

# Institute for Japanese Studies Lecture Series

## Buddhist Temple Bells and Transnational Connections Between Japan, Korea, and the Ryukyus

**50**  
1969–2019  
EAST ASIAN  
STUDIES  
CENTER

Monday, March 2, 5:00-6:30 pm  
Pomerene Hall 150



## Sherry Fowler

Art History

University of Kansas

Co-sponsored by the Institute for Korean Studies

Although large Japanese bronze Buddhist bells were made of expensive material with impressive technical and design skill, their extensive history in Japan has been largely overlooked. While these bells were made for use at Buddhist temples for rituals and commemoration since the seventh century, they also played a pivotal role in the history of international maritime movement and global exchange. Throughout Japan the abundant illustrations and stories, some credible and others fantastic, of bells transported across the sea or sunk in bodies of water have common themes of loss, recovery, and international tension, including the political issue of twentieth-century seizure and repatriation of Buddhist bells. In addition to Japanese bells that weave the themes of survival and relocation into transnational connections, important bells from Korea and the Ryukyus will also be discussed.

**Sherry Fowler** is Professor of Japanese Art History at the University of Kansas.. Her research interests include pre-modern sculpture, 18th and 19th century Japanese temple prints, pilgrimage prints, foreign interactions with Japanese art, issues of collecting, and ritual.



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