

# Going to the Philippines is like coming Home

Japanese Pan-Asianism and the Philippines from the  
Meiji Era to the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere

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**Room 301, 3F, Building 10, Sophia University**

This talk deals with the perception of the Philippines in Japanese Pan-Asianist thought from the Meiji era (1868-1912) until the end of the Pacific War in 1945. Special focus will be given to the impact of Pan-Asianist ideology on Japanese administrative policy in the archipelago during the Japanese occupation of the islands, from 1941 to 1945.

The Philippines is the only country in Southeast Asia with a mainly Christian population, and the impact of American rule in the country from 1898 to 1941 was extraordinarily strong. These two factors largely hindered the implementation of an ideology that propagated a return to "Asian values" in the islands. Philippine and Japanese literature on the Japanese occupation indicates that most Filipinos considered themselves not as Asians but as belonging to the Western hemisphere. This self-image of the Filipinos made the Philippines a special case among all those countries occupied by Japan throughout the Pacific War.

Sven Matthiessen holds a Ph.D. in East Asian Studies from the University of Sheffield and a Doctor of Law from Tohoku University (within the Ph.D. Joint Degree Program of the two universities). He is currently Research Fellow at the Sophia University Institute of Comparative Culture as a stipendiary of the Japan Foundation. His primary research interests lie in the fields of Pan-Asianism, regionalism and modern Japanese History. He has mainly published on the impact of Pan-Asianism on Japanese-Philippine relations.

Lecture in English / No prior registration necessary