

The Department of East Asian Studies is pleased to invite to
the lecture of



Gavan McCORMACK

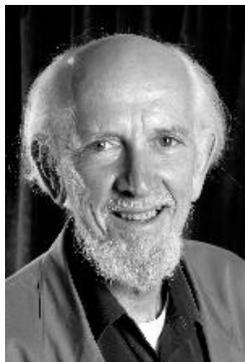
Disputed Territories: China, Japan, and the Diaoyu/Senkaku Islands

More than six decades from the San Francisco Treaty that supposedly resolved the Asia-Pacific War and created a system of peace, East Asia in 2013 remains troubled by the question of sovereignty over a group of tiny, uninhabited islands over which the governments of Japan, China, and Taiwan all claim sovereignty.

Despite the absurdity, these tiny islands assume today some of the weight that attached almost a century ago to the vast domain of Northeast China (“Manchuria”), with comparable potential to plunge the region into conflict.

This paper looks at the evolution of the “Senkaku/Diaoyu problem” in the frame of Japan-China and US-Japan relations, considering the conflicting readings of the historical record, the relevant principles of international law, academic, media and civic constructions of the dispute, the US stake, the Okinawan stake, and the various formula that have been proposed to resolve it.

If the countries of the region are to transcend the 19th and 20th century eras of Japanese imperialism and US Cold War hegemony and construct a 21st century of peace, cooperation, and prosperity, the Senkaku/Diaoyu issue will first have to be resolved.



Gavan McCormack is emeritus professor in the Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, Australian National University. A graduate of the universities of Melbourne and London (PhD from SOAS in London in 1974), he taught at the Universities of Leeds (UK), La Trobe (Melbourne), and Adelaide, before joining the ANU as a professor in 1990. He has lived and worked in Japan on many occasions since first visiting it as a student in 1962, and has been a Visiting Professor at Kobe, Kyoto, Ritsumeikan, Tsukuba, and International Christian Universities, and at Tokyo Institute of Technology. He was elected a Fellow of the Academy of Humanities of Australia in 1992 and was awarded a Centennial Medal for service to the Humanities in Australia in 2002. His work has been translated and published in Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Thai, Arabic, and the main European languages.

Date: **Monday, May 13, 2013**

Time: **6:00 p.m.**

Location: **JAP 1**, at the Institute for East Asian Studies/Japanese Studies, AAKH Campus, Spitalgasse 2, yard 2, entrance 2.4.