

Seminar on December 3, Saturday, 14:00-17:00, Tokyo, Waseda University, in person only: "Multifaceted Nationalism in the Borderlands"

**PRESENTATION TITLE:**

Geographical Imaginaries in the Baltic: Mapping Empires, Regions, and Nations

**ABSTRACT:**

Over the last 200 years the present-day states of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania have undergone multiple transformations to their borders: from imperial borderlands, to independent republics, to Soviet occupation, and the restoration of independence after 1991. Spatial transformations are not, however, only about shifting state boundaries. They also involve perceptual changes and rethinking ways of imagining territories. Drawing on material from the author's new book, *Geographies of Nationhood: Cartography, Science, and Society in the Russian Imperial Baltic* (Oxford University Press, 2022), this presentation uses historic maps to interrogate how various imperial, regional, and national approaches to the Baltic have been constructed and contested over time. Using methods from spatial history, it considers how maps have been used to pursue political agendas as well as how they have influenced popular imaginations of territory.

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