



## SOUTHERN JAPAN SEMINAR

Innovative Teaching:  
Japanese Gardens & Animals In  
Japanese Society

**Thursday, March 9, 2023**  
**6:00pm - 7:30 pm (EST) | Live Webinar**

[Zoom Link \(Registration not required\)](https://fiu.zoom.us/j/7141797621)  
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### "Gardens as a Gateway to Japanese Culture"

In this talk, Dr. Michaela Mross examines various sources, such as religious texts, garden manuals, and paintings, to explore the interconnections between Japanese culture and landscape design. Through innovative teaching, Dr. Mross incorporates experiential and sensorial learning with visits to local Japanese gardens and participation in a tea ceremony. These field trips provide students with a first-hand experience of Japanese culture, which enables them to understand the ideas we study on a deeper, more personal level.

### "Animals in Japanese Religions and Multisensory Pedagogy"

In teaching animals in Japanese religions to undergraduates, Dr. Barbara R. Ambros employs multisensory pedagogy and teamwork to teach the students different ways of knowing and the basics of academic writing. As the students engage with textual and visual sources, they explore the world through nonhuman eyes and bodily experiences in matching experiential exercises that give them new perspectives on these materials and create opportunities for collaborative writing projects.

Event is free and open to the public.

### Presenters:

#### Michaela Mross

Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at Stanford University. Dr. Mross specializes in Japanese Buddhism, with a particular emphasis on Sōtō Zen, Buddhist rituals, and sacred music. Her first book, [Memory, Music, Manuscripts](#), explores the sonic dimension of Zen practice.

#### Barbara R. Ambros

Professor of Religious Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Dr. Ambros's research on Japanese religions has focused on issues in gender studies; human-animal relationships; place and space; and pilgrimage. She is currently working on a monograph on ritual life releases in early modern Japan and a translation of Vincent Goossaert's [L'interdit du bœuf en Chine](#).

### Moderator:

#### Steven Heine

Professor and Director, Asian Studies Program

Contact [asian@fiu.edu](mailto:asian@fiu.edu) for questions.