



RCAPS

Ritsumeikan Center for Asia Pacific Studies



Onigiri Seminar

Understanding Okinawa's Current Base Referendum Effort: A Comparison with Previous Plebiscites to Challenge State Authority

Earlier this summer, a citizen's group in Okinawa Prefecture announced the gathering of the signatures of more than 100,000 residents, or almost 10 percent of the population. The signature drive was related to the call for a referendum on the proposed move of Futenma Air Station to the Henoko area of Northern Okinawa, a controversial decision originally made in 1996. The signatures are to be submitted to the governor of Okinawa for his decision, followed by deliberations in the Prefectural Assembly this fall.



**Dr. ELDRIDGE
Robert**

The Eldridge Think Tank

Assuming the ordinance is enacted, this will be the fifth referendum on bases in Japan, and the fourth involving Okinawa. This presentation introduces the issues and movements of the current effort, comparing earlier plebiscites (1996 Okinawa Prefectural Referendum, 1997 Nago City Referendum, 2006 Iwakuni City Referendum, and the 2015 Yonaguni Town referendum). It argues that this referendum is one of the most important to take place, and urges that all voters, regardless of whether they support or oppose the move, should participate.

Date: Wednesday, November 14, 2018

Time: 10:35 a.m. – 12:10 p.m.

Venue: F-209 (2nd Floor, Bldg F)

Chair: Prof. SATO Yoichiro, APU-APS

Discussant: Prof. MIZUTANI Akira, APU-APS

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