

The 184th Taoyaka Seminar  
The 12th International Peace and Coexistence Seminar  
Memory Studies Seminar  
(Memory studies - JSPS21KK0032 PI: Dr Luli van der Does)

# THE BISHOP'S "FINE TACT"

The Ambiguity, Ambivalence, and Relationality of  
Catholic Peacebuilding from Hiroshima and Nagasaki  
to Flores, Indonesia during the Asia-Pacific War

26 July 2022, 10:30–12:00

IDEC 201 + Online via Zoom



[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82384729651](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82384729651?pwd=OWJFdldqazdxbnRRd2ZGbGFjdHlidz09)  
?pwd=OWJFdldqazdxbnRRd2ZGbGFjdHlidz09  
Meeting ID: 823 8472 9651  
Passcode: 303834  
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Open to All (No need to pre-register)  
Language: English

St. Ignatius Loyola Church in Sikka, Flores, Indonesia  
Image from: <https://mapio.net/pic/p-121656101>

In the ongoing debate about the role of religion in peacebuilding, particular attention has been paid to religion's attitude toward violence as a locus of its peacebuilding potential. In this lecture, Prof. Miyazaki turns to the case of the Catholic Church's ambiguous and ambivalent relationship to Japan's war in the Asia-Pacific region. The focus of his analysis is an exceptionally well-documented case of four Japanese Catholic priests on a Japanese Imperial Navy-sponsored 'religious propaganda' mission to Flores, Indonesia during the Japanese occupation. The four priests, including two leaders of the Catholic Church in Japan at the time — Bishop Yamaguchi Ajiro of Nagasaki and Apostolic Administrator Ogihara Akira of Hiroshima — worked closely with European missionaries left on the island to protect the church's interests against Japanese military aggression. This unusual case of war-time cooperation between civilians from enemy nations in the context of the otherwise brutal war in Asia offers a rare glimpse into Japanese Catholic Church leaders' engagement with Japan's war efforts. Prof. Miyazaki develops tact as a self-consciously limited and yet distinctively relational mode of peacebuilding that capitalizes on layers of ambiguity and ambivalence.

## Professor Hirokazu Miyazaki

Hirokazu Miyazaki is the Kay Davis Professor and Professor of Anthropology at Northwestern University and Professor (Special Appointment) at the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Hiroshima University. He also serves as a Peace Correspondent for Nagasaki. Miyazaki's scholarship has focused on hope, futurity, and exchange, and his current research focuses on a variety of forms of peace activism in Japan and the U.S.

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