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Victimhood's Meaning and Materiality: Ruins as Memorial Sites in East Asia

The Hiroshima Peace Memorial, or Atomic Dome, has become a world-renowned memorial site at the center of the atomic bombed city, but its meaning and materiality are in constant flux. This paper addresses how the Atomic Dome is currently being contested and negotiated as a site of memorialization in competition with War Memorial Museums in China and Korea, where official narratives of national memories of war and victimhood are created and circulated. I argue that the contestation and negotiation over ruins and museums as memorials can be analyzed in terms of their engagement with a Discourse of Victimization that circulates globally in sometimes unpredictable ways.

Paul Schalow teaches Japanese literature at Rutgers University. His publications include a translation of *The Great Mirror of Male Love* by Ihara Saikaku (Stanford UP, 1990); a co-edited volume of essays, *The Woman's Hand: Gender and Theory in Japanese Women's Writing* (Stanford UP, 1996); and a study titled *A Poetics of Courtly Male Friendship in Heian Japan* (University of Hawaii Press, 2007). He has been teaching a course on Japanese A-Bomb Literature since 2000. His current research projects focus on male self-narrative, memory, and narratives of trauma.