

Invented 'History' and the Representation of Minorities' Memory

Exploring the Possibility of Multicultural Coexistence

The synchronized terrorist attacks that occurred in the U.S.A. on September 11, 2001, shocked and terrified the world, throwing a dark shadow on the 21st century. In order to escape from the persistent fear of terrorism, people tend to exclude others who have different backgrounds and values, believing that by doing so they can build a homogenous, peaceful society. However, does such an exclusive society, amplifying the monolithic voice and silencing others, show us the road to peace? Rather, is it not multicultural coexistence, as a means to promote mutual understanding, that we need to pursue? In this symposium, we will consider some examples from the U.S.A. and Japan, in order to explore the possibility of peaceful multicultural coexistence. We will do this by reflecting on the invention of the "official story" to manipulate history and by reinterpreting the representations and the memories of those who have been oppressed.

Date : Wednesday, June 24, 2015

Time : 14:00-17:30 (Doors Open at 13:30)

Venue : Conference Room, Main Building 10th floor
Shirokane Campus, Meiji Gakuin University
(1-2-37 Shirokanedai Minato-ku Tokyo)
(<http://www.meijigakuin.ac.jp/access/>)

*** Japanese/English ***
(simultaneous interpretation available)

◆ Program ◆

14:00-14:10 Opening Remarks

14:10-15:10 Session1

"Book of the Family Tree"

Thomas Allen Harris (Movie director)

"Inspiring Change & Preserving Tradition"

Deborah Jojola (Curator at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, Artist)

15:10-15:20 Break

15:20-16:20 Session2

"Japanese Americans and Internment Camps"

Konomi Ara (Professor Emerita, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies)

"The Descendant of a God to Earth and the Legendary Military Invasion of Korea: The Myth and the Legend Contending in Kyushu in the Modern Japanese History"

Takeshi Hara (Professor, Meiji Gakuin University)

16:20-16:30 Break

16:30-17:20 Q&A and Discussion

17:20-17:30 Closing Remarks

*** Moderator: Aoi Mori** (Professor, Meiji Gakuin University; Director, Institute for International Studies at Meiji Gakuin University)

*** Admission is free, but advance registration is required ***

Please send your name, affiliation, and contact details with "2015 Symposium" in the subject line by June 23, 2015 to: frontier@k.meijigakuin.ac.jp.

*** Profiles ***

Thomas Allen Harris

Born in 1962, Movie director

Thomas Allen Harris is the founder and President of Chimpanzee Productions, a company dedicated to producing unique audio-visual experiences that illuminate the Human Condition and the search for identity, family, and spirituality. Harris' film, *Twelve Disciples of Nelson Mandela*, is the third of his films to make its world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival. His newly released film, *Through a Lens Darkly: Black Photographers and the Emergence of a People*, won the Fund for Santa Barbara 2014 Social Justice Award and a Best Diasporic Documentary Award from the Africa Movie Academy Awards in Nigeria.



Deborah Jojola



Born in 1962, Isleta/Jemez Pueblo, Curator at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center and Artist

Deborah Jojola explores the unique position held by Pueblo women artists as essential keepers of tradition and cultural identity, while also taking a leading role in sharing this living culture with the world outside the Pueblo. While preserving centuries-old art forms, she has also introduced innovations in subject, form and technique. She is currently the curator of exhibitions at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and has worked as an artist with national and international museums and gallery shows. She has over 30 years of experience teaching at different levels and in different media as an adjunct professor of Fine Arts.

Konomi Ara

Born in 1946, Professor Emerita, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies

Konomi Ara is the author of the following books in Japanese: *Malcolm X* (Iwanami Shoten, 2009); *Diva or Fighter, Josephine Baker* (Kodansha, 2007); *Ralph Ellison and Individuality* (University of Tokyo Press, 2004); *The Birth of Black Americans* (Chikuma Shobo, 1997); *Women's America* (Kadensha, 1987). She has recently translated Margaret Mitchell's *Gone With the Wind* into Japanese (Iwanami Shoten, 2015). She received the Toni Morrison Society Book Prize for Best Translated Book in 2008.



Takeshi Hara



Born in 1962, Professor, Meiji Gakuin University

Takeshi Hara specializes in the history of Japanese political thought. He has published numerous books including the following works in Japanese: *Osaka as the Popular Capital vs. Tokyo as the Imperial Capital* (Kodansha, 1998), which won the Suntory Arts and Science Award; *The Taisho Emperor* (Asahi-bunko, 2000), which won Mainichi Shuppan Award; *Takiyama Commune 1974* (Kodansha, 2007), which received the Kodansha Non-Fiction Award; *The Showa Emperor* (Iwanami Shoten, 2008), which received Shiba Ryotaro Award; *Red Arrow and Star House* (Shinchosha, 2012); and *A Study of Japanese Empresses* (Kodansha, 2014).

Aoi Mori

Born in 1958, Professor, Meiji Gakuin University; Director, Institute for International Studies at Meiji Gakuin University

Aoi Mori is the author of the following books: *Toni Morrison and Womanist Discourse* (Peter Lang, 1999) and *African-American History and Creativity in Toni Morrison's Paradise* (Sairyu-sha, 2009). She has recently published the following articles: "Reclaiming the Presence of the Marginalized: Silence, Violence and Nature in *Paradise*" (*Toni Morrison: Paradise, Love, A Mercy*, London: Continuum, 2012) and "Rethinking Race Matters" (*Living Language Living Memory: Essays on the Works of Toni Morrison*, Stockholm: Södertörns högskola, 2014). She was a recipient of the Toni Morrison Book Prize in 2000.

