This seminar will begin at 5.00pm and take place in the Faculty of Classics 1.02* in the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, Sidgwick Avenue, Cambridge.

The Department of East Asian Studies gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation towards this seminar series.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Wednesday, 19 October 2016 (venue: Faculty of Classics 1.02)*
“A Capital for the King of Japan: Reading history in the urban legacy of Ashikaga Yoshimitsu”
Dr Matthew Stavros, University of Sydney

Kyoto’s urban landscape was completely reimagined in the late fourteenth century through the ambitious building projects of the shogun Ashikaga Yoshimitsu (1358-1408). This lecture examines these projects with the aim of identifying a grand urban vision and, more important, the guiding principles that likely inspired the warrior-aristocrat’s monumental aspirations. Hoping to draw on the strength and diversity of the Cambridge community, the talk will range widely across periods, countries, and personalities to explore various ways of reading the symbolism embedded in Yoshimitsu’s architecture and urban planning.

Matthew Stavros is an historian of early Japan at the University of Sydney and the author of Kyoto: An Urban History of Japan’s Premodern Capital (Hawai’i UP, 2014). His research focuses primarily on the urban and architectural history of Japan to about 1700, with interests extending to religion, material culture, and monumentalism in East and Southeast Asia. He trained in architectural and urban history at Kyoto University and read history at Princeton University, where he earned a PhD in East Asian Studies. He teaches on all periods of Japanese history and historiography, research methods in Asian Studies, classical Japanese, and more broadly on the histories and cultures of East Asia. www.mstavros.com

* The Faculty of Classics sits immediately next to FAMES.
For 1.02, take entrance 1 to the first floor.

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