

The Forgotten Struggle

Lakeland Lectures

The Sunagawa Toso, Showa Kinen Park, and Acts of Erasure

ADAM TOMPKINS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16TH • 7:00

The rubble of Tachikawa Air Base underlay the manicured landscape of Showa Kinen Park, the largest urban green space in Tokyo. This lecture will discuss how a local community protest against a planned runway expansion attracted thousands of supporters and ultimately led to the base's closure. The Japanese government constructed Showa Kinen Park on a portion of the returned land. The lecture will show how the conversion of space from a military facility to a naturalized landscape added value to Tokyoites' quality of life, but obscured the history of an important and inspiring mass movement with the creation of a bucolic landscape.

*Adam Tompkins is an Assistant Professor of History at Lakeland College Japan. He received his Ph.D. in history from Arizona State University and his M.A. in history from Pennsylvania State University, specializing in environmental politics and social movements. His book *Ghostworkers and Greens: The Cooperative Campaigns of Farmworkers and Environmentalists for Pesticide Reform* will be published by Cornell University Press in April 2016. An essay on the lecture topic will appear in the edited collection *The Politics of Hope: Grassroots Organizing, Environmental Justice, and Social Change* to be published by University Press of Colorado.*

Location: 5-7-12 Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, 1st Floor
See www.lcjapan.com/lectures for map; Tel: 03-3225-0425

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