Elyssa Faison (University of Oklahoma): Promoting Science, Promoting Peace: Shaping Japan’s Cold War Nuclear World
9:30 – 10:20 am

In 1953, President Dwight D. Eisenhower made his famous “Atoms for Peace” speech. In 1954 the U.S. conducted the atmospheric nuclear test code named “Castle Bravo” at Bikini Atoll in the Marshall Islands, inadvertently contaminating a nearby Japanese fishing trawler. Only three days later, the Japanese Diet approved its first budget for the development of nuclear power. Finally, in 1955 a group of twenty-five young female atomic bomb victims arrived at New York’s Mount Sinai Hospital for a series of reconstructive surgeries. This paper will demonstrate how these transpacific events were part of a crucial moment in the development of two imbricated discourses, a scientific discourse and a discourse on peace and Japan’s unique role in promoting it, and analyze how the masculinization of the discourse of “science” (in its nationalist frame) was closely tied to the feminization of narratives of “peace”.

Yuka Tsuchiya (Ehime University): Spreading Atomic Modernity to Japan and to the World: President Eisenhower's Atoms for Peace Campaign in the 1950s
10:20 – 11:10 am

The Eisenhower administration developed the global Atoms for Peace campaign. The USIA (U.S. Information Agency, established in August 1953) used documentary films, radio, and other media to spread overseas both the image and substance of the advanced U.S. nuclear technology. Japan became both a target of this campaign and a vehicle through which to carry out campaigns for other countries. USIA showed Japan conquering the memories of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and embracing the "atomic age," with the U.S. technological aid. By doing so, the U.S. government attempted to demonstrate the moral legitimacy of its leadership in nuclear technology. The "Japan card," however, was a dangerous card for the U.S. government because it might provoke the memory of U.S. violence and stimulate the global anti-nuclear movement.
Sayuri Guthrie-Shimizu (Michigan State University): Baseball as an Instrument of Cultural Diplomacy involving Japan, Okinawa, and the U.S. during the Cold War
11:30 am – 12:20 pm

Focusing on baseball as an instrument of cultural diplomacy as well as a site of scientific kinesiology, the presentation will examine the transnational circulation of baseball involving Japan, Okinawa, and the US during the Cold War. Defining baseball as an instance of "bodily science" where "bodily technology" was inculcated among its practitioners, this presentation will examine the ways in which baseball became deeply embedded in Cold War cross-cultural negotiations in Asia and the Pacific.

Katsunori Yamazato (University of the Ryukyus): Confronting a Hungry Bear: University of the Ryukyus as a Site of Multinational Negotiations and the Dismissal of Students Protesting U.S. Military Domination in Okinawa
1:10 – 2:00 pm

In 1956, the University of the Ryukyus was forced to expel six students from the university. The students had protested American occupation policies in a literary magazine and had participated in a rally defying the extremely unfair treatment of people in Okinawa and the military’s land policies. The leader of a group of Michigan State Faculty who were serving as teachers and advisors at the University of the Ryukyus wrote an official report depicting how the leaders of the university negotiated with the highest-ranking American general—described as “a hungry bear” by the Michigan professor—and how the students were expelled. The presentation will illuminate, among other things, the overall significance of the incident in postwar Okinawan intellectual history and the growth of the university under such a political situation.

Hidemi Todoriki (University of the Ryukyus School of Medicine): The Nutrition Transition and Health Impact in Postwar Okinawa: the Longevity Crisis of Okinawans
2:00 – 2:50 pm

Utilizing the little-known health statistics GHQ collected in early postwar Okinawa, the presentation will focus on public health as one of the main sites of US-Okinawa encounters and examine how the introduction of American dietary habits into postwar Okinawa has adversely affected Okinawan men and women, resulting in a series of public health and welfare problems the islanders now confront. The presentation will illuminate the relationship between nutritional transition and political and economic factors and analyze its consequences on the postwar generations of Okinawans.
Somei Kobayashi (University of Tokyo): “Keystone of the Pacific” for Soft Power? : U.S. Psychological Warfare and Geopolitical Significance of Okinawa in Cold War East Asia
3:10 – 4:00 pm

As Okinawa has been called “The Keystone of the Pacific” since the 1950’s, the U.S. government defined the island of Okinawa as its most important strategic standpoint in the Western Pacific. However, Okinawa was the Keystone of the Pacific not only on the basis of hard power but also of soft power. This presentation will examine the geopolitical significance of Okinawa for the U.S. during the Cold War by analyzing the US psychological warfare in East Asia from 1950s to 1960s. In doing so, the presentation will raise a critical and essential question, i.e., what was the Cold War in East Asia from the perspective of Okinawa?

Mire Koikari (University of Hawai‘i): Tales of Cold War Domesticity and Ethnic Brotherhood in Trans-Pacific Technical Interchange between Okinawa and Hawai‘i
4:00 – 4:50 pm

In 1949 Harry Truman announced the Point Four Program, declaring overseas technical and economic assistance as one of the central features in American cold war foreign policies. Following this, Hawai‘i emerged as a major staging area for American technical and educational outreach in the Pacific. Among its targets was US-occupied Okinawa where American military occupation was pursued in the name of “development” and “progress.” Focusing on the centrality of “technology” in the new cold war relation between Okinawa and Hawai‘i, this paper will examine how Japanese and Okinawan Americans in Hawai‘i became chief promoters of American technical interventions in Okinawa and how women’s technical training, especially in the realm of domestic science, constituted a gendered arena of postwar American expansionism.