

EAA Yamanakako Field Trip

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The pamphlet of this trip, which EAA members had kindly prepared for us, included two things: our schedule, and (what I think was) a teaser of the lecture that Prof. Wang Qin had planned for us. Titled “Modernity as irony and nature as ruins”, the short paragraph was asking us to think about our approach to “nature” and the “classics” in the context of our contemporary, capitalistic society. Sadly, Prof. Wang could not make it to the trip, which made it seem like we might not have an opportunity to tackle these issues. But we were lucky. Our other planned activity was to watch “Mishima: The Last Debate” (2020), a documentary of the famous debate between Mishima Yukio and the *Zenkyoto* students at Komaba campus back in 1969. It came as somewhat of a surprise to hear that they too had brought up the question of “nature” (and subsequently that of language, consciousness, etc.), as well as made references to the likes of Sartre (a representative of the “modern canon”). However, it was unfortunate that the film did not include all of the available footage, which had in fact been available on YouTube prior to its release. I guess this is our contemporary, capitalistic society at work? At any rate, while I am not a fan of Mishima, and I somehow doubt anyone else in our group was, it definitely felt meaningful to be able to circle back to our topic in such an unexpected way.

