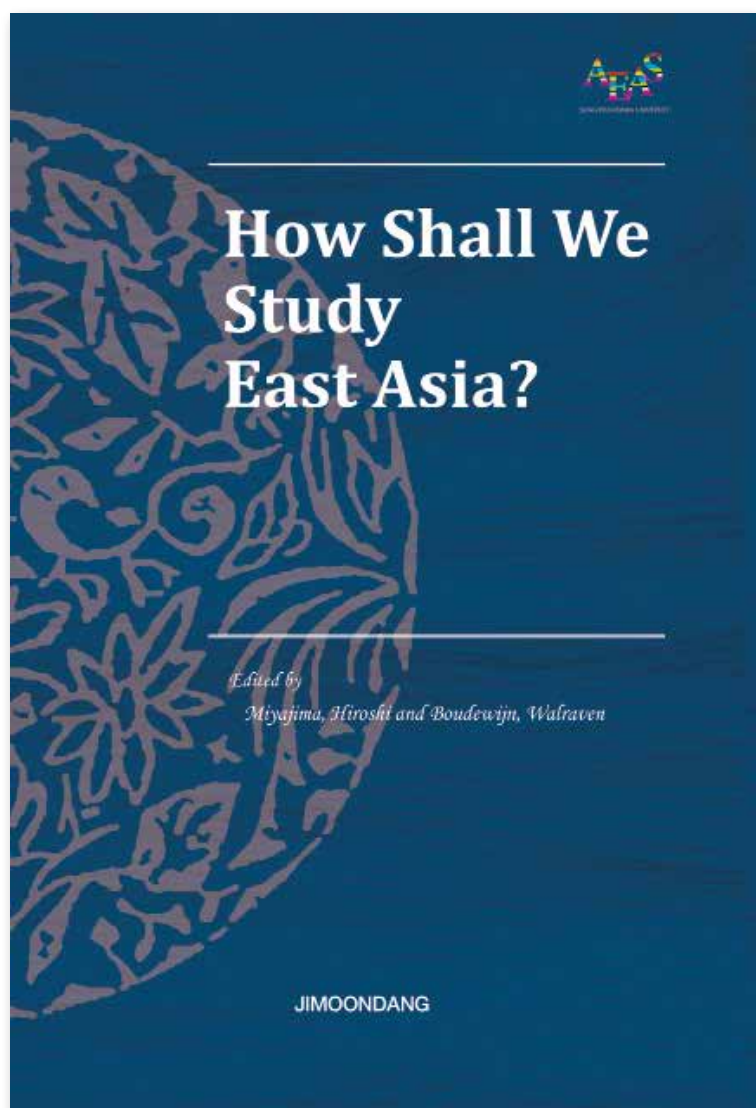


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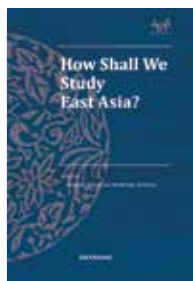
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# How Shall we Study East Asia?

by Miyajima, H. & Walraven, B. (Eds.)

**£45 Softcover; 978-1-931897-08-2**  
225 x 152 mm; 416 pages; 17 monographs

The Academy of East Asian Studies in Sungkyunkwan University aims its focus on a methodological approach to East Asian Studies, rather than simply treating this important and highly influential region simply as a topic of research. In order to clarify the meaning of "East Asia as a method", Professor Miyajima points to some concrete examples in the Preface to this book. In approaching East Asia as a method, the following two points should be kept in mind. Firstly, the issues examined within the framework of this new East Asian studies methodology should have a universal meaning: in other words reach beyond the confines of East Asia. Secondly, the new approach should be informed by a critical reassessment of the conventional framework of East Asian studies.

The most important initial task to undertake in adopting this new methodology to East Asian research and study is to conduct a fundamental review of the conventional binary division of world history into 'modern' and 'pre-modern'. It has long been a convention to take the mid-nineteenth century as the dividing line between the two eras.

Many recent studies on East Asia have revealed that too many subjects within the general field of East Asian history and society cannot be appropriately understood by applying the 'modern versus pre-modern' scheme. Another serious problem caused by the dichotomy of pre-modern and modern is that it has created partitions not only in the fields of research but also more generally in the system of learning and knowledge.

The book is composed of **four sections**. The **first** section, "Questions for East Asian Intellectual History" includes discussions on the methodology for studying East Asia. The **second** section, "The Reinterpretation of Confucian Culture" includes discussions on the problem of which concept of Confucian learning is indispensable to a full understanding East Asia. The **third** section, "Rule and Historical Consciousness" brings to light a wealth of literary sources and their usage in governance of the people throughout East Asian history. The **fourth** and final section, "Memories and Narratives" includes discussions on perceptions and representations of East Asia and Korea seen in literary works and narratives. Needless to say, the originality of individual articles lies with each individual author (all leading scholars in their own fields), yet the collection also reflects the success of fruitful academic debates conducted at the Academy of East Asian Studies of this old and distinguished University. We are looking forward to receiving the comments and criticism of scholars and interested readers around the world.



**Miyajima, Hiroshi** is a Professor Emeritus of Tokyo University and a Special appointed Professor of Sungkyunkwan University. His research focuses on Korean history and Comparative history on East Asia with a special interest in social and economic practices.



**Walraven, Boudewijn** is a Professor Emeritus of Korean Studies of Leiden University and a Distinguished Visiting Professor of Sungkyunkwan University. His research focuses on Korean cultural history with a special interest in religious practices, and Korean historiography.



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