



SOKA UNIVERSITY OFFICE OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS PRESENTS

Disease and Disease Control in Eras of Globalization Conference

Friday | Sept 22 | 4:45 - 7:00 PM
Saturday | Sept 23 | 9 AM - 1 PM
Soka University of America Athenaeum

Seiji Takaku: *Conflict and Forgiveness*

Abstract

When we are wronged by others, and especially when we perceive such an act as an intentional act to harm us, we are both genetically and culturally pre-programmed to retaliate against the wrongdoers. It is often the case, however, that when we do retaliate, the wrongdoers might perceive our retaliation as being significantly severer than the initial wrongdoing they committed against us, which then triggers yet another re-retaliatory action by the wrongdoers. This series of events inevitably set in motion a negative, seemingly endless, cycle of conflicts against each other. However, we, as human moral tribes, can do something to break free from this cycle of conflicts – we can forgive each other. But, before we can practice such an extraordinary human act, it is important for us to examine social psychological factors that cause and escalate human conflicts and the critical role forgiveness plays in resolving them. And, to do so, it is also important to understand what forgiveness is and what factors promote or hinder it.