Inventing Ise: the Ise Shrines in Meiji Japan

This presentation explores the dynamic transformation of the Ise shrines in the aftermath of the Meiji restoration (1867/8). Located in the city of Ise, Mie Prefecture, the shrine complex is Shinto’s most sacred site. There is almost no work done in Japanese or any other language on the modernisation of the shrines. This is a major shortcoming, not least since the Ise shrines and the myth they articulate came to acquire huge importance for the modern Japanese state, its sovereign and its citizens. The involvement of the state in the modern invention of Ise is of course vital, but the critical focus of this talk falls rather on the activities of a local organization known as the Shin’enkai.


The lecture will be given in English. Admission is free, but please register with:
forum@dijtokyo.org

or

Deutsches Institut für Japanstudien
Jochi Kioizaka Bld. 2F, 7-1 Kioicho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-0094
Tel: 03 - 3222 5198, Fax: 03 3222 5420