Speaker: Mr. Nobuyuki Kishida

(2nd year of PhD candidate in the Graduate School of Commerce at Waseda University)

- Mr. Kishida translated Bridget Goodwin’s book “Keen as Mustard” into Japanese. He will present this book and hold a discussion about the implications of the work for Japanese.
- MBA, Waseda Business School, Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies, Waseda University, 2005
- B.A., Political Science, School of Political Science and Economics, Waseda University, 1988.

The chemical warfare in the Asia-Pacific war and its aftermath: From the Australian Experiments to the ACW disposal in China

Although the Imperial Japanese usage of the chemical warfare (CW) during the Asia-Pacific War was known to the Allied, it had been kept as a secret from post war Japanese people for several decades. Worst of all, it makes difficult to deal with CW side effects for Japan nowadays, such as the disposal of the abandoned chemical warfare (ACW) in China, the lawsuits by the ACW victims, and so on.

On the other hand, there was another well kept secret CW issue on the Allied side. Large scale experiments were conducted in Australia from 1942 to 1945 so as to prepare possible invasions with CW. Not knowing the evil after effect of the mustard gas, over 2,000 Australians were used as “human guinea pigs” in harsh field experiments. Many of them had suffered seriously for life without adequate compensations.

In the presentation, discussions on the implications of new knowledge from the Australian experiments will be made after brief surveys on the Japanese CW and its aftermaths. It includes the recent progress of ongoing issues mentioned above.

Language: English
Commentator: Dr. Bridget Goodwin
Author of “Keen as Mustard”
Former Associate Professor at Bond University
Journalist and Film Maker