

Center for Japanese Studies Events - 2004

Three Rapes: The Status of Forces Agreement and Okinawa

Chalmers Johnson, President, Japan Policy Research Institute

January 29, 2004

Center for Japanese Studies, Institute of East Asian Studies

Reader provided upon request. Please contact: cjs@berkeley.edu.

Okinawa, Japan's most southerly prefecture and its poorest, has been the scene since 2001 of a particularly fierce confrontation between Washington, Tokyo, and Naha over the Japanese-American SOFA (Status Of Forces Agreement) and its use by American authorities to shield military felons from the application of Japanese law. To many Japanese and virtually all Okinawans, the SOFA represents a rebirth of the "unequal treaties" that Western imperialists imposed on Japan after Commodore Perry's armed incursion in 1853. On November 15, 2003, in talks with Japanese officials in Tokyo, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld said that he planned "to press anew for the Japanese government to relent on a long-standing U.S. demand for fuller legal protections for members of its military force accused of crimes while serving in Japan." Most American press accounts avoided details about what this enigmatic comment might mean, including whether the American defense secretary was equally concerned about legal protections for Japanese citizens forced to live in close proximity to American soldiers and their weapons and warplanes.

— Extract from "Three Rapes: The Status of Forces Agreement and Okinawa," JPRI Working Paper No. 97, 1/04

Chalmers Johnson is president of the Japan Policy Research Institute, a non-profit research and public affairs organization devoted to public education concerning Japan and international relations in the Pacific. He taught for thirty years, 1962-1992, at the Berkeley and San Diego campuses of the University of California and held endowed chairs in Asian politics at both of them. At Berkeley he served as chairman of the Center for Chinese Studies and as chairman of the Department of Political Science. His B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees in economics and political science are all from the University of California, Berkeley.

He first visited Japan in 1953 as a U.S. Navy officer and has lived and worked there with his wife, the anthropologist Sheila K. Johnson, virtually every year since 1961. Chalmers Johnson has been honored with fellowships from the Ford Foundation, the Social Science Research Council, and the Guggenheim Foundation; and in 1976 he was elected a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He has written numerous articles and reviews and some fifteen books, including *Peasant Nationalism and Communist Power* on the Chinese revolution, *An Instance of Treason* on Japan's most famous spy, *Revolutionary Change* on the theory of violent protest movements, and *MITI and the Japanese Miracle* on Japanese economic development. This last-named book laid the foundation for the "revisionist" school of writers on Japan, and because of it the Japanese press dubbed him the "Godfather of revisionism."

He was chairman of the academic advisory committee for the PBS television series "The Pacific Century," and he played a prominent role in the PBS "Frontline" documentary "Losing the War with Japan." Both won Emmy awards. His most recent books are, as editor and contributor, *Okinawa: Cold War Island* (Cardiff, Calif.: Japan Policy Research Institute, 1999); and *Blowback: The Costs and Consequences of American Empire* (New York: Holt Metropolitan Books, 2000). The latter won the 2001 American Book Award of the Before Columbus Foundation. His new book, *The Sorrows of Empire: Militarism, Secrecy, and the End of the Republic* will be published by Metropolitan in late 2003.

Pride and Prejudice: Public Memory and the U.S.-Japan Relations

Toru Suzuki, CJS Visiting Scholar, American Literature/Culture, Keio University

February 9, 2004

Center for Japanese Studies

Today both the United States and Japan are struggling with the problem of how to reinforce national pride without producing unnecessary prejudice against "others." One important factor in determining the fate of this struggle lies in the commitment of those two countries to the reconstruction of public memory. This lecture argues that the ways in which the United States and Japan attempt or decline to reshape the memories of their repressed past affect not only how they look at themselves but also the future relations of those two countries. Referring to such critical issues as the historical preservation of Manzanar, a Japanese relocation camp, the exhibition of the Enola Gay, and the anti-American sentiments reflected in a recently published history textbook in Japan, the speaker will discuss what we need to promote the reconstruction of public memory on both sides of the Pacific without sacrificing ties between the United States and Japan.

The 11th Annual Bakai (バークレー大学研究大会)

February 13, 2004

Center for Japanese Studies

Schedule

1:00 — Buffet luncheon

2:00 — Welcome / Announcements

Andrew Barshay, Chair, Center for Japanese Studies

2:15 — "State Policing of Religion and Nationalism in Colonial Korea"

Michael Shapiro, Graduate Student, History, UCB

2:30 — "Taisho Moral Reformism and Its Social Implications"

Yosuke Nirei, Graduate Student, History, UCB

2:45 — "Music in Japan: A New Sort of Textbook"

Bonnie Wade, Professor, Music, UCB

3:00 — "Models of Cultural Diversity in Japan"

Nelson Graburn, Professor, Anthropology, UCB

3:15 — "Un-bare-able Bodies: Women Perform Uncanny Genders, Strange Angels, and 'Nostalgie'"

Katherine Mezur, Postdoctoral Scholar, Rhetoric/Film Studies, UCB

3:30 — "Japan's 'Comfort Women' Controversy"

Chunghhee Sarah Soh, Associate Professor, Anthropology, SFSU

3:45 — Coffee break

4:00 — "Migration, Differential Access to Health Services and Civil Society's Responses in Japan"

Keiko Yamanaka, Lecturer, Ethnic Studies/Institute for the Study of Social Change, UCB

4:15 — "Immigration Policy and Immigration Politics in Japan"

Ken Haig, Graduate Student, Political Science, UCB

4:30 — "Localization and Globalization of Multi-National Corporations"
Yasuyuki Motoyama, Graduate Student, City and Regional Planning, UCB

4:45 — "Keiretsu"
James Lincoln, Professor, Haas School of Business, UCB

5:00 — Further questions / Closing comments

From a Children's Colony on a Japanese Periphery: Postwar Counter-memories

Leslie Pincus, History, University of Michigan

February 23, 2004

Center for Japanese Studies

Part of a larger project on alternative and oppositional initiatives in Japan's contemporary history, this talk takes as its subject a highly unorthodox community and children's colony in the hinterlands of Japan's northernmost island, Hokkaido. Drawing on print and oral sources, on insights gained from participation and observation, I will explore the history of the community and the life stories of its founders along with the forms in which these stories are recollected and recounted. Through the concrete detail of thick description, I hope to suggest that these stories document a "counter-memory" of Japan's long postwar era-inseparable from a dominant national narrative shaped by cold-war exigencies and the rigors of economic growth, but critically disrupting it at points along the way.

Parental Control of the "Personal Domain" and Adolescent Symptoms of Psychopathology

Yuki Hasebe, Educational Psychology, Western Illinois University

March 1, 2004

Center for Japanese Studies

In the context of Elliot Turiel's social domain theory (UCB) originated from Kohlberg's work on moral development, this cross-national study in the U.S. and Japan was conducted in collaboration with Larry Nucci, Professor at University of Illinois (Chicago campus). The talk also extends the discussion to the broader theoretical issues of autonomy and psychological health within cultural context. (Research was supported by the Center for Urban Education Research & Development, UIC and has been accepted for publication by the Journal of Child Development.)

John Nathan, *Japan Unbound*

March 10, 2004

Lecture and book signing

Institute of East Asian Studies, Japan Society of Northern California

John Nathan, the Takashima Professor of Japanese Cultural Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara, will discuss his new book *Japan Unbound: A Volatile Nation's Quest for Pride and Purpose* (Houghton Mifflin, 2004). "Japan feels like a bewildered giant," writes Nathan describing Japan's struggle with a decade-long recession. Its schools, youth, families, and workforce are suffering a profound loss of stability. While the crisis in Japan is very real, the country's transformation isn't without its glimpses of promise. As Nathan writes, "Japan's economy is stalled, but the society is in motion." The country is throwing off the chains that have long since stifled entrepreneurship, women, artistic creativity, and effective democracy.

Please RSVP to ieas@berkeley.edu to receive a free admission pass. IEAS seating is limited.

You can also register with our co-sponsor, the Japan Society of Northern California. Please visit www.usajapan.org or send e-mail to programs@usajapan.org

Japan Society Members: \$5, Non-members: \$10, Students (with ID): free

This program is jointly sponsored by the Japan Society of Northern California and the Institute of East Asian Studies, UC Berkeley.

Transformations of Experience: Interpreting the "Opening" of Japan

March 19, 2004

Joint Colloquium

Center for Japanese Studies, Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, Institute of East Asian Studies

After the Shipwreck: New Horizons for History-Writing

Carol Gluck, George Sansom Professor of Japanese History, Columbia University

April 1, 2004

Maruyama Lecture Center for Japanese Studies

The [Maruyama Lectures](#) are named in honor of the late Masao Maruyama (1914-1996), historian of East Asian political thought and one of the most influential political thinkers in twentieth-century Japan.

Carol Gluck is the George Sansom Professor of History at Columbia University. She holds the B.A. degree from Wellesley College, the M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Columbia University. Professor Gluck's special field is the history of modern Japan from the mid-nineteenth century to the present, with writings in modern intellectual history, international relations, postwar Japanese history, historiography and public memory in Japan and the West. She is the author of the widely acclaimed *Japan's Modern Myths: Ideology in the Late Meiji Period* (Princeton, 1985). Her new book, *Past Obsessions: War and Memory in the Twentieth Century* will be published by Columbia University Press in 2005.

Her honors and awards include the Fulbright 50th Anniversary Distinguished Scholar Award (2002), the John King Fairbank Prize of the American Historical Association, the Lionel Trilling Award of Columbia University (both for *Japan's Modern Myths*); Member of the American Philosophical Society; Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences; the Mark van Doren Award and Great Teacher Award for teaching, Columbia University. She was president of the Association for Asian Studies, 1996-97.

Maruyama and History

Carol Gluck, George Sansom Professor of Japanese History, Columbia University

April 2, 2004

Maruyama Seminar (reservation only)

Center for Japanese Studies

Traveling Words Across Japanese Studies

April 2, 2004

Center for Japanese Studies

"Traveling Words" is the final meeting of a multi-year workshop attended by scholars of Japan across the disciplines. The workshop has addressed questions of cultural and disciplinary translation. In this final meeting, each participant will reflect upon these questions by following the movement of one word through his or her discipline.

— Alan Tansman, East Asian Languages and Cultures, UCB

Death at City Hall: Power and Corruption in Late Meiji Tokyo

Peter Duus, Professor, Japanese History, Stanford University

April 8, 2004

Center for Japanese Studies

In the summer of 1901 Hoshi Toru, president of the Tokyo City Council, and one of the most powerful political leaders of his day, was cut down by an assassin in Tokyo City Hall. The bloody incident revealed the complex tensions generated by the rise of the growing influence of political parties, the de-bureaucratization of city politics, the emergence of an exuberant and untrammled capitalist class, and the reconstruction of the urban infrastructure. The talk will discuss the historical background and implications of the incident.

"Soldier Zen" in WWII Japan: A Classic Case Study of "Holy War"

Brian Victoria, Buddhist Studies, University of Hawaii-Manoa

April 13, 2004

Center for Japanese Studies

In the aftermath of 9/11 there is a tendency to regard 'holy war' as a unique expression of Islamic fundamentalism. The reality, however, is that religious endorsed violence has existed, at one time or another, in all of the world's major religions. One relatively unknown example of this phenomenon is the fervent, if not fanatical, support given by leaders of the Zen school to Japanese militarism during WWII. By examining this support, it will be possible to gain a better understanding of the universal mechanisms making 'holy war' an enduring feature of contemporary religion and society.

Brian Daizen Victoria is a native of Omaha, Nebraska and a 1961 graduate of Nebraska Wesleyan University in Lincoln, Nebraska. He also holds a M.A. in Buddhist Studies from Sôtô Zen sect-affiliated Komazawa University in Tokyo, and a Ph.D. from the Department of Religious Studies at Temple University. In addition to his new book, *Zen War Stories* (RoutledgeCurzon, 2003), Brian's major writings include the 1997 book *Zen At War*; an autobiographical work in Japanese entitled *Gaijin de ari, Zen bozu de ari* (As a Foreigner, As a Zen Priest), published by San-ichi Shobo in 1971; *Zen Master Dôgen*, coauthored with Prof. Yokoi Yûhō of Aichi-gakuin University (Weatherhill, 1976); and a translation of *The Zen Life* by Sato Koji (Weatherhill, 1972). Brian currently serves as the Yehan Numata Distinguished Visiting Professor Chair in Buddhist Studies at the University of Hawaii-Manoa. He is not affiliated with any particular Zen group.

Egocentric Japanese?: Nature/Nurture Influence on Spatial Cognition

Kyoko Inoue, Linguistics/Anthropology, Keio University

May 3, 2004

Center for Japanese Studies

"My east molar hurts" was a commonly used expression in a rural community in Japan. It may sound odd and unconceivable for those who are used to locating themselves by the "right/left" (egocentric) coordinate system, which turns out to be historically common among Indo-European language users. However, as recent studies on spatial cognition (Levinson 2003) revealed the other possibilities in describing (and conceiving) horizontal spatial directions that have long been available to peoples of the world, environment-centered spatial coordinate system is not outdated at all.

Based on the fieldwork conducted in a community in Kochi Prefecture in Shikoku Island where both "relative (egocentric)" and "absolute (environment-centered)" frames of reference are readily available for habitual use, this talk will discuss the motivation for spatial code switching among the population.

Aobakai "Japan" Conference

May 11, 2004

Center for Japanese Studies

What Happened to Japanese Telecom: Stumbling into the 21st Century

Robert Cole, Professor Emeritus, Haas School of Business, UCB

September 2, 2004

Center for Japanese Studies

Japan was a major player in global telecommunication trade in the 1980s. By 2003, however, METI officials were convening committees to deal with the precipitous decline in the Japanese telecom industry. What happened? Was it simply the overall decline in telecommunications after the 1999 meltdown or were national factors at play? We examine these issues by looking at two major telecom sectors. The first is the emergent network communication equipment industry ushered in by the Internet, and the second is 2nd generation phones. We find that Japanese firms made a number of strategic errors that dramatically worsened their competitive situation on world markets.

Shōsō-in Treasures: Reconstructing Musical Instruments

Music From Japan — *Reigaku* and *Gagaku*: A Living Tradition

September 12, 2004

Lecture-demonstration and concert

Lecture-demonstration: Institute of East Asian Studies, Department of Music; Concert: Cal Performances

Living on the Brink in Post-Bubble Japan

Edward Fowler, East Asian Languages and Literatures, UC Irvine

September 16, 2004

Center for Japanese Studies

Japan's day laborer quarters have changed immensely since Edward Fowler's research for "San'ya Blues" (Cornell, 1996). After the so-called economic bubble collapsed in the early 1990s, San'ya (Tokyo) and Kamagasaki (Osaka) have seen their function as sites for recruiting casual laborers become attenuated; and they have been largely transformed, along with certain public spaces (e.g. Ueno Park; Osaka Castle Park), into very visible sites of homelessness. What sorts of people occupy these sites? This talk will attempt an answer to this question, both through the text of a book the speaker is translating by a white-collar worker living in San'ya and through slides taken over the past decade in Tokyo and Osaka.

***neo-eiga*: New Japanese Cinema**

September 17-19, 2004

Film festival

Pacific Film Archive, Consulate General of Japan, San Francisco; The Japan Foundation; NAATA; Institute of East Asian Studies; and Japan Society of Northern California

Join us for Bay Area premieres of diverse, award-winning works that illuminate the multiple realities of twenty-first-century Japan.

The fourth *neo-eiga* festival brings a new film by a major sixties New Wave director, Kiju (Yoshishige) Yoshida, together with works by exciting younger talents and an influential independent film producer-director. These recent films all explore contemporary characters and modern dilemmas, but represent varied relationships to the past; the perspective of history contrasts with the eternal present of the Internet.

Japanese Cinema Now

Mitsuhiro Yoshimoto, Professor of East Asian Studies at New York University

September 18, 2004

Institute of East Asian Studies

Presented in conjunction with "*neo-eiga: New Japanese Cinema*," a showcase of Japanese film at the Pacific Film Archive.

It is widely believed that Japanese cinema was reborn in the early 1990s after more than a decade of hiatus. Formal recognition and honors at international film festivals, a strong cult following among international audiences, and wide availability of new Japanese films as DVDs with English subtitles all confirm the vitality of Japanese cinema now. Yet, such understanding of contemporary Japanese cinema misses a fundamental historical break by directly linking the Japanese cinema of the 1990s and after to what used to be called Japanese cinema. Japanese cinema is now in a post-national state, consisting of complex and contradictory trends and developments which do not necessarily form a coherent image of Japan, traditional or otherwise. What is called for is therefore a new critical framework where contemporary Japanese cinema can be discussed as something other than a traditional national cinema or a subgenre of world cinema.

Mitsuhiro Yoshimoto is an Associate Professor of East Asian Studies at New York University. His research interests focus on contemporary Japanese film and media. He is the author of *Kurosawa: Film Studies and Japanese Cinema* and numerous articles on Japanese film and television, as well as Hollywood cinema.

Errant(d?) letters: Issues of Ownership and Place in Heian Period Nikki by Women

John Wallace, East Asian Languages and Cultures, UC Berkeley

September 27, 2004

Center for Japanese Studies

In the journals and memoirs (*nikki*) written by women during the Heian period, the time when memoirs were in their early stages as a genre, nothing is more frequently stolen or misplaced than letters and other compositions written by women. This talk explores how misdirected, misplaced, and stolen letters, or even words cut from letters, are entangled in issues of the status of the female voice, both as one of reduced authority and, contrarily, as finding strategic value in its marginalized position.

The Voyage of the *Senzaimaru* to Shanghai in 1862 and Its Representation in Wartime Japanese Cinema

Joshua Fogel, Comparative East Asian History, UC Santa Barbara

October 4, 2004

Center for Japanese Studies

The first modern Japan voyage to China took place in 1862. This trip carried 51 Japanese to Shanghai, the first legal touching down of Japanese on Chinese soil in well over two centuries. While the Japanese were present in the city, the Taiping rebels attacked in the outskirts of Shanghai. The experiences of their two months in Shanghai helped shape the course of subsequent Japanese history. Several years ago a joint venture film made in occupied Shanghai and directed by none other than Inagaki Hiroshi was discovered which portrays this mission and the principal actors in it. With eerie precision, the 1944 movie folds seamlessly into the narrative of the 1862 mission.

The 12th Annual Bakai (パークレー大学研究大会)

October 11, 2004

Center for Japanese Studies

Schedule

1:30 — Buffet Luncheon

2:10 — Welcome / Announcements

2:15 — "'Bowling Together': Social Networks and Social Capital of a Nepali Migrant Community in Japan"

Keiko Yamanaka, Faculty, Ethnic Studies/Institute for the Study of Social Change, UCB

2:30 — "Human Resource Management in Japan and the U.S."

James Lincoln, Faculty, Haas School of Business, UCB

2:45 — "Localization and Globalization of Multi-National Corporations"

Yasuyuki Motoyama, Graduate Student, City and Regional Planning, UCB

3:00 — "Intrapreneurship: The Driving Force behind Japan's Innovative Economy"

Jordan Steinke, Graduate Student, Asia Pacific Studies, USF

3:15 — "Three Taiwanese Funerals in Japanese Fictions: Politics of Translation in 'Ethnographic Fictions' of Colonial Taiwan"

Huei-chu Chu, CJS Visiting Scholar, Social Science, UCB

3:30 — "English Language Education in Japan from an International School Perspective: A book for the Japanese general public"

Kenji Kushida, Graduate Student, Political Science, UCB

3:45 — Coffee Break

4:00 — "Soliloquy (monologue) in Polite Discourse in Japanese"

Yoko Hasegawa, Faculty, East Asian Languages, UCB

4:15 — "The Stakes of Aesthetics: Ernest Fenollosa's Theory of Art in Japan"

Namiko Kunimoto, Graduate Student, History of Art, UCB

4:30 — "Performing for Self/Performing for Others: Cultural Politics of a Vietnamese New Year's Festival in a Multiethnic Community of Osaka"

Yuko Okubo, Graduate Student, Anthropology, UCB

4:45 — "Teaching Responses to Hiroshima and the Holocaust"

Alan Tansman, Faculty, East Asian Languages, UCB

5:00 — "Humanism in the Gulag: Takasugi Ichirô's Memoir of Siberian Internment, 1945-1949"

Andrew Barshay, Faculty, History, UCB

5:15 — "Representation for Foreigners Or a Misrepresentation of 'Deliberative Democracy'? Consultative Bodies (*shingikai*) and Local-Level Political Incorporation of Foreign Residents in Japan."

Ken Haig, Graduate Student, Political Science, UCB

5:30 — "Representation of the Other: Japanese Perceptions of the Ainu as Exhibited in Ainu-e"

Sarah Sutton Weems, Graduate Student, Asian Studies, UCB

5:45 — "Engaged Theater and Film in Postwar Japan"

Miryam Sas, Faculty, Comparative Literature, UCB

6:00 — Further Questions / Closing Comments

Expanded Visions — JPEX: Japanese Experimental Film and Video, 1955–Now

October 19, 2004

Film screening

Pacific Film Archive; Image Forum Archive; University of California, Irvine; University of Chicago; Center for Japanese Studies; Institute for East Asian Studies

The playful insistence and explosive subversion of Japanese experimental film traditions remain neglected terrain for North American audiences. In an effort to globalize what has often been a primarily Western understanding of postwar experimentalism, JPEX: Japanese Experimental Film and Video, 1955–Now, touring North America this autumn, documents the radical medium of postwar Japanese experimental film, video, and animation at its fiftieth anniversary. PFA is screening two programs from the JPEX series.

Prior to each screening, the JPEX curators will discuss the films from a historical and formal perspective. Full program information will be available at the screenings.

Exploded States: War, Politics, and National Identity — JPEX: Japanese Experimental Film and Video, 1955–Now

October 26, 2004

Film screening

Pacific Film Archive; Image Forum Archive; University of California, Irvine; University of Chicago; Center for Japanese Studies; Institute for East Asian Studies

Resident Korean Literature in Occupied Japan, 1945-1952

Christopher D. Scott, Asian Languages, Stanford University

October 28, 2004

Center for Japanese Studies, Center for Korean Studies

As World War II ended and the Cold War began, Korean residents of Japan (and other former colonial subjects) quickly became *persona non grata*: they were perceived as threats to national security, public safety, and the objectives of the Allied Occupation (1945-1952) itself. This paper explores the cultural stigmatization of these Resident Koreans as subversive yet emasculated — invisible men, as it were — in the early fiction of Kim Tal-su (1919-1997). The author discusses how racial tensions and gender anxieties both underwrite and complicate Kim's status as the "father" of the genre now known as "Resident Korean literature" (*zainichi Chôsenjin bungaku*).

Christopher D. Scott is a Ph.D. candidate in modern Japanese literature at Stanford University. He is currently completing a dissertation entitled "Spies, Rapists, Ghosts, and Queers: Misrepresentations of Resident Korean Men in Postwar Japan."

The Centennial of Korean Immigration to America: A Look Back at the Role of the United States and Japan in the Events of 1902-05

Wayne Patterson, Department of History, St. Norbert's College

October 29, 2004

Center for Korean Studies, Center for Japanese Studies

This lecture will examine the immigration process that began one hundred years ago reveals that American policy and actions toward late Choson Korea operated at two distinct levels that were at cross purposes with each other. It also suggests that the Japanese takeover of Korea was not only a matter of security but also involved considerations of national prestige.

Wayne Patterson is the author of numerous books and articles on Korean immigration

including *The Golden Mountain: The Autobiography of a Korean Immigrant, 1895-1960* by Easurk Emsen Charr. Second Edition. Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1996; *Korean-American Relations, 1866-1997*. Albany: SUNY Press, 1999 (With Yur-Bok Lee); *The Ilse: First-Generation Korean Immigrants in Hawaii, 1903-1973*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2000. (Nominated for the Kapalapala Po'okela Award and the Association for Asian American Studies Book Award); *The Korean American Journey [Korian Amerikan ui Paljachwi]*. New York: Canaan Printing Company, 2002. (With Daniel Eunsup Shim, Hesung Chun Koh, Edward Taehan Chang, Sang Joon Choi, and Robert Hyung-Chan Kim); *The Koreans in Hawaii: A Pictorial History, 1903-2003*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2003. (With Roberta W. S. Chang).

The Politics of Postal Savings Reform in Japan

Jennifer Amyx, Political Science, University of Pennsylvania

November 4, 2004

Center for Japanese Studies

A hallmark of the Koizumi Administration has been the prime minister's attempt to privatize Japan's government-backed postal savings system. This talk will examine the political economy of postal savings reform in Japan, analyzing the factors enabling reform to move forward under the Koizumi Administration and the role of key actors involved in the reform battle. By comparing the Japanese path to reform with reform paths taken elsewhere, the talk will also highlight the peculiar challenges faced in reforming the postal savings system in Japan today and make the argument that privatization is not necessarily the optimal reform path for Japan.

Taisho "Modernity" or Japanese Civil War?: Political and Cultural Conflict in the Shadow of the Great War, 1919-1931

Frederick Dickinson, History, University of Pennsylvania

November 18, 2004

Center for Japanese Studies

Long neglected as the step-child of modern Japanese history, the "Taisho" period has attracted increasing scholarly attention in recent years, particularly for its record of dramatic social and cultural change. Although commonly described as a crisis of "modernity," this change may more profitably be viewed in a context familiar to students of modern Europe and the United States: the profound impact of the First World War. This talk will offer a glimpse of the shadow of war in interwar Japan and its pivotal effect upon the renewed drive for power in the 1930s.