

Center for Japanese Studies Events - 2005

A Stitch in Time: The Sewing Machine and the Modern Transformation of Japan

Andrew Gordon, History, Harvard University

Thursday, January 20, 2005

Center for Japanese Studies

Study of the sewing machine offers insight into the emergence of the consumer as a central figure in society, economy and culture. The larger project explores themes of gender, class, nation and empire. It studies the sewing machine from perspectives of maker and user, as well as the negotiations between the two including the birth of the salesman, home economics and education, consumer finance and credit. The lecture will focus on the user side of the story, discussing the meanings which the sewing machine held for women in Japan, circa 1900-1950s.

The Art of the Japanese Tattoo from Kuniyoshi to Longfellow

Christine Guth, Japanese Art History

Monday, January 24, 2005

Center for Japanese Studies

In this lecture, Guth raises questions about the museum-centered understanding of nineteenth-century artistic exchanges between Japan, Europe, and America by examining the Euro-American attitudes towards and appropriation of the Japanese tattoo. The lecture expands on a chapter in her just-published *Longfellow's Tattoos: Tourism, Collecting and Japan*.

Democracy without Competition in Japan: Opposition Failure in a One-Party Dominant State

Ethan Scheiner, Political Science, UC Davis

Monday, January 31, 2005

Center for Japanese Studies

Why, even in the face of great dissatisfaction with the dominant party, has no opposition party been able to offer itself as a credible challenger in Japan? Understanding such failure is important for many reasons, from its effect on Japanese economic policy to its implications for what facilitates democratic responsiveness more broadly. The principal explanations for opposition party failure in Japan focus on the country's culture and electoral system, but neither can explain, in particular, continued opposition failure over the past decade. This talk argues that a more plausible explanation rests on the predominance in Japan of clientelism, combined with a centralized government structure. The talk focuses on Japan, but also applies the framework cross-nationally.

So Is Japan Changing or Not?

Robert Madsen, Asian Studies and Economics, Center for International Studies, MIT

Monday, February 7, 2005

Center for Japanese Studies

A year ago it seemed that Japan had recovered from its long stagnation and was growing robustly. Now, however, the country appears possibly to be on the brink of recession and analysts are again asking whether anything has changed. The truth is that while the short-term outlook remains unclear, tectonic shifts are occurring in the underlying demographic and financial structure of the economy which will exert a transformative influence over the country's longer-term future. Hence the Japan of 2015 will scarce resemble that of today. It will exhibit a low savings rate, consistent if moderate growth, significant inflationary tendencies, and a shrinking — or even negative — trade balance. In some regards this will be a healthier Japan, and yet such problems as the need for restructuring and the mounting national debt will have become even more daunting.

Dr. Madsen has written numerous academic and popular articles on the politics and economics of East Asian countries, international trade and capital flows, political theory, and environmental economics. He is presently working on Japan's "lost decade" of the 1990s, the outlook for the Japanese economy in the 2000s and 2010s, the implications of China's rise for the rest of East Asia, and the problems posed by North Korea's nuclear development.

From Globalization to Planetary: The Ecological Imperative in Japanese Studies

Richard Okada, Japanese Literature, Princeton University

February 17, 2005

Center for Japanese Studies

Human life as we know faces environmental crises of monumental proportions. Examples include the complex effects of global warming, the depletion of energy sources, the degradation in air quality, the lack of safe drinking water, the extinction of animal species, the media pollution of our airways, the mass homogenization of subjectivity, and the question of future quality of life. The prospects according to many researchers are dire at best. It is high time that we who teach and do research in Japan studies incorporate ecological issues as an integral part of our daily life and labor. What might it mean to go about doing this in relation to Japanese literature and culture? That is the question central to the author's remarks, which will focus on what some have termed "mental ecology" in the context of what he wishes to call a planetary ethics.

The Economic Structural Reform and Market Opportunities in Japan

Charles Lake II, President and Representative in Japan, AFLAC Japan

February 23, 2005

Yomiuri Speaker Series

Center for Japanese Studies

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi has pursued a number of significant economic structural and regulatory reform initiatives to address the problem of economic slump and declining international competitiveness of the Japanese economy, which includes his initiative to privatize the Japan Post. The Japanese Government, particularly through the Financial Services Agency (FSA), has also continued to dramatically reform the Japanese financial system in line with the big bang plan. Japan has also taken steps to address problems stemming from an aging of its population and declining birthrate, which have placed tremendous pressure on Japan's social security system. What are the implications of these economic reform measures on the citizens of Japan, the Japanese market and the companies that operate in that market? Are business opportunities increasing or declining? The speaker will present an overview of the economic structural reform in Japan and discuss the emerging business opportunities that exist today, including providing AFLAC's story as a case study. The speaker will share his perspective based on his experience as a former U.S. Government international trade negotiator, private practitioner of law, and as president of the largest foreign insurance company operating in Japan.

The Work of A Lifetime: History and Religion in Japan and East Asia. A Symposium in Honor of Professor Emeritus Delmer Brown

February 25, 2005

Symposium

Center for Japanese Studies, University of San Francisco

Schedule

Program

1:15 — Welcome and opening remarks

Andrew Barshay, Department of History, U.C. Berkeley

John Nelson, Theology and Religious Studies, University of San Francisco

1:30-2:30 — **Panel I: The Religious Dynamic in Japan and East Asia**

John Nelson, Chair

Robert N. Bellah, Elliott Professor of Sociology Emeritus, U.C. Berkeley — *Japanese Cultural History in Comparative Perspective*

Allan Grapard, International Shinto Foundation Professor of Shinto Studies, East Asian Languages and Cultural Studies, U.C. Santa Barbara — *The Combinatory World of the Medieval Period*

2:30-3:30 — **Panel II: Centers and Contexts of Japanese History**

Andrew Barshay, Chair

Mary Elizabeth Berry, Professor, Dept. of History, U.C. Berkeley — *Historians Writing About Historians*

Irwin Scheiner, Professor, Dept. of History, U.C. Berkeley — *Conversations with Delmer*

3:30-3:45 — Coffee Break

3:45-5:00 — **Panel III: The Japan Historical Text Initiative: an Introduction and Demonstration**

Lewis Lancaster, Professor Emeritus, East Asian Languages and Cultures, U.C. Berkeley — *The Japan Historical Text Initiative: Strategies of Research for the Future*

Delmer Brown, Professor Emeritus, History, U.C. Berkeley — *The Unity of Religion and Politics in Early Japanese History*

Commentary

Oketani Ikuo, Professor, Osaka International University

Japan's Foreign Policy Challenges in East Asia: Responding to New Realities

Makoto Yamanaka, Consulate General of Japan, San Francisco

March 2, 2005

Center for Japanese Studies, Yomiuri Simbun, Graduate School of Journalism

Is an East Asian Community finally emerging? What would be a viable security arrangement for East Asia? What is the role of free trade agreements (FTA) in this region? What role is the United States playing? Is Japan competing with China for regional leadership? Is North Korea coming to terms with Japan over the abduction and security issues? What is the right mix of dialogue and pressure vis-a-vis North Korea? Can the six-party talks produce good results? What is the future of relations between Beijing and Taipei? These are some of the questions Makoto Yamanaka, Consul General of Japan in San Francisco, will discuss on the day.

Consul General Makoto Yamanaka graduated from Keio University and joined Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1974. In 1977, he was posted to the Embassy of Japan in Washington, D.C. after graduating from Amherst College in Massachusetts.

At the Ministry of Foreign Affairs headquarters in Tokyo, Mr. Yamanaka has worked in the Asian Affairs Bureau, European Affairs Bureau, Treaties Bureau, and Intelligence and Analysis Bureau. His overseas assignments have included the Embassies of Japan in Bangkok and London, as well as the Permanent Mission of Japan in Vienna. Mr. Yamanaka has also served as the Head of the OECD Tokyo Centre. He began his tenure as the Consul General of Japan in San Francisco in March 2004.

Changing Geographies of War Memory in Postwar Japan

Franziska Seraphim, History, Boston College

March 3, 2005

Center for Japanese Studies

As the sixtieth anniversary of the end of World War II nears, perennial questions about Japan's relationship to its wartime past move into the public limelight once again—not only in the context of commemoration events, but also in current debates about constitutional reform, Japanese participation in international military ventures, war victims' compensation lawsuits in Japanese and American courts, even in movies and other popular entertainment. At stake is not so much the war itself, but the ways in which the legacies of war, defeat, and foreign occupation became embedded in postwar public life in the decades after 1945, and how they may be re-negotiated to meet the demands facing Japan today. Against the background of competing interpretations of the war through the articulation of specific interests, this talk focuses on struggles over the "parameters" of memory in Japanese public life from the 1950s to the 1990s and speculates on further changes today.

Knowledge Value Society and Japanese Economy

Taichi Sakaiya, Author and Former Minister of State for Economic Planning

March 10, 2005

Yomiuri Speaker Series

Center for Japanese Studies

The "Knowledge Value Revolution" has been accomplished in the world during the past 20 years, and our global society has been fundamentally changing. While the Standoff of the East-West Cold War has disappeared, the globalization of the economy under the hegemony of the United States progresses as the subjectification of value prevails.

"Production Process-division" is increasingly common worldwide. Project planning, technology development, design creation, parts manufacturing, product assembly, distribution and shipping, advertisement strategy, and financing—these processes of making a product are now done in different countries and economies. Most notable is the fact that while capital-intensive processes transfer into China and East European countries where wages are low, labor-intensive processes grow in the developed industrialized countries.

Japanese Social Science and Bureau-pluralism under Globalization

Yasuo Goto, Political Economy, Fukushima University, CJS Visiting Scholar

Kaoru Ishiguro, Economics, Kobe University, CJS Visiting Scholar

March 14, 2005

Center for Japanese Studies

"The Net's New World and General Intellect — with reference to A.E. Barshay *The Social Sciences in Modern Japan*"

Yasuo Goto, Political Economy, Fukushima University, CJS Visiting Scholar

The transformation from 'Japan as No.1' through the 'lost decade' of the 1990's to 'Japan as nothing' and images of Japan's 'second defeat' has been striking. With the end of cold-war system, and the beginning of the 'Internet New World' information revolution, Japanese society as a whole has become increasingly 'old world'. Why? What's the significance of this 'third, real reform'? We will discuss the prospects of post cold-war stage of world history and ways of overcoming the 'ancient substrate' (Maruyama Masao's koso) at the base of the traditions of Japanese social sciences.

"Trade Liberalization and Bureau-pluralism"

Kaoru Ishiguro, Economics, Kobe University, CJS Visiting Scholar

Free trade agreement (FTA) and regional trade liberalization attract much interest under globalization, while the multilateral trade negotiations in WTO have difficulty. In this seminar, we take up the trade liberalization negotiations in Japan and discuss what kind of effects the

bureau-pluralism characterizing Japanese domestic politics has on these negotiation results. Here, we consider the APEC trade liberalization negotiations as an example and discuss the preferences and bargaining power of Japanese ministries and some of the results of trade liberalization negotiations.

The "Globalization" of Japanese Studies: Southeast Asian Perspectives

March 18, 2005

Joint Colloquium

Japan Society for Promotion of Science, Center for Japanese Studies

Schedule

9:00 am — Opening Remarks

Seishi Takeda, Director, Japan Society for Promotion of Science, San Francisco Office

Andrew Barshay, Chair, Center for Japanese Studies

9:10 am — **Session 1: The Political, Economic, and Diplomatic Context**

Introductory Remarks by T.J. Pempel, Director, Institute of East Asian Studies, UC Berkeley

9:20 am

Nobuhiro Hiwatari, Institute of Social Science, University of Tokyo — *After the Capitalist Developmental State: What Can Be Gained by Casting a New Light on the Japanese Political Economy*

10:00 am

Takashi Terada, Department of Japanese Studies, National University of Singapore — *Power Struggles Between Japan and China in Southeast Asia: Hard and Soft Dimensions in the Creation of an East Asian Community*

10:40 am — Coffee Break

10:50 am

Naohiro Kitano, Department of Economics, Kyoto University — *Japanese Contribution in Supporting China's Reforms: A Study Based on ODA Loans*

11:30 am

Annette Clear, Politics Department, University of California, Santa Cruz — *Indonesian Responses to Japanese Foreign Aid and Investment*

12:10 pm — Questions from the audience and discussion

12:40 pm — Buffet lunch

1:30 pm — **Session 2: Intellectual and Cultural Dimensions**

Introductory Remarks by Andrew Barshay, Chair, Center for Japanese Studies

1:40 pm

Kitti Prasirtsuk, Faculty of Liberal Arts, Thammasat University, Bangkok — *Japan-Thai Trade and Cultural Relations*

2:20 pm

Lydia N. Yu Jose, Director, Japanese Studies Program, Ateneo de Manila University — *The Future of Japanese Studies in the Philippines*

3:00 pm — Coffee Break

3:20 pm

Simon Avenell, Department of Japanese Studies, National University of Singapore — *The Institutional and Cultural Context of Japanese Studies in Singapore*

4:00 pm

Akio Igarashi, Department of Law, Rikkyo University — *The Influence of Japanese Popular Culture in Southeast Asia*

4:40 pm — Questions from the audience, wrap-up discussion

5:30 pm — Reception

Blue Train by Ryohei Hirose and Other Japanese Modern Music

Nagoya Flute Ensemble Academy (NFEA), Akira Aoki, Conductor

March 19, 2005

Concert in celebration of International House's 75th and the Japan Society of Northern California's 100th anniversaries, followed by reception

International House, Japan Society of Northern California, Center for Japanese Studies

Program

- Divertiment D Major, K136 by Mozart for Flute Orchestra
- Medley of Japanese songs of Four Seasons
Spring-Summer-Autumn-Winter for Flute and Piano
- Blue Train by R.Hirose for Flute Orchestra
- Matinee by K.Hirao for Flute and Piano
- Le Petit Âne Blanc by J.Ibert
- Ave Maria D. 839 by F. Schubert

Professor Aoki of Nagoya University for Arts and Music formed the NFEA especially for this event. The NFEA ensemble consists of various flutes from the piccolo to the contrabass flute and also includes the piano. The first flute ensemble, the Tokyo Flute Ensemble Academy (TFEA), was formed in Tokyo in 1974 and has performed in various countries such as Italy, France and Australia. Professor Aoki has been the Executive Director of the Japan Flute Association since its inception in 1966.

Takeuchi Yoshimi: Inheriting the Past

Richard Calichman, Asian Studies, The City College of New York

April 7, 2005

Center for Japanese Studies

The author's presentation will focus on the Japanese postwar sinologist and literary and social critic Takeuchi Yoshimi (1910-1977). He will examine Takeuchi's understanding of the past through the notion of "inheritance" so as to bring to light his forceful thinking of historicity. This thinking seeks to challenge more conventional notions of history, through which the past comes to be posited as an object, thereby domesticating its otherwise disturbing relation both to the present and to the historian. Reference will be made to the 1942 "Overcoming Modernity" symposium, whose nationalism Takeuchi both critiques and inherits.

Good Science, Bad Science, and Taste Cultures: A Short History of MSG

Jordan Sand, Japanese History and Culture, Georgetown University

April 11, 2005

Center for Japanese Studies

MSG: ubiquitous, invisible, and a part of our modern sensorium. Where did this much-maligned food additive come from? How did it make its way into the world food system? Why is it particularly associated with Chinese restaurants? The historical trajectory of MSG from its early twentieth-century origins in Japan through East Asia to the United States reveals the intertwined relationships between science and culture, marketing and imperialism in the globalization of food industries.

This event is free and open to the public. The lecture will be accompanied by a blind tasting.

Interest Group Politics and the Battle for Structural Reform in Japan: The Case of the Post Office
Patricia Maclachlan, Asian Studies and Government, University of Texas at Austin

April 28, 2005

Center for Japanese Studies

Prime Minister Koizumi has long regarded the privatization of postal services as the fundamental prerequisite for the reinvigoration of Japan's financial system and the elimination of structural corruption in the political sphere. But as events in 2002 and 2005 attest, the process of reforming the postal system has met with considerable resistance from those who benefit most from the status quo: the postmasters and their allies in the Liberal Democratic Party. Patricia Maclachlan will explore the sources and repercussions of political resistance to postal reform, showing how the battle over the post office represents a much deeper conflict over the structure of the political economy.

How Did the *Gakkyuu Hookai* Happen? An Ethnography of Japanese Junior High School Girls' Linguistic and Spatial Resistance at the Crossroad of Japanese Education

Ayumi Miyazaki, Education, CJS Visiting Scholar

May 2, 2005

Center for Japanese Studies

Based on an ethnographic study of a Japanese junior high school, the author analyzes how Japanese girls, through their non-traditional linguistic and social practices, negotiate and resist the norms of gender, language, and the body enacted through daily practices of *gakkyuu*, the fundamental unit of Japanese schools. Since the late 1990's, the *gakkyuu* — composed of up to forty students who undertake many group activities together throughout the day — is under siege, as students' resistance to the system of group-centered *gakkyuu* has intensified all over Japan, a phenomenon widely reported in the media as *gakkyuu hookai* (classroom breakdown). Japanese gendered language norms have also faced increasing challenges from the younger generations. Within this changing configuration of power, girls at a research site, through tactically shifting their masculine, neutral, and feminine speech and behavior, opposed various norms in *gakkyuu*. In her presentation, she examines actual negotiations between teachers and girls in a *gakkyuu* where *gakkyuu hookai* took place, and documents how these negotiations shifted moment-to-moment according to space and context. By analyzing these complex negotiations, the author explores shifting grounds of gender, language and identity at the crossroad of Japanese education.

2nd Aobakai "Japan" Conference

May 6, 2005

Conference

Center for Japanese Studies

Schedule

1:10-1:15 — Opening Remarks: Stephanie Skiles

1:15-2:15 — Panel I

"Social Aspects of *Enka* Songs"

Chiara Puppo, Ca Foscari University, Venice, Italy, recent graduate, Japanese Music

"Japanese Buddhist Symbolism: Shingon Esoteric Mandalas"

Natalie Vail, UC Berkeley, senior, Anthropology

Professor Steven Nelson, Music 139A - Buddhist Music

"Maki Ishii (1936-2003), Japan and the West: Musical Encounters"

Kristian Ireland, Stanford, graduate student, Music

Professor Brian Ferneyhough (advisor)

Discussant: Professor M. E. Berry, UC Berkeley, professor, Japanese History

2:15-3:00 — Panel II

"The Japanese in Okinawa"

Yoshie Oya, UC Davis, senior, International Relations, and Japanese

Professor Kyu Hyun Kim (advisor)

"Invention of Okinawa through Our "Traditional" Healing Power: Development of Our Own Industry"

Kensuke Sumii, UC Berkeley, Ph.D. Candidate, Medical Anthropology

Professor Christie Kiefer and Prof. Nelson Graburn (advisors)

Discussant: Luke Franks, UC Berkeley, PhD candidate, Japanese History

3:00-3:20 — Coffee Break

3:20-4:35 — Panel III

"Committed Fiction: Noguchi Hiroshi and the Aesthetics of Proletariat Literature in Japan in 1927"

Orna Shaughnessy, UC Berkeley, graduate student, Modern Japanese Literature

Professor Alan Tansman (advisor)

"Translating Dialect in *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*"

Tom Gaubatz, Stanford, junior, Mathematics

Professor Yuri Shimizu, Japanese Language and Cultures, Kyushu University

"A Human, Retrofit: Cybernetics and the City, 2029 A.D."

Andrew McKeon, UC Berkeley, senior, Integrative Biology

Professor Dan O'Neill, Japanese 180

"Japanese New Wave Cinema; Matsumoto Toshio and Oshima Nagisa"

Suzanne Manneh, UC Berkeley, senior, Film Studies

Professor Miryam Sas (advisor)

Discussant: Professor Miryam Sas, UC Berkeley, professor, Comparative Literature and Film Studies

Bushido, Masculinities and Foreign Policymaking in Japan

Yumiko Mikanagi, Politics, International Christian University, CJS Visiting Scholar

May 9, 2005

Center for Japanese Studies

Since the Japanese government decided to send its Self Defense Force troops to Iraq in July 2003, the images of samurai have been numerous quoted by policymakers and other leaders, and widely discussed by journalists and scholars. The sudden rise of public interest in the way of samurai warriors is apparent from the fact that Nitobe Inazo's classic "*Bushido*" has become a national best seller. Why this sudden rise in the interest? The author will try to connect the construction and reconstruction of mainstream masculinities in post-WWII Japan and analyze how that may have been affected by and affected Japan's foreign policymaking. The author will first demonstrate how the construction of masculinities in Japan during the post-WWII evolved from demilitarized masculinities between 1945 and 1970s to remilitarized masculinities since the 1980s. Then, focusing on more recent events, she will contend that the Japanese policymakers and the public felt emasculated when Japanese monetary contribution ("check book diplomacy") during the Gulf War was not taken seriously by the U.S. and its allies. The experience has become a "trauma" for policymakers since then and thus they had struggled hard in the reconstruction of Japan's identity in relation to the rest of the world. Within such context, images of samurai served as a guiding principle for identity re-formation for policymakers.

Stanford-Berkeley Japanese Politics Workshop

May 13, 2005

Workshop

Center for Japanese Studies

Schedule

10:00 — Opening Remarks

10:15-11:15

Japan's foreign policy towards North Korea

Celeste Powell, UC Berkeley

Faculty Discussant: Yumiko Mikanagi

Student Discussant: Ken Haig

Q&A

11:15-11:30 — Coffee Break

11:30-12:30

The evolving role of development banks in East Asia

Jennifer Amyx, Stanford, Visiting Scholar

Faculty Discussant: T.J. Pempel

Student Discussant: Kay Shimizu

Q&A

12:30-1:45 — Lunch Break

1:45-2:45

The politics behind Japan's "lost decade"

T.J. Pempel UC Berkeley

Faculty Discussant: Laurie Freeman
Student Discussant: Kenneth McElwain

Q&A

2:45-3:45
Dissertation chapter on bureaucratic reforms in Japan
Jooyoun Jung, Stanford

Faculty Discussant: Steve Vogel
Student Discussant: Jon Marshall

Q&A

3:45-4:00 — Coffee Break

4:00-5:00
"Gaiatsu" from within? Effects of FDI on politics and institutional change"
Kenji Kushida, UC Berkeley

Discussant: Jennifer Amyx
Student Discussant: Myung-koo Kang

Q&A

5:15 — Closing Remarks

**Lecture-demonstration by Nakamura Ganjiro III of Japan's Grand Kabuki Chikamatsu-za
June 15, 2005**

Lecture / Demonstration

**Institute of East Asian Studies, Cal Performances, The Consulate General of Japan in San Francisco,
Department of Music**

Organized in conjunction with the performances of Japan's Shochiku Grand Kabuki Chikamatsu-za, Friday-Saturday, June 17-18, 2005 at Zellerbach Hall.

Kabuki, the art of theatrical exploration into human passions and flaws, has been performed exclusively by men for more than 300 years. Male actors play all roles, including women characters, or *onnagata*.

Grand Master of the *kamigata* style of Kabuki, Nakamura Ganjiro III, who has played the female lead in *Sonezaku Shinju* ("Love Suicides at Sonezaki") for over 50 years and who has been designated a Living National Treasure, will talk about the history and forms of Kabuki Theatre. The lecture will be illustrated on stage by his apprentice, Nakamura Gankyo, who will be transformed into a beautiful woman through the application of full traditional make-up and costume, and will then demonstrate the theatrical conventions of the Kabuki female character role.

Evaluating the Japanese Election

**T.J. Pempel, Political Science, UC Berkeley
Steve Vogel, Political Science, UC Berkeley**

Ethan Scheiner, Political Science, UC Davis
Robert Madsen, MIT Center for International Studies
Rob Weiner, Cornell University
September 16, 2005

Center for Japanese Studies

Japan's Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi won an overwhelming victory in Lower House elections September 11. His party and its coalition ally will have a key two-thirds majority in the new parliament. This forum will provide a small panel to assess what the election means for Japanese politics and economic reforms.

The Body in Naturalist Literature and Modern Social Imaginaries

Christopher L. Hill, East Asian Languages & Literatures, Yale University
September 16, 2005

Center for Japanese Studies

The literary school of naturalism spread rapidly around the world from the time of its rise in France in the mid-nineteenth century. By the early twentieth century writers acknowledging a tie to naturalism could be found on every inhabited continent. Naturalism was not a solitary traveler, however: it moved along with other genres such as criminology, reportage literature, and evolutionary social theory that together constituted a modern social imaginary. The example of Japanese naturalism shows that representation of the degenerate body played an important role in this imaginary as an anchor for the description of society and the rapid changes it was experiencing. Free and open to the public.

Globalization and the Intellectual Future of Women's Emancipation

Nobuyo Goto, Political Economy, Fukushima Medical University
September 19, 2005

Center for Japanese Studies

At present, Globalization is underway, on one hand via the Information-Communication Revolution, and on the other hand making Asia the workshop of the world. In cyberspace, we have the Internet Community, while in the real world, the back-office and sweatshop of women's workers for low wages. Meanwhile, in the U.S. the family is the focus of "the cultural war." What does that mean? This lecture tries to dissect those problems by using concepts of some Japanese social scientists as discussed in A. E. Barshay's *The Social Sciences in Modern Japan*.

Race, Empire, and the Dominatrix in the Novels of Japanese Author Numa Shozo

Christine Marran, Asian Languages & Literature, University of Minnesota
September 30, 2005

Center for Japanese Studies

Fukuzawa Yukichi and Maruyama Masao: Two Visions of Japan

Alan MacFarlane, Social Anthropology, King's College, University of Cambridge
October 6-7, 2005

Center for Japanese Studies

In conjunction with: Alan MacFarlane's October 7 Maruyama Seminar, "Fukuzawa and Maruyama: How to Understand Japan."

The Maruyama Lectures are named in honour of the late Maruyama Masao (1914-96), historian of East Asian political thought and one of the most influential political thinkers in twentieth-century Japan. Sponsored by the Center for Japanese Studies, the series brings to the university important scholars and thinkers who will offer reflections on the problem of political engagement and responsibility in modern times, which was the central and overriding concern in Maruyama's work. This series is supported by a grant from the Konishi Foundation for

International Exchange, Tokyo.

On October 6-7 (Thursday-Friday), Alan MacFarlane, Professor of Social Anthropology at King's College, University of Cambridge will offer the 5th Maruyama Lecture and Seminar.

Alan Macfarlane was born in Assam, India, in 1941. He gained doctorates in history (Oxford, 1967) and anthropology (London, 1972) and has taught at the University of Cambridge since 1971. He became a Fellow of King's College in 1981, the British Academy in 1986 and Professor of Anthropological Science in 1991. He has given the Frazer, Malinowski and Marrett Lectures in Britain, the Silver Jubilee Guest Lecture at the Delhi School of Economics, and is the Sir Li Ka-Sheng distinguished lecturer in China in 2005. He has taught at the University of Tokyo and lectured at a number of Japanese universities.

He has undertaken extensive historical and anthropological work in England, Nagaland, Nepal, Japan and China. Among his fifteen published books are: *Witchcraft in Tudor and Stuart England* (1970); *The Origins of English Individualism* (1978); *Marriage and Love in England* (1986); *The Culture of Capitalism* (1987); *The Savage Wars of Peace - England, Japan and the Malthusian Trap* (1997); *The Riddle of the Modern World* (2000); *The Making of the Modern World* (2002 - on F.W.Maitland and Fukuzawa Yukichi); *Glass: A World History* (2002, with G.Martin); *Letters to Lily - On How the World Works* (2005).

His [website](#) contains interviews of sixty leading academics and thinkers, films from around the world, and various historical and anthropological databases and sets of writings.

Kwaidan

October 8, 2005

Institute of East Asian Studies, Agency for Cultural Affairs, Government of Japan

This film, described as a re-discovery of Japanese beauty through non-Japanese eyes, is based on Yakumo Koizumi's series of short spooky stories. Kwaidan is comprised of four parts: the story of a samurai, a young woodcutter, an expert biwa player, and a man named Kannai. This screening of Masaki Kobayashi's Kwaidan will be introduced by actress Yoko Sugi, Special Advisor for Cultural Exchange for Japan's Agency for Cultural Affairs.

The Space Between: The Cartographic Imagination of Japanese Modernism

October 14-15, 2005

Center for Japanese Studies, Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, Doreen B. Townsend Center for the Humanities

Spirits of the State

John Nelson, Department of Theology and Religious Studies, University of San Francisco

October 28, 2005

Center for Japanese Studies

Yasukuni Shrine is one of Japan's most controversial and important religious sites. This presentation will begin with Nelson's 26-minute documentary film that addresses the complex and contentious positioning within the shrine of nationalism, cultural identity, religion, and historical revisionism. Based on ethnographic and other video footage, the film provides a rare look into rituals carried out for spirits of the military dead and bereaved families, as well as exhibits from the shrine's museum of war memorabilia. Following the film will be a short lecture on recent developments related to the shrine – including the Prime Minister's fifth visit on Oct. 18th – that have the potential to destabilize East Asian security, international investment, and regional cooperation.

John Nelson, Associate Professor of East Asian Religions at the University of San Francisco, is the author of *A Year in the Life of a Shinto Shrine* (1996) and *Enduring Identities: the Guise of Shinto in Contemporary Japan* (2000), an article on the shrine itself, "Social Memory as Ritual Practice: Commemorating Spirits of the Military Dead at Yasukuni Shinto Shrine," (*Journal of Asian Studies*, May 2003), and the 1997 documentary film, "Japan's Rituals of Remembrance: Fifty Years after the Pacific War."

Koizumi's Gamble and Its Consequences

Gerald Curtis, Political Science, Columbia University

October 31, 2005

Center for Japanese Studies

Japan's September 11th general election was one of the most interesting, entertaining, and important elections in recent memory. The election's outcome tells us a lot about what has changed in Japanese society. The key questions now are what Koizumi is going to do with his victory and what the implications of the election are for Japanese politics over the longer term.

Gerald L. Curtis is the Burgess Professor of Political Science at Columbia University and a visiting professor at the Graduate Research Institute for Policy Studies in Tokyo. He is former Director of the Weatherhead East Asian Institute at Columbia University. Professor Curtis is the author of *The Logic of Japanese Politics* and numerous other books and articles on Japanese politics, government, and foreign policy and U.S.-Japan relations. He is a columnist for the *Chunichi and Tokyo Shimbun*, senior advisor to Newsweek for *Newsweek Japan*, and a regular contributor to mass media and intellectual journals in the United States, Japan, and other countries. Professor Curtis has held appointments at the Royal Institute of International Affairs, Chatham House, London; the College de France, Paris; Keio and Tokyo Universities; and the Research Institute for Economy, Trade and Industry in Tokyo. He is the recipient of the Chunichi Shimbun Special Achievement Award, the Masayoshi Ohira Memorial Prize for The Japanese Way of Politics, and the Japan Foundation Award for his writings on Japanese politics and society and his contributions to increasing knowledge about Japan abroad. In 2004 Professor Curtis was awarded the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star by the Emperor of Japan. Professor Curtis is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and the Board of Directors of the U.S. Japan Foundation. He is advisor and consultant to numerous public and private organizations in the United States and Japan.

Unspeakable Acts: The Avant-Garde Theatre of Terayama Shuji and Postwar Japan

Carol Fisher Sorgenfrei, Japanese Theater, UCLA

November 4, 2005

Center for Japanese Studies

Unspeakable Acts interrogates postwar Japanese culture and theatre through the creative work of Terayama Shûji (1935-1983), one of postwar Japan's most gifted and controversial playwrights/directors, also a filmmaker, poet, novelist and theorist. Using Japanese and Western theories of psychoanalysis, anthropology, sociology, gender studies and aesthetics, Carol Fisher Sorgenfrei situates this unique yet emblematic artist – hailed as a genius and denounced as a terrorist/pornographer – in historical and cultural context. She explores why Terayama remains a cult hero today by examining issues such as the postwar ruins of personal and national identity; nostalgia; post modernity; the theory of Japan as a "mother-centered culture"; and the artistic legacies and practices that bind Terayama to – and sever him from – the international avant-garde and the popular performances of his rural youth. Translations of three key plays and portions of Terayama's dramatic theory enhance the analysis. The video-illustrated lecture will emphasize Terayama's tortured "love-in-hate" for his mother and other females.

Japan's FTAs with Southeast Asia: Economic Interests and a Contest with China

Kitti Prasirtsuk, Political Science, Thammasat University, Thailand

November 7, 2005

Center for Japanese Studies

It is both economic and political interests that have driven Japan towards the establishment of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with Southeast Asia. Perceivably, Japan has three goals in launching these FTA negotiations. First, Japan desires to contest China's increasing clout in Southeast Asia following Beijing's initial proposal of the China-ASEAN FTA in 2001. Second, Japanese industries aim to advance their economic interests in Southeast Asia by lessening restrictions particularly in regards to investment rules and the service industry. Third, FTAs are expected to exert external pressure (*gaiatsu*) for structural reform in Japan.

This presentation argues that Japan has given priority to the first and second goals which, it turns out, are quite intertwined. With China in perspective, Tokyo always emphasizes high standards on investment rules and the protection of intellectual property rights, which should be useful when Japan has to deal with China on such issues whether bilaterally or regionally. The third goal of FTA *gaiatsu* meanwhile, is greatly compromised by Japan's reluctance to embrace labor and agricultural imports. Political leadership on FTAs is lacking as Koizumi has been focusing elsewhere.

From the *Roji* to the World: Nakagami Kenji and the Politics of Translation

Sayuri Oyama, Japanese Studies, Sarah Lawrence College

November 21, 2005

Center for Japanese Studies

In his fiction and ethnographic writing, postwar Japanese writer Nakagami Kenji (1946-1992) explores the connections between place and identity. As a writer from the Kumano region of Japan, Nakagami has been framed in criticism and translation in terms of his specific connection to *buraku* by birth. Yet Nakagami's writing calls for a rethinking of what it means to belong to a place or for places to represent people. This paper will examine how Nakagami's narratives, including *Misaki* (The Cape) and *Kishu: Ki no kuni, ne no kuni monogatari* (A Tale of the Land of Trees, a Land of Roots), complicate readings of Nakagami as a writer from or of the buraku.

Mishima Yukio: Camp, Kitsch, or Crazy?

Keith Vincent, Japanese Literature, New York University

December 2, 2005

Center for Japanese Studies

Mishima Yukio knew how to push people's buttons. As an ambiguously gay neo-fascist driven by an unapologetic narcissism that was leavened in turn with a heavy dose of irony, Mishima's life and work is as fascinating for the reactions it provokes as it is on its own merits. From the far left to the far right the Mishima phenomenon has brought out the worst in people, stirring up equal measures of outrage and adoration. Mishima forces us to think about the political and psychological factors that might distinguish kitsch from camp, and the genius from the madman. This talk looks at a variety of texts written about Mishima before and after his death in 1970 as a means of better understanding the dynamics of reception in political and historical context.

Keith Vincent teaches in the departments of East Asian Studies and Comparative Literature at New York University. His work focuses on modern Japanese literature, novel theory, psychoanalysis, and queer theory. He is currently completing a manuscript entitled *The Exciting Cause: Paranoid Homosexuality in Modern Japanese Narrative*.

Fiscal Decentralization and Education in USA and Japan

Hiroaki Hayashi, Economics, Kansai University

December 5, 2005

Center for Japanese Studies

The financing of education has been an important subject of discussion for a number of years now, in both Japan and the United States. In Japan, education is largely centrally planned and financed. The United States offers a different model. Recently, in Japan, decentralization has become a hot topic of political debate. This debate has often occurred by way of comparison to similar discussions in the United States. The talk will focus on this discussion.

Publishing and the Creation of a Cultural Identity: Selling Modern Japanese Literature

Ted Mack, Asian Languages & Literature, University of Washington

December 9, 2005

Center for Japanese Studies

The intellectual historian Maruyama Masao described his experience at the beginning of the Shôwa period (1926-89), when the status of modern Japanese literature changed dramatically in the national consciousness: at the end of the Taishô period (1912-26), someone "who spent all his time reading novels was doing one of two things: avoiding his studies or corrupting his morals"; yet after the one-yen book boom that began in 1926, "everyone – not just students – had to at least know the names of famous Japanese and world authors and their works, whether you had read them or not. After these one-yen series appeared, this sort of information became 'common knowledge.'" This talk looks at the ways in which publishing gave modern Japanese literature a cultural prestige it had not previously possessed and changed the way we think about Japanese-language literary production in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Ted Mack teaches at the University of Washington, Seattle. His work focuses on the material history of modern Japanese literature. He is currently completing a manuscript entitled *Manufacturing Modern Japanese Literature: Publishing and the Creation of a National Culture*.