



International
Research Center (IRH),
Kyoto University



Scuola Italiana di Studi
sull'Asia Orientale
ISEAS



École Française
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KYOTO LECTURES

Thursday, March 13th, 18:00h

SPEAKER | **Angus Lockyer**

DISCUSSANT | **Michel Wasserman**

Exhibitions and Meiji Japan (and Modernizing Kyoto)

The 1860s saw Japan's first participation in international exhibitions and the beginning of the Japanese enthusiasm for *hakurankai* that continues to this day. In the wake of the *Ishin*, the state used them at home and abroad as an ideal instrument with which to promote industry, while local governments increasingly turned to such events as a way of promoting their region. It would be easy enough to use exhibitions as one example of a familiar story of modern Japanese industry and empire, underwritten by the growth of emperor-centred nationalism and a centralizing state. But it would also be a mistake. Looked at closely, exhibitions are more complicated than they might seem. This lecture will provide both a general sketch of the place of exhibitions in Meiji Japan and an account of their role in the evolution of Kyoto from imperial capital to heritage site.

Angus Lockyer is Lecturer in Japanese History at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) in London, the Senior Editor of *Japan Forum*, and currently a Visiting Associate Professor at the National Museum of Ethnology. He is completing a book manuscript on "Japan at the Exhibition, 1862-2005" before moving on to look at the history of Japanese golf. Recent and forthcoming articles include "National Museums and Other Cultures in Modern Japan" (2007), "The Logic of Spectacle, circa 1970" (2007), and "Expo Fascism? Ideology, Representation, Economy" (2008).

Michel Wasserman is currently Professor at the Faculty of International Relations of Ritsumeikan University, after serving as Director of the Institut Franco-Japonais du Kansai for several years.

This lecture will be held at the Institute for Research in Humanities, Kyoto University (formerly Faculty of Engineering Bldg No. 5, seminar room, 1st floor).

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