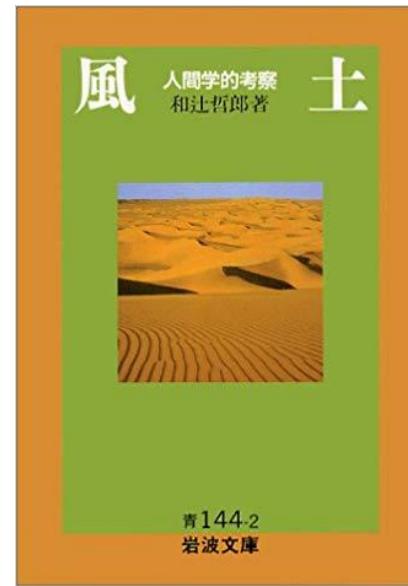
Chikumashobo
1994



Chikumashobo
1992



KODANSHA
1990



Tetsuro Watsuji; Iwanami Shoten
1979



Nobuo Kioka; Gentosha
2018