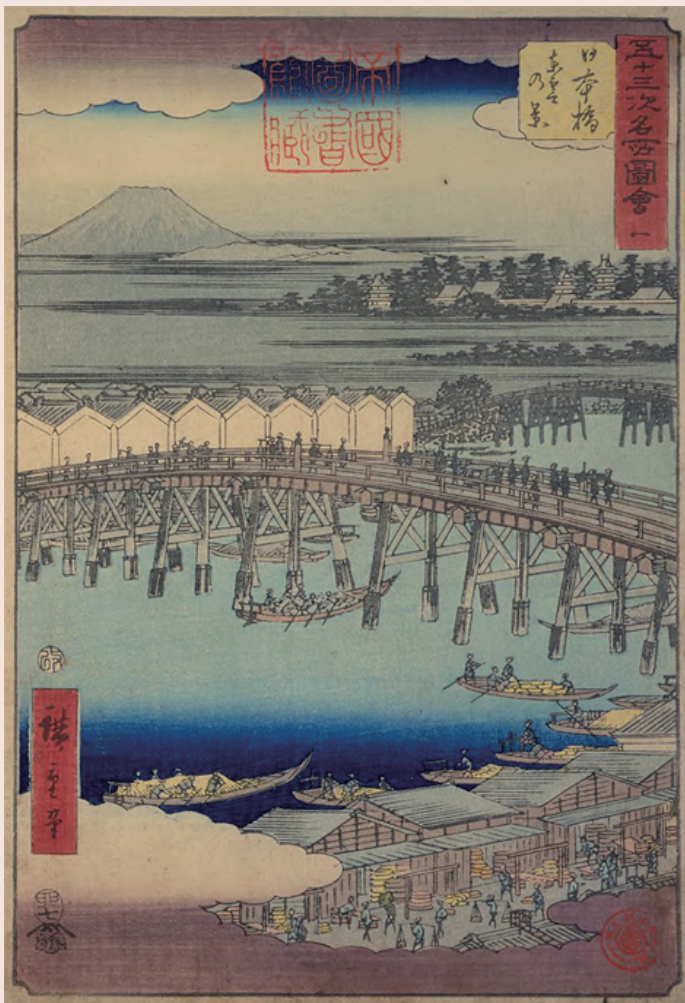
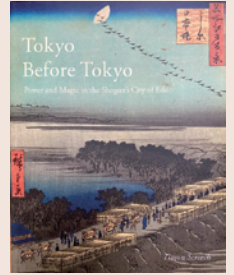


Reading Nihon-Bashi, the Centre of the Shogun's Realm

CAAS Unit Online Lecture by **Timon Screech**

SOAS, University of London, Former CAAS Unit Visiting Professor, Author of *Tokyo Before Tokyo: Power and Magic in the Shogun's City of Edo* (November 2020; Reaktion Books, University of Hawaii Press)



歌川広重 『五十三次名所図会』 「日本橋」
出典：国立国会図書館 「錦絵でたのしむ江戸の名所」

Nihon-bashi is the centre of Tokyo and the point from which all distances are measured. Previously it had that role in Edo. This was a new idea. East Asian cities had never had centres before, as they were grids, or castle towns encircling a building that was inaccessible to most people. How did it come about that Edo was given a centre, and what did it mean?

The date of the construction of Nihon-bashi is not certain, but it seems to have been erected in 1603. This was also the date that the Tokugawa shogunate was promulgated, so the site must, in some way, have been intended to emblematised the new regime. Of course, Nihon-bashi is a bridge, and in Japanese thought, bridges have symbolic meaning. Furthermore, the shogunate gathered around this bridge buildings that were specifically representative of their rule.

This talk will use texts and images to explain the cultural significance of the bridge and surroundings of Nihon-bashi.

リンク先より事前申し込みをお願い致します。
お申し込みされた方に 4/27 までに Zoom MTG 情報をお送りします。
Please register in advance through the link. Zoom MTG information will be sent to those who have registered by April 27.



https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSey3eQnmpWmkmkRsu9HNJZdaVeXobXTjB0lslSxqMSyTXptsQ/viewform?usp=sf_link

Wednesday

28th April

17:45~19:15

Zoom Online Lecture