



Research News and Project Updates

Fall 2017

You are invited to the

75th Anniversary Book Launch

Saturday, November 25, 2017 | 2-4pm Nikkei National Museum & Cultural Centre, Ellipse Lobby



Guest speakers: Jordan Stanger-Ross | Sherri Kajiwara John Endo Greenaway | Linda Kawamoto Reid Keiko Miyamatsu-Saunders | Ann-Lee & Gordon Switzer

Presentations followed by book signing and refreshments. Free event Nikkei national museum & cultural centre

6688 Southoaks Crescent, Burnaby www.nikkeiplace.org

Victoria presentation of Japanese Problem Universal Limited Theatre

University of Victoria

Monday, December 4, 2017

Free and open to Uvic community. Students, faculty and staff welcome. General public by donation Queenswood/Arbutus Room, Cadboro Commons Building University of Victoria Seating is limited to 30 seats per program, reserve through Eventbrite.

https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/japanese-problem-live-theatre-performances-december-4-2017-tickets-39850091697

Program 1 11:00 am - 12:20 pm Program 2 12:30 pm - 1:50 pm Program 3 2:00 pm - 3:20 pm



Witness to Loss – Race, Culpability, and Memory in the Dispossession of Japanese Canadians

Edited by Jordan Stanger-Ross and Pamela Sugiman McGill-Queen's University Press, October 2017 Special event price \$27 plus GST. Reg. \$30

Witness to Loss Kishizo Kimura's previously unknown memoir – written in the last years of his life – is translated from Japanese to English and published for the first time. This remarkable document chronicles a history of racism in British Columbia, describes the activities of the committees on which Kimura served, and seeks to defend his actions. Diverse reflections of leading historians, sociologists, and a community activist and educator who lived through this history give context to the memoir, inviting readers to grapple with a rich and contentious past.

JORDAN STANGER-ROSS is associate professor of history at the University of Victoria and project director of the Landscapes of Injustice project.

PAMELA SUGIMAN is professor of sociology and dean of arts at Ryerson University and the chair of the Oral History Cluster of the Landscapes of Injustice project.

The Tree Trunk Can Be My Pillow The Biography of an Outstanding Japanese Canadian

IY TADASHI JACK KAGETSU



The Tree Trunk Can Be My Pillow – The Biography of an Outstanding Japanese Canadian

Written by Tadashi Jack Kagetsu University of Victoria Press, November 2017 \$25 plus GST

This book is a son's tribute to his father, delivered to readers after the death of both. As Jack Kagetsu laboured for a decade on his manuscript, travelling to archives, combing newspaper articles, and organizing his findings as well as his memories into writing, he must have felt that he was discovering parts of himself as well as his father.

It is a very personal history. The book also has communal resonance for Japanese Canadians. It reflects reverence for elders and speaks to the accomplishments and losses of a generation of immigrant founders, the Issei. In the case of Eikichi Kagetsu both accomplishment and loss were of staggering proportions; perhaps no one else built so much, only to see it stolen in the mid-twentieth century odyssey of Japanese Canadians.

TADASHI (JACK) KAGETSU (1931-2006) was the youngest son of "outstanding Japanese Canadian" and prominent Nikkei timber industrialist Eikichi Kagetsu. He received his PhD in Chemical Engineering from the University of Toronto in 1957. He went on to an accomplished career in the United States with the Union Carbide Corporation, where he received two patents for technical innovation. He was also a chess master – as a university student, he defeated a Russian grandmaster as well as a US and former world champion.



Departures; Chronicling The Expulsion of the Japanese Canadians From the West Coast 1942-1949 John Endo Greenaway, Linda Kawamoto Reid and Fumiko Greenaway

Published by the Nikkei National Museum & Cultural Centre, September 2017

In 1942, over 22,000 Japanese Canadians, many of them Canadian-born or naturalized citizens, were labelled enemy aliens, forcibly rounded up, and processed through the cattle barns of Hastings Park before being shipped to road camps, internments camps in the interior of BC, sugar beet farms in Alberta and Manitoba, and POW camps in Ontario. They were not permitted to return to the west coast until 1949, three years after the war ended.

The Nikkei National Museum is pleased to announce the publication of a new book – Departures, chronicling the expulsion of the Japanese Canadians from the west coast 1942-1949.

Using archival photos, the memories of survivors, recipes from the camps, artefacts, and poetry – tanka and haiku – the book presents a multi-dimensional portrait of a people forced from their homes and scattered across a country that did not want them.

Woven through the book are the voices of the sansei and yonsei – the third and fourth generations –offering echoes of those years that continue to resonate long after the last camp was closed down.

"This wonderful addition to the library of Japanese Canadian literature captures the feelings of despair and resilience of a community pulled from their homes and uprooted into prison and work camps in the BC interior and sugar beet farms on the prairies. This history is told through voices, photographs (over 100), haiku and other poems, and recipes. These are artfully woven together to tell a haunting and compelling story. A book that, once started, is impossible to put down, it is fun to read as well as being insightful and moving. It should reach a readership including, but far beyond, those of the Japanese Canadian community."

- Judge Maryka Omatsu, Author of Bittersweet Passage, Redress and the Japanese Canadian Experience



New Japanese translation of Gateway to Promise -- Canada's First Japanese Community Ann-Lee & Gordon Switzer Originally published in English in April 2012, revised in 2017

The Gateway to Promise was awarded the second place in historical writing by the BC Historical Society in 2013. For the first time, the history of Canada's pioneer Japanese community is recounted, beginning in the mid-1880s. Victoria, British Columbia was the "Gateway to Promise" for the Japanese immigrants. This book begins with the earliest races of Japanese presence on the Coast, then goes on to the first recorded visits of the Japanese to Victoria, and eventual settlement-in the first seven chapters. Tragically, the entire Japanese Canadian community of Victoria was exiled to the interior of B.C. in 1942, after Japan entered the Second World War with an attack on Hong Kong. In the book's mid-section, specific topics of that history are dealt with in more detail: the Japanese Church, the farms, sports, and more. The last section consists of memoirs of the some of the survivors: their youthful days in Victoria and their families. Here is a book which can be picked up at any point. Do you enjoy stories about people? Read the third section. Detailed history? Choose from the Section Two. Or for an overview start with the First Section. *396 pages, over 200 historic photos, paperbound*.

「希望の国カナダへ・・・夢に懸け、海を渡った移民たち-西海岸ブリティッシュ・コロンビア州から始 まった日系史」

カナダの日系史「Gateway to Promise – Canada's First Japanese Community (2012年初版、2017年改訂版)」の日本語版

著者アンリー&ゴードン・スィッツアー夫妻

原作は歴史家のアンリー&ゴードン・スウィッツァー夫妻が、日本とカナダの関係の始まり、最初の日本人コ ミュニティ形成、発展など、日本とカナダの歴史を徹底的に調べ上げ、資料や写真なども加えて掲載、編集 した約400ページにも上るカナダの日本史。日本語訳版の出版はフリーランス・ジャーナリストのサンダース 宮松敬子氏がプロジェクトを推進、20名以上に及ぶ新移住者の協力によって、2017年夏に出版。

サンダース宮松敬子 1973年よりカナダに居住。日本経済新聞社トロント支局に10年間勤務後、フリーラン スとしてカナダの事象を多方面に書き続けており、トロント、バンクーバー、ビクトリアの日系関連出版物 にコラムを持ち寄稿。著書に実母の22年間に及ぶカナダ移住体験を綴った「カナダ生き生き老い暮らし」 (集英社)、「カナダのセクシュアル・マイノリティたち:人権を求め続けて」(教育資料出版会)、「日 本人の国際結婚:カナダからの報告」(彩流社)がある。ビクトリア日系文化協会会員。 **ANN-LEE SWITZER** is a historian and writer with an interest in the Japanese Canadian experience; as well she has a longstanding affection for Emily Carr. In 2007 she published This and That, the Lost Stories of Emily Carr (Touchwood Editions). A regular writer for the Victoria Nikkei Cultural Society's Nikkei Forum, she has also contributed articles to Nikkei Images and Nikkei Voice. She and Gordon Switzer produced a booklet, Gathering Our Heritage (about seaweed harvest) in 2006. They live in Victoria, British Columbia.

GORDON SWITZER is a historian, writer and editor who grew up in Japan from the age of three. He returned to North America after attending a year at I.C.U. in Tokyo. A long-time student of Zen Buddhism, he recently published Zen Within the Tao Te Ching. He and Ann-Lee have been members of the Victoria Nikkei Cultural Society since 2001. Their most recent work is Sakura in Stone: Victoria's Japanese Legacy. Last year both of them travelled to Japan and visited Kuchinotsu, Manzo Nagano's home town in Nagasaki prefecture, in search of early documents.

KEIKO MIYAMATSU SAUNDERS immigrated to Canada in 1973. After 10 years with the Nihon Keizai Shimbun (Nikkei) Toronto Bureau, she branched into freelance writing. She moved to Victoria in 2014 and continued to write about Canadian social issues for publications in Toronto, Vancouver, Victoria and Japan. Keiko has authored a number of books and most recently oversaw the translation and publication of the Japanese version of Gateway to Promise 「希望の国力ナダ・・・、夢に懸け、海を渡った移民たち」.

Message from Project Director, Jordan Stanger-Ross



This year I've been invited to give the keynote address for the Kristallnacht commemoration in Victoria, when my own Jewish community, and others across the world, remember the terror of November 9-10, 1938, when Jews in Nazi Germany were attacked and close to 100 people murdered. The name Kristallnacht, which translates to "night of crystal", invokes the broken glass of property destroyed in the rioting. Holocaust scholar Michael Rothberg urges that histories of state violence be remembered together. Rothberg thinks that our collective memory is transformed when-rather than each of us holding our own history of our own community-we instead share, recognizing connections across time and place and embracing comparison without competition. I've slowly felt such a transformation in recent years. Preparing my reflections for Kristallnacht, I've realized that for decades I avoided thinking too deeply, or too often, about the Holocaust. I felt saturated with that history and uncertain of what to do with it. Recently-with the support and company of this Research Collective-

I've not become a Holocaust scholar but I have delved deeply into the history of 20th century racism, the complexity of state violence, and the bravery of everyday people confronting forces beyond their control. This process has not yielded for me neat conclusions about the Holocaust, nor indeed about the internment era in Canada. My reflections for Kristallnacht will be more in the spirit of searching than of having found a conclusion. But I've become convinced, along with Rothberg, that these histories are multidirectional, that the lines between history and identity are not straight, but curving and complexly interwoven. As I prepare for this Jewish commemorative event, I'm thankful to the Research Collective for the opportunity to see history in a new light.

a site responsive play by Universal Limited Special Victoria presentation - Monday, December 4, 2017 Queenswood/Arbutus Room Cadboro Commons, University of Victoria Reserve your tickets through Eventbrite. Free but registration needed. https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/japanese-problem-live-theatre-performances-

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Monday, December, 4 2017

Program 1	11:00 am-12:20 pm
Program 2	12:30 pm -1:50 pm

Program 3 2:00 pm -3:20 pm

Pre-performance presentation by sponsoring departments.

Performance followed by Q & A and discussion with cast.

Seating is limited to 30 per program.

In 1942, over 8,000 Canadians were detained in barns at Hastings Park —the effects, and the memories haunt us to this day.

JAPANESE PROBLEM is a title derived from the nomenclature of WWII, but containing in it the understanding that the citizens affected at the time were neither Japanese- they were overwhelmingly legal residents/citizens of Canada, nor problematic--with zero verifiable connections to activities against Canada.

JAPANESE PROBLEM invites an audience into a stall, which residents have turned into a temporary home and place of wonder, as they are filled with the uncertainty of their next destination.

The piece exists in the contemporary moment simultaneously, where evidence of Hastings Parks's former tenants has been erased, where survivors are uncertain if they want their names included in a memorial; and where refugees to North America are being treated in a fashion that is terrifyingly familiar.



JAPANESEPROBLEM.CA

Universal Limited is a collective (Previously: Tour in Vancouver, Victoria, and Toronto) who works to uncover hidden stories in unusual locations. We work collectively to write and design our shows as experiences that are accessible to all.

Creation and development of Japanese Problem funded by the following organizations. Learn more at <u>www.hastingpark42.ca</u>







University of Victoria performances presented by Landscapes of Injustice, Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives, Department of History and Department of Theatre





Uvic Theatre Department



Landscapes of Injustice



Letters of outrage reflect injustice to Japanese Canadians Stephanie Harrington

The details reveal the human cost: a Singer sewing machine, heirloom china and a young girl's doll brought all the way from Japan, as well as fishing boats, acres of property and houses built with people's life savings—all seized and sold without consent.

In the mid to late 1940s, Japanese Canadians wrote 300 letters of protest about the forced sale of their belongings, businesses and homes. Now a seven-year, multi-million dollar humanities research project, led by the University of Victoria, has uncovered these unsettling and moving accounts of dispossession.

Authors of the letters include the owners of a successful dry cleaning business, an internee whose cousins died in France serving Canada during the First World War and a man who put two of his Canadian-born children through medical school.

The letters, written to the Canadian government, express the dismay, rage and betrayal Japanese Canadians felt when their property was seized and sold. The sales took place despite government officials' assurances and continued after the war. In today's currency, their losses would amount to at least one billion dollars.

Vancouver resident Judy Hanazawa's parents and sisters were interned. Her father, a fisherman, wrote a letter to the Office of the Custodian disputing the sale of his family's furnishings and personal belongings. Her grandparents and parents were also stripped of two fishing boats and two homes.

Hanazawa had not previously seen the letter. "I am proud of what he did," she says. "There was so little my parents spoke openly about so I truly appreciate having something my dad wrote and sent."

The history of the uprooting and internment of 22,000 Japanese Canadians in coastal BC during the Second World War has received scholarly and popular attention over the years, but the story of dispossession is not as well-known. UVic historian Jordan Stanger-Ross is leading Landscapes of Injustice—currently one of the biggest research projects in the field of humanities in Canada—to help people understand how much this history still matters.

"These letters deserve to be heard," he says. "We risk overlooking the most important lessons of our past if we do not hold deep conversations about the legacies of twentieth-century racism. Today, as Canadians balance the human rights of migrants with widespread concerns about security, we must learn from our history." Stanger-Ross, who came across the 300 letters while researching at Library and Archives Canada, said federal officials ignored the letters 75 years ago, and then they were forgotten.

Since 2014, Landscapes of Injustice has investigated the dispossession of Japanese Canadians. Based at UVic at the Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives, the project involves 16 universities, museums and community organizations. Now nearing the end of its research phase, the project will soon begin to communicate its findings to the public through schools and exhibitions.

Vancouver partner institution Nikkei National Museum will curate an online exhibition of the letters, Writing Wrongs: Japanese Canadians Letters of Protest from the 1940s, which will be made public through the Virtual Museum of Canada in 2019.

Landscapes of Injustice is funded by a \$2.5 million grant from the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada and \$3 million in matching funds from participating institutions.

Read <u>the campus article</u> for more on this story.

This article generated over 20 articles in newspapers, on-line news sites and radio interviews. Here is a sample of some of the media coverage.

[web] Tristin Hopper,"<u>You know that we had nothing to do with this war':Long lost letters from interned Japa-</u> nese Canadian camps["], nationalpost.com, November 10, 2017

[radio] Judy Hamazawa,"<u>The story behind one man's letter from inside a Japanese-Canadian internment</u> <u>camp</u>", CBC As It Happens with Carol Off and Jeff Douglas, November 8, 2017

[radio] Jordan Stanger-Ross, Adam Stirling, CFAX 1070 Victoria, November 8, 2017

[print] Dirk Meissner, Canadian Press, "Japanese internment letters convey betrayal at loss of house, heirlooms", Times Colonist, November 8, 2017

[web] Dirk Meissner, Canadian Press, "<u>Researchers in Victoria discover archive of letters from Japanese in-</u> ternment camps", *Globe and Mail, November 7, 2017*

[print] Dirk Meissner, Canadian Press, "<u>Japanese internment letters convey betrayal at loss of house, heir-looms</u>", *The National Post, November 7, 2017*

RBCM lightboxes to feature Landscapes of Injustice

University of Victoria graduate students Sal Wiltshire and Jill Levine have drafted a proposal for a lightbox exhibit for the lobby of the Royal BC Museum featuring Landscapes of Injustice. The exhibit will focus on the use of provincial records from the BC Archives in LOI's research. LOI research assistances working in the provincial records cluster this past summer uncovered historical newspaper clippings and letters for protest regarding seized fishing vessels. The lightboxes will highlight these findings, and teach visitors more about working with archives and primary documents. The exhibit will be on display from mid November 2017 to the end of January 2018. It is a small prelude to the larger traveling exhibit that will be curated by the Nikkei National Museum's Sherri Kajiwara and RBCM's Leah Best.

Lansdowne Lecture:

Acts of Kindness and Complicity: The silence of bystanders and eyewitnesses to the dispossession and internment of Japanese Canadians

Dr. Pamela Sugiman Royal BC Museum

Newcombe Conference Hall



Japanese-Canadian fishing boasts seized at Annieville. BC Archives C-07293

In this talk, distinguished oral historian Dr. Pamela Sugiman confronts the complexity and messiness of human relationships. She reveals a troubling silence: not the silence of Japanese Canadians, but rather of their friends, neighbours, classmates, teachers, co-workers, employers and religious leaders. Based on her interviews with these bystanders and witnesses, she explains who they are and how they remember the ugliness of Canada's past, how they shared their memories with their children and grandchildren, and how their stories have changed her own understanding of Canadian history, memory and racism.

Dr. Sugiman will also introduce her new book, <u>Witness to Loss: Race, Culpability, and Memory in the Dispossession of</u> Japanese Canadians, co-edited with Uvic historian Jordan Stanger-Ross.

About the speaker: Dr. Pamela Sugiman is a professor and Dean of Arts in the Department of Sociology at Ryerson University. She joined Ryerson in 2006 after holding a tenure-stream position for 15 years at McMaster University. In the course of her career, Dean Sugiman has built a reputation for creativity, collegiality, transparency and vision. She has had a long-standing commitment to issues of social justice, equity, diversity and inclusion. These values are rooted in her personal history and have profoundly shaped her scholarly pursuits. Dr. Sugiman is the Oral History research cluster chair in the Landscapes of Injustice research project.



Presented by the Uvic History Department, Royal BC Museum and Nikkei National Museum





History

Nikkei national museum & cultural centre

Landscapes of Injustice Public Lecture and Presentation Vancouver Maritime Museum in association with the Lost Fleet Exhibition 1-3 pm Sunday, January 14, 2018

Landscapes of Injustice researchers will present a lecture and other research findings related to the forced sale and dispossession of the fishing boats. A focus on the talk will be on Kishizo Kimura and his memoirs in the book, Witness to Loss. When the federal government uprooted and interned Japanese Canadians en masse in 1942, Kishizo Kimura saw his life upended along with tens of thousands of others. But his story is also unique: as a member of two controversial committees that oversaw the forced sale of the fishing vessels and of the property of Japanese Canadians in Vancouver during the Second World War, Kimura participated in the dispossession of his own community.



The Lost Fleet Exhibition Vancouver Maritime Museum 1905 Ogden Avenue in Vanier Park Vancouver BC V6J 1A3

RUNS UNTIL MAY 27, 2018

On December 7, 1941 the world was shocked when Japan bombed Pearl Harbour, launching the United States into the war. This action also resulted in the confiscation of nearly 1,200 Japanese-Canadian owned fishing boats by Canadian officials on the British Columbia coast, which were eventually sold off to canneries and other non-Japanese fishermen. The Lost Fleet looks at the world of the Japanese-Canadian fishermen in BC and how deep-seated racism played a major role in the seizure, and sale, of Japanese-Canadian property and the internment of an entire people.

"The history of Japanese-Canadian fishermen is inextricably linked to the history of Vancouver. The city was a gateway in the Pacific for all immigrants looking to forge a brighter future for themselves," says Duncan MacLeod, Maritime Museum Curator. "The seizure of Japanese-Canadian fishing boats in BC had been on a list of important topics we were considering for an exhibition. The process of deciding on an exhibition took place during the rising crisis in Syria, and the contemporary discussions of an influx of non-white immigrants bore a strong resemblance to the rhetoric used when speaking about the Japanese and other Asian immigrants in the 20th century prior to WWII."

This unique exhibition will showcase a series of photographs as well as several models of Japanese-Canadian-built fishing vessels in its collection, made by the late model shipbuilder, Doug Allen. The beautifully crafted models replicate some of the fishing boats seized during the war that have since been lost to history. Visitors will see replicas of the registry created in order to redistribute the seized boats. The display will also include shell fragment from Estevan Point lighthouse. In June 1942, a Japanese Imperial submarine fired shells at the lighthouse, just shortly after it had attacked a US merchant vessel in the Strait of Juan de Fuca. This artifact highlights the little known fact that enemy fire did land on Canadian soil during WWII, and adds a level of reality to the threat that was feared by many in BC.

The legacy of this tragic event will also be explored: what lessons have been learned and how Canadian society has changed because of this experience? Visitors will be encouraged to consider whether the present political and economic climate is very different today; current legislation, policies and public sentiment about immigration invites the question of whether this type of injustice could be carried out against other groups.

Student News

Amber Ali, one of the research assistants on the project, has written an article about her research on significant locations to Landscapes of Injustice and the history of internment. Her work focuses on the bridges that have been and continue to be built across communities touched by dispossession and racism; specifically, Indigenous communities and Japanese Canadians and Americans. Through support and education these connections continue and they can be seen at specific locations across Canada and the United States. She emphasizes how important these locations are for keeping the stories alive and accessible.

Bridging Communities in the Prairies Learning from the Snow Country Prison Healing of Former Interned Japanese and Teaching Lived Experiences

Amber Ali

At the end of August, and right before the start of my third year of classes at the University of Winnipeg, I had the opportunity to investigate several sites of interest to the Landscapes of Injustice project. Armed with my copy of The History of Japanese Canadians in Manitoba by the former Manitoba Japanese Canadian Citizens' Association, I had begun to map out various places of interest that may hold project significance. With much of the stories from the book told from the perspectives of those who lived during the time of relocation, it is important that we as researchers build a backdrop to these stories through concise historical experiences. That means that we are responsible as historians and social scientists for creating context and connecting the senses in order to deliver the full historical experience to those learning from us.

With this in mind, I set out to contact potential leads generated from my reading of the book and found that even beyond our immediate locality, there were similar stories waiting to be experienced. My initiative to reconcile the various locations into a concise resource meant coming in contact with people across the province and even in North Dakota, where my research found that the United Tribes Technical College, a historical site converted into a college for the 5 circling reserves nearby, was a former location for the "alien internment" in America. Specifically, in April of 1941, Fort Lincoln became designated, as with various other inactive military posts, to house foreign seamen being detained.[1]



Credit: The Freedom of Information Times[2]



A resolution from a British Columbia branch of the Canadian Legion, urging the dominion government to send all people in Canada of Japanese race back to Japan after the war and that no peace treaty should be entered into with Japan without the provision for such repatriation, was unanimously supported by delegates to the dominion convention at the Royal Alexandra hotel Wednesday morning.

Canada also attempted to repatriate its Japanese citizens. – Winnipeg Free Press, May 27, 1942

[1] Frankk E. Vyzralek. "The Alien Internment Camp at Fort Lincoln, North Dakota, during World War II: An Historical Sketch." 2003. Manuscript on File at ND State Historical Society, Bismarck. 2.

[2] The Freedom of Information Times Accessed at http://www.foitimes.com/internment/camps.htm