

Reading about Japan at I-House Library

Itoh Keiko talks about

Japanese in Britain, 1863-2001: A Photographic Exhibition

Wednesday, **March 8**, 2017, 7:00 pm, The Library, International House of Japan

Reader: **Itoh Keiko** (Writer / Interpreter)

Venue: The Library, International House of Japan

Admission: IHJ Members & Library Members: **free**;

Non-members: **1,500 yen** (reservation required, including reception)

Language: **English** (without Japanese interpretation)

In this reading session, London-based writer and interpreter Ms. Itoh Keiko will use photos from an exhibition catalogue to highlight the experiences of the early Japanese community in Britain, which included her maternal grandparents. The exhibition, curated by Ms. Itoh, was held throughout the UK during 2001 to 2002 as part of the Japan 2001 Festival.

Ms. Itoh has worked as an international civil servant at several international organizations including the United Nations in New York. In mid-career, she decided to return to university to research the historical context of her unusually international family, which was her long-held desire. Her first book *The Japanese Community in Pre-war Britain: From Integration to Disintegration* (Curzon Press, 2001), based on her PhD dissertation from the London School of Economics, is a social history of the Japanese community in London to which her grandfather and mother belonged. The same quest for family historical background resulted in her most recent book, *My Shanghai, 1942-1946: A Novel*, which is a fictionalised account of a young Japanese family in Japanese-occupied Shanghai, which draws on her parents' experience. At the session, her books will also be introduced as well as the photos.

After the session, all participants are invited to a small reception. Please enjoy meeting Ms. Itoh informally.



Itoh Keiko is a London-based writer and interpreter, born in Kobe, Japan. After receiving an MA from Yale University, she worked at the United Nations in New York, and then at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the World Bank in London. She received a PhD from the London School of Economics in 2001. Her works include *The Japanese Community in Pre-war Britain: From Integration to Disintegration* (Curzon Press, 2001) and *My Shanghai, 1942-1946: A Novel* (Renaissance Books, 2015).

*This program will be held thanks to a contribution from an I-House member.

CONTACT & RESERVATIONS

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(Mon. - Sat. 9 am - 6 pm)

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