Grant K. Goodman Distinguished Lecture in Japanese Studies, Dr. Lisa Yoneyama

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Grant K. Goodman Distinguished Lecture in Japanese Studies

"Aesthetics of Co-Conjuring: Toward a Decolonial Nuclear Criticism"

by Lisa Yoneyama, University of Toronto

April 21, 2022 | 7 pm CDT & April 22, 2022 | 9 am JST
Virtual | Register on Zoom

Dr. Yoneyama’s presentation considers the relational turn in recent transnational American studies and the critical implications it may hold for the past and emergent nuclear criticisms in Asia and beyond. Her main concern lies with forwarding what she calls aesthetics of co-conjuring as a decolonial methodology of nuclear criticisms that resonates with the relational critique of colonial-modern knowledge formations. She will begin by retracing Hiroshima’s “nuclear universalism” (Yoneyama, 1999) to address the predicaments of radiotontology more generally, and then move on to ask the following questions: If we are to situate the nuclear presents in relational terms, how can we address the seemingly common condition of radiogenic injuries without exceptionalizing nuclear? How can we move beyond our colonial agnosis that has shaped our knowledge of nuclearity (Hecht, 2012)? What are some of the critical frameworks with which we might perceive the nuclear-related losses and memories in conjunction with other past and ongoing violence and dispossession?

About the Speaker

Lisa Yoneyama is a Professor of East Asian Studies and Women and Gender Studies at the University of Toronto. Her research interests center on the memory politics concerning war and colonialism, issues related to gender and militarism, transnationalism, neo-colonialism, and nuclearism as well as transpacific and inter-Asia Cold War and post-Cold War knowledge production. She has published several books including the award-winning Cold War Ruins: Transpacific Critique of American Justice and Japanese War Crimes (2016). She currently is working on a new book project, “Co-Conjuring: Toward a Decolonial Nuclear Criticism” under the support of a SSHRC-Insight Grant.
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