

The EHESS France-Japan Foundation Lecture Series

"Transnational History and Japan"

Sheldon Garon (Princeton University)

Wednesday June 4th, 2014
6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

EHESS bâtiment Le France (190 Av. de France 75013 Paris), Auditorium (R-1)

Introduction by Pierre-Cyrille Hautcœur, EHESS

Discussants: Alessandro Stanziani, EHESS;
Jean-Frédéric Schaub, EHESS; Bernard
Thomann, INALCO; Sébastien Lechevalier,
EHESS, moderator

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Pre-registration is required via email on: ffj@ehess.fr



Global or transnational history is today the hottest subfield of history. Scholars transcend national narratives to chart the movements of peoples, ideas, and institutions across national boundaries. Yet transnational history remains centered on the Atlantic world. The exclusion of East Asia, especially Japan, has been a glaring gap. Modern Japanese officials, entrepreneurs, and reformers were among the world's greatest transnational learners, avidly investigating Western practices. The world of the 19th and 20th centuries was intensely interconnected. Western nations also systematically investigated each other's best practices. In this international marketplace of ideas, Japan acted not only as a taker but a maker of transnational knowledge. In key instances, Westerners studied Japanese models of national mobilization, as would other Asian nations later in the 20th century.

Sheldon Garon is the Nissan Professor of History and East Asian Studies at Princeton University. A specialist in modern Japanese history, his recent book, *Beyond Our Means: Why America Spends While the World Saves* (2011), examines what Americans might learn from European and East Asian nations whose public policies have vigorously encouraged citizens to save over the past two centuries. He is currently writing a transnational history of "home fronts" in Japan, Germany, Britain, and the United States in World War II.

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