

The St. Norbert College
Office of Faculty Development
invites you to attend

Spotlight On Scholarship

Throughout the year we will host a series of presentations to recognize professional achievement in scholarship and to celebrate the rich diversity and talents of our colleagues.

This Spotlight on Scholarship features

Ikuko Torimoto

Associate Professor of Japanese

2017 Donald B. King Distinguished Scholar Award Recipient

Okina Kyūin and the Politics of Early Japanese Emigration to the United States, 1868-1924

The three parts of this book do not follow each other rigorously or even sequentially, like the chapters of a traditional work of scholarship; yet they form a coherent whole, whose objective is not only to provide an overview of Asian -- and specifically Japanese -- immigration to the American West Coast in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, but also to draw attention to the personal experience of one Japanese immigrant in particular, Okina Kyūin (1888-1973), who lived on the West Coast between 1907 and 1924. His *Zenshū* (Collected Works) enable readers today to better understand the challenges facing Asians who had just arrived on American shores and to gain an appreciation of a chapter of United States immigrant cultural history which, for a variety of reasons, has been largely neglected until recent years.

The first part of the book, *A History of the Japanese Exploration of the Western World: Early Japanese Visitors to Europe and the Americas*, introduces the extraordinary story of the first Japanese to explore the new world, long before large numbers of their countrymen began to emigrate to the American West Coast in the nineteenth century. Shifting gears, in Part Two, titled *Okina Kyūin's Work as a Journalist and Newspaper Editor and Advocate for an Immigrant Literature on the American West Coast, 1907-1924*, I focus on Okina Kyūin's experiences as an immigrant. Part Three of my book, *The Japanese Government's Policy on Emigration to the United States From the Beginning of the Japanese Immigration Period to the Immigration Act of 1924*, follows diplomatic relations between Japan and the United States, specifically the correspondence among the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan, the Japanese ambassador to Washington, D.C., Japanese consuls to the West Coast, and special envoys to the United States Government.

Thursday, November 30, 2017
12:00 – 12:50 p.m.
Bemis Hendrickson Dining Room



The Office of Faculty Development will provide light refreshments.