



American Institute
for Contemporary
German Studies
JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

Reconciliation in East Asia: Japan's Relations with South Korea and Vietnam and Some Afterthoughts on the German Model

AICGS
1755 Massachusetts Avenue NW
Suite 700
Washington, DC 20036

Thursday, September 7, 2017

Agenda

Reconciliation processes in Asia face a number of challenges at the official level. However, at the level of civil society some progress is being made. The seminar will look at NGOs' activities in Japan-Korea relations and at art in Japan-Vietnam relations to assess the potential for reconciliation today.

9:30 – 10:00 am **Looking Beyond the State: Alternative Approaches to Advancing Japan – South Korea Reconciliation**

Despite the fact that the Japan-South Korea bilateral relationship has improved significantly since the end of the Pacific War, unsettled historical matters still impede the progress in increasing mutual understanding and trust. The rhetoric and actions of the governments, and especially the shift toward a determined nationalism in Japan, have caused major setbacks in the process of reconciliation. As a response to those negative trends, the presentation will examine the alternative solutions to advance the Japan-South Korea reconciliation mechanism. Agnieszka Batko will discuss the activities of Japanese and Korean non-governmental organizations cooperating beyond national borders, as well as the position of the U.S. government—the key ally in Northeast Asia—toward ongoing reconciliation.

Speaker: Agnieszka Batko, Jagiellonian University
AICGS Harry & Helen Gray Reconciliation Fellow

10:00 – 10:30 am **Art and Reconciliation: Beyond Borders**

Asian countries have a long history of cultural exchanges. Their relations have also been marked by bloody conflicts, which have left some residue of unreconciled historical issues and a need for mutual understanding. In this process of reconciliation, the media, education, and art all have an important role to play. However, in Asian media and in educational and political systems, Asian countries are commonly viewed as a political imagination illustrated through the cultural creation of “historical narratives.” In this way, “Japan,” “China,” “Korea,”

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“Vietnam,” or “Asia” have been viewed as “imaginative pictures” rather than as political realities. These lenses for seeing one another often have an ideological component that reduces the complex nature of reality in order to serve some nationalist propaganda purpose. In this presentation, the art work of Phan Quang, a contemporary artist in Vietnam, will be examined to illustrate the capacity of artistic creativity to help us to recognize both the history and the reality of Vietnam-Japan relations.

Speaker:	Dr. Nguyen Luong Hai Khoi, Hochiminh City University of Education <i>AICGS Harry & Helen Gray Reconciliation Fellow</i>
10:30 – 10:45am	Comment Dr. Seiko Mimaki, Takasaki City University of Economics, Tokyo
10:45-11:00am	Coffee Break
11:00-12:00pm	Roundtable Discussion
12:00-12:15pm	Final Comments on Germany Dr. Lily Gardner Feldman, Harry & Helen Gray Senior Fellow Director, Society, Culture & Politics Program
12:30 pm	Luncheon

Agnieszka Batko is a Harry & Helen Gray/AICGS Reconciliation Fellow in August and September 2017. She holds an MA in International Relations from Jagiellonian University (JU) and is currently pursuing her PhD degree in Political Science at JU. She also studied at Griffith University in Australia and University of Hull in the United Kingdom. Prior to coming to AICGS, she was conducting research at Aoyama Gakuin University in Tokyo. Her research interests include international relations in East Asia, Japanese foreign policy, the role of non-state actors in international relations, and IR theory.

Dr. Seiko Mimaki is an Associate Professor at Takasaki City University of Economics. She obtained her PhD from the University of Tokyo. Her recent article appears in *Asia-Pacific between Conflict and Reconciliation* (Jena Center for Reconciliation, 2016) and *State Sponsored History After 1945* (Palgrave Macmillan, forthcoming).

Dr. Nguyen Luong Hai Khoi a Harry & Helen Gray/AICGS Reconciliation Fellow in August and September 2017. He completed his PhD dissertation in the field of Japanese non-dual aesthetics at the Nihon University, Tokyo, Japan in 2014 and was a postdoc at the Hiroshima University, Japan, in 2015. He is the Director of the Department of Literature Theory, Faculty of Literature and Linguistics, Hochiminh City University of Education, Vietnam. His research interests concern Japanese social, cultural, and Buddhist philosophy and aesthetics in comparison to those in Vietnam.