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## **Unique or Universal? Japan and its Contribution to World Civilization**

An International Conference  
to Commemorate 100 Years of Japanese Studies at the University of Warsaw

### **ABSTRACTS**

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#### **How to measure "unique" or "universal"? A comparative approach to the Japanese studies**

Is Japan contributing to World civilization? To which extent and in what beneficial or negative ways?

So as to examine the issue, the paper addresses three aspects taking up the cases of cross-cultural transfers in comparative perspective. At first, let us examine the case of Western linear perspective in the field of technological transfer in the Far-East. The second touches upon a legal issue in international diplomatic negotiations. The third deals with inter-religious understanding. While the first took place in the second half of the 18th Century, the second happened at the end of the 19th century. The last one being a topic from the middle of the 20th century. These three examples mutually elucidate, I hope, the world-wide geopolitical circumstances as well as historical vicissitudes in which Japan's contribution to the World civilization can be measured. The positive as well as negative side of the issues thus surfaced in comparative approach will help us critically make an assessment of the Japanese studies in international dimensions.

