



Meiji Civil War Losers: Transnational Connectivity Arising from Defeat

5 February 2026 THU.
JST 11:00-13:00

**@ Conference Room 1, 3F Institute
for Advanced Studies on Asia, Utokyo**

Modern histories often portray civil wars as stepping stones toward national unification, strengthening the idea that the nation-state is the natural endpoint of history. In studies of modern Japan, the Boshin Civil War (1868–69) is usually understood as a moment that paved the way for the Meiji state and the formation of a modern nation. This perspective, however, absorbs the defeated side into the winners' national story and leaves little room for people who questioned or moved beyond the logic of the nation-state. This seminar reexamines the meanings and implications of the Boshin Civil War by tracing a transnational lineage of ideas and actions by various actors.



Presentation 1: "Beyond National Unification: How Defeat in the Boshin Civil War Shaped Transnational Counterculture"
By Chinami Oka

Assistant Professor, Nagoya University



Presentation 2: "From Transregional to Transnational Cooperation: Aizu Samurai in Kyushu"
By Joel Littler

JF-GJS Fellow, The University of Tokyo



Discussant:

Prof. M. William Steele

Professor Emeritus, International Christian University

Organizer | Moderator: Joel Littler



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