

Contesting and Commemorating Trauma in East Asia

A book talk for *Routledge Handbook of Trauma in East Asia*, edited by Tina Burrett and Jeff Kingston

May 26, 2023, 18:00-19:30

Room 404, Building 6, Sophia University



Registration necessary: <https://forms.office.com/r/SGyhLDLHw1>

The study of trauma is about what is remembered, un-remembered, buried, exhumed, denied and detailed. In this book talk, we focus on collective traumas that have left lingering scars on nations across East Asia, including memories of war, disaster, repression and exploitation. Memories of collective trauma evolve over time and are refracted through the prism of shifting contemporary concerns and political contexts that also influence the rites and sites of commemoration. What has happened can be unhappened or substantially reinterpreted, deliberately or unconsciously. Many people may prefer to move on, but others seek to raise awareness about tragic shared pasts. In East Asia, however, efforts at transitional justice have stalled because transgressors continued to exercise political and military power that enables the sidelining and/or rewriting of history. In Asia's contested memory-scape there is much at stake for perpetrators, their victims and the heirs to their respective traumas. Our panel brings together experts on China, Russia and Japan to explore the region's traumatic pasts and how those memories have been suppressed, exhumed, represented and contested over the ensuing decades.

For more information, please visit the ICC website:

<https://www.icc-sophia.com/post/contesting-and-commemorating-trauma-in-east-asia>

Jeff Kingston, Chair/moderator (Professor of History and Asian Studies, Temple University, Japan)

Tina Burrett (Associate Professor of Political Science, Sophia University)

Sven Saaler (Professor of Modern Japanese History, Sophia University)

Christian Hess (Associate Professor of Modern Chinese History, Sophia University)

Collin Rusneac (PhD candidate, Heidelberg University)

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