**RIDCH 6th Seminar**

**Topic:** Race, colonial history and national identity: *Resident Evil 5* as a Japanese game

**Speaker:** Dr. Paul Martin  
Paul Martin is an assistant professor at the University of Nottingham Ningbo China's School of International Communications. His current research focuses on computer games, and technology in the classroom.

**Language:** English  
**Date:** 26 October 2015 (Monday)  
**Time:** 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.  
**Venue:** E0313, 3/F, Jubilee College, The Open University of Hong Kong

**Abstract:** *Resident Evil 5* (Capcom, 2009) is a zombie videogame featuring a white American protagonist and set in Africa. While the game contains only one Japanese character (and her Japaneseness is communicated in a very ambiguous way), for the transnational markets of North America, Japan and Europe, it was produced by Konami, a Japanese game company. This presentation argues that approaching this as a Japanese game reveals aspects of Japanese racial and colonial discourse that are missed if this context of production is ignored. In terms of race, the game presents hybrid racial subjectivities that can be related to Japanese perspectives of blackness and whiteness where these terms are two poles of difference and identity through which an essentialised Japanese identity is constructed in what Kōichi Iwabuchi (2002) calls 'strategic hybridism.' In terms of colonialism, the game echoes structures of Japanese colonialism through which Japanese colonialism can be obliquely memorialised and a ‘normal’ Japanese global subjectivity can be performed. The presentation addresses the question of how the particular structures of identification between player and character that obtain in videogames are related to questions of representation and the definition of audiences in media scholarship.

All are welcome.

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**Registration:** Please click [here](#) for registration.

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