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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.



The University of Chicago

Committee on Japanese Studies presents

The 2011 Tetsuo Najita Distinguished Lecture in Japanese Studies

# Japanese Intellectuals and China

by Nobukuni Koyasu

October 4, 2011

5:00pm

Swift Hall, 3rd Fl. Lecture Room

1025 E. 58th St.

Chicago, IL. 60637

Reception Following (Swift 1st Floor)



## 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 ha nanika?, 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.

## Tetsuo Najita

Educated at Grinnell College and Harvard University, Tetsuo Najita joined the faculty of the University of Chicago in 1969. His many publications on Japan's early modern and modern intellectual history include *Hara Kei and the Politics of Compromise* (1967), which was awarded the John King Fairbank Prize in East Asian History, and *Visions of Virtue: The Kaitokudō Merchant Academy of Osaka* (1987), which won the Yamagata Bantō Prize. Since his retirement in 2002, Tetsuo Najita has continued his work. In 2008, he published a new work in Japanese on the topic of "doing intellectual history," and in 2009 the University of California Press published his most recent monograph in English, *Ordinary Economies in Japan: A Historical Perspective, 1759-1950*. This impressive body of scholarship, which combined theoretical rigor with rock-solid research, and which was ordered by the assertion that historians must always engage with the moral and political issues of our time, served as an inspiration to the many undergraduate and graduate students whom he trained.

In addition to this distinguished record of scholarship and teaching, during his thirty-three year tenure at the university, Tetsuo Najita dedicated much energy to building the Japan Studies program, while playing a leading role within the History Department and the Social Science Division. He served as Director of the Center for East Asian Studies from 1974-1980, Master of the Social Science Collegiate Division from 1984-1987 and Chair of the History Department for 1994-1997 and in spring 2001.