

2026

6.10

(wed.)

12:10

12:50

12:10-12:15

◆ Introduction

12:15-12:40

◆ Seminar
(Presentation)

12:40-12:50

◆ Q&A

Online
(Zoom)Scan here for
Registration ▶▶https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_qeRFb20EQaa5TD9r6Ulcug

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Roleplay as Human Technology



Key Words

Roleplay

Empathy

Psychological need

Language learning

Design thinking

Embodied cognition

Community engagement

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Born in Riga (Latvia), Martins Zarins is an Assistant Professor at Kyushu University, School and Graduate School of Design. He graduated from the Latvian Academy of Culture in Theatre Directing and later obtained both his Master's degree and PhD from Kyushu University's Media Design Course (2018–2024). His Master's research explored "glocal theatre" through adaptations of Shakespearean and Greek tragedies into samurai aesthetics, while his PhD focused on utilizing localized role-play frameworks for foreign language education and communicative empowerment. He has lectured at several Japanese universities, including Kyushu Sangyo University and Kyushu Institute of Technology. His research examines empathy-building through role-play in design thinking, community regeneration through theatre, and intercultural exchange projects. Martins is fluent in five languages and has also worked at the National Theatre of Latvia as an actor, director, and composer.

This seminar explores roleplay as one of humanity's oldest and most sophisticated technologies for understanding people, situations, and social interaction. While AI can imitate language and behavior, embodied human roleplay remains deeply connected to psychophysiology, emotion, memory, and contextual perception in ways that technology still cannot fully reproduce. Drawing on psychological theatre methods developed by Stanislavski and later expanded in modern acting practice, the seminar introduces practical ways roleplay can be used across different fields, including language learning, design thinking, communication, and community engagement. Rather than relying only on assumptions, roleplay can help reconstruct both a person's inner world and the outer world they perceive in high resolution, guided by the force of a clearly defined psychological need. The seminar will present accessible examples and practical frameworks for using roleplay to deepen empathy, motivation, creativity, and human understanding across disciplines.