About this Series
It provides both established and early-career researchers with an opportunity to present their on-going research concerning transimperial history.

Title

Gendering Cross-Colonial Solidarity and Critique: Feminizing Korea in Colonial India, 1905-1932

Date

17:00 (JST), Thursday, 26 June 2025

Venue

SK 201, Karasuma Campus, Doshisha University
Zoom (on-line hybryid) [QR code below, no registration requreid]

Description

This paper highlights the use of gendered language as certain Indian nationalists and writers encountered the Korean anti-colonial struggle. The examples of Aurobindo Ghosh's criticism of An Jung-geun's assassination of Itō Hirobumi and Rabindranath Tagore's poetry on Korea, specifically his poem "Song of the Defeated," demonstrate that emasculatory language and feminization featured prominently as both men observed and interpreted the Korean independence movement while articulating their own visions of freedom and self-determination for India. Applying the works of scholars such as Ashis Nandy and Sikata Banerjee, who have written on the mobilization of sex, gender, and age in colonial and anti-colonial discourse, this paper also reflects on the limitations and pitfalls of using the gendered vocabulary of the colonizer in expressions of both solidarity and critique across the colonial divide.

Presenter

Aaron Peters is a Lecturer at Ambrose University located in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. His research brings together postcolonial theory and critical studies on the Japanese and British Empires to interrogate the interconnections between imperialism, nationalism, and internationalism by highlighting the encounters and exchanges between Japan and South Asia during the first half of the 20th century. His research interests include Pan-Asianism and the Japanese Empire, Indian diasporic nationalisms, and the role of technology and foreign aid in the expansion of empire during the prewar and postwar periods in the Asia-Pacific region.

Dr. Aaron Peters

Center for Transimperial History

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