

BOOK TALK BY

SVEN SAALER

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MEN IN METAL
A TOPOGRAPHY OF PUBLIC BRONZE
STATUARY IN MODERN JAPAN

IMAP LECTURE (VIA ZOOM)

REGISTRATION REQUIRED: [TINYURL.COM/Y6QDWW6L](https://tinyurl.com/y6qdw6l)

MONDAY DECEMBER 14, 2020

17:00 - 18:30

JAPAN STANDARD TIME

In his pioneering study, *Men in Metal*, Sven Saaler examines Japanese public statuary as a central site of historical memory from its beginnings in the Meiji period through the twenty-first century. He shows how the elites of the modern Japanese nation-state went about constructing an iconography of national heroes to serve their agenda of instilling national (and nationalist) thinking into the masses.

Based on a wide range of hitherto untapped primary sources, Saaler combines data-driven quantitative analysis and in-depth case studies to identify the categories and historical figures that dominated public space. *Men in Metal* also explores the agents behind this visualized form of the politics of memory and introduces historiographical controversies surrounding statue-building in modern Japan.

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