May 15, 2022 will mark the fiftieth anniversary of the “reversion” of Okinawa to Japan. To commemorate the occasion, the Japan Committee at the Center for East Asian Studies has arranged a series of performances and talks that reflect on the ongoing legacies Okinawa’s remarkable history, including the continuing presence of massive American military bases in what remains Japan’s poorest prefecture, the traumatic memories of the brutal 1945 Battle of Okinawa and the decades of U.S. military occupation that followed, and imperial Japan’s annexation of the islands in 1879. Join us for these events, taking place throughout the 2021-2022 academic year, as we learn about the unique history and cultures of Okinawa, from the traces of the once-independent Ryūkyū Kingdom to today’s fashionable tourist destination that is at the same time a hotbed of popular discontent.

Nov 4th 2021 | 5:00 PM (CT) ONLINE
Akemi Johnson - Author & Journalist

Feb 21st 2022 | 5:00 PM (CT)
Ichiro Tomiyama - Doshisha University

Mar 28-29th 2022
UC Presents: Okinawan Traditional Folk Music and Dance

Apr 28th 2022 | 5:00 PM (CT)
Gerald Figal - Vanderbilt University

May 5th 2022 | 5:00 PM (CT)
Wendy Matsumura - University of California, San Diego

For full details, please visit: https://ceas.uchicago.edu/news/rethinking-reversion-okinawa-japan-and-us-fifty-years-later