



Comparative Asian Research Network
Monthly Lecture Series on Issues and Research in the Asian Region
Organized by the Department of Japanese Studies, CUHK

Japanese Christian Missions to Korea in Early Meiji

All are Welcome!!

**Speaker: Professor Motokazu Matsutani,
Tohoku Gakuin University**

Date: 26 February 2016 (Friday)

Time: 10:00 – 11:30

Venue: Room 401, Leung Kau Kui Building

Language: English

Abstract

It is commonly believed that Japan's Protestant Christian missions had imperial roots—that Protestant Christians took advantage of the expanding Japanese Empire to proselytize Japan's new Asian subjects. But instead of beginning with Japan's formal colonial expansion, this attempt to missionize Asia actually dates back to the early Meiji period when Japan's Christian communities began to grow at a rapid pace. This talk will focus on the first Japanese Christian mission to Korea in 1883, more than a decade before Japan's formal empire took shape. I will show that formal colonialism/imperialism did not always serve as the driving force for the Japanese Christian missions. Instead, a transnational cosmopolitanism (inspired by Christian ideals) served as the initial impetus for the effort to missionize Asia.

No registration necessary.

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