



About this Series

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

Title

Competition and the exceptionalist politics of comparison: Atrocity narratives on India and Korea in the emergence of Anglo-Japanese colonial rivalry

Date

Friday, 1 August 2025

17:00 (JST), 8:00 (GMT)

Venue

SK202, Karasuma Campus,
Doshisha University, Zoom (on-line hybrid):
scan the QR code below

(No registration required)

Description

This paper draws on one of the chapters of my monograph, *Transimperial Trajectories: Colonialism and Anticolonialism in the British and Japanese Empires* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, forthcoming). The chapter in question deals with how imperialists from different empires in interaction compared one another's colonialism in an emerging relationship of rivalry. As a case study, this paper discusses how British and Japanese imperialists engaged in what may be called the 'exceptionalist politics of comparison', criticising one another over colonial atrocities that took place in India and Korea, whilst defending one's own empire as 'humane', 'benevolent' and 'moral'. The paper demonstrates why and how such politics of comparison, both British and Japanese, inevitably suffered from contradictions with ironic consequences.

Presenter

Satoshi Mizutani is Professor at Faculty of Global and Regional Studies at Doshisha University, Japan. In 2019, he guest-edited a special issue, 'Beyond Comparison: Japan and its Colonial Empire in Transimperial Relations' for *Cross-Currents* (vol.8, no.2). In 2022, along with Nadin Heé and Daniel Hedinger, he founded the Center for Transimperial History (CTH). His recent publications include 'Hybridity and Solidarity: Critical Reflections on the Postnational and the Post-Sovereign', *Ab Imperio*, no. 1 (2023): 41-58; and 'Anticolonialism' in (eds.) Cyrus Schayegh, Daniel Hedinger, Nadin Heé, Damiano Matasci, and Shellen Wu, *The Oxford Handbook of Modern Transimperial History* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, forthcoming).



Satoshi Mizutani

