

# EALL TALK SERIES

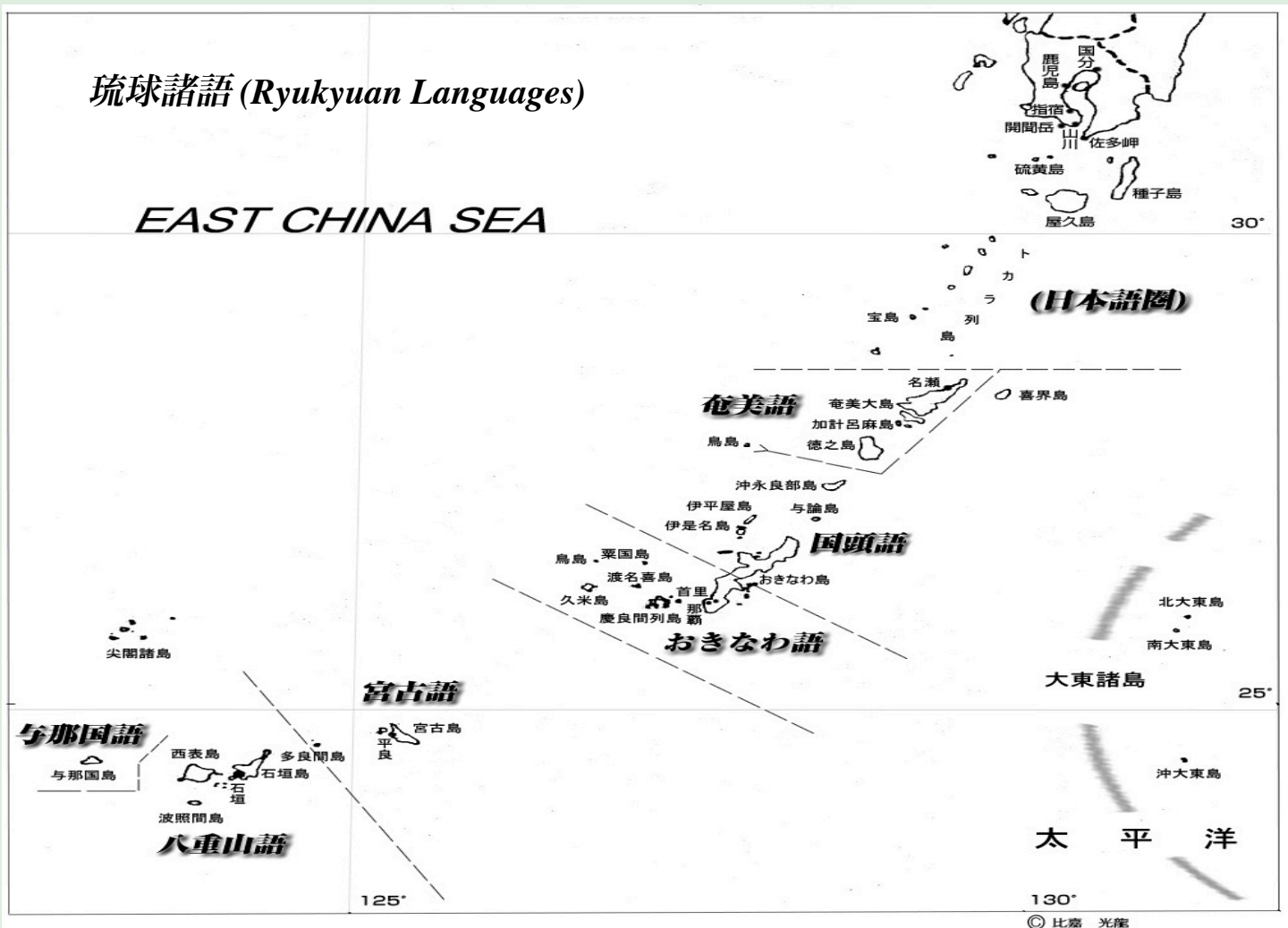
## “The Present State and Future Tasks of Ryukyuan Linguistics”

by Patrick Heinrich (Associate Professor, Dokkyō University, Tokyo)

Thursday, February 21, 2013, 3:00-4:00 PM

Moore Hall 258

**Ryukyuan linguistics** has entered a new stage in the last decade, a trend that has been crucially reinforced by UNESCO’s 2009 inclusion of the Ryukyuan languages into its seminal *Atlas of the World’s Languages in Danger*. This trend manifests in the growth and expansion of the field, and in new insights into the Ryukyuan languages. Given the view that all six Ryukyuan languages are set to become extinct by the mid-century if no counter-action is taken, the expansion of Ryukyuan linguistics is urgent and well in place. This presentation outlines the recent achievements in Ryukyuan sociolinguistics, descriptive linguistics and language documentation. On this basis, major research gaps are identified. It is argued that these are best closed by research, which is purposefully supportive of language maintenance and revitalization. Due to its large and vital Uchinaanchu community, its expertise in Japanese and Ryukyuan Studies, in endangered language studies and in language revitalization, Hawai’i is a place well equipped to contribute to Ryukyuan linguistics henceforth, and to the promotion of the Ryukyuan languages and their speakers.



Light refreshments will be served.

For further information, please contact Mee-Jeong Park (meejeong@hawaii.edu) or Saeko Shibayama (sshiba@hawaii.edu). The talk is open to the public and funded by the EALL Enrichment Fund.