The University of Cambridge Department of East Asian Studies is pleased to announce the programme for its series of East Asian seminars.

All seminars start at 5:00 pm and take place in Rooms 8 & 9 in the Faculty of Asian & Middle Eastern Studies, Sidgwick Avenue, Cambridge, unless otherwise indicated.

The DEAS acknowledges the financial support of the Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation for some of the Japan-related seminars.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Human Rights and Criminal Suspect Detention in Japan

Monday, 21st October, 2013 at 5pm in Rooms 8 & 9
Faculty of Asian & Middle Eastern Studies

Dr Silvia Croydon, Kyoto University
Visiting Scholar, Dept. of East Asian Studies, University of Cambridge

Japan’s criminal justice system diverges in a number of ways from its counterparts in the rest of the developed world. Japan famously has, for example, one of the highest rates for confession, conviction and crime clearance. Furthermore, the Japanese prison system is also exceptionally orderly, with there not having been a single prison riot in any of Japan’s prisons in the postwar period and incidents, such as homicide and serious injury to prison staff and inmates, rarely happening.

Maintaining such high standards is something that the Japanese authorities are extremely proud about. And why not? Policy-makers in other countries have also looked at Japan’s criminal justice as a model to be followed. Some have suggested, however, that these enviable features of Japan’s system come at a cost – the cost of basic human rights.

With a view to making the debate on Japan’s criminal justice policies more informed, this presentation will provide an empirical examination of the processes through which the concerns for safeguarding the wider community in Japan have been balanced against the efforts to protect the rights of criminal suspects.