



**Comparative Asian Research Network**  
Monthly Lecture Series on Issues and Research in the Asian Region  
Organized by the Department of Japanese Studies, CUHK

# Insular Readings of Postwar Japanese Literature

*All are Welcome!!*

**Speaker: Professor Dennitza Gabrakova**

Assistant Professor Department of Asian and International Studies  
City University of Hong Kong

**Date: 3 December 2015 (Thursday)**

**Time: 12:00 – 13:30**

**Venue: Leung Kau Kui Building Room 401**

**Language: English**

## Abstract

The talk will introduce ideas of Japanese contemporary critics Imafuku Ryuta and Ukai Satoshi highlighting a postcolonial sensibility in their conceptualization of Japan through the images of “archipelago” and “wound”. Such vision of Japan has its roots in the Yaponeshia (Japanesia) theory of author Shimao Toshio, while at the same time it alludes to literary and critical production from the Caribbean and the Pacific. The intersections of the island/archipelago imagery from Japan and from other regions highlight important concerns related to perceptions of trauma embedded in the sense of ethnic identity and to questions of territory and sovereignty. Examples of postwar and contemporary Japanese literature (from Oba Minako to Shimada Masahiko) can illustrate the potential for historical and cultural critique as manifested in their authors' renderings of remote islands simultaneously as Japan's margins and as metaphors for Japan.

No registration necessary.

Enquiries: Ann Lui Email: [annlui@cuhk.edu.hk](mailto:annlui@cuhk.edu.hk)

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