

# KYOTO LECTURES 2025



## Censorship and Japanese Cinema, 1925-1945

A Case Study of Mizoguchi Kenji's *Sisters of the Gion* (1936)

Wednesday, May 21st, 18:00

**Chika Kinoshita**  
SPEAKER



**Chika Kinoshita** is a professor of Film Studies at the Graduate School of Human and Environmental Studies at Kyoto University. She has published the award-winning book *Mizoguchi Kenji: Aesthetics and Politics of the Film Medium* (Hosei University Press, 2016), and essays and chapters on cinema, gender, and sexuality.

Mizoguchi Kenji (1898-1956) always had problems with censors. This presentation analyzes the Naimushō (Ministry of Internal Affairs)'s censorship, 1925-1945, taking Mizoguchi's *Gion no kyōdai* (*Sisters of the Gion*, 1936), one of the most critically acclaimed films of 1930s Japanese cinema, as a case study. Censorship is recast as a process involving criticism, reception, and negotiation. The analysis reconstructs the censors' logic, goal, and professional consciousness based on their published memos, interviews, the censored script, and the surviving film text.



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Zoom meeting ID: 813 2760 2950

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