MODERN EAST ASIA: JAPAN (445) • Founded: 1960

This seminar is concerned with the history, politics, society, and culture of Japan from the late nineteenth century to the present, emphasizing interdisciplinary dialogue among historians, anthropologists, sociologists, literary critics, and other scholars from New York-area institutions. The seminar meets regularly to discuss a paper from a work in progress by a member or invited speaker; pre-circulation of papers and discussant comments encourage in-depth discussion and debate.

CHAIR/S: **Sarah Kovner** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Philippe Depairon**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

October 8 — *William E. Griffis and Katsu Kaishū: An Exchange of Their Views on Japan and Korea in the 1896 Correspondence*
Haruko Wakabayashi, Rutgers University
Discussant: **Seiji Shirane**, The City College of New York, City University of New York

November 12 — *Sound War: Air-Raid Sound, (Sonic) Media Infrastructure, Civilians' Sensory Experience, and War Memory*
Eun Jeong Choi, New York University
Discussant: **Cary Karacas**, College of Staten Island, City University of New York

December — *Frontier Geographies in the Ishikari Valley*
Michael Thornton, Northeastern University
Kirsten Ziomek, Adelphi University

January 15 — Joint meeting with (405, 411, 557) *Afro-Brazilian Religions as a Space of Care, Healing and Affect for Brazilian Immigrants in Japan*
Daniela Calvo, Kyoto University (Japan)

February 4 — *Serving Manchukuo: Buryat-Mongols and Empire*
Tatiana Linkhoeva, New York University

March 11 — *"Open the Doors to All": A Critical Examination of Townsend Harris's Enduring Legacy in the U.S. and Japan*
Robin Kietlinski, LaGuardia Community College
Discussant: **Haruko Wakabayashi**, Rutgers University

April 8 — *End of Empire, Revenge, and War Crimes: Injustice in the Time of Defeat*
Kirsten Ziomek, Adelphi University
Respondent: **Yoshi Igarashi**, Vanderbilt University

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Sarah Kovner**, sck25@columbia.edu