

“CIGS Dr. Sheila A. Smith Seminar”

Date & time: Thursday, November 17, 2016, 16:00 - 17:30

Venue: CIGS Meeting Room3

(11th Floor, ShinMarunouchi Building

5-1 Marunouchi 1-chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo)

Theme: “Revisionism, Populism or Nationalism?:
The Political Currents that Shape the U.S.-Japan Alliance”

Speaker: Dr. Sheila A. Smith
(Senior Fellow for Japan Studies, The Council on Foreign Relations)

Moderator: Kiyoyuki Seguchi, Research Director, CIGS

Language: English

Abstract of the Speech:

As policymakers seek to strengthen ties between the U.S. and Japan, the alliance is facing new pressures within each society. A new round of tensions over historical memory surrounding the 70th anniversary of World War II spilled over to affect the alliance for the first time. Moreover, worries about the U.S. election have raised questions about the strategic bargain long at the heart of our relationship. With the U.S. November presidential election as backdrop, Smith will compare and contrast some of the ways the alliance is being reconsidered in Japan and the U.S.

Speaker's profile:

Senior Fellow for Japan Studies, The Council on Foreign Relations (CFR)

Expertise

Japanese domestic politics and foreign policy; Northeast Asia regional security; international relations of the Asia Pacific

Bio

Sheila A. Smith, an expert on Japanese politics and foreign policy, is senior fellow for Japan studies at the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR). She is the author of *Intimate Rivals: Japanese Domestic Politics and a Rising China* (Columbia University Press, 2015) and *Japan's New Politics and the U.S.-Japan Alliance* (Council on Foreign Relations, June 2014). Her current research focuses on how geostrategic change in Asia is shaping Japan's strategic choices. In the fall of 2014, Smith began a new project on Northeast Asian Nationalisms and Alliance Management.

Smith is a regular contributor to the CFR blog *Asia Unbound*, and frequent contributor to major media outlets in the United States and Asia. She joined CFR from the East-West Center in 2007, where she directed a multinational research team in a cross-national study of the domestic politics of the U.S. military presence in Japan, South Korea, and the Philippines. She was a visiting scholar at Keio University in 2007-08, where she researched Japan's foreign policy towards China, supported by the Abe Fellowship. Smith has been a visiting researcher at two leading Japanese foreign and security policy think tanks, the Japan Institute of International Affairs and the Research Institute for Peace and Security, and at the University of Tokyo and the University of the Ryukyus.

Smith is vice chair of the U.S. advisors to the U.S.-Japan Conference on Cultural and Educational Exchange (CULCON), a bi-national advisory panel of government officials and private sector members. She teaches as an adjunct professor at the Asian Studies Department of Georgetown University and serves on the board of its *Journal of Asian Affairs*. She earned her MA and PhD degrees from the department of political science at Columbia University.