



Photo: Ui Makiko

TOKYO & MONTREAL

The urban lives of the
Japanese Ainu &
the Canadian Inuit groups

Thomson House, Rooms 404 & 405
McGill University
Friday, March 14, 2014
2-5 p.m.

Many of the Indigenous peoples of the world face similar issues and experiences that unite them across geographical boundaries. One such experience is migration to urban centres, whether voluntary or involuntary. This diasporic movement can bring with it a diverse array of opportunities and challenges. In this talk, we will discuss the situations of two urban Indigenous groups: the Inuit in Montreal and the Ainu in Tokyo. Together, we will compare the historical and modern situations of these two groups, within the context of their larger societies.

About the Speakers

Nobuhiro Kishigami has conducted research among the Inuit in the Canadian Arctic on hunting and fishing activities, family and kinship, social change, cultural identity, and food sharing practices since 1984. Since 1996, he has conducted field research into the urban Inuit in Montreal. His current work focuses on a cultural anthropological study of whale hunts, contemporary feasts and food sharing in the Iñupiat society.

Dr. Kishigami has authored several books including in both English and Japanese on indigenous issues and has worked as an editor and author of several others.

A graduate of Waseda University (BA, MA) and The Graduate University for Advanced Studies, Japan (PhD), he was enrolled in the PhD program at McGill University in the 1980s. Since 1996, he has worked at the National Museum of Ethnology, Osaka, where he is currently Professor and Deputy Director General (Research and Academic Exchange).



Mark Watson focuses his research on the history, social dynamics and organizational strategies of indigenous peoples in urban and metropolitan areas from both local and comparative perspectives. Since 2002 his main research focus has been on working with indigenous Ainu in Japan who have migrated from their traditional homeland of Hokkaido in northern Japan to the southern capital region of Tokyo.

Dr. Watson is currently Principal Investigator of a five-year SSHRC Insight grant working with Inuit in Montreal on issues of service provision and social justice. He is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Anthropology at Concordia University.

His most recent book was released this month and is entitled *Japan's Ainu Minority in Tokyo: Diasporic Indigeneity and Urban Politics*. He completed his PhD in 2006 at the University of Alberta with previous studies at the University of Kent (BA) and the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, UK (MA).