

Institute for Japanese Studies Brad Richardson Memorial Lecture:

## Effective Leadership in Japan: The Case of Shibusawa Eiichi, Entrepreneur and Philanthropist

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

Friday, February 28  
Jennings Hall 001

Opening Remarks: 4:30-4:45  
Lecture with Q&A: 4:45-6:15  
Reception: 6:15-7:00



### Gil Latz

Vice Provost for Global Strategies  
and International Affairs  
Department of Geography  
The Ohio State University

With discussant:

### David Welch

Department of Political Science  
The University of Waterloo

The examination of lessons from the Meiji Era (1868-1912) that may have potential applicability to contemporary Japan can be explored by drawing attention to the role of prominent individuals in shaping national policy and in setting direction for a country in transition. The presentation reviews the remarkable career of Shibusawa Eiichi (1840-1931), a key leader in the modernization of Japan. I argue that the spiritual, social, and commercial ideas of Shibusawa Eiichi provide valuable insights into the qualities needed to lead Japan in the 21st century. Specifically, by introducing ideas related to individual empowerment and better governance, as well as venture philanthropy, I identify the elements that might comprise new international and regional development thinking that creatively address various challenges and opportunities facing Japan.



**Gil Latz** is Vice Provost for Global Strategies and International Affairs, and Professor of Geography, The Ohio State University. For the past fifteen years his advisory affiliation to the Shibusawa Eiichi Memorial Foundation has included study of entrepreneurship, philanthropy, and civic leadership and the role they have played in Japan's modernization process since the late nineteenth century.



Free and open to the public  
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