

Forschungskolloquium zur Transregionalen Geschichte

Universität Regensburg
Department für Interdisziplinäre und Multiskalare Area Studies

Professur für Transregionale Wissenskulturen
Prof. Dr. Timothy Nunan

16.11.22, 16.15 Uhr - 18:45 Uhr, Hörsaal H51 & Zoom



Seiji Shirane is an Assistant Professor of History at City College of New York (CUNY). His book, Imperial Gateway: Colonial Taiwan and Japan's Expansion in South China and Southeast Asia, 1895–1945 (Cornell University Press, Nov. 15), will be open access on the CUP website (bit.ly/3LWagWb) and Amazon Kindle.

Imperial Gateway explores the political, social, and economic significance of colonial Taiwan in the southern expansion of Japan's empire from 1895 to the end of World War II. Challenging understandings of empire that focus on bilateral relations between metropole and colonial periphery, Seiji Shirane uncovers a half century of dynamic relations between Japan, Taiwan, China, and Western regional powers. Japanese officials in Taiwan did not simply take orders from Tokyo; rather, they often pursued their own expansionist ambitions in South China and Southeast Asia. When outright conquest was not possible, they promoted alternative strategies, including naturalizing resident Chinese as overseas Taiwanese subjects, extending colonial police networks, and deploying tens of thousands of Taiwanese to war. The Taiwanese—merchants, gangsters, policemen, interpreters, nurses, and soldiers—seized new opportunities for socioeconomic advancement that did not always align with Japan's imperial interests. Drawing on multilingual archives in six countries, Imperial Gateway shows how Japanese officials and Taiwanese subjects transformed Taiwan into a regional gateway for expansion in an ever-shifting international order.

Zoom registration is available via: <https://uni-regensburg.zoom.us/join/92PZS21ugnd0CL2> In order to register for the mailing list, please write to timothy.nunan@geschichte.uni-regensburg.de