

Asia Talk Series

The Asian Studies Center

cordially invites yo

to a talk by

Professor Shigeto Sonoda

Vice President, Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia
The University of Tokyo

**In Search of Asianization of Sociology:
Some Reflections of
“Frontier of Comparative Studies of Asian Societies (2010-2013)” Project**



Cultural Heritage Museum

Boğaziçi University

30 June 2017, Friday

2:00-4:00 pm

Professor **Shigeto Sonoda** is a professor of comparative sociology and Asian studies at the Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia (IASA) at the University of Tokyo. He has taken initiatives in conducting many international/comparative sociological researches in Asia including *AsiaBarometer* (2003-2008), *Asian Student Survey* (2008/2013), *Japanese Companies in Asia* (1992-2007), and *Four-city Survey in China* (1997-2014). Prof. Sonoda is also serving as Vice President and Deputy Director General of Division for International Affairs (Head of Educational Exchange Section) at the university.

Sociology in Asia, especially in Northeast Asia including South Korea, Taiwan, and China, has developed dramatically during these three decades, but networking among sociologists in Asia is still weak because of dominant positions of US and EU. Asian studies and sociology are apt to be separated from each other, one of whose results is weak connection between “Western theories” and “Asian facts.” It is true that sociology in Asia has witnessed “localization = nationalization” of sociology, but it is still rare for sociologists to refer to their neighboring countries as their source of “sociological imagination.”

The speaker has been making efforts to connect Asian sociologists to promote “Asianization of sociology” through the management of several international projects. In this talk, outline and reflections of “Frontier of Comparative Studies of Asian Societies” (2010-2013) project, which was financially supported by Japan Society for Promotion of Science (JSPS), will be introduced to discuss (1) why collaboration in Asia is necessary, (2) how we can promote such collaboration, (3) what the attainments and challenges of such attempts are, and so on.