



# RICE

Chao Center  
for Asian Studies



## Louise Young

**“Rethinking Empire in the Twentieth Century:  
Lessons from Imperial and Post-Imperial Japan”**

- ◆ Friday, February 12, 2016 | 4:00 PM
- ◆ CCAS Conference Room: 209 Mechanical Laboratory
- ◆ Faculty Host: Sayuri Guthrie Shimizu



Japan built a wartime empire in Asia in the 1930s, and after losing that empire in 1945 created trading imperium under the American cold war umbrella. What are the lessons that imperial Japan can teach us about the global moment of the twenties and thirties, when the rise of anti-colonial nationalism brought new pressures on longstanding imperial structures? After the cataclysm of World War Two shattered the foundations of colonial empires and divided the globe up into the first, second, and third worlds, what did this moment of rupture and the end of empire mean for Japan and Asia?

Louise Young is Vilas Distinguished Professor in the Department of History at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is the author of *Japan's Total Empire: Manchuria and the Culture of Wartime Imperialism* (winner of John K. Fairbank and Hiromi Arisawa prizes) and *Beyond the Metropolis: Second Cities and Modern Life in Inter-war Japan*. She is currently working on a project that explores the history of social ideas in Japan and their engagement with global currents of thought.