



TOHOKU
UNIVERSITY



Lecturer

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The first sustained use of the concept of early modernity by academic historians anywhere in the world occurred in the first decades of the twentieth century in Japan. Early modernity was conceived partly in reaction to how the contemporaneous academic periodization of Ancient-Medieval-Modern was used to justify imperialism. Early modernity introduced a new, alternative trajectory towards nationhood and sovereignty, one not dependent on a stage of feudal militarism, but instead located in civil culture and linked to the spread of Neo-Confucianism. It expanded the possibilities of modernity into more culturally and historically pluralist terrains, offering a vision of modernity not necessarily bound to modern imperialism. This in turn created space for critical reflections on the nature of global modernity, reflections that continue to be seen in early modern history writing today.

2026

April 20

13:00 ~ 14:30

Venue / Tohoku University

Kawauchi Campus

Multimedia Education and Research Complex, 6F



The problem of periodization in Global History:

What comes before “modern” — medieval, early modern, or something else?

第二十六回支倉セミナー

主催：東北大学日本学国際共同大学院
東北大学大学院国際文化研究科

共催：東北大学日本思想史研究会
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