広島市立大学大学院平和学研究科 ロバートジェイコブズ教授 最終講義 The final lecture of Prof. Jacobs, Robert

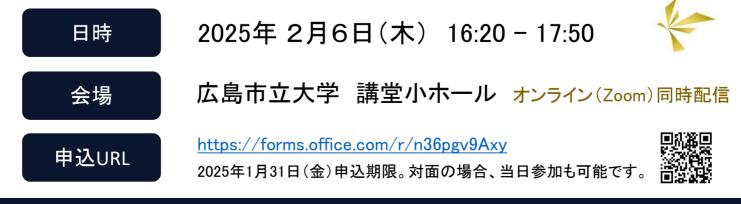
Legacy Sites: Traces of Hiroshima, Nagasaki and the Cold War in the United States



The United States began to operate nuclear reactors at the Hanford Site in Washington State in 1944, to produce plutonium that was used in nuclear attack on Nagasaki, and in most of the tens of thousands of nuclear weapons the United States stockpiled during the Cold War. The nuclear waste produced to make the plutonium for the Nagasaki weapon remains in giant underground tanks, leaking into the soil and river nearby even today. "Legacy sites" such as Hanford, Los Alamos and Oak Ridge are well known through Manhattan Project triumphalism such as the 2023 film Oppenheimer, however there are multiple smaller sites of nuclear weapon production in the United States that remain contaminated from the heady years of Cold War nuclear weapon production. For communities nearby sites such as the Mallinckrodt complex outside of St. Louis, and the Niagara Falls Storage Site, radioactive waste vexes the local ecosystem and current youth have been exposed in their parks and schoolgrounds. Additional sites such as Rocky Flats near Denver, Colorado have experienced rapid remediation and rebranding as nature parks. This lecture will examine some of the radiological legacies of the Cold War for the United States and for Americans. The different categories of sites from official DOE designated legacy sites, to unmanaged sites will be considered.

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Jacobs has taken an unusual path to his position as a professor at the Hiroshima Peace Institute. In his youth he worked both as a chef and in the organic food business in the United States. He later obtained his PhD in the history of science and technology at the University of Illinois in 2004 and began to work at the Hiroshima Peace Institute in 2005 as an assistant professor, then associate professor, and now full professor.



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