

人文科学国際研究センター公開講演会



Date: Tuesday 22 June 2010

Time: 18:30-20:30

Venue:
Seminar Room 1
The Institute for Research
in Humanities
Kyoto University

Speaker:
Kate McDonald

Commentator:
Ko En
(Lecturer of Komazawa University)

TERRITORY, HISTORY, IDENTITY

SEN-MAN TOURISM AND THE MAKING OF THE JAPANESE EMPIRE

Following the establishment of the South Manchuria Railway company in 1906 and the annexation of Korea by Japan in 1910, Korea and Manchuria became one of the hottest tourist destinations in Asia. To promote travel to “Sen-Man”, as Korea and Manchuria were collectively known, the South Manchuria Railway Company, the Japan Tourist Bureau, and the Imperial Government Railways of Japan published scores of guidebooks and pamphlets aimed at orienting prospective travelers to the sights that could and ought to be seen on a journey to the continent. Tourist itineraries for Korea showcased a long history of Japanese involvement with the peninsula and the success of the colonial government at modernizing the physical and social landscape. Sights in Manchuria described the turbulent history of the region and the progress being made by Japanese engineers to transform the vast wilderness into a stable network of industrial production.

In an era in which imperial powers fought to maintain the legitimacy of colonialism in the face of demands for self-determination, tourism provided an opportunity to shape how people interacted with and defined territories. In this presentation, I argue that the Japanese government used tourist itineraries to inscribe the colonial landscape with an argument for the legitimacy of Japanese imperialism. Yet, rather than provide answers to Japanese travelers hungry for knowledge about the newest regions of Japan, for many tourism raised questions about what it meant to be Japanese in a multi-ethnic empire. Travel to Korea and Manchuria brought travelers to the heart of Japan as they grappled with the relationship between territory, history, and identity in the modern world.



Kate McDonald

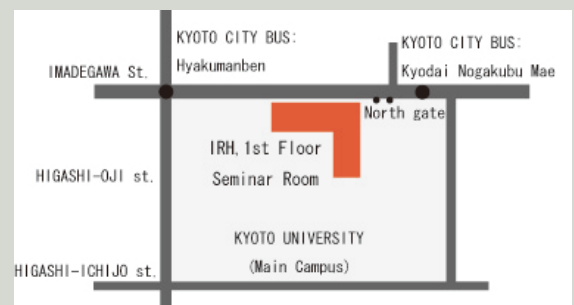
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The International Research Center for Humanities Studies

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