



SOUTHERN JAPAN SEMINAR

After the Abe Assassination:
Tracking Religion in Japan

Thursday, February 2, 2023
6:00pm - 7:00 pm (EST) | Live Webinar

Zoom Link (Registration not required)
<https://fiu.zoom.us/j/7141797621>

Turmoil following the shocking murder of former Prime Minister Abe Shinzō on July 8, 2022, by a gunman who bore a grudge against the Unification Church (UC) has reinforced the fact that we must attend to religion in order to understand politics in Japan.

In this talk, Dr. Levi McLaughlin will contextualize popular and political reactions to revelations about the UC and its connections to lawmakers as he surveys how religions and religion-connected activists in Japan exert a decisive impact on vote-gathering, policymaking, and party politics. McLaughlin will draw on his ethnographic engagements to provide an overview of Shinto-affiliated nationalists (including the lobby organization Nippon Kaigi and its signatories).

Presenter:

Levi McLaughlin

Associate Professor, Department of
Philosophy and Religious Studies, North
Carolina State University

Dr. McLaughlin is co-author of *Kōmeitō: Politics and Religion in Japan* (IEAS Berkeley, 2014) and author of *Soka Gakkai's Human Revolution: The Rise of a Mimetic Nation in Modern Japan* (University of Hawai'i Press, 2019), as well as numerous book chapters and articles on religion and politics in Japan.

Moderator:

Steven Heine

Professor and Director, Asian Studies Program

Event is free and open to the public.
Contact asian@fiu.edu for questions.

Co-sponsor:

Department of Politics and International Relations