



# The Role of the Past in “Modern” Japan of the Meiji Era

**Christopher L. Hill, Professeur invité à l'EHESS**  
(Columbia University, Dept. of East Asian Languages and Cultures)

Séminaire ouvert

Mercredi 1<sup>er</sup> juin 2011, 17h-19h

EHESS, 105 boulevard Raspail 75006 Paris, Salle 3

## □ SUMMARY

After the imperial "restoration" of 1868, the Japanese past was mobilized to serve the state and modernity. Officially sponsored annals asserted the new state's connection to the distant era of direct imperial governance. Perhaps more fundamentally, a progressive view of history emerged that presented the restoration as a necessary stage in social evolution and dismissed opposition to the regime of modernity as an anachronism. Traces of the new view of history can be found not only at the conceptual level but also in the style of historical narrative.

## □ ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Christopher Hill specializes in transnational literary and intellectual history. His teaching and research interests include the global history of realist and naturalist fiction, nationalism, the history of social thought, and the culture of postwar Japan. Hill's publications include *National History and the World of Nations: Capital, State, and the Rhetoric of History in Japan, France, and the United States* (Duke University Press, 2008); "Exhausted by Their Battles with the World: Neurasthenia and Civilization Critique in Early Twentieth-Century Japan," in *Perversion and Modern Japan: Experiments in Psychoanalysis* (Routledge, 2009). His current research is on the place of realism and naturalism in world literature.

## **PROCHAINS EVENEMENTS**

### ■ "La stratégie pour l'emploi et le marché du travail en Europe: une perspective japonaise "

Table ronde avec Kenji HIRASHIMA (Université de Tokyo) et Rachel Guyet (CERI)  
21 juin 2011, 16h-19h  
CERI, 56 rue Jacob 75006 Paris, salle Jean Monnet  
(co-organisation CoesioNet)

## **CONTACT**

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