

KYOTO LECTURES 2025



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Lafcadio Hearn at 120: Strange Tales, Folklore, and Cultural Resonances

Commemorating the 120th Anniversary of His Death

Tuesday, January 14th, 18:00

François Lachaud
SPEAKER



Uemura-Shoen-Female Ghost-c-1923

Lafcadio Hearn (1854–1904) introduced Japanese culture to the West, beginning with his studies of voodoo in New Orleans before turning to Japanese ghost stories, folktales, and proverbs. Although often dismissed for its preoccupation with the exotic and criticised as "Orientalist," his work forms a vital bridge between cultures, preserving Japanese folklore while prefiguring the modern genre of folk horror. Following a year of commemorations and preceding a national broadcast on his legacy, this lecture reevaluates Hearn's writings, celebrating his enduring contribution to cultural storytelling and the supernatural.

François Lachaud is a professor of Japanese studies at the École française d'Extrême-Orient. His research focuses on the religious and cultural history of early modern Japan. He is the coeditor of *Mastering Languages, Taming the World* (EFO, 2023).

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ISEAS WEBSITE | <https://iseas-kyoto.org>

This hybrid lecture will be held on site and via Zoom. Registration required in advance via QR code.

Zoom meeting ID: 876 3634 0538



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