James L. Huffman, Wittenberg University: “Ordinary People? Daily Life in the Late-Meiji Slums”
This is the introduction to a study that has engaged me for nearly a decade: an attempt to understand how the poorest of Japan’s urban poor—what journalists then called the kasō shakai (下層社会)—experienced daily life in the quarter century after the late 1880s. Drawing on journalistic accounts, official surveys, and fiction, the study starts with a look at the way the middle classes envisioned the hundreds of thousands of slum (貧民窟) dwellers in Tokyo and Osaka and then focuses on what life actually was like for those who lived in the slums.

Morten Oxenboell, Indiana University: “Staging Violence in pre-modern Japan”
Violence is rarely meaningless or random. As a violent act is being transmitted through different media, new meanings and values are being ascribed to it. In this paper I focus on how violence was being idealized and aestheticized in the medieval war tales, and I argue that even the bloodiest and most cruel violent narratives created a sense of order in a world of chaos.

HOTEL: Best Western ($89) in South Beloit 5910 Technology Dr, South Beloit,(815) 389-4211. Also: Iron Works Hotel ($109) 500 Pleasant St, Beloit (608) 362-5500. Reservations must be made before Feb.1 to receive these rates.

LOCAL CONTACT: Susan Furukawa (furukawas@beloit.edu)

DINNER; Zen 430 E. Grand Ave, Beloit, WI 53511; (608) 299-8888).

MAP: https://www.beloit.edu/maps/
**TRANSPORTATION:** People can take the VanGalder bus to South Beloit from O'Hare Airport, but must take a taxi to the College. Car pooling should be encouraged. Contact Betsy and she can put folks together.

To receive PDF Copies of the papers, please e-mail Betsy Lublin (aj8580@wayne.edu) by February 1. Also indicate if you intend to go to dinner Saturday evening.

**REMAINING SCHEDULE FOR SPRING 2016**

**April 9, 2016**  **Northern Illinois University Dekalb**

- **Robert Kane,** Niagara University: "Negotiating with Allies during Wartime: The Ishii-Lansing Agreement of 1917."
- **Taylor Atkins,** Northern Illinois: “A History of Popular Culture in Japan: From the Seventeenth Century to the Present”

**MJS Website:** [http://international.wmich.edu/mjs](http://international.wmich.edu/mjs)

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