

2026

3.4 (wed.)

12:10
12:50

12:10-12:15

◆ Introduction

12:15-12:40

◆ Seminar
(Presentation)

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◆ Q&A

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Rethinking the Orthodox Church from Kyushu: The "Vanquished" of Modernity and Post-Liberal Values



Key Words

Eastern Orthodoxy

Post Liberalism

Victimhood Nationalism

"Religious zero"

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Born in Hamamatsu and raised in Gifu, I completed my undergraduate and master's studies at the Faculty of Letters, Kyoto University. To deepen my understanding of Russia, I entered the doctoral program at the Slavic-Eurasian Research Center, Hokkaido University in 2006. Over the following three years, I conducted field research in regional cities across Russia, focusing on religious cultural assets that were exhibited in museums during the socialist era. This research culminated in my doctoral dissertation. In 2018, I published *The Sacred Landscape in Soviet Russia* with Hokkaido University Press, which received the 8th Young Scholar Award of the Japan Consortium for Area Studies. In 2019, I joined the Faculty of Human-Environment Studies at Kyushu University. In 2023, I published *A Struggling Ukraine: Another Battle against Russia over Religion* (Fusosha Shinsho), which examines the war in Ukraine from the perspective of the Orthodox Church.

This presentation explores the socio-intellectual role of Eastern Orthodoxy in the context of Japan's modernization. Historically, the first Japanese converts to Orthodoxy were former retainers of the Sendai domain, who had been defeated in the Boshin War. They found a spiritual anchor in the Church's traditional and conservative doctrines, which resonated deeply with their Confucian ethics. Recent fieldwork suggests that this pattern of "reception by the vanquished" may have extended to Kyushu, specifically among Kagoshima's samurai class following their defeat in the Satsuma Rebellion. In today's "religious zero" society—as characterized by Emmanuel Todd—the Orthodox Church, with its "primitive" and non-Western image, offers a distinct value system. This talk re-examines the Church not merely as a relic of the past, but as a significant alternative perspective to Western liberal norms in contemporary Japan.