Monday, 19 October 2015
“From ‘Sacred Cow’ to ‘Kobe Beef’: A Bovine Perspective on Japan’s Modern Revolution”
Dr Daniel Botsman, Yale University

“Kobe beef” is today a globally recognized synonym for the joys of culinary extravagance. But how was it that a port town in Japan, a country in which there were centuries old taboos against killing cattle, came to have such a strong association with high quality beef? This presentation will provide answers to this question by delving into the history of animals, agriculture, food, discrimination and cross-cultural contact in the Japanese archipelago, focusing particularly on the great social transformations of the nineteenth century.