

What does the ethnic costume represent?

A talk by Haji Oh | YCAR Visiting Scholar with Discussant Ted Goossen (Humanities)

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Clothes are inseparably related to our daily life. In particular, an ethnic costume is a strong statement of individual circumstance. It is unique and has a cultural background. It is also symbolic because it stands for ethnicity, gender and religion and emphasizes social belonging. Thus, ethnic costumes have two features - one as a private 'second skin' and the other as a 'symbol' of social belonging.

Haji has created art works using ethnic costumes as a motif based on her experiences as a *Zainichi* person, a Korean born and raised in Japan.

She would like to suggest how art can express the social situation of *Zainichi* by talking about her work and the social and historical background of her community.

Haji is a Doctoral Candidate in the Division of Fine Arts at Kyoto City University of Arts.

For more information, contact the York Centre for Asian Research at ycar@yorku.ca.

