Sponsor

The Center for East Asian Studies works to enhance opportunities available to scholars both in the United States and abroad, and to foster communication and inter-disciplinary collaboration among the community of professors and students at the University of Chicago and throughout the wider East Asian Studies community.

The Committee on Japanese Studies is comprised of all University of Chicago faculty with a scholarly interest in Japanese subjects. The committee coordinates and supports Japan-related programs throughout the university and presents a wide variety of Japan-related outreach activities both on and off campus. It also seeks to partner with other entities locally, regionally, nationally and globally to build Japan awareness and strengthen Japan studies.

Tonight’s lecture will be filmed and made available online at the Center for East Asian Studies’ website, http://ceas.uchicago.edu. Visit the website to view videos of the past Najita Distinguished Lectures and find out more about East Asia programs and events at the University of Chicago.
Nobukuni Koyasu

The author of more than twenty books, Nobukuni Koyasu, Professor Emeritus of Osaka University, is one of the best-known and most influential intellectual historians in Japan. In a series of works on early modern intellectual discourse including *Ogyu Sorai as “Event”* (*Jiken toshire no Soraigaku*, 1990), *Theories of Ghosts and Spirits: The Discourse of Confucian Intellectuals* (*Kishinron: Juka chishikijin no diskuru*, 1992), *What is the “Norinaga Problem?”* (*Norinaga mondai to hanika?*,1995), and *The World of Hirata Atsutane* (*Hirata Atsutane no sekai*, 2001), Professor Koyasu revitalized the study of early modern intellectual history through his engagement with contemporary critical theory, his careful, close readings of the texts themselves, and his concern for rethinking its significance for Japanese modernity. He is also a prominent public intellectual, who has written widely on contemporary political issues including Japanese nationalism, the Yasukuni Shrine controversy, and the legacy of the Showa era and World War II for contemporary Japan.

Professor Koyasu will speak in Japanese, with English translation provided by John Person, PhD student in East Asian Languages and Civilizations.

The Tetsuo Najita Distinguished Lecture Series

The Tetsuo Najita Distinguished Lecture series was launched in 2007 by the Japan Studies Committee to honor the legacy of Tetsuo Najita, Robert S. Ingersoll Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus of History and of East Asian Languages and Civilizations, and his contribution to the university during his long career.