

‘Human Rights’ in the Discourse of *Buraku* Liberation from the 1920s to the 1990s



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Ideas of rights and human rights did not simply arrive in Japan following the democratising policies of the US occupation 1945-52 but have a history that precedes those reforms. On the other hand the firm commitment to rights in the 1947 constitution did not result in the unproblematic acceptance in theory or practice of these ideas across Japanese social and political life. In this lecture I want to briefly trace some evidence of the presence of human rights ideas in Japan from the late 19th century to the 1930s focusing in particular on the emergence of these ideas – or at least words – in the campaigns of the movement opposing status discrimination. The second half of the lecture then considers some evidence of the acceptance of rights ideas in the period 1945-55 but argues that they disappear from view both within state and the movement’s discourse only to re-emerge in the 1990s.

Date: **May 31 (Mon), 2010**

Time: **16:00–17:00** (no registration required)

Venue: **Room 710, Building 19, Waseda University**

http://www.waseda.jp/gsaps/info/traffic_en.html

Facilitator: **Yasushi Katsuma, Professor, Waseda University**

Organized by: **GIARI Research Group “Human Rights Governance in Asia”**

Co-organized by: **WIAPS Research Group “Development and Human Rights”**