

# KYOTO LECTURES 2024



ISEAS



EFEQ

CO-HOSTED BY



## Right in the Middle of “Shaka’s Mecca”

The Reemergence of Catholicism in Early Meiji Kyoto

Thursday, December 12th, 18:00

Martin Nogueira Ramos  
SPEAKER



Inauguration of Saint Francis Church (Kyoto) in 1890 © Institut de recherche France-Asie

**Martin Nogueira Ramos** is an associate professor in Japanese studies at the École Française d’Extrême-Orient. His research focuses on the history of Christianity in early modern and modern Japan. Recently, he has co-edited *D’un empire, l’autre: premières rencontres entre la France et le Japon au XIX<sup>e</sup> siècle* (EFEQ, 2021) and *Aspects of Lived Religion in Late Medieval and Early Modern Japan* (Cahiers d’Extrême-Asie 32, 2023)

In December 1879, the Foreign Missions of Paris opened a missionary post in Kyoto. Dwarfed between the main Buddhist headquarters and the American Board, a Protestant missionary organization, Aimé Villion, the first French priest living in the city between 1879 and 1889, and a handful of Japanese lay catechists strove to increase the fame of the “Old Doctrine” (*kyūkyō*), a term often used in “modernizing Japan” to label Catholicism. This lecture, based on a vast array of primary sources—local newspapers, Catholic booklets and periodicals, and letters sent by Villion to Paris—, will provide a tentative understanding of how the Church pictured itself in 1880s Kyoto and what kind of people were attracted to its message.



École française d’Extrême-Orient (EFEQ)  
Italian School of East Asian Studies (ISEAS)

29 Kitashirakawa Bettō-chō,, Sakyō-ku, Kyoto, 606-8276 Japan

CONTACT | Tel. 075-701-0882 E-mail [efeo.kyoto@efeo.net](mailto:efeo.kyoto@efeo.net)

ISEAS WEBSITE | <https://iseas-kyoto.org>

This hybrid lecture will be held on site and via Zoom. Registration required in advance via QR code.

Zoom meeting ID: 868 9457 0779

