

Ritsumeikan Seminar Series

Tuesday, March 03, 2015

Venue: SOAS Vernon Square Campus, VG06 (Ground floor)

Time: 18:00pm~ (followed by reception)

Admission: Free (*registration is essential*)

Dear All,

Greetings from Ritsumeikan UK office at Vernon Square Campus (V212) - Little Japan or little "Kyoto" in Vernon Square!?! We are pleased to announce that we will start "Ritsumeikan Seminar series" from this spring. It should be informal yet informative series of talks on various topics by distinguished speakers in English/Japanese.

Before its official start, we would like to hold a special evening for mainly SOAS members and other invited guests. Two professors from Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto talk on topics as below. You may also find it interesting to have conversation with participants at the reception after seminars!

Registration: Please send your name and department with contact details by Sunday, the 1st of March to london@st.ritsumei.ac.jp, and we will send you confirmation mail.

"Consuming the Past: Japanese Media and Twenty-first Century"

Professor Katsuyuki Hidaka

College of Social Sciences, Ritsumeikan University

Abstract: There has been a recent 'boom' in the number of Japanese cultural products representing a deeply nostalgic longing for the 'heydays' of Japan's period of high economic growth in the 1960s and 1970s. This phenomenon has been called the 'Shōwa thirties boom' (Shōwa sanjū nendai būmu) or 'Shōwa thirties nostalgia' (Shōwa sanjū nendai nosutarujia). Although this yearning for the late Shōwa period was in evidence in the early 1990s, it was the huge box office success of the 2005 film franchise Always: Sunset on Third Street (Ōruweizu sanchōme no yūhi) that marks the advent of the nostalgia 'boom'. Remakes of television dramas of the 1960s and 1970s, and recent drama serials copying the style of the Shōwa 30s have also attained great popularity. Moreover, recent years have seen the production of a number of television documentaries, magazine articles and popular songs focusing on the 'glory' of that era. The main objective of this lecture is to explore what sparked 'Shōwa nostalgia' at this particular historical juncture and how the late Shōwa period is represented in the media today.

"Institutional commitment to integration of international and local students on campus"

Professor Toshiko Sakamoto

College of Social Sciences, Ritsumeikan University

Abstract: One of the features of Ritsumeikan University and Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University is the cultural diversity of the student population and the diversity provides great potential for all students, both international and local students, to interact with peers from different cultural and linguistic backgrounds. However, communication does not happen automatically and we have been trying to promote peer-learning opportunities among local and international students both within curriculum and in extracurricular activities. This presentation will introduce recent university-wide strategic efforts to integrate students on campus as well as challenges and future policy developments for increasing interaction on campus amongst students with diverse cultural backgrounds.

Speaker's Biography



Katsuyuki Hidaka PhD is a Professor in Media and Cultural Studies at Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto and also a Research Associate at the Centre for Film Studies, SOAS, University of London. Before he became a Media Studies scholar (he received a PhD at SOAS), he had served as a TV director and producer for NHK (Japan Broadcasting Corporation) for many years. Although his current research interests are diverse, they could be classified broadly into the following areas: first, memories, the past, modernity and media; secondly, media narratives after catastrophic disasters and social change (e.g. Japanese media since 3/11); and thirdly, the application of “Radical Democracy” (Laclau and Mouffe) to media and cultural studies. He has recently published *Shōwa Nosutalujia To Wa Nanika (What is Shōwa Nostalgia?)* (Sekai Shisōsha 2014), and today's lecture is based upon this book.



Toshiko Sakamoto is Professor of the College of Social Sciences, Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto and also a Research Associate at the Department of Languages and Cultures, SOAS, University of London. She was Director of the International Centre and of the Division of International Affairs between 2012 and 2013. She also taught at Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University (APU) between 2000 and 2002. She received M.A. in Cross-Cultural Studies from the University of Essex, and Ph.D. in African Studies from the School of Oriental and African Studies, the University of London. Her research areas are multifold, such as Cross-Cultural Studies between the West and the Non-Western Worlds, African Studies, African Literature and Intercultural Communication. She teaches courses of cross-cultural studies and of bilingual intercultural communication between international and domestic students in English and Japanese. She received in 2005 the Advanced Good Practice Award from Ritsumeikan University for her practice in ‘The Bilingual Intercultural Exchange Programme between Ritsumeikan University and Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University’. She is currently looking at South African society in terms of race, gender and sexuality in the transitional process to democracy.