



The Center for the Study of Asian Religions (CSAR), Department of Religious Studies, UCT in collaboration with the Centre for Japanese Studies, UP and the Office of the Consul of Japan in Cape Town and the Embassy of Japan cordially invite you to:

## The Lady Samurai: *Women, Politics, and Religion in Japan* by Dr. Tomoko L. Kitagawa

Who were the “Lady Samurai”?

You might imagine the Lady Samurai to be women in armour or women fighting with swords. It is true that women warriors often show up in fiction. We will first go over the characters in popular culture and think about the image of Japanese women who lived in the past. I will then introduce the life stories of women who did not engage in battle. Instead of fighting and putting their lives at risk, some women utilized the cultural legacy and privilege of the elite samurai household to establish themselves. What did they do? How did they survive through the civil wars?



Dr. Tomoko L. Kitagawa received her Ph.D. from Princeton University. She went on to teach history at Harvard University; her classes were well-received and she was cited as one of the students’ favorite professors at Harvard by the class of 2012. Prior to her appointment at Harvard, she also worked for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. She is an author of five books in Japanese, including a national bestseller, and was also selected as one of the 100 most influential people in Japan in 2012 and one of the 100 most amazing women in Japan in 2015.

**Date:** Thursday 17 May 2018

**Time:** 13:30 – 15:00 (Refreshments at 13:00)

**Venue:** Centre for African Studies Gallery, Oppenheimer Institute Bld., Upper Campus, University of Cape Town

**RSVP:** Please confirm your attendance at <https://goo.gl/forms/fYoifg9r0NiKGmr2>

### Contact Details

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*This event is part of the centenary celebrations of the Japanese Consulate in Cape Town, established in 1918 as Japan's first overseas mission in Africa.*