

# THE POLITICS OF REPRESENTATION

Reflections on Controversial Issues in Museums  
and Related Places in Japan and Hawai'i

## Nov 1-2 SYMPOSIUM

Center for Korean Studies  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

**KEYNOTE presentation**  
Nov 1, 6 pm Atherton Hālau, Bishop Museum

### SPONSORS



Museum Studies Graduate Certificate Program  
and  
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The Graduate University for Advanced Studies [SOKENDAI]

## THE POLITICS OF REPRESENTATION: REFLECTIONS ON CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES IN MUSEUMS AND RELATED PLACES IN JAPAN AND HAWAII

This free, open-to-the-public two-day symposium and a keynote presentation bring together scholars, educators, and museum professionals from Japan and Hawai'i to discuss the challenges of developing exhibits with controversial or highly sensitive content on historic events and related issues. Presenters will reflect on their experiences working in museums, cultural centers, historic sites, and community festivals. Each will focus on a case study and provide a glimpse of how they researched and prepared an exhibit; consulted with scholars, teachers, education specialists, board members, staff, and community stakeholders; and made crucial decisions along the way.

The theme of the symposium highlights the issue of representation and its politics, and the organizers hope the symposium and keynote address will provide opportunities for learning from the presenters and audience. They look forward to creating a place for discussing issues that may have been too "hot" for museums, classrooms, and other public places in the past but are now crucial to learning about our histories and differences.

**For full bios and presentation descriptions visit:**  
[hihumanities.org/the-politics-of-representation-symposium-and-keynote](http://hihumanities.org/the-politics-of-representation-symposium-and-keynote)

### **SESSION 1:** *Representing Difficult Issues: The Battle of Okinawa and the Bombing of Nagasaki*

**Friday, November 1, 2013, 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm,** Center for Korean Studies, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

**Moderator: Dennis M. Ogawa,** Professor, American Studies, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Honolulu, HI

**Presenter: Kaori Akiyama,** Ph.D. Candidate, The Graduate University for Advanced Studies [SOKENDAI] / National Museum of Japanese History, Chiba, Japan

Presentation: *Challenging Exhibitions in Japan*

This presentation will discuss the challenges that Japanese history museums face when exhibiting Japanese histories. Some of the controversies resemble similar debates in the United States, while other are unique to discussions in Japan.

**Presenter: Kosuke Harayama,** Associate Professor, The Graduate University for Advanced Studies [SOKENDAI]/National Museum of Japanese History, Chiba, Japan

Presentation: *How to Think Together About the Forced Deaths? Controversies on an Exhibit of the Battle of Okinawa in the National Museum of Japanese History*

He will reflect on controversial historical exhibitions by examining an exhibit on the Battle of Okinawa at the National Museum of Japanese History, and he will locate his discussion within the contexts of historical studies, museum politics, and revisionism in Japan.

**Presenter: Shari Tamashiro,** Cybrarian, Kapi'olani Community College and Member of the Hawai'i Okinawan Community

Presentation: *Taking History to Community Festivals*

She will discuss the reaction to and challenges involved with bringing history to the annual Okinawan Festival at Kapi'olani Park through an exhibit on the Battle of Okinawa, post-WWII relief efforts in Hawai'i, and U.S. military bases in Okinawa.

**Presenter: Shotaro Okuno,** Curator, Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum, Japan

Presentation: *Exhibiting Tragedy: The Atomic-Bomb and the Assailants in the War—A Case Study from the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum*

In his talk, he will discuss how his museum exhibited the A-bomb within its historical contexts in Nagasaki, and how the issue of Japanese nationalism was presented.

### **KEYNOTE** *Sites of Conscience: Opening Dialogue on Contested Histories and Contemporary Issues*

**Friday, November 1, 2013, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm,** Atherton Hālau, Bishop Museum

**Speaker: Liz Ševčenko,** Director, Guantánamo Public Memory Project  
The Institute for the Study of Human Rights, Columbia University, New York

Museums, historic sites, and cultural centers are frequently charged with presenting highly sensitive information to the general public through their exhibits and educational programs. Liz Ševčenko has had a wealth of experience in this area. In her keynote talk, Ms. Ševčenko will describe how she and her organizations were able to represent the perspectives and experiences of more than one community group. Furthermore, each organization had specific historic events, government policies, and local social problems it needed to address.

**SESSION 2:** *Depicting Japan and the Japanese at Pearl Harbor, and Presenting the Internment at Honouliuli*

**Saturday, November 2, 2013, 9:00 am to 11:30 am,** Center for Korean Studies, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

**Moderator: Mari Matsuda,** Professor, University of Hawai'i William S. Richardson School of Law

**Presenter: Eileen Martinez,** Chief of Interpretation and Education

WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument, Pearl Harbor

Presentation: *Path to a Complete History - Inclusive Storytelling*

This session will examine the new Pearl Harbor Visitor Center exhibits that offer multiple perspectives on the Pacific War. It will focus on the development of the section on Japan and the Japanese state of mind in the *Road to War* gallery.

**Presenter: Yujin Yaguchi,** Associate Professor

Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, The University of Tokyo, Japan

Presentation: *The Japanese Perspective in the "Road to War" Gallery at WWII Valor in the Pacific National Memorial (U.S.S. Arizona, Pearl Harbor)*

This presentation will discuss the representation of the Japanese society and history in the *Road to War* gallery in the Visitor's Center, and the ways in which the museum attempts to incorporate not only Japan's military history but also its social history, thereby "humanizing" the enemy—the Japanese perspective in the gallery is significant.

**Presenter: Brian Niiya,** Content Director, Densho: The Japanese American Legacy Project, Seattle, Washington

Presentation: *The Right Time: Telling the Story of Hawai'i's Internees*

*at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i, 2004-13*

The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i has told the relatively little known story of Japanese Americans in Hawai'i who were interned during World War II in three exhibitions and in various other. Many of these projects were funded by federal grants that have led to a flood of interpretive programs nationwide focused on the wartime incarceration story. This presentation looks at the evolution of the Center's message in the context of these many other interpretive productions as well as the master narrative of Japanese American history in Hawai'i.

**Presenter: Joyce N. Chinen,** Professor of Sociology, University of Hawai'i-West O'ahu, Kapolei, HI and Director, Center for Okinawan Studies, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Honolulu, HI

Presentation: *The Other "Japanese:" Reviewing the Representations of Okinawans in the Pacific War/World War II Confinement Sites*

This presentation looks at a subset of Japanese persons who were incarcerated during the World War II (or the *Pacific War*, from Pacific Islanders and Asian perspectives), especially those in Hawai'i—specifically those of Okinawan ancestry—and discusses how their experiences have been reflected in the developing narratives around Honouliuli and other confinement facilities.

**SESSION 3:** *Rethinking the Representations of Historic Events at Bishop Museum, the Judiciary History Center, and 'Iolani Palace*

**Saturday, November 2, 2013, 1:15 pm to 2:45 pm,** Center for Korean Studies, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

**Moderator: Karen K. Kosasa,** Director, Museum Studies Graduate Certificate Program and Associate Professor, American Studies, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Honolulu, HI

**Presenter: Noelle M.K.Y. Kahanu,** Director, Community Affairs, Bishop Museum, Honolulu, HI

Presentation: *Mai Poina Oe Iau: Forget Me Not*

This presentation will share Bishop Museum's efforts to address the 1893 overthrow and subsequent annexation to the United States five years later within the context of the renovation of Hawaiian Hall in 2009.

**Presenter: Matt Mattice,** Executive Director, King Kamehameha V Judiciary History Center, Honolulu, HI

Presentation: *Considering Stakeholders and Renovating Representations at the Judiciary History Center*

This presentation will describe how the Judiciary History Center staff worked with community stakeholders to develop a plan to present history of Hawaiian law and the American Constitution. It will also describe the challenges of presenting this information within the context of larger historic events, including the overthrow of the Hawaiian government

**Presenter: Heather Diamond,** Curator, 'Iolani Palace, Honolulu, HI

Presentation: *Points of Contact/Points of Contention*

In this presentation, she will discuss some of the more controversial issues the staff will consider as they develop new permanent exhibits, on the theme *Points of Contact* that will expand the story it currently presents at the Palace. Kalakaua's Pacific confederacy, Hawai'i in the context of empire, and the history of protest in and around 'Iolani Palace are some of the new sub-themes.

**SESSION 4: Reflections on the Symposium: A Roundtable Discussion and Conversation with the Audience**

**Saturday, November 2, 2013, 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm**

Center for Korean Studies, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

**Moderator: Yujin Yaguchi**, Associate Professor

Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, The University of Tokyo, Japan

Yujin Yaguchi teaches American Studies at the University of Tokyo, and his recent publications in English include editing of Jenichiro Oyabe's biography (with Greg Robinson), *A Japanese Robinson Crusoe*; and the online article *Remembering Pearl Harbor in Hawai'i: A Reflection on an Annual Workshop for U.S. and Japanese Secondary School Teachers*, via [www.shafir.org](http://www.shafir.org).

**Discussant: Liz Ševčenko**, Director

Guantánamo Public Memory Project

The Institute for the Study of Human Rights, Columbia University, New York, NY

As the director of the Guantánamo Public Memory Project, Liz Ševčenko works to build public awareness of the long history of the US naval station at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, before and after 9-11, and fosters dialogue on the future of this place, its people, and its policies. She was the founding director of the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience, where she helped to build a network of historic sites that foster public dialogue on pressing contemporary issues. Also, as vice president for programs at the Lower East Side Tenement Museum, she developed exhibits and educational activities that connect the dramatic stories of the neighborhood's immigrants past and present

**Discussant: Kosuke Harayama**, Associate Professor

The Graduate University for Advanced Studies [SOKENDAI]/National Museum of Japanese History, Chiba, Japan

**Discussant: Karen K. Kosasa**, Director

Museum Studies Graduate Certificate Program and Associate Professor,

American Studies, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Honolulu, HI

A third generation Japanese American, Karen Kosasa's research interests are in museum studies, visual culture, critical pedagogy, and settler colonialism. She is especially interested in the relationship between settler populations and indigenous peoples, and the depiction of this relationship in museums in the United States, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.

**Discussant: Robert G. Buss**, Executive Director

Hawai'i Council for the Humanities, Honolulu, HI

Since 2003, Robert Buss has been executive director of the Hawai'i Council for the Humanities, an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and earlier was its program officer since 1983. He works with local community and cultural groups, museums, archives, libraries, and oral history and humanities centers to facilitate public humanities programs, and was the founding state coordinator for Hawai'i History Day in 1990.

**Discussant: Robert Perkinson**, Associate Professor

American Studies, and Director, Presidential Center Initiative,

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Honolulu, HI

Robert's teaching and research interests focus on U.S. social and political history, crime and punishment, race and politics, and globalization and international affairs. His book, *Texas Tough: The Rise of America's Prison Empire* (Metropolitan Books/Henry Holt, January 2010) won the prestigious PEN American Center's John Kenneth Galbraith Award for best book of non-fiction published in 2009 and 2010.