



Aida [ajidə] (Japanese)

Japanese philosopher Watsuji Tetsuro (1889–1960) interpreted human beings as determined not by the solipsistic structure of the modern cogito but by a “betweenness” that he called *aidagara*. For Watsuji the human being is always “in between,” and to be human means to have a “relational existence” (the Japanese word for ‘human being’ [ningen] is written with the same character that is used for ma or aida). Watsuji’s concept of *fūdo* (cultural climate) as an “in-between” of civilization and nature (Watsuji 1935) is closely linked to aida. The Japanese psychologist Kimura Bin puts forward the notion of aida as an alternative to current Western subjectivist approaches in psychology. With the concept of aida Kimura attempts to define the human being as an “in-between” whose foundation is not represented by subjectivity but flows out of definite spatial conditions.

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Literature:

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