Monday, 30 November 2015

“Japanese War Guilt and Sino-Japanese Relations in the 1970s”
Dr Robert Hoppens, University of Texas - Rio Grande Valley

The 1970s were a decade of dramatic change in Japan’s relations with China (both the People’s Republic of China and the Republic of China on Taiwan). Japan established relations with the PRC for the first time and by the end of the decade extended the first of a series of economic aid packages in support of the Chinese economic reform program. Studies of this period often take for granted that Japanese feelings of guilt and a desire to atone for past Japanese aggression predisposed Japanese to support a closer relationship with the PRC. This talk will reveal a much more complicated discourse on war guilt and Japan’s relations with China than is commonly assumed that challenges assumptions about the role of guilt and emotion in the postwar relationship with China.