

# Japanologie Frankfurt am Main

## "Approaches to the Study of Japanese Culture and Thought in the Early Modern Age"

International Symposium, September 20th to 21st, 2012  
Goethe-University Frankfurt a.M., Campus Westend, Casino 1.802



Organization: Prof. Dr. Michael Kinski

Since the "Edo boom" in the 1980s the study of early modern Japanese thought and cultural history has made remarkable advances. In the past, studies in intellectual history often showed a strong focus on the life and work of individual "thinkers" and their importance for and influence on subsequent historical developments. Maruyama Masao's articles on Ogyû Sorai and Motoori Norinaga are prominent examples for this approach. With the spread of new methodological considerations in the wake of French scholarship –both the *Annales* School and the post structuralism of Foucault, Derrida, and others have to be mentioned –, the history of mentalities, the so-called cultural and linguistic turns, as well as the so-called Cambridge School (Quentin Skinner, John G.A. Pocock), however, new research interests developed. Scholars less and less looked at the monolithic and paradigmatic figures, the "great thinkers", for their own sake and instead pursued certain thematic propositions and specific questions of interest that often adopted the framework of the new methodological and theoretical orientations. As a consequence, intellectual history opened up to broader concerns beyond the preoccupation with individuals.

At the same time, similar methodological developments took place within the field of cultural history of Edo Japan, and studies often focused on subjects that overlapped with the research on the history of ideas. Consequently, in both areas one finds studies that contribute to the history of mentalities, and today a stage has been reached where one should ask whether it is appropriate to consider intellectual history and cultural history as separate areas.

It is time, therefore, to take stock of the interests pursued in both areas, their convergence and interrelatedness as well as to deliberate on new approaches and networks of cooperation between scholars of "Tokugawa Studies" as a common field of interest for researchers concerned with questions related to cultural and intellectual history. The symposium members will discuss the state of the art in the fields of Edo period intellectual and cultural history, and provide an overview of recent research developments and theoretical approaches, as well as focus on the introduction of individual and institutional research projects, and the identification of methodological issues for future research. The symposium is also motivated by a proposal to promote the network of scholars in the fields of Edo period intellectual and cultural history and to strengthen already existing research collaborations in order to

keep scholars abreast of current projects and to facilitate new venues of cooperation as well as methodological and theoretical approaches.

## Participation & Registration

In order to guarantee an intimate atmosphere conducive to discussion among the official participants of the symposium the number of guests is limited to a maximum of 30 persons. If you are interested in following the presentations and discussions as a guest please forward your application to Morgaine.Setzer@stud.uni-frankfurt.de. Please state the symposium section you would like to attend. Applications will be answered by email.

Schedule:

### Thursday, 20-09-2012, 1<sup>st</sup> day

09.00–09.30 Registration

09.30–10.00 Greeting Address by Convenor

10.00–10.45 Watanabe Hiroshi (University of Tokyo / Hosei University): "Why Do We Study Tokugawa Intellectual History? Its Relevance and Its Joy"

10.45–11.15 Coffee break

11.15–12.00 Richard Bowring (Cambridge University): "Is a Narrative of Tokugawa Intellectual History a Sensible Proposition?"

12.00–12.30 Open discussion

12.30–14.00 Lunch break

1<sup>st</sup> Session: Periphery and Center

14.00–15.00 Timon Screech (University of London, School of Oriental and African Studies): "The English Role in Japanese Anti-Catholicism"

15.00–16.00 Annick Horiuchi (Université Paris Diderot): "Revisiting *Rangaku* from the Perspective of Translation Studies"

16.00–16.30 Coffee break

16.30–17.15 Tokumori Makoto (University of Tokyo): "Kaihô Seiryô: The Realm of Rhetoric"

17.15–18.00 Open discussion

### Friday, 21-09-2012, 2<sup>nd</sup> day

2<sup>nd</sup> Session: Confucian Learning and Political Culture

09.00–10.00 Mary Elizabeth Berry (University of California, Berkeley): "Three Snapshots of Anglophone Edo"

10.00–11.00 David Mervart (Universität Heidelberg): "The many lives of the Nerchinsk Treaty: A Eurasian History of *Ius Gentium* in Shizuki Tadao's Translation of 1805"

11.00–11.30 Coffee break

11.30–12.15 James McMullen (University of Oxford): "Unofficial *sekisai* 積菜 Ceremonies in Tokugawa Japan"

12.15–13.00 Open discussion

13.00–14.00 Lunch break

3<sup>rd</sup> Session: Visual and Written Representation

14.00–15.00 Gerhard Leinss (University of Cambridge): "Calendar, Time and the Early Modern State"

15.00–16.00 Bettina Gramlich-Oka (Sophia University): "Social Network Analysis Applied to Tokugawa Sources"

16.00–16.30 Coffee break

16.30–17.30 Andrew Gerstle (University of London, School of Oriental and African Studies): "Taking *Shunga* Seriously as Popular Discourse"

17.30–18.00 Open discussion

18.00–19.00 General Discussion on the foundation of an "Association for Tokugawa Studies"

**([Click here for Abstracts](#))**

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