

# Politics, Memory and Public Opinion:

## Coming to Terms with Japan's Wartime Past

**SVEN SAALER**  
Sophia University



In the 1980s and 1990s, Japanese diplomatic initiatives aimed at promoting regional reconciliation and the “coming to terms” with the nation’s wartime past were given high priority by a string of cabinets. After a decade that can be described as the “Golden Age of Reconciliation,” in recent years priorities seem to shift once again. This talk will address the debates about the historical memory of the Asia-Pacific War (1931-45) by looking at changes in government declarations as well as popular attitudes towards war responsibility and interpretations of the past.

Sven Saaler is Associate Professor of Modern Japanese History at Sophia University. He is co-author/co-editor of *Pan-Asianism in Modern Japanese History* (Routledge, 2007), *The Power of Memory in Modern Japan* (Global Oriental, 2008), *Pan-Asianism: A Documentary History* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2011), *Under Eagle Eyes: Lithographs, Drawings and Photographs from the Prussian Expedition to Japan, 1860-61* (in German, Japanese and English, 2011), *Images in Japanese-German Relations* (forthcoming, 2016) and *The Routledge Handbook of Modern Japanese History* (forthcoming). His research has been published in English, German and Japanese and translated into Korean, Chinese, French and Turkish.

**October 14, Friday**  
**17:30-19:00**

Hitotsubashi University,  
East Campus  
Faculty building 3, level 3

東キャンパス・第3研究館3階

Photo is of the Heiwa no ishiji (Cornerstone of Peace) war memorial in Okinawa (completed in 1995).

Venue map: <http://www.hit-u.ac.jp/eng/about/direction/guide/campus/e-campus/>  
For more information, contact Sonja Dale (sonja.dale@r.hit-u.ac.jp)