

MEARC workshop:

# “The Intellectual Principles of the New Japan”: Miki Kiyoshi and the East Asian Cooperative Community

Sue Townsend (Nottingham)  
Discussion led by Richard Calichman (CUNY)

*In association with The Isaac Alfred Ailion Foundation*

This Modern East Asia Research Centre Seminar will be held in Arsenaal (room tbc).

Registration is ESSENTIAL:  
[info@mearc.eu](mailto:info@mearc.eu)

Further details are on our website: [www.mearc.eu](http://www.mearc.eu)

Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2006 – 09.00-11.00 (Arsenaal, room tbc)



**This workshop will focus on a section of Sue Townsend's forthcoming work on Miki Kiyoshi. Readings will be circulated before the workshop – they will include Townsend's article:**

*“The Intellectual Principles of the New Japan”: Miki Kiyoshi and the East Asian Cooperative Community*, and her translation of the important Miki text:

*The Ideological Principles of the New Japan.*

**All participants in the workshop should read these pieces before hand.**

**Miki Kiyoshi** (1897-1945) was one of Japan's most respected philosophers before the Pacific War, although he never quite emerged from the shadow of his great teacher, Nishida Kitarô (1870-1945). Like Boethius (c.480-524) who, through his translations of and commentaries on Aristotle

and Porphyry, acted as a conduit between the traditions of ancient Greece and the Latin-based scholasticism of medieval Europe, Miki was a man of two worlds straddling the intellectual and cultural traditions of modern Europe and the Chinese-based traditions of Japan. His research on Western thought ranged from comprehensive studies of Aristotle, Socrates, Pascal, Spinoza and Hegel to minor articles on Heidegger, Nietzsche, Kierkegaard and Goethe, to name but a few examples. Throughout the 1930s as journalist, editor and commentator, Miki also published a steady stream of tracts, columns and articles addressing current affairs in daily newspapers such as the *Yomiuri Shinbun* while maintaining his output of scholarly works in magazines and journals such as *Shisô*, *Kaizô* and *Chûkôron*.

In Western historiography, however, Miki's name is primarily associated with the Showa Research Association (*Shôwa kenkyûka*) and an article “The Intellectual Principles of the New Japan” (*Shin Nihon no shisô genri*) published in the name of the association but widely assumed to have been drafted by Miki himself.<sup>1</sup> Studies in the 1970s and 80s

linked him inextricably to the elaboration of Japan's historical and cultural mission abroad, and acknowledged him as the main architect of the philosophical basis of Prime Minister Konoe Fumimaro's New Order Movement in 1938.

**Sue Townsend** is Senior Lecturer in the Department of History, Nottingham University. Major publications include:

*Yanaihara Tadao and Japanese Colonial Policy: Redeeming Empire* (2000)  
*Politics and Personality in Japan: Miki Kiyoshi's 'wanderings through the world of books' 1897-1945* (forthcoming)

**Richard F. Calichman** is Assistant Professor of Japanese Studies at the City College of New York, CUNY.



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