



Scuola Italiana di Studi  
sull'Asia Orientale  
ISEAS



École Française  
d'Extrême-Orient  
EFEO

CO-HOSTED BY



ecaf  
european consortium  
for asian field study

# KYOTO LECTURES

Tuesday, December 16th, 18:00h

Ran Zwigenberg SPEAKER

## Survivors Hiroshima, the Holocaust and the Rise of Global Memory Culture

In 1962, a Hiroshima peace delegation and an Auschwitz survivor's organization exchanged relics and testimonies, including the bones and ashes of Auschwitz victims. This symbolic encounter, in which the dead were literally conscripted in the service of the politics of the living, forms the focal point of Ran Zwigenberg's new book *Hiroshima: the Origins of Global Memory Culture* (Cambridge University Press, 2014). Based on this book, Zwigenberg's talk will concentrate on the narratives of sacrifice and victimization that were central to the postwar reimagining of the A-bomb survivors as symbols of resistance and as moral authorities in the Japanese and international peace movements; and to the wider connections of this history to that of victims of the Holocaust. The 'survivor', Zwigenberg argues, developed historically as a transnational category that drew on many sources, both within what came to be known as Holocaust discourse and outside of it. The convergence of the histories of Hiroshima and the Holocaust in the late sixties and seventies led to the formation of survivorhood as an expansive, universal category that was used beyond the confines of the two cases of mass-killings.

**Ran Zwigenberg**, is an Associate Professor at Pennsylvania State University. Since receiving his PhD from the City University of New York (2013), Zwigenberg was a Post Doctoral Associate with the Council on East Asian Studies at Yale University (2013-14) and is currently a visiting scholar at Hiroshima City University as a JSPS fellow. His research focuses on modern Japanese history, with a specialization in memory and intellectual history. Zwigenberg taught and lectured in the US, Europe, Israel and Japan and published on issues of war memory, atomic energy and survivor politics.

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

**École Française d'Extrême-Orient (EFEO)**  
29 Betto-cho Kitashirakawa, Sakyo-ku, Kyoto, 606-8276 Japan

**Italian School of East Asian Studies (ISEAS)**  
4th Floor, 4 Yoshida Ushinomiya-cho, Sakyo-ku, Kyoto, 606-8302 Japan

EFEO | T: 075-701-0882 F: 075-701-0883 E: efeo.kyoto@gmail.com

ISEAS | T: 075-751-8132 F: 075-751-8221 E: iseas@iseas-kyoto.org

