

# WIDEN YOUR PERSPECTIVES WITH PHILOSOPHICAL DIALOG

A symposium for the practice & application of Philosophical Dialog

March 17th–18th, 2019  
University of Toyama, Gofuku Campus

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## WHAT IS "PHILOSOPHICAL DIALOG"?

Philosophical Dialog is a way of thinking more deeply via questioning, speaking, listening, thinking, and re-questioning. The aim of this process is to nurture your capacity to view life from different perspectives. It has received a lot of attention as an educational technique that fosters personal and mutual understanding while developing creativity and cooperative problem solving skills in this globalized world. It has been adopted in many schools and in various fields throughout society.

## LECTURES AND WORKSHOPS

Various lectures and workshops about Philosophical Dialog will be presented by three invited guests, all of whom have practiced and researched this technique in fields such as foreign language education, medicine, and social work. Poster sessions will also take place.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION



[pd2019@las.u-toyama.ac.jp](mailto:pd2019@las.u-toyama.ac.jp)  
[www.las.u-toyama.ac.jp/event/pd2019](http://www.las.u-toyama.ac.jp/event/pd2019)



## NAKAOKA NARIFUMI

Formerly a professor at Osaka University, he is now the Representative Director of *Philosophical Counseling Onco*. He has practiced Philosophical Dialog in fields such as education, medicine, and nursing. His books (in Japanese) include *Trial and Maturity: Philosophy of Self-modification* and *Habermas: Communicative Action*.



## DENIS PIERET

A trainer and coordinator at *PhiloCité*, an association working to spread philosophy in public spaces. He is also a Lecturer in philosophical practice at the University of Liege. He has published widely in the field, including *Les frontières de la mondialisation: Gestion des flux migratoires en régime neoliberal*, a book on political philosophy.



## NATHALIE FRIEDEN

Formerly a professor at the University of Fibourg, she has taught the didactics of philosophy in Nepal, Mozambique, and the USA. Currently a member of the UNESCO Chair on the practice of philosophy with children. Also co-organizes UNESCO's New Philosophical Practices, an annual public meeting that promotes philosophy.



This event has been organized by the *University of Toyama Institute of Liberal Arts & Sciences*  
Co-organized by the *Organization for International Education and Exchange*  
Co-sponsored by the *Gender Equality Promotion Office* and *Wallonie-Bruxelles International (Belgium)*  
Under the auspices of the Toyama Prefectural and Municipal Boards of Education



## SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM

### Sunday, March 17th

10:00 ~ 10:20 Opening ceremony

10:20 ~ 12:10 Plenary talks 1 & 2

1. Denis Pieret: *Looking back—Ten years of experimentation of philosophy in society. Influences, goals, and outcomes*
2. Nakaoka Narifumi: *Possibilities of Philosophical Dialog—In medical settings and societal co-creation*

12:10 ~ 13:20 Lunch & poster presentations

13:20 ~ 14:10 Plenary talk 3

3. Nathalie Frieden: *How Philosophical Dialog changed the way of teaching—An example: The didactics of language teaching*

14:20 ~ 15:00 General discussion

15:10 ~ 16:30 Workshop: Practice of Philosophical Dialog 1

Facilitators: Denis Pieret, Nathalie Frieden, Nakaoka Narifumi, and Matsumura Kohei

16:45 ~ 17:20 General discussion

17:20 ~ 17:30 Closing remarks

Ichida Fukiko (Advisor to the president, Chair of the Gender Equality Promotion Office, University of Toyama)

### Monday, March 18th

10:00 ~ 11:30 Workshop: Practice of Philosophical Dialog 2

Facilitators: Denis Pieret, Nathalie Frieden, Nakaoka Narifumi, and Matsumura Kohei

11:30 ~ 12:00 General discussion

## WHAT CAN BE DONE WITH PHILOSOPHICAL DIALOG?

### Education

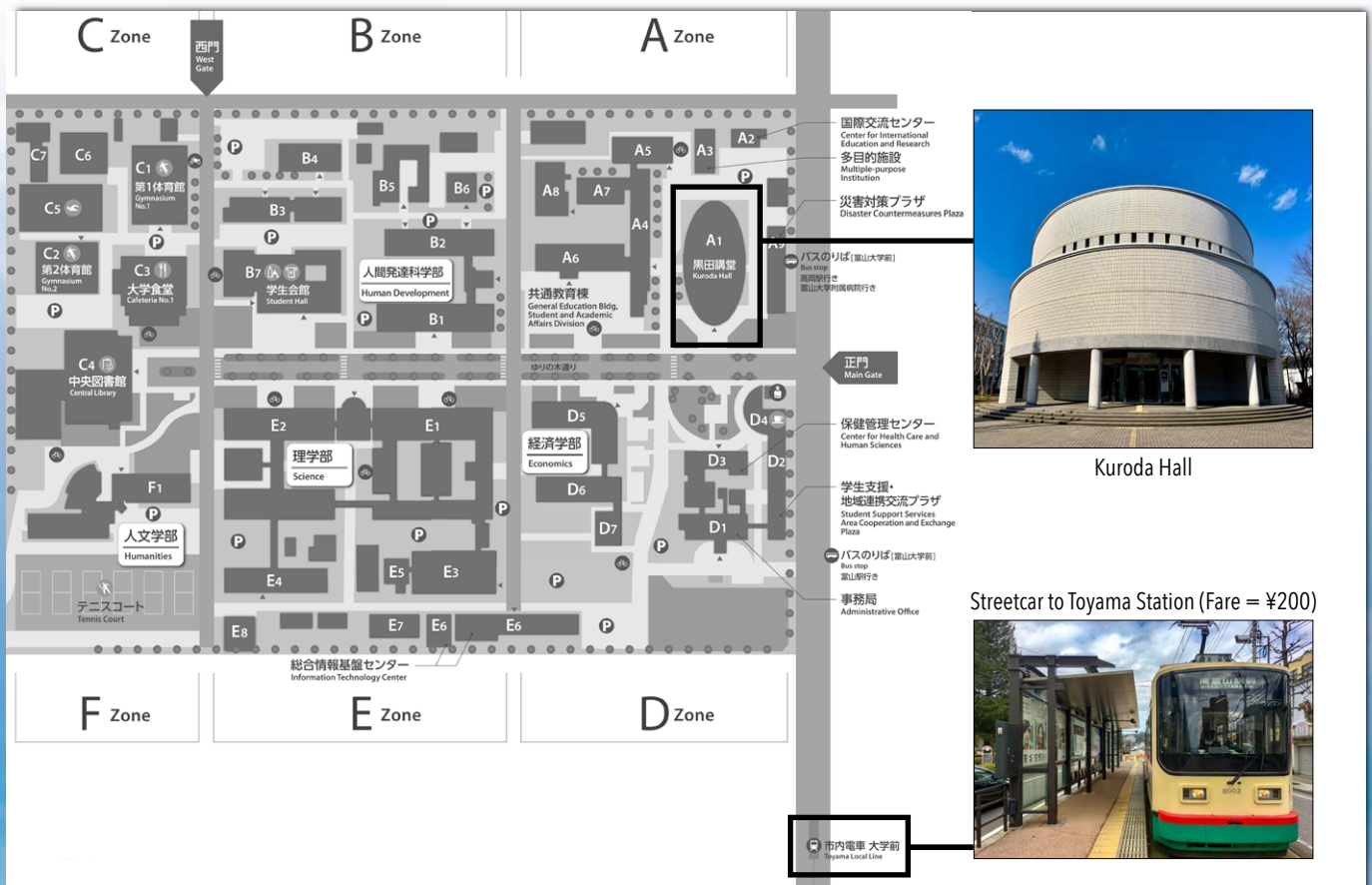
The French documentary "Just a Beginning" (*Ce n'est qu'un début*, 2010) demonstrates how children and their parents can learn and grow through Philosophical Dialog in a kindergarten setting. In fact, this technique is useful in all levels of education and beyond as a means of life-long learning because it nurtures the ability to reason and widens perspectives.

### Medical care and welfare

When suffering from illness or other reasons, it is common to rethink the meaning of life in order to make sense of the pain and find a way through it. Philosophical Dialogue creates opportunities for patients, their families, and healthcare professionals to reflect upon, discuss, and approach suffering with new perspectives. As a result, it can have been adopted as an effective tool for medical care and welfare.

### Business and society

During busy work-filled lives, there are few opportunities to objectively think about the meaning of work and the roles it plays in life, both on personal and societal levels. However, when the significance of work can be grasped within a broader perspective, it becomes easier to approach work-life more productively. As a result, Philosophical Dialogue is being adopted in many business settings as an effective tool for employee training.



Kuroda Hall

Streetcar to Toyama Station (Fare = ¥200)

