

明治大学外国人研究者招聘制度 報告書

<招聘教授・研究員の情報 / Guest Professor・Guest Scholar>

氏 名	ベンディク・マヌム Bendik Manum
Name	
所属機関(派遣元)	NTNU (Norwegian Univeristy of Science and Technology)
Affiliation (Home Organization)	
現在の職名	Professor
Position	
招聘期間(日本への入国日から出国日)	2026/3/4-2026/5/5
Invitation Period (from the date of entry to departure)	
専攻	Architecture
Field of Research	
ホスト教員氏名と所属学部研究科等	KAWASHIMA, Norihisa, Associate Professor, School of Science and Technology, Meiji University
Name of host teacher and affiliation at Meiji University	

<外国人研究者からの報告 / Foreign Researcher Report>

①研究課題 / Research Theme
Thinking of Nature in the Athroposcene; Environmental Philosophy from the Approach of Architecture
②研究概要 / Outline of Research
The sabbatical arrangement. A sabbatical for NTNU-scholars typically means one year without regular teaching duties, providing the opportunity for a one-year research-stay at a university or a research institution abroad. Due to demand for teaching at NTNU, I instead of such one-year continuous sabbatical, have a four year period with reduced teaching in combination with a shorter research stay abroad every year. After two springs with inspiring stays studying philosophy at Nanzan Institute of Religion and Culture in Nagoya, I for 2026 aim at a closer link to architecture, and for this I would highly appreciate a research stay at Meiji University. The research contents. Status and plan for spring 2026. The overall title of my sabbatical research 2024-2027 is “Large scale artefacts and life in nature; a critical view on contemporary ideals and practices of architecture, planning and construction.” During my sabbatical research so far, I have studied the environmental philosopher Arne Naess and linked this to thinking of nature as “the world of living things” as elaborated by the Japanese scholar Kinji Imanishi. The working title for my stay spring 2025 was “Satoyama: inspiration from Japan for thinking about buildings and nature in the Anthropocene”. An extract from this is presented in an essay now accepted and soon to be published. Next year’s work will be a continuation of this along two tracks. One track is to look more into the works of the “Kyoto School”, reading more of Kitaro Nishida, which is a basis for the works of Imanishi, and to study the elaboration by Tetsuro Watsuji thinking of place and architecture by the concept of betweenness. The other track, is so-called “object oriented ontology” as presented by Timothy Morton and Graham Harman, a field of contemporary philosophy that is highly relevant for thinking of nature in the Anthropocene. Besides this reading, I will look more into current development in the field in Japan, which include seeing architecture and meeting people for discussing both environmental philosophy linked to architecture and the design practice of Japanese architects linked to this philosophy. A tentative title framing this, could be “The role of architecture as betweenness in the Anthropocene, linking Tetsuro Watsuji to object oriented ontology”.

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③招聘期間中の研究活動の実績 / The research results as Guest Professor・Guest Scholar

“The role of nature in architecture”

My stay in Japan spring 2026 as guest professor at Meiji University was the third out of a series of four research stays in Japan as sabbatical leaves from my professor position at NTNU. Besides to complete a paper on Arne Næss and Kinji Imanishi and reading and writing on a proceeding paper, I during the stay gave a speech at Nanzan Institute of Religion and Culture in Nagoya and a guest-lecture at Meiji University. For seeing and experiencing architecture and nature in Japan, the stay included travels from seeing the North-West coast up to Akita and Aomori in North to visiting Kitakyushu in South, trout fishing and attending traditional festival in Hida-Furukawa, and planting rice in Chiba. The stay as guest professor at Meiji provided an inspiring and useful basis for further collaboration between NTNU and architects and scholars in Japan.

Some elements of the stay in more detail:

・Guest lecture at Meiji University, Surugadai Campus, 28th of April 2026
Title: Thinking of Nature, Learning from Arne Næss and Kinji Imanishi
(contact person at Meiji: Prof. Michel van Ackere)

・Talk at workshop at Nanzan Institute of Religion and Culture (NIRC), Nagoya, 17. April:
Title: Thinking of architecture by the concept of betweenness as elaborated by Tetsuro Watsuji; an approach for seeing the potential of architecture in times of environmental crisis
(contact person at NIRC: Prof. Enrico Fongaro)

・Visit to Akita International University, Akita.
(contact person: Assistant Professor Kyle Shuttleworth)

・Visit to Nippon Foundation, Tokyo. 8th of April, with architect professor Nori Kawashima.

・Visit to Kamanuma-kita, Kamogawa, Chiba.

Kamanuma-kita is a village where architects from Tokyo together with innovative persons in the village bring students and others to the village for maintaining and developing “Satoyama” which is the traditional Japanese culture of rice-based farming in combination with managing and taking care of nature also besides the farmland.

・Visit to Teshima.

Teshima is an island in 《the Inland Sea》 where art and architecture are means for attracting tourists in order to provide activity in an area challenged by decreasing population and business. Besides visiting the astonishing Teshima Art Museum and other attractions, we had the pleasure of staying at the new hotel / residence Hotel Shu designed by Tsubame Architects.

<https://hotel-shu.com/>

・Completing the scholarly article that I started during my research stay in Japan in 2024 and that now, summer 2026 is being published.

Title: Thinking of nature; linking environmental philosophy of Arne Næss with Kinji Imanishi and “the world of living things”

Published in Nordisk Arkitekturforskning / NAF/NAAR Proceedings Publication: The Death and Life of Great Nordic Landscapes - Transformative Action Needed.

The article is now (July 2026) available digitally. The journal containing a slightly revised version will be published during fall 2026.

<https://arkitekturforskning.net/na/issue/publishing> (s. 95-125)

