



The Making of a Paragon of Virtue:

The Transnational Commemoration of Consul Sugihara's 1940 Visa Issuing and Its Motives



Date and Time

Tuesday May 1, 12:00-14:00

Venue

Tåsingevej, Building 1441 Aud. 3 (Lokale 113)

Join this lecture on a Japanese Transnational Hero

During the summer of 1940, Sugihara Chiune, the Japanese consul in Kaunas, Lithuania, issued transit visas to several thousand Polish refugees, mostly of Jewish origin. Almost a year later, as the Barbarossa Operation began and German troops invaded Lithuania and annihilated the local Jewish community. This talk examines the way Sugihara turned from a completely unknown figure into a world-famous symbol of civil heroism, the transnational mechanisms that facilitated this transformation, and the distinct but complementary motives for commemoration in each of the countries involved.



Speaker

Rotem Kowner is a professor of Japanese history at the University of Haifa and the incumbent chair of the Israeli Association of Japanese Studies. A founder of the Department of Asian Studies at the same university and its chair until 2008, he specializes in modern Japanese history, with a particular focus on the way modern Japan engaged in war and has dealt with racial ideology.

In case of questions please contact Annette Skovsted Hansen, History and Japan Studies, Aarhus University at ostash@cas.au.dk



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