Tokugawa Ieyasu as Warlord, Shogun, Deity: Thoughts on Biography, Material Culture, and Japan’s Long Sixteenth Century

Dr. Morgan Pitelka
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Morgan Pitelka, a historian of late medieval and early modern Japan, will discuss his current research on Tokugawa Ieyasu (1542-1616), the founder of the Tokugawa Shogunate and an iconic figure in Japanese history. He will explain how material culture—in this case swords, art, and falcons—helps to complicate the top-down, hagiographic tendencies of biography. He will also address how this project fits into a planned series of studies on Japan’s long sixteenth century, which began with his previous book Handmade Culture (2005) and will continue in his next project, a study of daily life in the late medieval castle town of Ichijōdani in old Echizen (today’s Fukui Prefecture).

April 29, 4:30 to 6:00
History Department Seminar Room,
Social Sciences Building 250

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A posthumous portrait of Ieyasu by Kanō Tannyū