KYOTO LECTURES 2026

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From Kishi to Kokusaika

Japan's Reinvention of Cultural Diplomacy after Empire

Monday, December 14th, 18:00

Nissim Otmazgin

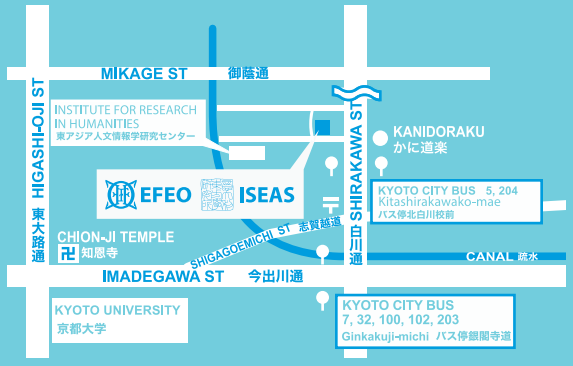
SPEAKER



Prime Minister Tanaka Kakuei in Singapore as part of his Southeast Asian tour, January 1974.
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Nissim Otmazgin is Professor of Japanese Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and a Visiting Research Scholar at the International Research Center for Japanese Studies (Nichibunken), Kyoto. His research focuses on cultural diplomacy, popular culture, and Japan's relations with Asia.

After 1945, Japan was reluctant to promote its culture abroad, especially in Asia, where memories of empire remained vivid. This lecture traces the shift from postwar restraint to the more confident cultural diplomacy of the 1970s and 1980s. Following this transformation from the early postwar decades through the "internationalization" (*kokusaika*) campaign, it shows how Japan responded to the widening gap between its growing economic power and limited international legitimacy by recasting cultural promotion as reciprocal "cultural exchange."



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Registration required in advance via QR code.
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