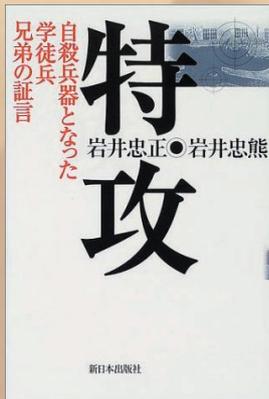


Lakeland Lectures

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Lakeland College is pleased to announce the creation of a new lecture series, free of charge, for researchers, students and members of the public to discuss contemporary issues. You are cordially invited to our next lecture.

From Student to Soldier: Becoming a Human Weapon of War



Speaker: Mr. Tadamasu Iwai

Former Suicide Soldier

DATE: JULY 23, 2008, 7:00 PM

Mr. Tadamasu Iwai, along with his younger brother Tadakuma, served in the Japanese Navy during World War II. The Iwais, although critical of the war, found themselves compromising with the war-waging government and its nationalistic ideology. The Iwais became officers and joined the *Tokko-tai*, regiments of suicide pilots of submarines packed with explosives—essentially to serve as human guidance systems for explosive devices. After the war, they regretted their decisions and actions.

On September 11, 2001, the Iwai brothers watched in horror as the passenger jets were driven into the Twin Towers in New York. Reminded of their own experiences as young men, they had terribly complex feelings about the consequences and effects of the 9/11 attacks.

The Iwais were also angered by organizations and individuals who used a romanticized distortion of their experiences to convince young Japanese people that Japan acted rightly during the war. People such as manga artist Yoshinori Kobayashi used the *Kamikaze* to promote an “altruistic spirit of selflessness” among Japanese youth—exactly the attitude the Iwai brothers hated and wished to stop.

Spurred by these events and outlooks, the brothers decided to speak out to Japanese youths about the realities of their wartime service, lobbying for more truthful accounts in public discussion. Mr. Tadamasu Iwai wishes to tell us what really happened during the war, and how we have responsibility as human beings to maintain our principle even under the pressures of war.



Location: 5-9-16 Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, 3rd Floor
See www.lcjapan.com/lectures for map; Tel: 03-3225-0425

The Lakeland Lectures are a forum for researchers, students and members of the public to discuss contemporary issues affecting Japan. Lakeland College has offered a US accredited liberal arts program in Tokyo since 1991. Lakeland's main campus is in Wisconsin, USA and was founded in 1862.