

# The Renegotiation of “Civilization and Enlightenment” through Popular Media during the Meiji Period

## 日本近現代史の再考

### -明治大衆メディアと『文明開化』-

**Date & Time:**

**February 15 (Wed), 2023,  
16:30 - 18:00 PM (JST)**

**Capacity: 100 participants  
(online via ZOOM)**

**Language: English**



### <Abstract>

Scholarship on Japan's development from the late nineteenth century to the early twentieth century has been dominated by attention given to Japan's emergence as a world power through a succession of military conflicts, and the burgeoning of a modern literary canon exemplified by such writers as *Natsume Soseki*, *Mori Ogai* and *Higuchi Ichiyo*.

Dr. Swale argues that the emergence of empire and high culture needs to be more thoroughly integrated with an awareness of popular culture such as *gesaku*, *rakugo* or *kōdan*, genres exhibiting often a less than whole-hearted enthusiasm for the trappings of 'civilization'. He shows that Meiji popular culture presents a rich and relatable sense of what it felt like to live and commune in urban settings as the first generation to be born without direct experience or knowledge of the Edo society that existed before the Restoration of 1868.



### <Speaker>

**Dr. Alistair Swale** is an associate professor in the Department of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Canterbury (New Zealand). His main research interest is the history of cultural developments following the Meiji Restoration in Japan, along with cinematic anime more recently.

Admission is free of charge, registration is required.

**Registration: Please scan QR code >>>**

**Registration Deadline: Feb 13 (Mon), 2023, 17:00 (JST)**

