

Rutgers Meets Japan

FOREIGN TEACHERS, MISSIONARIES, AND OVERSEAS
STUDENTS IN THE EARLY MEIJI ERA

MARCH 5, 2021, 7:00 - 10:00PM



RUTGERS

School of Arts and Sciences

A CONFERENCE IN CELEBRATION
OF 150 YEARS OF FRIENDSHIP
BETWEEN RUTGERS AND JAPAN



INTRODUCTION

In 1867 Taro Kusakabe (1845-70), a young samurai from Fukui, Japan, began studying at Rutgers College. Several years later, his former tutor and Rutgers alumnus William Elliot Griffis (1843-1928) left for Japan to teach, first in Fukui and later in Tokyo. The year 2020 marks the 150th anniversary of two landmark events in the history of the Rutgers-Japan relationship: the untimely death of Kusakabe only months before his graduation and his friend Griffis's departure to Japan. This conference is held to commemorate and celebrate the special friendship between Rutgers and Japan.

WELCOME: 7:00PM - 7:20PM

Welcome Remarks: Prof. Matt Matsuda, Academic Dean of the Honors College, Rutgers University

Opening Remarks: Mr. Kenju Murakami, Director of Japan Information Center, Consulate-General of Japan in New York

The W. E. Griffis Collection at Rutgers University: Dr. Fernanda Perrone, Archivist at Special Collections and University Archives, New Brunswick Libraries

SPEAKERS: 7:20PM - 10:00PM

7:20 - 8:00pm:

Hamish Ion *Emeritus Professor, History Department, Royal Military College of Canada*

"The Rutgers Connection: Missionaries, Christian Oyatoi and Early Meiji Japan"

Discussant: Prof. Joseph Henning, Associate Professor, Department of History, Rochester Institute of Technology

8:05 - 8:45pm:

John Van Sant, *Associate Professor, Department of History, University of Alabama at Birmingham*

"The Japanese Class of 1870 at Rutgers"

Discussant: Prof. Nathan Jérémie-Brink, L. Russell Feakes Assistant Professor of the History of Global Christianity, New Brunswick Seminary

8:45 - 8:50pm:

The Rutgers-Fukui Connection: Prof. Ryuhei Hosoya, Faculty of Global and Community Studies, University of Fukui

8:50 - 9:00pm:

Break

9:00 - 9:40pm:

Rui Kohiyama *Professor, Department of International Relations, Division of Global Social Sciences, School of Arts and Sciences, Tokyo Woman's Christian University*

“‘Were Wives Better Educated, Charms of Geisha Would Wane’: The Dutch Reformed Church and Its Contribution to Women’s Education in Meiji Japan”

Discussant: Prof. Satoru Saito, Associate Professor, Department of Asian Languages and Cultures, Rutgers University

9:40-9:55pm:

Discussion

9:55-10:00pm:

Closing Remarks: Prof. Paul Schalow, Chair, Department of Asian Languages and Cultures, Rutgers University

Co-sponsors:

Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission (JUSFC)

Northeast Asia Council for the Association for Asian Studies (NEAC)

School of Arts and Sciences, Rutgers University

Department of Asian Languages and Cultures, Rutgers University

Rutgers Global





SPEAKER BIOS:

Hamish Ion *Emeritus Professor, History Department, Royal Military College of Canada*
Specialist on modern Japanese history and a Co-operating Research Fellow at the Center for Christian Studies, Meiji Gakuin University, Tokyo. He has done extensive research on missionaries and *oyatoi* and has written on Edward Clark and William Griffis, both Rutgers alumni and two of the earliest *oyatoi* invited to teach in Japan.

Selected works:

- "James Curtis Hepburn and the Translation of the New Testament into Japanese" in *Social Sciences and Missions* 27 (2014): 56-85.
- *American Missionaries, Christian Oyatoi, and Japan, 1859-73* (UBC Press, 2010).

John Van Sant, *Associate Professor, Department of History, University of Alabama at Birmingham*

Specialist on late Tokugawa/early Meiji Japan, with an emphasis on the political, ideological and cultural changes in Japan during the nineteenth century. He has written a book on Japanese "pioneers" to America, of which a chapter is dedicated to Japanese students at Rutgers.

Selected works:

- *Mori Arinori's Life and Resources in America* (Lexington Books, 2004)
- *Pacific Pioneers: Japanese Journeys to America and Hawaii, 1850-1880* (University of Illinois Press, 2000).

Rui Kohiyama *Professor, Department of International Relations, Division of Global Social Sciences, School of Arts and Sciences, Tokyo Woman's Christian University*
Specialist on the women's foreign mission movement in North America and female missionaries' work in Meiji Japan. She is currently working on early history of Ferris University, which was founded by a female missionary from the Dutch Reformed Church and later headed by Rutgers alumni.

Selected works:

- *The Gospel of Empire: Lucy Peabody and the American Foreign Mission Enterprise* (University of Tokyo Press, 2019)
- *Christianity and the Modern Woman in East Asia* (Brill, 2018)

DISCUSSANT BIOS:

Joseph Henning *Associate Professor, Department of History, Rochester Institute of Technology*

Specialist on the history of U.S. foreign relations and modern Japan. His new book, *Interpreting the Mikado's Empire: The Writings of William Elliot Griffis* just came out from Lexington Books.

Nathan Jérémie-Brink, *L. Russell Feakes Assistant Professor of the History of Global Christianity, New Brunswick Theological Seminary*

Specialist on U.S. history and the history of Christianity, particularly on the African American churches and the abolitionist movement in the nineteenth century.

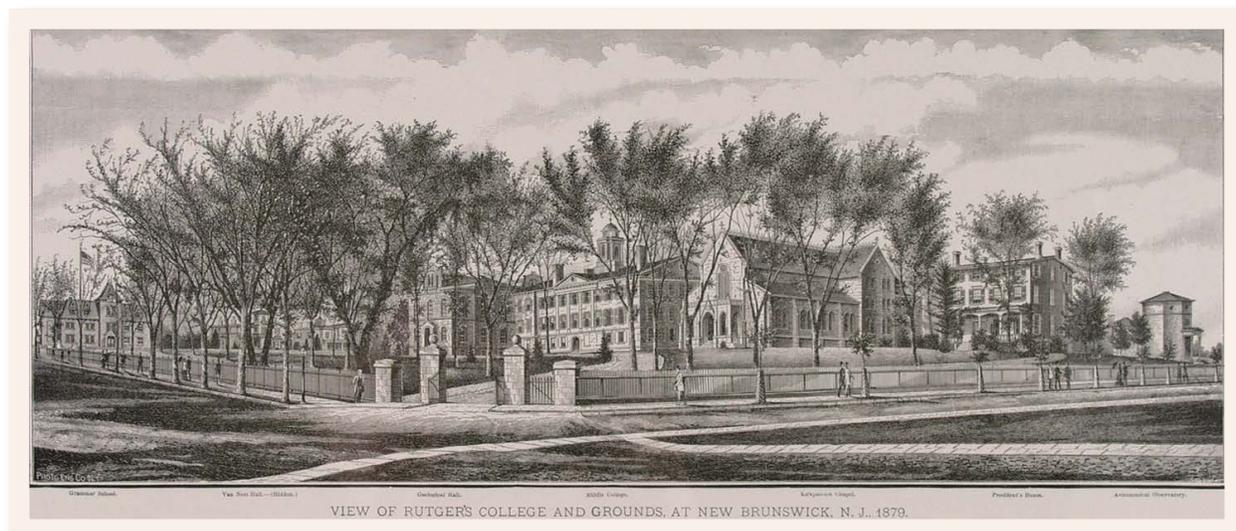
Satoru Saito, *Associate Professor, Department of Asian Languages and Cultures, Rutgers University*

Specialist of modern Japanese literature and film. He is the author of *Detective Fiction and the Rise of the Japanese Novel, 1880-1930* (Harvard University Asia Center, 2012).

CONVENER:

Haruko Wakabayashi, *Assistant Teaching Professor, Department of Asian Languages and Cultures, Rutgers University*

Specialist of medieval Japanese history. She taught the Interdisciplinary Honors Seminar, "Rutgers Meets Japan: Revisiting Early U.S.-Japan Encounters," in Spring 2020 and co-organized "Japan that Griffis Saw: Prints and Photographs from Meiji Japan" at the Zimmerli Art Museum.



LINKS:

"Japan that Griffis Saw: Prints and Photographs from Meiji Japan"

Class of 1937 Study Gallery, Zimmerli Art Museum

<https://go.rutgers.edu/MeijiPhotos>

"Rutgers Meets Japan: Early Encounters" (Interdisciplinary Honors Seminar Website, Spring 2020)

<https://sites.rutgers.edu/rutgers-meets-japan/>

Rutgers Meets Japan Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/Rutgers-Meets-Japan-101555198252185/>

Register: rutgers.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlpceprDkpH9BLzLgPIMtY8yDXdMZTdRy2

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