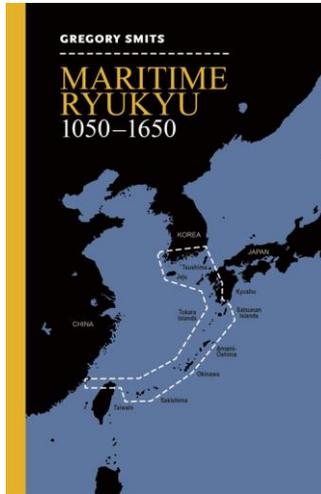


The Center for Okinawan Studies Presents:

Early Ryukyuan History: Official Histories and Beyond by Gregory Smits, Ph.D.



Ryukyu's first official history, *Mirror of Chūzan* (*Chūzan seikan*) appeared in 1650. It was an attempt to create a Shuri-centered past for the Ryukyu islands relying in a general way on Chinese-derived principles of historical causality. Later official histories, *Genealogy of Chūzan* (*Chūzan seifu*; Sai Taku edition, 1701; Sai On edition, 1725) and *Kyūyō* (ca. 1745 and updated thereafter) expanded on and refined the project. Because these works are narrative histories, and because very few written documents were produced in the Ryukyu islands prior to the sixteenth century, modern histories of

the region have tended to rely considerably on these “official histories.” However, the official histories are problematic in many respects, and tend to obscure a past that was much more chaotic and turbulent, and arguably, much more interesting. This talk examines approaches to writing a history of the Ryukyu islands prior to circa 1500 based on a broader range of historical resources rather than relying heavily on those official histories.

Dr. Gregory Smits, Professor of History and Asian Studies at the Pennsylvania State University, is the author of *Maritime Ryukyu, 1050–1650* (2018) and *Visions of Ryukyu: Identity and Ideology in Early-Modern Thought and Politics* (1999).



Wednesday, March 4, 2020

2:30 ~ 4:30 pm, Moore Hall, Room 258

*Event is free and open to the public. For more information, please contact the Center for Okinawan Studies (808) 956-5754 /Email: cos@hawaii.edu



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