



Comparative Asian Research Network

Monthly Lecture Series on Issues and Research in the Asian Region

Organized by the Department of Japanese Studies, CUHK

Civic Rule in Edo Japan and the East Asian World Order: Countering Meiji-centric Narratives

Speaker: Professor Lin Shaoyang

(Department of Interdisciplinary Cultural Studies,
Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, The University of Tokyo)

Date: 29 April 2019 (Monday)

Time: 2:00 - 3:00 pm

Venue: Room 401, Leung Kau Kui Building, CUHK

Language: English

All are welcome!!

Abstract:

In this talk, the speaker attempts a slightly provocative macro depiction of Japanese history from the early modern to modern period. Drawing on existing research into Japanese economic, demographic and military historiography, he attempts to locate modern Japan, and especially the 1868 Meiji Restoration, within the perspective of a longer time span or *longue durée* (as per Fernand Braudel). Since the issue of time span should ultimately also be understood as an issue of geographical space, modern narratives of the Edo period (1603-1867) that are based on a Meiji-centric framework should be reviewed critically in the broader context of early modern East Asia. The speaker argues that Edo Japan is a typically a period of civic rule (文治) that contrasts with the military rule (武治) of modern Japan from 1868 to 1945.

Speaker:

Lin Shaoyang received his Ph.D. from the University of Tokyo, Japan. He is currently a Professor at the University of Tokyo's Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. Lin's research focuses on intellectual and literary history in the East Asian Sinitic sphere (Japan and China) from the early modern period. His research interests include intellectual, literary and cultural histories from early 19th-century China and from late Edo-period Japan. Currently he is working on a forthcoming book on the history of historiography of postwar Japanese Sinology. He is the author of several books and journal articles.

No registration necessary.

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