

# Networks in Premodern and Early Modern Japan

**Date:** October 20, 2012  
**Location:** Sophia University, Bldg. 10, 3 Floor, Room 301  
**Time:** 13:30 until 17:00  
**Organizer:** Network Study Research Group (Sophia University)  
**Language:** English  
**Web:** <http://network-studies.org>



13:30–14:30

Rieko Kamei-Dyche (University of Southern California/Hitotsubashi University):

## "Marriage Strategies and Familial Networks of the Saionji"

While conventional treatments of medieval Japan that privilege warrior narratives have been slowly augmented by scholarship revealing the continuing role of the court, the vibrant court culture and the roles played by courtier families remain underdeveloped in the literature. A fascinating case study is offered by the Saionji, a notable courtier family that developed extensive connections with both court and bakufu and commanded great wealth and influence. One of the reasons for Saionji prominence was their great skill at generating and wisely investing social capital, especially in building family relations with the major power holders of the time. Through examining these family networks, how they were developed and what benefits they brought the family, an unexplored side of medieval Japanese society comes to light.

14:45–15:45

Alexander Vesey (Meiji Gakuin University):

## "Forging Karmic Ties: Buddhist temple networking in Early Modern Japan"

Working from a social historical perspective, this paper examines the processes that contributed to the expansion of Kanto area Buddhist temple networks during the 17th and early 18th centuries. Given the emphasis of "founders," "lineages" and "schools" in popular histories of Japanese Buddhism, the internal coherence of Buddhist institutions seems a given. Local records, however, reveal a different reality as temple networks were also forged by negotiation, and at times hard-fought litigation. This presentation will use several case studies to consider the motives and methods that drove early modern Buddhist networking.

16:00–17:00

Luke Roberts (UC Santa Barbara):

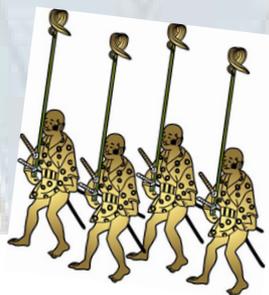
## Tosa's Foreign Ties during Edo Period "Isolation"

Despite prohibitions of direct foreign contact during most of the Edo period, people of the domain of Tosa had many connections with and experiences of meeting with people from outside of Japan that linked them to informational networks spanning the world. This talk will center on the experiences of many foreign shipwrecks landing on the coast of Tosa and also discuss other connections to give a sense of Tosa domain's ties to the world during this most unlikely time of "isolation."

Registration not required

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