



Midwest Japan Seminar

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Saturday, 6 November 2010, 2:00-6:00
Student Center, 2nd Floor, Walnut Room
University of Wisconsin-Parkside

Yuko Shibata, Literature/Language Department, College of St. Benedict/St. John's University: "Reflecting Views on the Atomic Bombings: Hersey's *Hiroshima* and Nagai's *Nagasaki no kane*."

This paper considers knowledge production of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, both in the US and Japan through a reading of John Hersey's *Hiroshima* (1946). While *Hiroshima* is still the "first and only text" that most Americans read about the *hibakusha*'s experience, it is not well-known in Japan, and is basically excluded from a nationally-organized category of "*genbaku* literature." The paper discusses what effects this discrepancy between the two discursive spheres across the Pacific has created, by juxtaposing Hersey's story with Nagai Takashi's *Nagasaki no kane* (The Bells of Nagasaki, 1949), a best-selling book in Japan under the US Occupation. It argues that in spite of their ostensible disconnections, parallels can be found between the two texts on what they promote in readers' coming to terms with the atomic bombings.

Catherine Phipps, History Department, University of Memphis: "Linking Semicolonialism and Imperialism: Special Trading Ports in Japan, 1853-1899"

This paper introduces a little-known system of Japanese special trading ports operating in East Asian trade networks during the last decades of the nineteenth century. As part of its program of modernization, the Japanese government strategically opened ports under its own jurisdiction to handle limited foreign trade, especially in the promotion of targeted export goods. These ports played an important role in assisting Japan's early economic and military advances on the Asian continent. Moreover, the opening of many of these ports served as concessions to the Western powers in treaty revision negotiations at the same time they relied on the Western (especially British) presence to function effectively. Ultimately, this paper argues that semicolonialism and imperialism were directly linked. The special trading ports reveal the complex interplay between the rise of

Japanese imperialism in East Asia and the long process of revising the unequal treaties that compromised Japan's sovereignty and helped direct its modernization.

Hotel: Best Western Hotel & Conference Center next to Milwaukee Airport (visit: <http://www.bwmilwaukee.com>) Rate of \$72 plus tax available until 26 October 2010. Please mention the Midwest Japan Seminar when booking.

Alternate Hotel: Holiday Inn & Suites next to Milwaukee Airport. (visit: www.himkeairport.com) Rate of \$89 plus tax available until 5 November 2010. Please mention the Midwest Japan Seminar when booking.

Free hotel shuttles are available to both properties 24-hours a day from the telephone kiosk at baggage claim at Milwaukee Airport. Both hotels have free parking.

Directions: UW-Parkside is 30 miles south of Milwaukee Airport. Directions to UW-Parkside from Milwaukee via I-94 are here: <http://www.uwp.edu/map/regional.cfm>

A map of the campus is here: <http://www.uwp.edu/map/>

The campus address is: 900 Wood Road, Kenosha, Wisconsin, 53221

Free Campus Parking: Available at UW-Parkside in Union Lot, near the Student Center.

Paper and Dinner: If you plan to attend and would like copies of the papers, contact Roy Hanashiro at okuma@umflint.edu. The deadline for requesting copies is 20 October 2010. **Papers will be sent electronically (PDF File). Please indicate if you plan to join the group for dinner on Saturday. Dinner will be at St. Francis Brewery & Restaurant, which is just four miles from our hotels at Milwaukee Airport**

Local Contact: Jeffrey Alexander, Department of History. Tel: 262-595-2583. Cell : 262-676-9165. Email: Jeffrey.Alexander@uwp.edu

UP-COMING MJS SESSIONS:

- 4 December 2010, Oklahoma University, (Elyssa Faison)
Presenter: Michael Bathgate, Religion, Xavier University
Presenter: Patti Kameya, History, Kent State University
- 5 February 2011, Valparaiso University (Jennifer Prough)
Presenter: Betsy Dorn, History, Wayne State University
Presenter: Mieko Yamada, Sociology, Indiana University-Purdue University at Fort Wayne
- 16 April 2011, Western Michigan University (Steve Covell)
Presenter: Noboru Tomonari, Asian Languages and Literature, Carleton University
Presenter: David Obermiller, History, Gustavus Adolphus College

For information: Visit our MJS Website at
<http://www.asianstudies.msu.edu/MJS>

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