



Tsukioka Yoshitoshi (1839-1892), "Empress Jingu Leading the Invasion of Korea", from the print series "Concise Illustrated History of Great Japan", multicolor woodblock print, 1879, British Museum.

Guest Lecture by Dr. Sarah Rebecca Schmid

Tuesday, December 3rd, 2024, 14:45–15:45

Venue: KOL-F-104 , University of Zurich

Lecture: "The Once and Future Territory: Jingū kōgō's Subjugation of the Korean Peninsula in Meiji Period Visual Culture"

Jingū kōgō, also known as Empress Jingū, has been part of Japanese historiography at least since the compilation of the *Kojiki* (712) and the *Nihon shoki* (720). While many may not be familiar with the name today, Jingū kōgō has been a mainstay of Japanese culture for over a millennium and has historically played a significant role in Japanese perceptions of Korea. She retained this role until the first half of the 20th century, when she was used to help justify the Japanese annexation of Korea.

This talk will provide an insight into the role that visual and textual material related to Jingū kōgō (often in combination) played during the Meiji period (1868–1912) in the run-up to the annexation of Korea. The narrative most closely associated with Jingū kōgō, namely her (legendary) subjugation of the three Korean kingdoms of Silla, Baekje and Goguryeo in the 3rd century AD, appeared on banknotes, in history textbooks, on woodblock prints, and even on votive tablets (*ema*) dedicated to shrines. The talk will take a closer look at the visual culture of the Meiji period and discuss the ways in which these seemingly separate forms of pictorial expression are connected to each other.



Sarah Rebecca Schmid is currently a postdoctoral fellow at the Institute of Asian and Oriental Studies at the University of Zurich. She holds an M.A. in East Asian Art History and Japanese Philology, and a PhD in Japanology. In 2025, she will begin a two-year fellowship at Kyūshū University in Fukuoka (Japan), funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF). During this fellowship, she will continue her research on Jingū kōgō, particularly on the role she played in the Kyūshū and Kansai regions during the Meiji and early Taishō periods.