

Workshop on Modern and Contemporary History

Subject	The workshop studies modern and recent history to gain insights into contemporary politics.
Overview	There are many commonalities between current politics and society and the early Showa period in the leadup to WWII—including turmoil in party-based politics, urgency in international politics, and the rise of populist movements. Believing that detailed research on modern and recent history, centering on Japan’s Showa period, may provide insight into how to respond in the future, the workshop carries out studies with nonpartisan politicians and others under the leadership of Professor Kiyotada Tsutsui, a leading authority on modern Japanese history.
Period	May 15, 2017, to March 31, 2026
Date held	2017 December 21: “The Untimely Deaths of Leading Figures in the Meiji Restoration” and “The Losers of the Boshin War”: On the 150th Anniversary of the Meiji Restoration

Date held	2018
March 7:	Maresuke Nogi: Siege of Port Arthur, Martyrdom, “Showa Gunbatsu” (military clique)
May 15:	Teikichi Hori: The Tragedy of the Pro-Treaty Faction
June 6:	Showa Army: Organization, Factions, Personnel
July 4:	Economists and the U.S.-Japan Outbreak of War(Kuniaki Makino, Associate Professor, Faculty of Economics, Setsunan University)
August 2:	Background, Actuality, and Impact of the Film “ <i>Ah! Kaigun</i> ” (Navy)
October 18:	Life of Fumimaro Konoe (1): From Birth to Home Ministry Nitobe Inazo, Kitaro Nishida, and the Liberal Arts
December 18:	Life of Fumimaro Konoe (2) <Supplement>: Modern and Contemporary History and Politics of Japan’s Imperial Family

Date held	2019
January 24:	Life of Fumimaro Konoe (3): “Left-Leaning Aristocrats” and American-Style Citizenship
February 13:	February 26 Incident
March 13:	Life of Fumimaro Konoe (4): From the House of Peers and Three-Faction Cabinet to the Hamaguchi Cabinet
April 10:	Life of Fumimaro Konoe (5): Manchurian Incident, May 15 Incident, Democracy Paradox
May 9:	Life of Fumimaro Konoe (6): U.S. Visit, Pure Japanese-Style Education, Home Democracy
June 6:	Populism and Parliamentary Politics Seen through First Universal Suffrage Election and the Government of the Giichi Tanaka Cabinet
September 25:	Screening of <i>“Human Torpedo Special Attack Force”</i>
November 6:	February 26 Incident (1): Showa Restoration Movement and Factional Army Conflict

Date held	2020
January 24:	February 26 Incident (2): From Coup Plan to Incident Development
February 13:	The February 26 Incident Seen through the Film “ <i>Jusatsu</i> ” (<i>Death by Firing Squad</i>)
November 27:	Gyokusai (“shattered jewels”), Special Attack Forces, and the End of the Pacific War: War, Diplomacy, and the National Will
December 22:	Life of Fumimaro Konoe (7): The Three Years Before Becoming Prime Minister (1934-37)
	2021
February 2:	Japanese Political and Social Thought in the Interwar Period: From Anarchism to Reformist Bureaucrats
March 5:	February 26 Incident (3): Immediate Aftermath
April 5:	Life of Takeyo Nakatani: From Ikki Kita to Yuriko Koike “Who is the Originator of Article 9 of the Constitution of Japan?”
June 16:	The Boom of World War I and “The Story of Poverty”
July 28:	“ <i>Minyo</i> ” (<i>Folk Song</i>) and The New-Minyo Movement: “Regeneration of Cultural Localism in Modern and Contemporary History of Japan”

Date held	2022	
	January 24:	Bibliographical Introduction of Tokyo Army Military Proceedings on February 26 Incident
	March 2:	Road to the Pacific War and Present Day Japan: Historical Process and Problems
	April 19:	Mastermind and Schemer in the Modern Japanese Politics-An Essay on Sanshin Koizumi by Bunzo Hashikawa
	June 14:	Soviet Finnish War (Winter War): Before and After German-Soviet Nonaggression Pact
	November 25:	“Assassination History in Modern and Contemporary History of Japan” (1) Assassination History of Meiji Period
	2023	
	February 6:	“Assassination History in Modern and Contemporary History of Japan” (2) Assassination History of Taisho Period
	April 12:	“Assassination History in Modern and Contemporary History of Japan” (3) Incident of Heigo Asahi “Assassination of Zenjiro Yasuda”
	June 1:	“Assassination History in Modern and Contemporary History of Japan” (4) Assassination of Prime Minister Takashi Hara

Date held	2023	
	July 26:	Overview of “Assassination History in Modern and Contemporary History of Japan”
	October 24:	Amakasu Incident “Assassination of Sakae Osugi and Noe Ito”
	2024	
	January 23:	February 26 Incident and Yong Imperial Army officers
	2025	
	March 9:	Meeting by the study group’s core members

The results of research by this workshop were published in *“The History of Modern Japanese Assassination”* by the PHP Institute in July 2023. It has received praise from various quarters as a book that also has important implications for contemporary Japanese politics.

Members	Zentaro Kamei (Leader) Senior Fellow, PHP Institute, Inc. Specially Appointed Professor, Graduate School of Social Design Studies, Rikkyo University
	Takashi Mihara Senior Researcher, NLI Research Institute
	Kiyotada Tsutsui An academic advisor, Teikyo University
	Yoshimasa Hayashi Member, House of Representatives
	Takeaki Matsumoto Member, House of Representatives
	Motohisa Furukawa Member, House of Representatives
	Takao Ochi Member, House of Representatives
	Tatsuo Fukuda Member, House of Representatives
	Koji Matsui Mayor of Kyoto
	Nobuyuki Hiraizumi President, Kajima Institute of International Peace Advisor, Avant Associates, Inc.

Members

Hajime Kobayashi

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