

Institute for Japanese Studies Lecture Series

Cargo Ships, Shipwrecked Sailors, and the Nearshore Environment of Tokugawa Japan

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1969–2019
EAST ASIAN
STUDIES
CENTER

Friday, Oct. 18, 2:00-3:30 pm
Page Hall 60 (1810 College Rd N)



Jakobina Arch

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As a way of rethinking the historical role and importance of the Japanese archipelago's marine environment, this talk focuses on what we can learn from looking at coastal cargo ships and their crews during the Tokugawa period. These ships were of a new type specifically developed within and reflective of the particular cultural and physical environment of the period. Because coastal shipping was essential for the movement of tax rice and other products within Tokugawa Japan's booming merchant economy, the way that cargo sailors worked with and adapted their ships and behavior to the marine environment directly shaped the history of Tokugawa Japan. Government records of returned castaways provide testimonies for how sailors and shipwrights dealt with the particular environmental hazards of Japan's nearshore waters, and the material evidence of ship construction supplements that testimony.

Jakobina Arch is an Assistant Professor of History at Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington. Her research focuses on marine environmental history in Japan, especially in the early modern period.



Free and open to the public
easc.osu.edu/events/ijs/j-arch

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