



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

EAST ASIAN STUDIES CENTER

19
OCTOBER

**2023 THE EAST ASIAN STUDIES
CENTER AND DEPARTMENT OF
HISTORY PRESENT:**

Thursday
3:30-5:00pm
Hagerty 186

**"IMPERIAL GATEWAY: COLONIAL TAIWAN AND
JAPAN'S EXPANSION IN SOUTH CHINA AND
SOUTHEAST ASIA, 1895-1945"**

SEJI SHIRANE

Associate Professor of History, City College of New York

Imperial Gateway explores the political, social, and economic significance of colonial Taiwan in the southern expansion of Japan's empire from 1895 to 1945. Challenging understandings of empire that focus on bilateral relations between metropole and colonial periphery, the book uncovers a half century of dynamic relations between Japan, Taiwan, China, and Western regional powers. Japanese officials in Taiwan did not simply take orders from Tokyo; rather, they often pursued their own expansionist ambitions in South China and Southeast Asia. When outright conquest was not possible, they promoted alternative strategies, including naturalizing resident Chinese as overseas Taiwanese subjects, extending colonial police networks, and deploying tens of thousands of Taiwanese to war. The Taiwanese—merchants, gangsters, policemen, interpreters, nurses, and soldiers—seized new opportunities for socioeconomic advancement that did not always align with Japan's imperial interests. Imperial Gateway shows how Japanese officials and Taiwanese subjects transformed Taiwan into a regional gateway for expansion in an ever-shifting international order.



Free and open to the public

<https://easc.osu.edu/events/easc-lecture-seiji-shirane-imperial-gateway-colonial-taiwan-and-japans-expansion-south-china>

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