

Cold War in Asia

Through The Khabarovsk Trials of 1949

日時：2017年5月9日(火) 17:00～18:30

場所：神戸大学国際文化学研究所 A棟4階 中会議室(A403)

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使用言語：英語

講演内容：

Unlike the Tokyo Trials, the Military Tribunal in Khabarovsk (Russian Far East) over the Kwantung Army officers, including the Japan's bacteriological and chemical warfare unit, also known as Unit 731, were almost out of researchers' interest mostly because the primary sources were closed during the Soviet period. The speaker uses recently declassified Russian archival documents, exposing the complicated character of Moscow's stance in the context of its affairs with Washington in making a new global order.

At the beginning of the Tokyo Trials the USSR considered sending a group of the POW from Soviet camps to Japan as witnesses, but after receiving in January 1947 detailed information about the bacteriological programs of Unit 731 and deterioration of relations with Washington, Moscow decided to organize a separated trial in Khabarovsk at the end of 1949. The incipient Cold War and a rising tension between the Soviet Union and United States had a strong impact on the trials. The US insisted on extradition of a few Japanese generals to Tokyo; the Soviet side agreed to exchange them with Ishii Shiro, but Washington put the key figure of Kwantung Army's bacteriological program under its protection. In 1950, after the Khabarovsk Trials, the USSR appealed to the US and made a few attempts to organize another (3rd) trial over Emperor Hirohito, Ishii, Umezumi Yoshijiro and other significant figures, but this was doomed to fail – the Korean War was about to get started and the US-USSR confrontation already became the key factor, building a new geopolitical structure in East Asia and global arena.

講師略歴：

Viktoria Romanova is Professor of Russian history at the I.M. Sechenov First Moscow State Medical University. She is the author of more than 80 academic publications and more than 40 presentations at scientific conferences and research seminars in Russia, Europe, Israel, Japan, USA, China. The main topics: the history of the Jewish population in the Far East, the Jewish communities in Harbin and other parts of China, including the period of Japanese occupation etc.

Recently Prof. Romanova focuses on the issue of the Khabarovsk Trials over the Kwantung Army officers (1949) and its place in the Soviet policy in Asia at the beginning of Cold War. She examines the USSR policy and revisits the US-Soviet bargaining over the trials on Japanese war crimes, particularly the bacteriological and chemical warfare programs, as well as the issue of Emperor Hirohito etc.

