



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

EAST ASIAN STUDIES CENTER

2023

THE INSTITUTE FOR JAPANESE STUDIES, COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH, DEPARTMENT OF EAST ASIAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES, DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY, MERSHON CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL SECURITY STUDIES, SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION, SCHOOL OF EARTH SCIENCES, AND JAPAN AMERICA SOCIETY OF CENTRAL OHIO PRESENT

## "MY 50-YEAR JOURNEY: MINAMATA FOLLOWED BY FUKUSHIMA"

**AILEEN SMITH**

**Executive Director, Green Action**

Aileen will speak about W. Eugene Smith's commitment to photojournalism, how Gene and Aileen photographed in Minamata, and what she experienced and learned while working there between the ages of 21 and 24. The methylmercury pollution victims' fight for justice in Minamata and the anti-nuclear movement in Japan, centered around the joint efforts of farmers, fisherfolk and other dedicated citizens, are examples of the struggle to achieve true democracy in Japan. She will discuss the 10 anti-progressive strategies used by government and industry common to Minamata and Fukushima, and how both of these historical issues are still ongoing. Japan's nuclear fuel cycle program is intricately tied to the US Department of Energy's initiatives to advance the use of plutonium for commercial use as an energy source. She will address how civil use of this weapons-capable material will abet nuclear proliferation and how ongoing utilization of nuclear energy is detrimental to the goal of preventing climate change.



**Free and open to the public**

<https://easc.osu.edu/events/ijs-lecture-aileen-smith-my-50-year-journey-minamata-followed-fukushima>

OCTOBER 27

Friday  
4:30-6:00pm  
180 Hagerly Hall

This event is sponsored by a U.S. Department of Education Title VI grant to  
The Ohio State University East Asian Studies Center