

The US and Japan in the Present and Future: A Roundtable Discussion

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 1:30-3:00
Mason Hall Rotunda

Participant Bios

William Chou, Ph.D

Senior Fellow and Deputy Director, Japan Chair

William Chou is a senior fellow and deputy director of Hudson Institute's Japan Chair. His work at Hudson focuses on the United States' relationship with Japan and other Indo-Pacific issues, especially economic security, trade and investment, and regional partnerships. He holds a BA in history from Yale and a PhD in history from The Ohio State University, with a dissertation and book manuscript on Cold War US-Japan commercial and diplomatic relations. He began his career as a research analyst at the Institute for Defense Analyses during the Iraq War. His recent projects include analyses of the Nippon Steel-US Steel partnership, economic security cooperation among the US, Japan, and the European Union, automotive and critical mineral supply chains, and US industrial and trade initiatives around the world. Dr. Chou writes and speaks regularly on policy issues, with his analysis appearing in publications such as The Wall Street Journal, Bloomberg, Politico, The Washington Post, Nikkei, The New York Times, and the Financial Times.

Richard Herrmann, PhD (Moderator)

Social and Behavioral Sciences Distinguished Professor Emeritus, The Ohio State University

Richard Herrmann is Social and Behavioral Sciences Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Political Science at The Ohio State University, and a former chair of the Department of Political Science. He directed the Mershon Center for International Security Studies (2002–2011) and has published widely on international security, foreign policy, and political psychology, including books on perceptions in Soviet foreign policy and transnational identities in Europe. He also brings substantial policy experience, having served on the U.S. Department of State Policy Planning Staff under James Baker and contributed to conflict-resolution initiatives with scholars and policymakers across multiple regions.

ITO Wakako, Ph.D

Director of Research and Executive Director, Japan Forum on International Relations (JFIR)

Wakako Ito is Director of Research and Executive Director at Japan Forum for International Relations (JFIR) (with JFIR since 2011). She also serves as Senior Program Coordinator and Project Researcher at Research Center for Advanced Science and Technology, The University of Tokyo (RCAST), and as a Specially Appointed Research Fellow at Institute for Future Engineering (IFENG). She holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from Hosei University, and her research focuses on China-related political and policy issues, including technology and digital governance, economic security, and the intersection of geopolitics and emerging technologies.

MAESHIMA Kazuhiro, Ph.D

Distinguished Research Fellow, JFIR / Professor, Sophia University (Tokyo)

Kazuhiro Maeshima is a Professor of American Government and Foreign Policy in the Department of Global Studies at Sophia University. He previously served as Dean of the Faculty of Global Studies at Sophia and as President of the Japanese Association of American Studies. Maeshima earned his MA in Government from Georgetown University and both his MA and PhD in Government and Politics from the University of Maryland. Before pursuing his academic career in the United States, he worked as a print journalist in Japan for five years after obtaining his BA from Sophia University. His research focuses on American government and political communication. He has authored numerous books and articles in these fields, including *The Media in American Politics*, *Media as a Political Actor* (in Japanese), and *Internet Election Campaigns in the United States, Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan* (co-edited in English, Palgrave, 2017).

MIMAKI Seiko, Ph.D

Professor, Doshisha University

Seiko Mimaki specializes in US diplomatic history and International Relations. She received her BA, MA, and Ph.D. from the University of Tokyo, and was a visiting fellow at Harvard University (2013–14), Johns Hopkins University (2014–15), Assistant Professor at Kansai Gaidai University (2015–17), and Associate Professor at Takasaki City University of Economics (2017–22). Her publications include “Law Against Empire, or Law for Empire? – American Imagination and the International Legal Order in the Twentieth Century,” *The Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History* (2021); and *International Society in the Early Twentieth Century Asia-Pacific* (Routledge, co-authored, 2020). She is an occasional contributor to the *Asahi Shimbun* and *Yahoo! Japan News*.

OBI Michiyo, Ph.D

Professor, Nanzan University

Michiyo Obi is a professor at the Faculty of Policy Studies, Nanzan University, and president of the Japan Association of Global Governance. She specializes in international political economy and holds a Ph. D. in international political economy from the University of Tsukuba. Her major publications include *The International Political Economy of Japan-U.S. Automobile Friction: Trade Policy Ideas and Economic Globalization* (Kokusai Shoin, 2009), *Ukrainian War and Global Governance* (co-edited, Ashi Shobo, 2024), *Understanding International Politics* (co-edited, Minerva Shobo, 2021), *International Relations from the Viewpoint of Postwar Japanese Diplomacy: Perspectives Linking History and Theory* (co-authored, Minerva Shobo, 2021), *Environmental Risk Mitigation: Coaxing a Market in the Battery and Energy Supply and Storage Industry* (co-edited, Palgrave Macmillan, 2016).

Paul Sracic, Ph.D

Senior Fellow (Nonresident), Hudson Institute

Paul Sracic is a nonresident senior fellow at the Hudson Institute in Washington, DC. He previously served as a professor of Politics and International Relations at Youngstown State University in Ohio. He was twice a Fulbright Scholar in Japan, lecturing on U.S. politics at University of Tokyo, Waseda University, Sophia University and Yokohama National University. He has also given more than fifty State Department sponsored lectures on US politics and foreign policy, including talks at US embassy facilities in Beijing, Tokyo, Brussels, Dublin, and Rome. Professor Sracic is the author of four books. His articles on American and International politics have appeared in the *Wall Street Journal*, *The*

Washington Post, USA Today, Bloomberg, The Atlantic, The Hill, The Diplomat, Nikkei Asia, Foxnews.com and CNN.com. Most recently, he served as the studio analyst for NHK World Japan's coverage of the 2024 US Presidential elections.

SUZUKI Kazutoshi, Ph.D

Professor, Sophia University

Kazutoshi Suzuki is a Professor at Sophia University. He earned his Ph.D. in International Relations from the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at the University of Tokyo. His research interests center on international negotiation, globalization, and theory building using multi-agent simulation. He is a recipient of the Ohira Memorial Prize for his work, *The Political Process of the U.S.-Japan Structural Impediments Initiative* (Nichibei Kouzou Kyougi no Seiji Katei, Minerva Shobo, 2013). His recent works on trade policy include "Multilateralism and Discrimination in GATT Round Negotiations" (SIIR Working Paper, No.5, October 17, 2023) and "Structuring International Negotiation with Tactics: A Proactive Turn in Japanese FTA Policy" (SIIR Working Paper, No.7, November 19, 2023).

TEZUKA Saori, Ph.D

Associate Professor, Nanzan University

Saori Tezuka's research interests are in the areas of international migration, immigration policy and international political economy. She holds a BA, MA and PhD from Doshisha University, and undertook further studies at the University of California, Los Angeles between 2008 and 2009. Her publications include "Narratives on the U.S. Investor Visa Program: Job Creator and Entrepreneur", published in *Academia* in January 2024.

