Historisches Seminar

Drugs and the Politics of Consumption in Japan

Workshop hosted at the University of Zurich, August 22–24, 2019
Room KO2 F–174, Karl Schmid-Strasse 4, 8006 Zurich

The ‘politics of consumption’ in Japan allow a reevaluation of the boundaries between accepted and deviant, licit and illicit in a global historical perspective. What political, economic, social and cultural processes shaped particular perceptions of drugs in Japan? What policies and practices make Japan historically comparable or connect Japan to other countries? Contributions are about drug production and trade, consumption, addiction and prohibition in Japan and its overseas territories from the pre-modern to the post-war period.

organization and co-organization
Judith Vitale, judith.vitale@uzh.ch
Ulrich Brandenburg, ulrich.brandenburg@uzh.ch
Thursday, August 22

13:45 - 14:00  Opening

Judith Vitale and Ulrich Brandenburg, University of Zurich: Opening Remarks

Raji Steineck, University of Zurich: Welcome Address

14:00 - 15:30  1. Knowledge and Consumption in the Pre-modern Period

Anna Andreeva, University of Heidelberg
Childbirth, Buddhist Notions of Pain, and Pain Relief in Medieval Japan

Jonas Rüegg, Harvard University
Goblins, Spirits and Mushrooms: Hallucinogens in Japan Before the Invention of ‘Drugs’

Discussant: David Howell, Harvard University

16:00 - 17:30  2. Commerce and Diplomacy

Ozaki Kōji, Otemae University
Opium and Japan in the Late Tokugawa and the Early Meiji Eras

Ulrich Brandenburg, University of Zurich
Opium in Meiji Japan’s Internationalization: The Cases of Iran and the Ottoman Empire

Discussant: Martin Dusinberre, University of Zurich

18:00 - 19:30  Keynote Lecture

John Jennings, USAF Academy

Friday, August 23

10:00 - 12:15  3. Commerce, Consumption and Empire

William Gervase Clarence-Smith, SOAS, University of London
The House of Samuel as Official Supplier of Opium to the Japanese Colonial Empire, 1895-1926

Timothy Yang, University of Georgia
The Pharmaceutical Business, Empire, and Modern Japan

Hung Bin Hsu, National Cheng Kung University
Poppy Tent as Private Paradise? The Transformation of Social Activities and Spaces of Opium Smokers in Japanese Colonial Taiwan

Discussant: Harald Fischer-Tiné, ETH Zurich

13:45 - 16:00  4. Pre-War Period

Miriam Kingsberg Kadia, University of Colorado Boulder
Japan’s ‘Belle Epoque’: Narcotics in Japanese Imperial Fiction

Judith Vitale, University of Zurich
Drugs and Inter-War Anxieties
Friday, August 23

13:45 - 16:00  4. Pre-War Period (continued)

Christopher Szpilman, Teikyo University
_Narcotics and the Japanese Right Wing: The Curious Career of Fujita Isamu_

Discussant: Mariko Iijima, Sophia University

16:30 - 18:00  5. Post-War Period

Jesús Solis, Harvard University
_Drug Trafficking and the Consumption of Narcotics during the Occupation Period_

Jeffrey Alexander, Pueblo Community College (videoconference)
_Horrible Hiropon: Anti-Meth Campaigns in Postwar Japan_

Discussant: Sheldon Garon, Princeton University

Saturday, August 24

9:30-11:45  6. Recent Trends

William Marotti, UCLA
_The Politics of Violence, Glue-Sniffing, and Liberation: Making 1968 in Japan_

Oleg Benesch, University of York
_Japan’s Magic Mushroom Moment: Legality, Morality, and Identity_

Maki Umemura, Cardiff University
_Regenerating Medicine in Japan, 1973–present_

Discussant: David Chiavacci, University of Zurich

12:00 - 13:00  Concluding Remarks and Final Discussion

Chair: John Jennings, USAF Academy