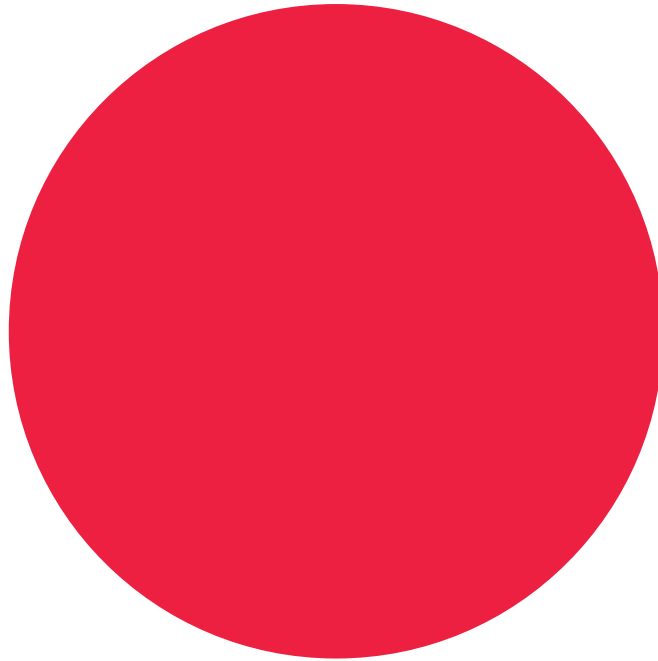




JAPANESE SELF-IMAGES – THE IDEA OF UNIQUENESS



8th of September 2016
Engelsberg Ironworks

Japanese Self-Images

– The Idea of Uniqueness

Not all countries feel an urge to clearly define their own national identities, and fewer still are as obsessed with this issue as Japan. In great civilizations there has been little need to analyze an identity that is self-evident, whilst small dependent countries on the outskirts of such civilizations seldom has felt the need to establish their own national identities.

The Japanese quest for national identity likely derives from the fact that Japan lies on the outskirts of the Chinese cultural sphere, but has a distinct character that has never been completely overwhelmed by the influence of China.

It is when a country is confronted with new and fundamental challenges that its pursuit of identity becomes most vigorous. In Japan *nihonjinron* – “the study of the Japanese” – became popular after World War II, with books and articles aiming to analyze and explain the uniqueness of Japanese culture and mentality.

Countries able to smoothly handle their domestic and foreign affairs through traditional approaches are unlikely to undertake a serious examination of their own identities. The modern Japanese search for national identity is thus, to a large extent, more of an effort to address new realities than a confirmation of traditions.

In this seminar a group of experts on Japan will come together to explore different aspects of the Japanese search for a national identity and what it means for the rest of the world.

PROGRAMME

1.00 p.m.	Kurt Almqvist	Welcome
1.05 p.m.	Yukiko Duke	Moderator

National Identity

1.10 p.m.	Kosaku Yoshino	<i>“Cultural Nationalism in Japan: Changes and Continuities”</i>
1.25 p.m.	John Lie	<i>“My Country Great or Not: The Solid Boundary of Japaneseness”</i>
1.40 p.m.	Roger Goodman	<i>“Education and the Construction of Japanese National Identity”</i>
1.55 p.m.	Discussion	
2.15 p.m.	Tea and coffee	

Individual Identity

2.45 p.m.	Anne E Imamura	<i>“Where do I Belong? The Japanese Family System and the Individual in the Early 21st Century”</i>
3.00 p.m.	Masahiro Yamada	<i>“The Marriage Crisis and Development of Virtual Relationships”</i>
3.15 p.m.	Pia Moberg	<i>“Japanese Work Identity in the International Environment – Cultural Reflections”</i>
3.30 p.m.	Discussion	
3.50 p.m.	Break	

Transcultural Flows and Japanese Identity

4.15 p.m.	Dick Stegewerns	<i>“The Bridge? – Japanese Identity Between East and West ”</i>
4.30 p.m.	Inken Prohl	<i>“Religions in Japan: Dealing with Life and Expressing Identity with the Help of Fluid Ideas”</i>
4.45 p.m.	Jaqueline Berndt	<i>“Manga as Japanese: Representation, Mediality, Industry”</i>
5.00 p.m.	Discussion	
5.20 p.m.	Concluding remarks	
5.30 p.m.	Drinks	
6.30 p.m.	Dinner	

LECTURERS

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