

# Asian Studies Program

Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs



## SOUTHERN JAPAN SEMINAR 2018

Friday, March 2, 2018 | 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM | FIU Modesto A. Maidique Campus | Frost Art Museum Room 107

This year's Southern Japan Seminar (SJS) features three scholars and Dr. Steven Heine, Professor and Director of Asian Studies at FIU, as moderator.

### **“Homesick: Tazaki Tsukuru’s Quest in the Context of Murakami Haruki’s Work”**

*Patricia Welch, Hofstra University*

Quests abound in Murakami Haruki’s novels. Characters move from ignorance to positions of greater awareness of self and society. While the ultimate journey is an inner one, each quest plays out in physical space (both real—landscape—and uncanny—dreamscape). This talk focuses on the central quest of *Colorless Tsukuru Tazaki and his Years of Pilgrimage*. In high school, Tsukuru Tazaki belonged to a tightknit group of friends, each—except him—with a colorful family name. While in college, they dumped him without no explanation, leaving him on the brink of despair. Tsukuru, now an architect, begins a quest to understand why he was banished. His name Tsukuru (“to make or do”) is significant as he searches to find out why, in order to move on beyond the trauma. **Respondent: Michaela Prostak, FIU**

### **“Japan and Islam in Asia: Discovery, Identity, and Perceptions”**

*Bryan Barber, Florida International University*

In 2006, Tokyo announced a new key pillar to its foreign policy labeled 'values-based diplomacy' spanning Greater Asia. Yet, in an era where Islam is perceived by many as a security threat, how does Japan's values-based vision for Greater Asia reconcile with their own version of securitizing Islam? Historical and contemporary interactions between Japan and Islam are drawn upon to formulate how Japan perceives Islam, and by extension, its own role in Asia today.

**Respondent: Zenel Garcia, FIU**

### **“Globalization of Genji Monogatari 源氏物語: Critical Analysis of Waka和歌Translations in the West”**

*Marcela López Bravo, Waseda University*

A representative selection of Genji Monogatari (The Tale of Genji) waka will be examined in various European language translations in order to evaluate the extent to which their original meaning and imagery get appropriated. What is lost (or found) in translation? How does Genji get transformed or even replaced by a globalized version of himself? To efficiently complete the text criticism and literary interpretation, this study implements NVivo, a user-friendly software that enhances qualitative data analysis. Only complete translations in English, French, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish will be the focus of this research project. **Respondent: Masako Kubota, FIU**

**This event is free and open to the public.**

For more information, please call 305-348-1914.