

Contemporary Japan Speaker Series 2016-2019



Contemporary Japan Speaker Series 2018-19 London Asia Pacific Centre for Social Science

Revisiting Japanese Diplomacy in the 1990s: Good Old days?

Prof. Yoshihida Soeya

Professor of International Relations
Keio University

Abstract The post-Cold War 1990s was a critical time of transformation of world politics and foreign policies of many countries including Japan. Japanese foreign policy after the end of the WWII stood out as that of self-restraint and low key during the Cold War, fundamentally constrained by the two basic premises, i.e., the peace constitution and the U.S.-Japan security treaty. Essentially, Japan has adjusted its foreign policy to changing external environments after the Cold War without changing these two premises. Initially in the 1990s, foreign policy adjustments were guided by the principle of internationalism, including participation in the UN peace-keeping operations, conscientious handling of history problems, promotion of multilateral regional cooperation, and re-confirmation of the U.S.-Japan alliance. Since the mid-1990s, however, there occurred reactions to the centrist approach of internationalism and reconciliation from the conservative nationalists, complicating domestic politics of foreign-policy making in Japan, and by extension, external perceptions of Japanese foreign policy changes and Japan's relations with its neighbors. The bottom-line of importance is that these changes have happened and they have been evolving to the present within the basic parameters of the post-war constitution and the alliance with the United States. How could we make sense out of this?



Prof. Yoshihide Soeya Professor of International Relations at the Faculty of Law of Keio University. His areas of interest are politics and security in East Asia and Japanese diplomacy. He received Ph.D. from the University of Michigan in 1987, majoring in world politics. He served as the Director of the Institute of East Asian Studies of the same university for six years until September 2013, and as the Director of its Center for Contemporary Korean Studies for five years until March 2016. Recently, Dr. Soeya was a Japan Scholar of the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington D.C. from September 2013

to January 2014, and a Korea Foundation Fellow affiliated with the ASAN Institute in Seoul in March-May 2014.

Time: 7 December 2018, 6-7.30pm

**Venue: S209, Paul Webley Wing
SOAS, University of London**



All welcome
No registration required
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**The Politics and Institutions of Developmental Finance in East Asia:
China-Japan Competition and Collaboration**

Prof. Motoshi Suzuki
Professor of International Political Economy
Graduate School of Government & Graduate School of Law
Kyoto University

Abstract Developmental finance is an area of competition and collaboration between China and Japan. Both states seek to offer loans competitively to developing states in East Asia and beyond to expand their political influence and economic opportunities. In the meantime, loan recipients attempt to exploit the major-state rivalry to pursue growth and autonomy. This trilateral relationship represents a quintessential balance of power diplomacy in the realm of international finance. Yet excessive financial competition exposes lenders and recipients to the risks of debt default. Contrary to the popular perception of conflict-ridden bilateral relations, China and Japan indeed share a desire to prevent the risks from exploding into a full-fledged financial crisis and thus are trying to institutionalize macroeconomic surveillance, currency swaps, and regulatory collaboration with the International Monetary Fund. While the efforts are treacherous, successful institutionalization will pave the way for ameliorating the major-state rivalry and stabilizing the regional economy.

Motoshi Suzuki is Professor of International Political Economy at the Graduate School of Government and the Graduate School of Law, Kyoto University. He is an associate member of the Science Council of Japan and served as a program officer for the Ministry of Education. Prof. Suzuki has published articles in major international journals, including *American Political Science Review*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *British Journal of Political Science*, *European Journal of Political Research*, *International Studies Quarterly*, and *Journal of Politics*. His recent books in English include *Globalization and the Politics of Institutional Reform in Japan* (Edward Elgar, 2016) and *Games of Conflict and Cooperation in Asia* (co-edited with Akira Okada) (Springer in 2017). Prof. Suzuki received his PhD from University of South Carolina.

Time: 29 November 2018, 6-8pm
Venue: Djam Lecture Theatre
SOAS, Univ of London



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CONTEMPORARY JAPAN SPEAKER SERIES 2017/18

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Challenges to overcome social gaps through local coproduction

Thursday 22 February, 18.00-19.30
SOAS Djam Lecture Theatre, Main Building

Kashiwa, a typical commuter town in the Greater Tokyo Area, is a significant urban farming area. However, it came to be a serious 'hotspot' within the region after the Fukushima accident, and its farmers suffered a sharp decrease in sales following media coverage. Yasumasa Igarashi convened a meeting with various local stakeholders to deliberately and scientifically discuss a unique radioactivity determination method on local farm products and soil, and arrived at an agreement over our own acceptable standard of radioactive concentration in farm products. On the basis of this practical experience in Kashiwa, this presentation will examine the market situations of some Fukushima agricultural and fishery products with different market characteristics after the nuclear disaster, and discuss some ways of recovery of the devastated local industries under the collapse of system trust.

Yasumasa Igarashi is an associate professor at the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tsukuba University.

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CONTEMPORARY JAPAN SPEAKER SERIES 2017/18

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The Sociability of Japanese Millennials in Cyberspace: A Case Study of Barrage Subtitling in Nico Nico Douga

Thursday 15 February, 18.00-20.00
SOAS Djam Lecture Theatre, Main Building

This presentation will analyse 'barrage subtitling' (danmaku) on the Japanese video sharing site Nico Nico Douga. Barrage subtitles - viewers' comments - appear directly on screen instead of at the margins, differing from ordinary subtitling, which is usually prepared in advance for the purpose of precise translation. Because barrage subtitles are often reactions to what is being played, they allow more spontaneous interactions amongst viewers. Here, the purpose of interaction is not solely the conveyance of substantive meanings, but the continuation and proliferation of communication. Seio Nakajima will argue that barrage subtitling may represent one of the most important communication strategies of Japanese millennials - not only in cyberspace - but more generally in contemporary Japanese society.

Seio Nakajima is Associate Professor of Sociology and Asian Studies and Associate Dean at the Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies, Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan.

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CONTEMPORARY JAPAN SPEAKER SERIES 2017/18

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Gender inequality and family-related risks: from the perspective of law and ideology

Thursday 25 January, 19.00-20.30

SOAS Alumni Lecture Theatre, Paul Webley Wing

Family laws and familial ideologies are crucial factors for gender equality in Japan that are often overlooked in gender-equality discourses. Results from the National Family Research of Japan (NFRJ) surveys from 1999 to 2009 highlight a great gender gap in post-divorce economic living standards. Although laws and policies have made some progress in reducing risks, the advancement has been so slow and limited that the underlying mechanism of gender inequality remains untouched. This talk will focus on the adverse economic consequences that women experience after career interruptions and child rearing responsibilities.

Tanaka Sigeto is an Associate Professor at the Department of Applied Japanese Linguistics, Graduate School of Arts and Letters, Tohoku University.

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Current issues related to innovation management in Japan based on empirical studies of Sector Innovation Systems

Thursday 23 November, 18.00-19.30
K4.31, King's Building, Strand Campus

The innovative performance of a country depends to a large extent on how actors - including firms, universities and public research labs - relate to each other as elements of collective knowledge creation and use. Empirical studies of Sectoral Systems of Innovation enable us to identify the bottlenecks in the innovation system and make policy recommendations. New technologies, new actors, new markets all change the structural dynamics of an industry. In Kumiko Miyazaki's lecture, the findings from the case studies on SSI in Japan will be presented.

Kumiko Miyazaki is Professor in the field of Strategic Management of Technology and Science and Technology Policy in the School of Environment and Society, Department of Innovation Science, at the Tokyo Institute of Technology.

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**Contemporary Japan Speaker Series 2016-17
[Supported by the Japan Foundation]**

Prof. Masaru Yarime, Tokyo University
The Development of Smart Cities and Implications for Business, Policy, and Sustainability in Asia-Pacific: Digitalizing Innovation in Japan

Digitalization is increasingly transforming various areas of innovation, making significant impacts on East Asia, where competitive manufacturing sectors are located with strong science and technology capabilities. The development of smart cities, based on advanced hardware and software for exchanges of information on energy and other materials through the entire supply chain, will play a crucial role in creating efficient, resilient, and sustainable urban systems. Innovation systems of smart cities exhibit a large degree of diversity in knowledge, actors, and institutions, depending upon the local conditions and contexts. Japan's experience shows a concentrated industrial structure dominated by large actors, particularly government organizations and electric and electronic companies. Policies and regulations influencing the innovation system include economic incentives to promote renewable energy, liberalization of energy markets for new entrants, participatory road-mapping on key technologies, demonstration projects incorporating local conditions, platform creation for stakeholder partnerships, and standard setting for smart equipment. Many challenges remain, however, in establishing robust business models, managing intellectual property rights while sharing open data, and facilitating active engagement of end users.



Masaru YARIME (PhD California Institute of Technology) is Project Associate Professor of Science, Technology, and Innovation Governance (STIG) at the Graduate School of Public Policy of the University of Tokyo, Japan. He also has appointments as Honorary Reader in the Department of Science, Technology, Engineering and Public Policy (STeAPP) of University College London, and as Visiting Scholar of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Research Institute. He was awarded Abe Fellow 2014 by the Social Science Research Council (SSRC) of the US. E-mail: yarimemasa@gmail.com; Homepage: <http://yarime.net/>

Time: 2 February 2017, 6.15-7.30pm
Venue: Room K2.31, Strand campus, King's College London



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London Asia Pacific Centre for Social Science

**Contemporary Japan Speaker Series 2016-17
[Supported by the Japan Foundation]**

Prof. Atsushi Yamada, Hitotsubashi University
Is Japan exceptionally closed to foreigners?

Abstract

Migrant crisis is by no means less urgent in Asia than in Europe. But Japan, one of the economic giants, reportedly rejected 99 percent of refugees in 2015; it accepted 27 asylum seekers out of record 7,586 applications last year. Immigrants account only for 1.9 percent of Japan's total population, while they represent 11.1 percent in France, 11.3 in the UK, and 14.9 in Germany. Is Japan exceptionally unwilling to open its gate to foreigners? To answer this question, we take a look at both historical and recent developments in Japan's immigration policy. We also discuss how Japanese people perceive foreigners in their society.

Prof. Atsushi Yamada

Professor, School of International and Public Policy, Hitotsubashi University. His research interests include theories of International Relations and International Political Economy, technology policy, immigration policy, trade policy, and the globalization studies. His major works are: *Neo-Techno-Nationalism* (Tokyo: Yuhikaku, 2001); "Science, Technology, and Contemporary International Relations" (editor-in-chief, *International Relations*, vol.179, 2015); *Introduction to International Political Economy* (co-authored, Yuhikaku, 2007); *Japan's Diplomacy, vol.5, Foreign Policy Agendas* (co-authored, Tokyo: Iwanami-shoten, 2014); *Linking Trade and Security* (co-authored, New York: Springer, 2013). He was a Fulbright grantee at Columbia University (1991-1993) and a visiting scholar at University of California, Berkeley (2009-2011).

Time: 1 December 2016, 6.15-7.30pm

Venue: Alumni Lecture Theatre, Paul Webley Wing, SOAS



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**Contemporary Japan Speaker Series 2016-17
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Prof. Toshiya Nakamura, Nagoya University
Japan's Public Diplomacy and Its Culture of Reconciliation

Abstract

In postwar Japan, the main goals of public diplomacy have been related to the history of militarism in order to recover from an image of a nation of militarism and to win an image of a pacifist and democratic nation as it is, mainly by cultural exchanges. More recently, Japan's public diplomacy has developed into its national branding of 'Cool Japan'. Japan's ongoing diplomacy based on the common values and democracy has been contributing to strengthening its soft power as well. This talk discusses development of Japan's postwar public diplomacy and recent events including the reconciliation with the US in the quest for promoting its soft power. The year 2016 marked a new chapter to Japan's public diplomacy; the reciprocal visits of Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to Pearl Harbour and US President Barack Obama to Hiroshima highlighted the historic postwar reconciliation 70 years after World War II. These political gestures not only showcased the countries' ties but also strengthened Japan's soft power, reversing its image as a declining power.

Prof. Toshiya Nakamura (PhD Melbourne) is a Professor at the Graduate School of Language and Cultures Global Media Research Centre, Nagoya University. He specializes in international relations and political communication. He previously held appointments at University of Nagasaki and Siebold University of Nagasaki. Prior to that, he was staff correspondent and Vienna bureau chief of the International News Department of Kyodo News.

Time: 16 March 2017, 6.15-7.30pm

Venue: S-1.01 (first basement) Strand Building, King's College



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London Asia Pacific Centre for Social Science

Contemporary Japan Speaker Series 2016-17 [Supported by the Japan Foundation]

Prof. Shin-Ichi Fukuda, University of Tokyo
Japan's Lost Decades and Abenomics

Abstract

In the 1990s and 2000s, Japan's average real growth rate was one of the lowest among industrial countries. We sometimes call the low growth period "two lost decades". In the first part of my presentation, I will explain why the Japanese economy suffered from prolonged recession during the last two decades. It is demonstrated that multiple factors were responsible for the two lost decades. In the second part of my presentation, I will discuss how the Japanese economy can revive from the prolonged recession. In Japan, the new economic policy regime "Abenomics" is still controversial. I will argue costs and benefits of recent unconventional monetary policy by the Bank of Japan. It is demonstrated that even in the new economic policy regime, recovery from the prolonged recession is still a long way to go.

Prof. Shin-Ichi Fukuda



Shin-ichi Fukuda is affiliated with the Faculty of Economics, University of Tokyo, where he has been Associate Professor (1996-2001) and Professor of Economics (2001-present). His numerous professional appointments have included: Associate Professor, Yokohama National University (1989-92); Associate Professor, Hitotsubashi University (1992-96); Visiting Scholar, University of Washington (1995-96); Visiting Scholar, Australian National University (1998), Visiting Professor of Economics, Yale University (2002-03), and Visiting Fellow (part-time) at the ADB Institute (2007-2012). He specializes in macroeconomics and international finance. He is the author of over 50 professional publications. His recent works have dealt with

issues related to exchange rate policy, monetary policy, foreign exchange reserve accumulation, and banking problems under crises. He holds a Ph.D. in economics from Yale University.

Time: 17 November 2016, 6.15-7.30pm

Venue: Room K6.63, Strand campus, King's College London



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