



Faculty of Humanities

Fakulteit Geesteswetenskappe
Lefapha la Bomotheo



**THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCES, IN ASSOCIATION
WITH THE CENTRE FOR JAPANESE STUDIES, INVITES YOU TO**

A WEBINAR

Presented by

PROFESSOR KOSUKE SHIMIZU

**(Department of Global Studies and Dean of Research,
Ryukoku University)**

**COVID-19 and Construction of the Self: pandemic in the era of
democracy**

At present, Japan's response to COVID 19 has been widely considered to be one of the success stories. The mortality rate of Japan appears to be extremely low compared to Europe and the United States. In that sense, it is reasonable to say that Japanese reaction to COVID-19 has been more or less successful, although no one seems to be capable of explaining how it could happen. However, if we shift our focus to East Asia, the mortality rate of Japan is much higher than that of Taiwan and South Korea, and this difference seems to emanate from the differences in the degree of democracy that is far more advanced and localized in Taiwan and South Korea than in Japan. Despite this outmoded state of democracy, Japanese officials and conservative thinkers never missed the opportunity for reinforcing self-esteem by saying that the Japanese response is an internationally recognized success story. This presentation focuses on narratives and discourses provided by politicians and media pundits regarding the success' of the Japanese reaction to COVID-19 and strives to clarify the political meanings of the pandemic for East Asian politics.

Date and time: Tuesday 11 August 12.00 to 13.30

RSVP Link: <https://forms.gle/tPom4MRWYo6yiovb7>

RSVP by Friday 7 August 2020

Enquiries: Ms Keiko Arai (keiko.arai@up.ac.za)