



JAPAN FOUNDATION

The Japan Foundation presents...

GAME CHANGER



Talk by
Hisakazu Hirabayashi

Date: 24 November 2016, from 6:30pm

Venue: Impact Hub King's Cross, 34B York Way, London N1 9AB

Nearest tube station: King's Cross St. Pancras

With the recent release of *Pokemon Go!* the popularity of video gaming has never been stronger. From chess to *Final Fantasy*, games have been played for generations – no matter the form, the desire to master a game has always been universal. The trailblazer during the golden age of video gaming, Japan remains a key player on the international scene. The Japanese Prime Minister's appearance as Super Mario at the Olympics earlier this year was testament to the ongoing legacy of Japanese gaming.

As part of November's game series, the Japan Foundation is proud to invite expert **Hisakazu Hirabayashi** to discuss the characteristics of Japanese digital gaming – from immersive role-playing games to casual smartphone affairs. In his illustrative talk, he will also compare and contrast Japanese digital games with their Western counterparts, drawing upon Japan's unique history of gaming.

Hisakazu Hirabayashi

Hirabayashi is president of Interact Corp and a games analyst. He served with remarkable success as first editor in chief of a video game magazine and is widely recognised as an authority on game analysis. His works include *Gemū no daigaku* (The University of Gaming) and *Gemū no jiji mondai* (Current Issues in Gaming).

This event is free to attend but booking is essential. To book your place via Eventbrite, please visit: gamechanger-talk.eventbrite.co.uk

Hirabayashi will also be delivering a talk in Newcastle upon Tyne as part of Japan Culture Day. To find out more please visit: www.life.org.uk/whats-on/japanese-culture-day

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