

Professor Susan Sellers 講演会

(日本英文学会関東支部・日本ヴァージニア・ウルフ協会共催)

日時：2018年10月27日(土) 10:30～11:30

場所：早稲田大学戸山キャンパス36号館681教室

VIRGINIA WOOLF AND THE ESSAY

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While Virginia Woolf is most often remembered for her radically innovative fiction, she was also a pioneering - and prolific - essayist. This lecture will focus on Woolf's essays as important literary works in their own right, rather than as supporting documents for reading her fiction or compiling her biography. It will explore Woolf's influences as an essayist and aim to give a flavour of some of the many subjects she wrote on, including art, opera, literature, the first essay in the English-language on cinema, illness, shopping, houses, flying, a solar eclipse, and the British Empire Exhibition of 1924. It will argue that as with her fiction Woolf's essay-writing evolved and altered over time, partly in relation to her changing historical circumstances, from Edwardian England in 1904 when her first essay was published to her 1940 'Thoughts on Peace in an Air Raid'. It will examine the highly fruitful cross-fertilisation that took place between Woolf's fiction and non-fiction throughout her career, for example assessing how her much-quoted 'A Room of One's Own' benefitted from the discoveries she made in the course of writing *Mrs Dalloway*. It will speculate that while Woolf was occasionally hampered by even her own very fluid conception of the novel as a form, she felt no such constriction in her essays. The lecture will conclude with a consideration of one of Woolf's most neglected and arguably important non-fiction works – her anti-war polemic *Three Guineas*.

Professor Susan Sellers teaches English Literature and Creative Writing at the University of St Andrews in Scotland. She has published widely in the general areas of twentieth-century women's writing, literary theory and creative practice, and has translated the work of the French feminist philosopher Hélène Cixous into English. She is a general editor of the Cambridge University Press edition of Virginia Woolf's writing, volume editor of Woolf's novel *The Waves*, and editor of *The Cambridge Companion to Virginia Woolf*. She is also author of the novel *Vanessa and Virginia* about the intense sibling bond between Woolf and her sister, which has been translated into sixteen languages including Japanese.