

KYOTO LECTURES 2026



Pictograms to Emoji to *Kamon*

The Hierarchy of Japan's Visual Packaging Culture

Tuesday, October 27th, 18:00 (JST)

Christopher Hood
SPEAKER



Kamon

Emoji

Pictogram

Symbols convey meaning, but not all symbols are equal. In this lecture, I consider a hierarchy of symbols within what I term 'Visual Packaging Culture', focusing on pictograms, emoji, and *kamon* as representatives of each group, to question whether symbols truly carry the meanings ascribed to them.

Christopher Hood is Honorary Professor of modern Japanese history at Cardiff University. His books include *Japan: The Basics* (2024), *Dealing with Disaster in Japan* (2011), and *Shinkansen: From Bullet Train to Symbol of Modern Japan* (2006). In 2025/6, he was a Japan Foundation Fellow at Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, researching symbolism in Japan.



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This hybrid lecture will be held on site and via Zoom.

Registration required in advance via QR code.

Zoom meeting ID: 820 7088 9460

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