

POLITICAL SCIENCE COLLOQUIUM

Tacit Farming and Mapping Ancestral Footprints

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In Okinawa, where a vicious ground battle occurred during World War II, violence and the long-term control of the land and people have long been pursued in the form of postwar U.S. military occupation. This talk examines the politics of tacit farming or *mokunin kōsaku*, the cultivation of land by native farmers on lands officially occupied and controlled by the U.S. military. The history of land struggles and social movements in Okinawa is relatively well documented by journalists, scholars, public entities, and related organizations and interest groups, and has recently gained more international scholarly attention due to Okinawan articulations of indigeneity. However, native Okinawans' everyday practices of resistance and resurgence—for example, stories of tacit farmers—have received very little scholarly attention. In this talk I historicize the emergence of tacit farming in the history of the US military's occupation of the island and concurrent displacement of the native people from their lands. Drawing from field observation and unstructured interviews, I relate stories of tacit farming with examples from two communities in Okinawa—one in Sobe that is fenced by the military, and the other in Kina without fences. Overall, this paper demonstrates how everyday engagement in land-based activism redefines militarized space and re-maps an indigenous landscape.

Friday, December 1, 2017

2:30 – 4:00 pm

Light Refreshments will be served!

Partially sponsored by the Student Activity and Program Fee Board (SAPFB)

Saunders 624, Harry Friedman Room

**NOTE: Colloquium is open to members and guests of the Department of Political Science
No recordings or videotaping permitted**