

Professor Hiro Saito Presents:

"Democracy and War Memory in Japan: Fukushima and Okinawa as Method"



**Description:** Although rarely featured in the contemporary debate on the crisis of democracy, Japan helps illuminate two of the most arduous contradictions of democracy--between equality and expertise and between national sovereignty and international relations. This talk examines how Japan has negotiated these contradictions through case studies of political struggles over the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Disaster and the US military bases in Okinawa. Specifically, the talk illustrates how Japan's response to the contradictions has been mediated by its war memories that are institutionalized around the "pacifist" constitution and the US-Japan Security Treaty.

**Hiro Saito** is Assistant Professor of Sociology at Singapore Management University. Broadly interested in intersections between power and knowledge, he studies how interactions between government, experts, and citizens shape public policy. He is the author of *The History Problem: The Politics of War Commemoration in East Asia* and currently working on *The Horizon of Democracy: Fukushima and Okinawa as Method*.