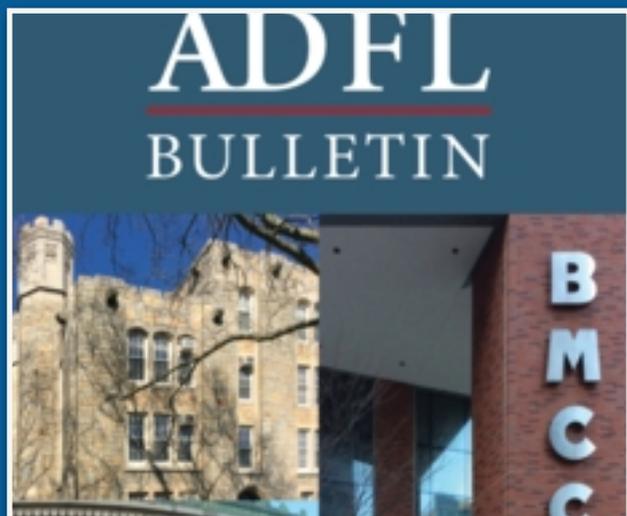


“Be Better, Together” Japanese Studies Curriculum Development across CUNY



Cold War Collaborations: Japanese Studies in the United States, 1945-1960

Miriam Kingsberg Kadia (University of Colorado)

MLA's Resources for Japan Studies

Daniel Connor, Dennis Looney, and Natalia Lusin, Modern Language Association

Date: Friday, December 11, 2020
Time: 10:30am-12:00am
Location: Online (Zoom)
RSVP at <http://bit.ly/lagccEventReg>



Abstract for Miriam Kingsberg Kadia

Traditional genealogies of Japanese studies in the United States in the early Cold War (c. 1945-1960) typically understand the field as a classic example of “area studies.” Area studies aimed to advance both theoretical and empirical knowledge of nations and regions through intensive language preparation, on-the-ground research, and the incorporation of local viewpoints and interpretations. Encompassing the human and social science and humanities disciplines, it has been represented as the primary intellectual approach to the developing and decolonizing world after 1945. Some contemporary critics have discussed area studies as an attempt to perpetuate the power structures of imperialism, replacing overt political control with indirect attempts to foster loyalty to the United States through the creation of knowledge. By illuminating the underacknowledged role of Japanese scholars as agents as well as objects of Japanese studies in the U.S., this talk challenges the depiction of Japanese studies as area studies in the classic sense. It also suggests the need to rethink the very construct of area studies, highlighting the ways in

which genealogies of knowledge mischaracterize the relationship between American researchers and their on-the-ground collaborators.

Abstract for MLA

This session emphasizes MLA support and resources for Japanese Studies with some information on our support for Asian Studies generally. The first part of our session, organized by MLA Programs and Research will look at our study of enrollments in Japanese and other Asian languages. The second part will look at current coverage of Japanese literature, language, culture, and scholarship in the MLA International Bibliography and focus on our ongoing efforts to expand that coverage through our field bibliography and fellowship programs. We will share our Japanese-language tutorial video introducing the MLAIB.

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