



Scuola Italiana di Studi
sull'Asia Orientale
ISEAS



École Française
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2016 LECTURES

Tuesday, June 24th, 18:00h

Francesco Campagnola

Japan in the Early Modern Republic of Letters

Religion,
Natural Sciences,
Geography and Politics

SPEAKER

This lecture will explore the cultural and symbolic representation of Japan in the Republic of Letters, the intellectual community of early modern Europe. The place of Japan as an object of curiosity from the end of the seventeenth until the mid-eighteenth century shall be highlighted by focussing on the scholarly journals of the time because they were the most up-to-date instruments of communication within the emerging international community of scholars. More specifically, an analysis of a restricted pool of French-language journals will reveal the range of topics to which Japan was more commonly connected to, and the role it played in the development of the increasingly comprehensive knowledge of early modern *savants*. This will make possible, on the one hand, to show the rhetorical value of Japan in the shaping of new, expanded and comprehensive representations of the world; on the other, to draw a picture of the unique features of its representations. How such representations relate to different identities within the Republic of Letters itself will be the final object of discussion in the talk.

Francesco Campagnola is BOF 'doctor assistent' at Ghent University, Department of Languages and Cultures, Institute of Japanese Studies, where he teaches courses on Japanese politics and comparative political thought. He has been both a JSPS and a Japan Foundation post-doctoral fellow at Kyoto University from 2011 to 2013 while being affiliated with the Italian School of East Asian Studies. His research originally focused on theology and politics in England and Ireland during the eighteenth century (*Teorie dell'analogia tra Irlanda e Inghilterra nel secolo XVIII. La fine dell'unità della ragione*, Firenze: Olschki, 2012). He currently works on the cultural representations and political meaning of the Renaissance in modern Japan. On this topic he has published articles in different languages and the Treccani Italian National Encyclopedia entry on Machiavelli in Japan (special edition for the 500th anniversary of *The Prince*).

This lecture will be held at the Institute for Research in Humanities (IRH), Kyoto University (seminar room 1, 1st floor).

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