

## **SPECIAL ONE-DAY SYMPOSIUM**

# **THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME**

### **Global Prospects for the Coming Decade**

A Symposium commemorating the Tenth Anniversary of the Foundation of the  
Department of Global and Transcultural Studies, Meiji Gakuin University

**SUNDAY MAY 15, 2022, MEIJI GAKUIN UNIVERSITY  
YOKOHAMA CAMPUS**

As our department marks ten years of teaching global and transcultural studies, the world appears to be balanced on a knife edge. Internationalism is locked with nationalism, secularism with religious fundamentalism, democracy with authoritarianism, tolerance with intolerance. The Corona Pandemic has ushered in a new and frightening era of massive biohazards, while Russia's attempted invasion of Ukraine has raised the specter of a return to Cold War type confrontation. Casting a long shadow over these massive ideological struggles is climate change, thought by many experts to be close to a tipping point from which will flow disastrous consequences for humanity and the natural environment.

This symposium will commemorate the tenth anniversary of the Department of Global and Transcultural Studies. It will be an opportunity to step back, take a deep breath, and survey the world and the prospects for the ten years to come. Each of our speakers will be invited to gaze into their crystal ball and forecast how global affairs will develop in the next ten years. We hope to examine their predictions ten years later, when the department celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Keynote speaker

**Muhammad Yunus (2006 Nobel Peace Prize winner)**

## PROGRAM

9:30am: Doors Open; Registration

9:50am: Welcome and Opening Remarks by **Leo Murata** (president of Meiji Gakuin University)

10am

### **Panel 1: Prospects for Japan**

Chair: Prof. **Tom Gill** (Meiji Gakuin Dept. of Global and Transcultural Studies)

*Japan's economic, social and demographic challenges for the next decade.*

**Alex Kerr** (long-term resident of Kyoto, known for books such as *Lost Japan* and *Dogs and Demons: The Fall of Modern Japan*)

**Richard Katz** (economist, New York correspondent of *Toyo Keizai*; will join online)

**Hiroko Takeda** (Professor of Political Science, Nagoya University)

11:45am

### **Panel 2: Peace and Security**

Chair: Prof. **Kōki Abe** (Meiji Gakuin Department of International Studies)

*Prospects for peace and security in East Asia in the shadow of China-US competition.*

**Masafumi Iida** (Professor, National Institute of Defense Studies)

**Kyoko Hatakeyama** (Professor of International Relations, University of Niigata Prefecture)

**David Leheny** (Professor of Political Science, Waseda University)

1:15pm: **Lunch** (Please bring your own lunch. Alternatively, there are two convenience stores and one small restaurant near the campus.)

2:15pm

### **Panel 3: Renewable Energy/Environment**

*Can Japan meet its ambitious carbon reduction targets for 2030, and if so, how?*

Chair: Prof. **Paul Midford** (Meiji Gakuin Dept. of Global and Transcultural Studies)

**Eric Zusman** (Senior Researcher, Institute for Global Environmental Studies)

**Mika Ohbayashi** (Director, Renewable Energy Institute, Tokyo)

**Hiroshi Ohta** (Professor, Waseda University School of International Liberal Studies)

4:00pm

Panel 4: Careers in the Coming Decade

Chair: Prof. **Takayuki Sakamoto** (Meiji Gakuin Dept. of Global and Transcultural Studies)

Seven of our graduates will discuss prospects for the fields in which they are working.

11KC1020 **Rina Takeda**, Sony Music Solutions Inc.

13KC1031 **Kaji Deane**, automotive distributor

13KC1045 **Megumi Miura**, project manager, Amazon Japan

14KC1018 **Ruxin Wei**, systems engineer, Intelligent Wave Inc.

15KC1025 **Jinzaburo Tasaka**, web designer, SoftBank

15KC1026 **Yumi Tajima**, fashion merchandiser

15KC1504 **Vladislav Lushchikov**, restaurant manager

5:45pm

Introduction of Prof. **Muhammad Yunus** by **Prajakta Khare** (Associate Professor, Meiji Gakuin Dept. of Global and Transcultural Studies)

6:00pm

**Keynote Address**

Professor **Muhammad Yunus**, winner of the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize, “banker to the poor”, live by Zoom link from the Yunus Centre, Dhaka, Bangladesh

**“Global Economic Inequality: Now is the Time to Redesign”**

Q&A moderated by **Prajakta Khare**

6:45pm

Yokohama International Study Association (YISA) – Officers of the Meiji Gakuin alumni association will explain the association’s activities and how to get involved in them.

7pm

Vote of thanks by Prof. **Aoi Mori**, Dean of the Faculty of International Studies, Meiji Gakuin University



## **MUHAMMAD YUNUS**

### **Winner of the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize**

Nobel Laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus is the father of microcredit, the father of social business, and the founder of Grameen Bank, and over fifty other companies in Bangladesh. For his constant innovation and enterprise, the Fortune Magazine named Professor Yunus in March 2012 as “one of the twelve greatest entrepreneurs of our time.”

Yunus was born in Bangladesh in 1940, the third of nine children. In 1965, he received a Fulbright Scholarship to study economics at Vanderbilt University, U.S.A., where he took his Ph.D. in economics in 1969. Returning to Bangladesh in 1972, he became chair of the Department of Economics, University of Chittagong. In 1976, Professor Yunus started to experiment with providing collateral-free loans to the poor. This he called the Grameen Bank Project. In 1983, Grameen became a full-fledged bank providing loans to impoverished women in rural Bangladesh. Today Grameen Bank has over 8.4 million borrowers, 97% of them women, and disburses over \$1.5 billion each year.

In 2006, Professor Yunus and Grameen Bank were jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Yunus is also the recipient of more than 50 honorary degrees from universities across 20 countries and 112 awards from 26 countries, including state honours from 10. He is one of seven individuals to have received the Nobel Peace Prize, the United States Presidential Medal of Freedom and the United States Congressional Gold Medal. He has also received the World Food Prize (1994), International Simon Bolivar Prize (1996), Sydney Peace Prize (1998), and the Seoul Peace Prize (2006) among many others.

## Panel 1: Prospects for Japan

*Japan's economic, social and demographic challenges for the next decade.*

Chair: Prof. **Tom Gill** (Meiji Gakuin Dept. of Global and Transcultural Studies)



**Alex Kerr**



**Richard Katz**



**Hiroko Takeda**

**Alex Kerr** is an American resident of Kyoto, and has lived primarily in Japan since 1977. He is a cultural critic and expert on traditional Japanese culture, and also a businessman, art collector and patron of the arts. His many books include *Lost Japan* (1993), *Dogs and Demons* (2002) and *Another Kyoto* (2016). His books display a love of traditional Japanese culture and natural landscape, and critique how these have been treated by the modern developmental state.

**Richard Katz** is a professional economic journalist (<https://richardkatz.substack.com/>). He is a Senior Fellow at the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs, and a Special Correspondent for *Weekly Toyo Keizai*. He is the author of *Japan: The System that Soured* (1999), and *Japanese Phoenix* (2002). His new book on reviving entrepreneurship in Japan, *The Contest for Japan's Economic Future*, will be published by Oxford University Press early next year. His commentaries have been published in *Foreign Affairs*, *The New York Times*, *the Wall Street Journal*, and the *Financial Times*.

**Hiroko Takeda** holds a doctorate from Sheffield University in the UK and is a professor in the Graduate School of Law at Nagoya University. Her research interests include political discourse analysis, risk discourses, gender and political economy, the family and reproduction, biopolitics and governmentality. She is the author of *The Political Economy of Reproduction: Between Nation-State and Everyday Life* (2005) and co-editor of the *Routledge Handbook of Contemporary Japan* (2021).

## Panel 2: Peace and Security

Chair: Prof. **Kōki Abe** (Meiji Gakuin Department of International Studies)

*Prospects for peace and security in East Asia in the shadow of China-US competition.*



**Masafumi Iida**



**Kyoko Hatakeyama**



**David Leheny**

**Masafumi Iida** holds a Master's degree from Stanford University and is head of the America, Europe, and Russia Division, in the Regional Studies Department at the National Institute for Defense Studies (NIDS). He has been a visiting scholar at Stanford and at the US Naval War College. His research has focused on China's foreign and security policies. He is the author of several NIDS reports on Chinese military strategy.

**Kyoko Hatakeyama** holds a PhD from Macquarie University in Australia and is Professor of International Relations at the University of Niigata Prefecture. She specializes in Japan's foreign and security policy, international relations in Asia, and IR theory. She is the co-author with Craig Freedman of *Snow on the Pine: Japan's Quest for a Leadership Role in Asia* (2010), and just last year she published *Japan's Evolving Security Policy: Militarization within a Pacifist Tradition* (2021).

**David Leheny** holds a PhD in Government from Cornell University and is a professor in the Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies at Waseda University. Among his books are *Empire of Hope: The Sentimental Politics of Japanese Decline* (2018) and *Think Global, Fear Local: Sex, Violence, and Anxiety in Contemporary Japan* (2006). In addition to his academic career, he has also served as a Regional Affairs Officer in the Office of the Coordinator for Counterterrorism in the US Department of State.

### Panel 3: Renewable Energy/Environment

*Can Japan meet its ambitious carbon reduction targets for 2030, and if so, how?*

Chair: Prof. **Paul Midford** (Meiji Gakuin Dept. of Global and Transcultural Studies)



**Eric Zusman**



**Mika Ohbayashi**



**Hiroshi Ohta**

**Eric Zusman** is a senior policy researcher at the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies in Hayama. He holds a PhD in political science from UCLA, and has spent 20 years conducting research on environmental issues in Asia, including water scarcity, air pollution regulation, environmental law, multilevel governance, sustainability transitions, low carbon development and the Sustainable Development Goals.

**Mika Ohbayashi** has been director of the Renewable Energy Institute since 2011, capping a career spent researching sustainable energy policies and campaigning on climate change issues. Before joining the Institute, she worked for the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and for two NGOs, the Citizen's Nuclear Information Center (1992-99), and the Institute for Sustainable Energy Policies (director, 2000-2008). In 2017 she was awarded the Global Leadership Award in Advancing Solar Energy Policy by the International Solar Energy Society.

**Hiroshi Ohta** holds a PhD in Political Science from Columbia University, and specializes in international relations, environmental politics and comparative energy policy. He is the author of *Comparative Politics of Environmental and Energy Policies of Major States: Making Choices for A Sustainable Society* (in Japanese; 2016). His research focus is on climate change, the governance and geopolitics of energy transition, along with global fisheries governance.



## Panel 4: Careers in the Coming Decade

### *Prospects for the coming decade seen through the eyes of recent GTS graduates*

Chair: Prof. **Takayuki Sakamoto** (Meiji Gakuin Dept. of Global and Transcultural Studies)

This panel brings together seven young people who recently graduated from the Department of Global and Transcultural Studies (GTS) at Meiji Gakuin University. The Japanese name of our department is *Kokusai Kyaria Gakka*, or Department of International Careers, so we have asked them to tell us about their careers so far and make some predictions for the coming decade in the sector where they are working.



From left:  
Rina Takeda  
Kaji Deane  
Megumi Miura

**Rina Takeda** graduated in 2015 and works for Sony Music Solutions Inc. She is working on delivering new forms of mass entertainment for inbound and outbound customers.

**Kaji Deane** graduated in 2017 and is now running his own small business as a distributor of specialist car parts, representing several European and Taiwanese brands in Japan.

**Megumi Miura** graduated in 2017 and is now working for Amazon Japan as a product manager, working on automation and machine learning mechanisms.



From left:  
Ruxin Wei  
Jinzaburo Tasaka  
Yumi Tajima  
Vladislav Lushchikov

**Ruxin Wei** graduated in 2018 and is now a systems engineer working for Intelligent Wave Inc., focusing on pre-launch testing and quality control.

**Jinzaburo Tasaka** was working for an IT company while still at GTS. Graduating in 2019, he is now engaged in web directing and project managing at SoftBank.

**Yumi Tajima** graduated in 2019. After several years working as a designer and photographer, she is currently establishing her own small business in Kamakura.

**Vladislav Lushchikov** graduated in 2019 and joined a company developing B2B auction software in Russia, before becoming manager of a Russian/Georgian restaurant in Tokyo.