

# Institute for Japanese Studies Lecture Series

## Beyond the Man in the Rubber Suit: Godzilla, Postwar Japan, and the Global Imagination

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

Tuesday Nov. 19, 4-5:30 pm  
Thompson Library 165 (1858 Neil Ave)



### Bill Tsutsui

Department of History  
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Since Godzilla's first appearance almost exactly 65 years ago, the King of the Monsters has become a cinematic icon and a globally recognized symbol of Japan. But what can a giant, radioactive movie monster tell us about Japanese culture and Japan's national experience since World War II? What is it about an actor in a rubber lizard suit destroying miniature Japanese cities that has inspired love, loyalty, and laughter over generations of fans around the world? This talk will briefly survey the history and impact of the 32 Godzilla films, reflect on Hollywood's handling of the King of the Monsters, and assess the impact of changes in special effects technology, cinematic fashion, and global politics on the world's oldest and longest film franchise.

William M. (Bill) Tsutsui is president and professor of history at Hendrix College, a top-tier national liberal arts college founded in 1876 and located in Conway, Arkansas. His teaching and research focus on the business, environmental, and cultural history of twentieth-century Japan.



Free and open to the public  
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