

# The Life-Death Paradox of the Japanese Sword

Lakeland  
Lectures

**Dr. Alexander Bennett**  
Thursday, March 15<sup>th</sup> • 7:00 pm

**W**hat is Bushido? What is Budo? How are the culture and traditions of samurai connected with the modern martial arts? Is the ancient wisdom of Japan's feudal warriors truly relevant in the twenty-first century? If so, how can it be accessed? This lecture will address these questions to offer some clues on traditional Japanese values and also the relevance of Japanese martial arts in modern times.

Christchurch, New Zealand native Alex Bennett received a doctoral degree from Kyoto University in 2001, and another from the University of Canterbury in 2012. He is a Professor at Kansai University's Division of International Affairs, where he lectures on Japanese history and culture. Alex currently serves as Vice President of the International Naginata Federation, All Japan Kendo Federation International Committee, Director of the Japanese Academy of Budo, and represents New Zealand Kendo as Head Coach. He is the founder and Editor-in-Chief of Kendo World, the world's only English language journal dedicated to Kendo, and holds the rank of Kendo Kyoshi 7-dan. He is the author of several books, most recently *Hagakure: The Secret Wisdom of the Samurai*, Tuttle Publishing (2014), and *Kendo: Culture of the Sword* (University of California Press (2015)). He lives in Kyoto.

**Location: 5-7-12 Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, 1st Floor**  
See <http://luj.tokyo/maps> for map; Tel: 03-3225-0425

The Lakeland Lectures are a forum for researchers, students and members of the public to discuss contemporary issues affecting Japan. Lakeland University has offered a U.S.-accredited liberal arts program in Tokyo since 1991. Lakeland's main campus is in Wisconsin, USA and was founded in 1862.