



公益財団法人 国際文化会館
International House of Japan

Nichibunken-IHJ Forum

ORNAMENTAL DIPLOMACY

—Emperor Meiji and the Monarchs of the Modern World

John Breen Professor, Nichibunken

Friday, **December 8**, 2017, 6:30-8:00 pm (doors open at 6 pm)

Venue: Lecture Hall, International House of Japan

Commentator: **Sven Saaler** (Professor, Sophia University)

Language: English (no interpretation provided)

Admission: Free (reservations required)

Professor Breen argues that the Meiji emperor played a pivotal role in the construction of modern Japan's relations with its Western and Asian neighbors. He will explore the fashioning of the modern Japanese honors system in early Meiji, and its deployment by the emperor in rituals of diplomacy conducted in the imperial palace up until the outbreak of war with China in 1894. While interrogating the role of ritual, and the exchange of gifts, in modern Japanese diplomacy, ultimately, he will seek to demonstrate that the Meiji emperor was indeed a key player in the construction of modern Japan's power relations.



John Breen

Born 1956 in the UK; BA, MA and PhD Cambridge University. Before assuming his current position he was a senior lecturer at SOAS (University of London). Publications include *A Social History of the Ise Shrines* (with Mark Teeuwen) (Bloomsbury, 2017) and "The Nation's Shrine: Conflict and Commemoration at Yasukuni." In Tsang and Woods, eds., *The Cultural Politics of Nationalism and Nation-Building: Ritual and Performance in the Forging of Nations* (Routledge, 2014).



Sven Saaler

After earning a Ph.D. in Japanese Studies from Bonn University, he was Lecturer at Marburg University, Head of the Humanities Section of the German Institute for Japanese Studies (DIJ) and Associate Professor at the University of Tokyo. He has written a monograph on history debates in Japan (*Politics, Memory and Public Opinion*, 2005) and articles on the history textbook controversy, the Yasukuni Shrine issue and the historical development and significance of Pan-Asianism.

❖ I-House has started a series of forums in collaboration with Nichibunken to deepen the understanding of contemporary Japan from various perspectives.

Contact & Reservations

Program Office, International House of Japan
(Monday-Friday, 9 am-5 pm)

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☕ On the day of this event, the restaurant will serve a cup of complimentary coffee/tea or ice cream (The Garden) or a complimentary glass of wine (SAKURA) to customers with their meals. Please show your registration confirmation email or flyer when ordering. We recommend that you reserve a table in advance.

