FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2016
FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
ROOM - GC 150
Friday, February 26, 2016

♦ 9:15AM Welcoming Remarks
   • Steven Heine, Florida International University

♦ 9:30 AM—12:00 PM Morning Panel
   • Anne Allison, Duke University
     *Greeting the Dead: Managing Solitary Existence in Japan*
   • Raji Steineck, University of Zurich
     *Visiting the Dragon King: Thinking Myth through Medieval Japanese Mythologies*
   • Dorothy Wong, University of Virginia
     *Horyūi Temple Wall Paintings in the East Asian Art Context*

♦ 12:00 PM–1:00 PM Lunch Break, Invited Guests Only
   *Japanese Folk Song by Joshua Seidler with Naofumi Murata*

♦ 1:10 PM—3:15 PM Afternoon Panel
   • Ken Okaniwa, Consul General of Japan in Miami
     *Japan’s Foreign Policy*
   • Kip Fulbeck, University of California at Santa Barbara
     *Hapa: A Future Retrospective*
   • Steven Heine and Hitomi Yoshio, FIU
     *“Tokyo: High City and Low City”—2016 NEH Summer Institute*
   • FIU Asian Studies Graduate Student Thesis Presentations:
     Rebecca Richko, FIU—*Social and Economic Factors that Influence Japanese Women’s Decision about Childbearing*
     Rayna Rusenko, FIU—*Homelessness and the Re/formation of Vagrancy Law in Meiji era Japan*
Welcoming Remarks
9:15 AM

- Dr. Steven Heine, Professor and Director of Asian Studies

Steven Heine specializes in East Asian and comparative religions, as well as Japanese Buddhism and intellectual history. He also teaches a variety of courses, including Japanese culture and religion, history, and the modernization of Asia. He is a recipient of the Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs Award for a lifetime of achievement in service to the exchanges between Japan and the United States. In 2007, Dr. Heine received the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette from the government of Japan. He has published two dozen books and several articles in refereed journals and collections. His most recent books include: Sacred High City, Sacred Low City: A Tale of Religious Sites in Two Tokyo Neighborhoods (2011); Dōgen: Textual and Historical Studies (2012); Like Cats and Dogs: Contesting the Mu Kōan in Zen Buddhism (2013); and Zen Koans (2014).

Morning Panel
9:30 AM–12:00 PM

- Anne Allison, Duke University
  Greeting the Dead: Managing Solitary Existence in Japan


Abstract: Reflecting residential and demographic shifts, the social ecology of existence is undergoing radical change in 21st century Japan. While long-term bonds were once the earmarks of its “group-oriented society,” today it is living and dying alone that marks Japan’s new era of “single-ification.” How this plays into the management of death—for those at end-of-life as well as those at risk of dying in/from solitude—is the subject of this talk.

- Raji Steineck, Universität Zürich
  Visiting the Dragon King: Thinking Myth through Medieval Japanese Mythologies
Raji C. Steineck is Professor of Japanology at University of Zurich and has taught at various universities in Germany, Poland and Japan. He has recently published on Dōgen and Zen Buddhist literature, concepts of authorship, and modern Japanese philosophy, and is preparing a volume on ancient

Abstract: While myths are often thought to be archaic and unchanging, history provides evidence to the contrary. The Japanese Ex-Emperor Go-Shirakawa (12th century) produced a new, illustrated version of a story from the earliest Imperial Chronicle. In this version, a divine ancestor visits the dragon king, instead of the lord of the sea. What did that change signify, and what does it tell us about the nature of mythological discourse?

• Dorothy Wong, University of Virginia

Hōryūji Temple Wall Paintings in the East Asian Art Context

Dorothy Wong is Associate Professor of East Asian Art at the University of Virginia. She specializes in Buddhist art of medieval China, and East Asia in general. Her publications include Chinese Steles: Pre-Buddhist and Buddhist Use of a Symbolic Form (2004, Chinese edition 2011), Hōryūji Reconsidered (editor and contributing author, 2008), China and Beyond in the Medieval Period: Cultural Crossings and Inter-regional Connections (co-editor and contributing author, 2014), and many articles on topics of Buddhist art. Recently she completed a monograph entitled Buddhist Pilgrim-Monks as Agents of Cultural and Artistic Transmission: The International Buddhist Art Style in East Asia, ca. 645–770.

Abstract: The Hōryūji wall paintings were executed during the reconstruction of the temple in the latter part of the Hakuhō period (645–710). In this presentation I will first explain the subject and style of the murals, and then place them within the broader context of an emerging international Buddhist art idiom that was formulated in Tang China. Comparisons with extant wall paintings from the cave-temples at Dunhuang, for example, can elucidate Hōryūji’s connections with this cosmopolitan Buddhist art.

12:00 – 1:00 PM  Lunch Break, Invited Guests Only

Afternoon Panel:
1:00 PM–3:30 PM

• Ken Okaniwa, Consul General of Japan in Miami
  Japan’s Foreign Policy

Mr. Okaniwa was appointed Consul General of Japan in Miami on 1 October 2015. Having joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1984, Mr. Okaniwa has extensive experience in multilateral negotiations, development policy, public diplomacy and crisis management. From 2003 to 2006, he was the Director in charge of multilateral development institutions, including the World Bank, UNDP and OECD/DAC, development policy, the ODA White Paper and aid evaluation. Mr. Okaniwa received a B.A. in Law at Hitotsubashi University, and a B.A. degree in Modern History from Merton College, Oxford University.
• **Kip Fulbeck**, University of California at Santa Barbara
  *Hapa: A Future Retrospective*

Kip Fulbeck is an award-winning artist, filmmaker, spoken word performer, and author whose work has been featured on CNN, MTV, NPR, *The TODAY Show*, and *The New York Times*. He is a professor of Art at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

**Abstract:** This presentation focuses on new work from Fulbeck’s photographic series exploring Hapa identity (Hapa referring to individuals of partial Asian or Pacific Islander descent), comparing how Hapa identity in the U.S. and Hafu identity in Japan both continue to redefine and evolve in relation to pop culture, media representation, and personal identification.

• **Steven Heine** and **Hitomi Yoshio**, FIU
  *“Tokyo: High City and Low City” — 2016 NEH Summer Institute*

Steven Heine is Professor and Director of Asian Studies.

Hitomi Yoshio is an Assistant Professor of Japanese at Florida International University. Her research interests include the formation of the field of literature and the publishing industry in modern Japan, focusing particularly on literary communities and feminist groups based in Tokyo. She is also the translator of the contemporary author Mieko Kawakami.

*“Tokyo: High City and Low City”*
*A National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Summer Institute For College and University Teachers*

This NEH Summer Institute will trace the numerous threads tying Japan’s present to its past, and its surface behavior to underlying substance. This is viewed through the lens of how critical literary works, especially novels and philosophical writings by Natsume Soseki, Higuchi Ichiyo, Tanizaki Jun’ichiro, Kawabata Yasunari, and Oe Kenzaburo (the last two are Nobel laureates), in addition to religious rituals at Buddhist and Shinto sites, reflect patterns of life in colorful locations in and around prominent Tokyo neighborhoods. We take as our starting point the Meiji reforms of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and then consider how postwar trends culminated in the integration of traditional Eastern society with the modern West.

• **FIU Asian Studies Graduate Student Thesis Presentations:**
  **Rebecca Richko** and **Rayna Rusenko**

  ◊ **Rebecca Richko**, FIU
  *Social and Economic Factors that Influence Japanese Women’s Decision about Childbearing*
Rebecca Richko is graduate student in the Asian Studies Master’s Program at FIU. Her thesis is on social and economic influences on women’s decision to have children in post-bubble Japan. Her research included a study tour in Japan, which was supported in part by the Japan Foundation.

**Abstract:** Japan’s population decline is a domestic and global concern. A common discourse on the issue of Japan’s low birth rate focuses on the role of women, specifically indicating that women should prioritize motherhood. I argue that Japan’s low birth rate is the result of a nexus of social and economic influences that are experienced in contemporary society, which I have divided into four factors. The conditions caused by the interaction of these different factors contributes to consistent decline in the birth rate.

◊ **Rayna Rusenko, FIU**

*Homelessness and the Re/formation of Vagrancy Law in Meiji era Japan*

Rayna Rusenko is a double-degree student in Asian Studies and Global and Sociocultural Studies at FIU. She holds a master’s degree in public policy and has over a decade of advocacy and research experience pertaining to social welfare, labor, and homelessness policy in Japan and Malaysia.

**Abstract:** In Tokugawa Japan (1603-1867), laws obligated peasants to register and maintain their residence in a locality; those who did not were considered mushuku (無宿; “[people] without abode”), positioned outside the feudal caste system. Meiji era transformation had a profound impact on social and legal treatment of homelessness, particularly as the state adopted Western-influenced vagrancy law. This research explores the direction of homelessness regulation during Meiji (1868-1912) and highlights its ideational and institutional legacies.
Master of Arts in Asian Studies

The Master of Arts in Asian Studies (MAAS) is a growing interdisciplinary program drawing on excellent faculty resources in various departments in the School of International and Public Affairs, including Global and Sociocultural Studies, Politics and International Relations, Religious Studies, and more. This program is designed for students who wish to pursue advanced studies of the traditional cultures and modern socio-economic trends of Asia, with an emphasis on China and Japan.

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National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)

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Japan Studies Review

The Japan Studies Review is a refereed journal published annually by the Southern Japan Seminar and Asian Studies at FIU. As a publication that addresses a variety of cross-disciplinary issues in Japanese studies, Japan Studies Review includes contributions that deal with practical and theoretical topics in the areas of business and economic issues, politics, education and curriculum development, philosophy and aesthetics, gender issues, popular culture, and immigration issues. The 2014 issue consists of articles on various subjects including modern Japanese industry, Japanese war propaganda, Enlightenment ideals in Japanese folklore, Western contributors to the modernization of Meiji Japan, the Senkaku Island dispute between Japan and China, Japan’s role in counter-terrorism in South Asia, and additional translated works from Kurahashi Yumiko. It also features essays dealing with issues on the ethnography of the Ainus as well as the Japanese history textbook controversy. Several book reviews are included pertaining to topics on Japan and global contexts, new religions in Japan and the aesthetics of Japanese fascism. For more information please visit: http://asian.fiu.edu/jsr

Japan Foundation Institutional Project Support Grant

FIU’s Asian Studies Program has received the Japan Foundation Institutional Project Support Grant for a collaborative project called "The South Florida Partnership in Japanese Studies (SFPJS)." This project, lasting from 2013-2017, seeks to enhance knowledge and critical analysis of Japanese history and culture through developing an interdisciplinary curriculum and supporting a multi-institutional consortium for promoting research, teaching, and outreach. The SFPJS partners include Florida Atlantic University (FAU), the Morikami Museum & Japanese Gardens, and the Florida Delegation of the Southeast U.S. / Japan Association (SEUS / Japan). The SFPJS also collaborates with outreach organizations including Miami-Dade and Broward College, Assoc. of Florida Teachers of Japanese, Miami Hoshuko, and Japanese Business Association Miami.
Asian Studies Program — Co-Sponsored Events

Spring 2016 Events

Jan 26, 2015: Dr. Steven Heine: Workshop on Grant Writing in the Humanities (NEH)

Jan 28, 2016: Meet the Ainu: Indigenous People of Japan
Lecture by Masako Kubota

Jan 28, 2016: Islam in China: An Overview Over a Forgotten Identity

Feb-April 2016: NCTA Seminar for K-12 Teachers

Feb 12, 2016: Golden Buddha Jazz Band Performance:
A Cultural Exchange in the Language of Jazz

Feb 12, 2016: Chinese New Year Celebration—Year of the Monkey

Feb 25, 2016: Remainderless Death: Facing the Precarity of Dying
Alone in Japan—Lecture by Dr. Anne Allison

Feb 25, 2016: International Noir: Sympathy for Mr. Vengeance,
Featuring Dr. Andy Strycharski

Feb 27-28, 2016: Cool Japan @ FIU

March 30, 2016: JETAA-FL Movie Screening: Tohoku Tomo

April 10, 2016: Chinese Speech Contest

April 15, 2016: Japan Foundation Grant Workshop —
Research by faculty and graduate Students

June 4-30, 2016: “Tokyo: High City & Low City”
NEH Summer Institute 2016

*Some of our events are co-sponsored with Japan Foundation IPS Grant,
Consulate General of Japan in Miami, Morikami Museum, Association of
Florida Teachers of Japanese (AFTJ), Miami Dade College, and other
organizations.

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The Southern Japan Seminar (SJS) promotes the research and educational activities of Japan-related scholars in the Southeastern United States. Drawing upon the strengths and needs of regional Japan studies, SJS fosters critical inquiry, multi-disciplinary discussion, and the dissemination of knowledge concerning all Japan-related topics, both theoretical and practical.