



# RCAPS

Ritsumeikan Center for Asia Pacific Studies

## Onigiri Seminar



The power of culture: a different perspective of the United States-Japan alliance in the post-war period



***Dr. AZIMI Nassrine***

***United Nations Institute  
for Training and Research (UNITAR),  
Hiroshima Office***

Even before the American occupation of Japan (1945 – 1952) was official, a handful of scholars and experts had gathered in Tokyo by October 1945, “embedded” into the bureaucratic machinery of the Occupation at the General Headquarters of the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers (SCAP) as the Arts and Monuments Division. Led by brilliant cultural stars such as Harvard curator George L. Stout and the legendary archeologist and Japan scholar Langdon Warner, they worked hand-in-hand with Japanese scholars of art, to strengthen protective measures and laws for Japan’s cultural property, at a time when these were at grave risk in the post-war chaos and misery. This exceptional and unsung work was the result of early and far-sighted work by scholars, but its lessons were forgotten in future wars and occupations.

In her latest book “The United States and Cultural Heritage Protection in Japan 1945-1952” Dr. Azimi analyzes one of the most significant models of post-conflict bilateral relations, to emphasize that in nation-building culture is everything—as much the culture of the occupier as that of the occupied.

**Information of her book:**

<https://www.aup.nl/en/book/9789463721325/the-united-states-and-cultural-heritage-protection-in-japan-1945-1952>

**Date: Wednesday, January 15, 2020**

**Time: 12:25-14:00**

**Venue: RCAPS Room A (2F B-bldg.)**

**Chair: Prof. FUJII Seiichi APU-APM**

**Discussant: Assistant Prof. ACKARADEJRUANGSRI P.  
APU-APM**

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