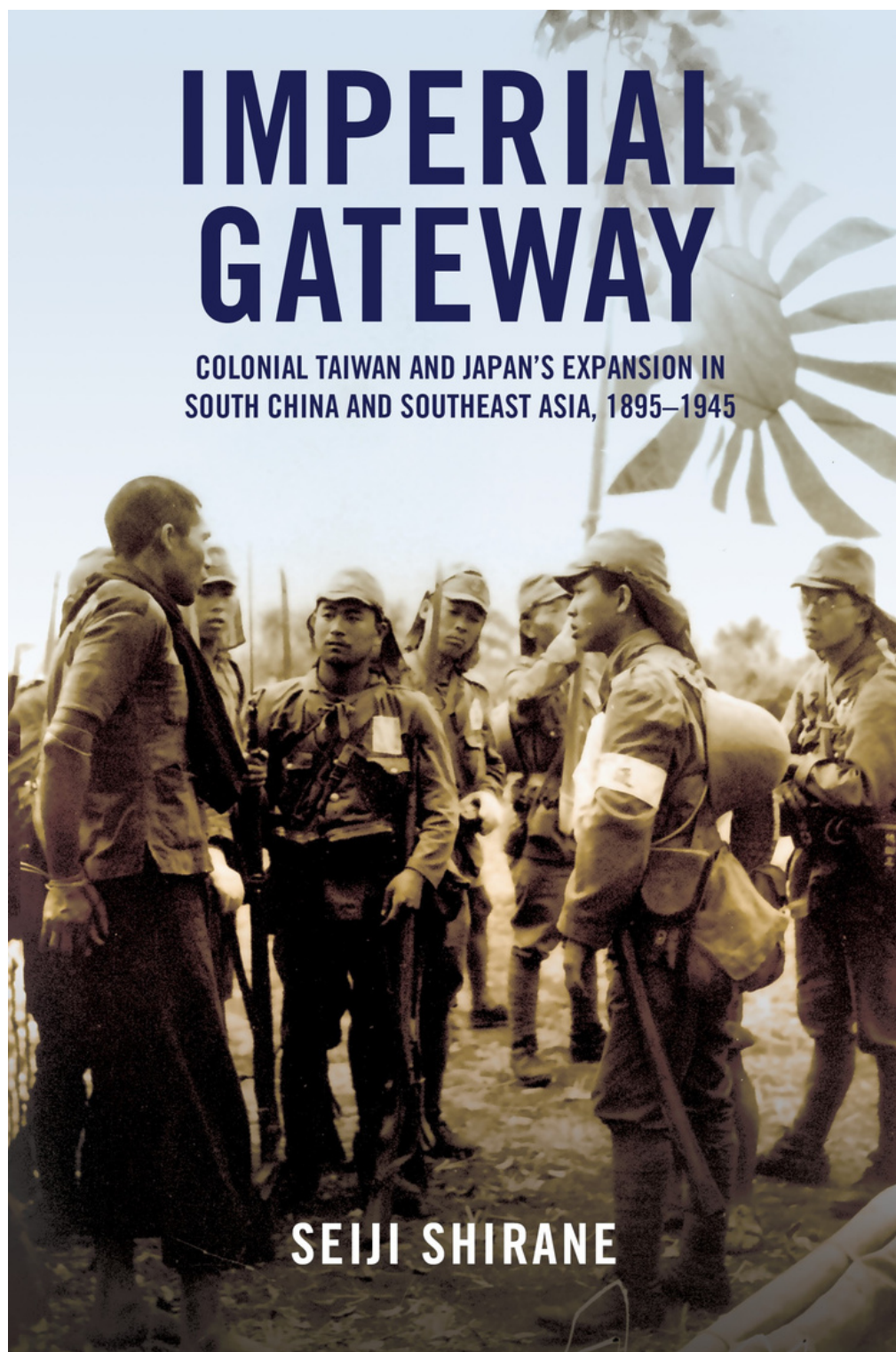


Imperial Gateway:

Colonial Taiwan and Japan's Expansion in South China and Southeast Asia, 1895–1945



(Cornell University Press, 2022)

Friday, January 13, 2023
3:00-5:00 PM | Room 108N
Munk School, U of T, 1 Devonshire Pl.



Seiji Shirane

Assistant Professor of
Japanese History, The City College
of New York (CUNY)

CHAIR: Tong Lam, Associate Professor of History
and Director of the Global Taiwan Studies Initiative

REGISTER: uoft.me/Imperial-Gateway

Imperial Gateway explores the political, social, and economic significance of colonial Taiwan in the southern expansion of Japan's empire from 1895 to the end of World War II. It uncovers a half century of dynamic relations between Japan, Taiwan, China, and Western regional powers. Japanese officials in Taiwan did not simply take orders from Tokyo; rather, they often pursued their own expansionist ambitions in South China and Southeast Asia. When outright conquest was not possible, they promoted alternative strategies, including naturalizing resident Chinese as overseas Taiwanese subjects, extending colonial police networks, and deploying tens of thousands of Taiwanese to war. The Taiwanese—merchants, gangsters, policemen, interpreters, nurses, and soldiers—seized new opportunities for socioeconomic advancement that did not always align with Japan's imperial interests. Drawing on multilingual archives in six countries, *Imperial Gateway* shows how Japanese officials and Taiwanese subjects transformed Taiwan into a regional gateway for expansion in an ever-shifting international order.