



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

EAST ASIAN STUDIES CENTER

2023 THE INSTITUTE FOR JAPANESE
STUDIES AND JAPANESE
GRADUATE STUDIES
ASSOCIATION PRESENT:

"HAPPINESS IN ORDINARY PLACES: LESSONS FROM EDO JAPAN"

SHIGEHISA KURIYAMA

Reischauer Institute Professor of Cultural History, Harvard University

How can one evoke a happy ordinary place? Sad places, sublime places, places that promise adventure, mystery, or romance—all these are relatively easy to portray. But how can one communicate the promise of ordinary happiness? What sorts of pictured places inspire viewers to think: "There is nothing special there, but life there seems happy"? Certain prints in 19th century Japan are quite effective in inspiring this thought. As we probe the secret of their effectiveness, we discover something startling—that the key elements in their evocation of happiness are mostly things that wouldn't readily occur to us today. And so these prints prompt us, ultimately, to reflect anew not only on the imagination of everyday life in late Edo Japan but also on our own horizons of happiness.



Free and open to the public

<https://easc.osu.edu/events/ijs-2023-brad-richardson-memorial-lecture-shigehisa-kuriyama-happiness-ordinary-places>

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The Ohio State University East Asian Studies Center

FEBRUARY 24

Friday
4:00-6:30pm
Jennings Hall 001