

Outline of 2012 Ochanomizu Summer Program

Theme III: Ritual and Power in East Asian Societies

Period: July 23 (Mon) – 27 (Fri), 2012

Venue: Ochanomizu University (Otsuka, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo)

Teaching staff: Dr. John BREEN, Professor
Dr. Hidemasa KOKAZE, Professor
Dr. Laure SCHWARTZ-ARENALES, Associate Professor
Dr. Masaki MIYAO, Professor
Dr. Kiyong SHIN, Associate Professor

* Lecture capacity for Theme I : 30 eligible students

** If there are more than 30 eligible applicants, they may be subject to a selection process.

Program Summary

In the history of East Asian societies, ritual has been crucially important for state power as the equipment for proving its legitimacy at home and abroad. For example, in Japan, which made a start as a modern state in the Meiji era, the government intentionally positioned imperial ritual as what would play politically-important roles for both inside and outside of Japan, leading to the present day. The aim of this programme is to consider ritual and power in East Asian societies in English focusing on state power and ritual. The lectures by teachers of modern political science, modern Chinese literature, and Japanese art history are given to discuss the topic from a viewpoint of comparison. This programme includes a field trip to the Meiji jingu.

Schedule

Date	Period 1 & 2 (9:00~10:30)	Period 3 & 4 (10:40~12:10)	Period 5 & 6 (13:20~14:50)	Period 7 & 8 (15:00~16:30)	Period 7 & 8 (16:40~18:10)
July 23 (Mon)			John Breen	John Breen	John Breen
24 (Tue)	John Breen	Field trip to Meiji jingu*	Field trip to Meiji jingu*	Field trip to Meiji jingu*	

25 (Wed)	Writing a report on the field trip	Writing a report on the field trip	John Breen		
26 (Thu)	Laure Schwartz-Arenales	Laure Schwartz-Arenales	Masaki Miyao	Masaki Miyao	
27 (Fri)	Kiyoung Shin	Kiyoung Shin			

*Professor Breen and Professor Kokaze will accompany as escorts.

Lecture summary

“Emperor, politics and performance in Meiji Japan”

Lecturer: John Breen (Modern History of Japan)

The theme of the course is modern Japan's imperial institution. The aim is to prompt students to think about the complex connections that prevailed in Meiji Japan between emperor and court on the one hand and, on the other, the state, the nation and politics, both domestic and international. The method adopted is a ritual, performative one. Modern emperors were celebrants of state rites, and the dynamics of their place in the state and in the nation can best be grasped in a ritual context. Students will acquire 1) critical understanding of how ritual 'works' and why it matters; 2) a familiarity with the dynamic and changing role of the imperial institution from Bakumatsu through Meiji Taisho and Showa to the post war; 3) a knowledge of the ritual and sacred spaces occupied by the emperor and the court and of the rituals performed in those spaces.

The course concludes with a field trip to the Meiji jingu, where the Meiji emperor and empress Shoken are enshrined and their achievements celebrated.

“Ritual and Power during the Heian and Early Kamakura Periods (9~13 centuries)

–The role of Buddhist Paintings –“

Lecturer: Laure Schwartz-Arenales (Art History of Japan)

The Age of the Imperial Court from the Heian to the beginning of Kamakura Periods (9~13 centuries) is one of the most creative and prosperous epoch regarding Japanese art and Buddhist Painting in particular. From a stylistic and iconographical analysis of diverse works, our lectures objective is to show the connections between the blossoming of this “artistic Golden Age” with the religious and political aspirations of the aristocratic society as well as the rituals performed by the Imperial Court at this time. By situating the paintings in their historical context

and through the presentation of current researches conducted on that field, especially in Japan and western countries, we will underline in an international and comparative perspective, the central role played by these works of art regarding the practice and the transmission of the rituals, at the state and private levels, which have been linked, during all this period, to the manifestation and the recognition of the power.

“The wedding rituals and modernization of China”

Lecturer: Masaki Miyao (Modern Chinese Literature)

This class aims to provide a comparative perspective to think about the imperial system of modern Japan, through introducing about the historical changes of wedding rituals, both of royal people and of common people in modern and contemporary China. Writings by Chinese writers and footages of films and TV dramas will be shown and referred to. The class also expects the participants to talk about how the wedding has changed, or not changed in the process of modernization in their own countries.

“Ritual and Power in Contemporary Politics”

Lecturer: Kiyong Shin (Modern Political Science)

Ritual constitutes an important part of political power. It serves the purpose of power in its justification and consolidation on the one hand, but on the other, ritual can also be used to subvert the existing power base if mobilized for an alternative purpose. This class aims to explore how political ritual such as the Emperor institution and the politicians' visits to the Yasukuni shrine has contributed to the creation and consolidation of new political power in post-war Japan as well as the complex effects on the relationship between Japan and neighboring East Asian states.