

同志社大学アメリカ研究所ブラウンバックシリーズ

Brownbag Series, International Institute of American Studies, Doshisha University

Date/Time／日時：19, April, 2023(Wed), 15:00-16:00 (In Person／対面開催)

Venue／会場：Doshisha University, Imadegawa Campus, RY406 (同志社大学今出川キャンパス、良心館 RY406)

Title: “U.S. Foreign Policy and Territorial Interpretations of the Pacific”

Speaker: Sandra Meerwein (PhD Candidate/ Lecturer, Obama Institute for Transnational American Studies, Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz)

Abstract (講演要旨)

Maritime spaces always played a significant role in U.S.-American national identity formation processes and foreign policy dynamics. By the end of the nineteenth century, the Pacific Ocean became increasingly important regarding the promotion of national characteristic features that would bolster U.S. foreign policy in relation to the maritime space. Since then, territorial interpretations of the sea from a “great highway” and “wide common” to divisions into maritime zones that would – amongst other jurisdictions – navigate nations’ access to natural resources have been integrated into U.S.-American foreign policy concepts. They reflect reactions to shifting power dynamics in the international system while simultaneously representing values and norms attached to socio-cultural features of national identity.

While the twentieth century was marked by the emergence of U.S. naval power and the great power competition of the Cold War, twenty-first century foreign policy concepts in relation to the Pacific were informed by the Obama administration’s reorientation toward the region and its announcement of “America’s Pacific Century.” Moreover, the contemporary “Indo-Pacific Strategy” of the Biden administration reiterates the importance of the region in relation to U.S. national interests while emphasizing normative aspects of the rules-based international order.

These aspects are closely identified with U.S.-American national characteristic traits promoted in foreign policies supporting the current U.S. “Free and Open Indo-Pacific” concept. This lecture explores interrelations between U.S. foreign policy and national identity and juxtaposes it with other regional concepts such as the Pacific Islands Forum’s 2050 Strategy, or China’s initiatives in the framework of Xi Jinping’s New Era.
