

CJS Bento Box Series

Nicole Hamamura, “Women’s Rights in Japan”

Nadine Sauer, “The Japanese Self Defense Forces: Their Evolution and Departure from Its Original Goal”

Wednesday, March 2, 2022 at 12:00pm HST



This panel hosts two of the best research papers that emerged in Fall 2021 from undergraduate research seminars on World War II and its legacies in Asia/Pacific (taught by CJS faculty, Professor Yuma Totani). In taking on major themes in the modern history of Japan, the two presenters apply contemporary sensibilities to understand and reassess the long-term impacts of the Allied undertaking in 1945-1952 of “transitional justice” – i.e. demilitarization and democratization of Japan – from which arose a peacefully-inclined, prosperous Japan. The two papers show that, while the initial promises of the Allied remaking of Japan have been largely fulfilled, there still is much work to be done to strengthen Japan’s commitment to protecting the rights of individual citizens – and especially women – on the one hand and, on the other, to reevaluate and redefine the role Japan is to play in the maintenance of international peace and security in the twenty-first century.

Nicole Hamamura is a first-year student majoring in history. Her career goal is to study law in graduate school and earn a master’s degree or a Ph.D.

About the moderator:

Yuma Totani is a professor of Japanese history and a researcher of post-WWII Allied war crimes trials in the Asia-Pacific region. She offers courses on the history of war, transitional justice, and international criminal trials with a geographical emphasis on Asia/Pacific. She is a member of the War Crimes Documentation Initiative (WCIDI), a digital humanities lab at Hamilton Library at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. For more information, visit <http://manoa.hawaii.edu/history/people/faculty/totani/>



Nadine Sauer is a student majoring in peace studies with an interest in the causation of violence through cultural disputes.

This event will be held over Zoom. Participation will be limited to the UHM community. Please contact cjs@hawaii.edu to register; pre-registration required.