

Professor William Marotti
University of California, Los Angeles

Perceiving Politics: art, protest, and everyday life in early 1960s Japan

December 2
17:00, Rooms 8/9
Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

William Marotti is a specialist in modern Japanese history. He received his doctorate in 2001 from the University of Chicago's Department of East Asian Civilizations and Cultures. Prior to joining the UCLA faculty, Professor Marotti participated from 2001 to 2003 in the Project on the Cold War as Global Conflict at New York University's International Center for Advanced Studies (as a Woodrow Wilson Postdoctoral Fellow), and from 2003 to 2004 in the Expanding East Asian Studies project (ExEAS) of the Weatherhead East Asian Institute at Columbia University. From 2004 to 2006, he taught as a Visiting Assistant Professor in the History department at UC Santa Cruz. His major research project to date culminated in his book, *Money, Trains and Guillotines: Art and Revolution in 1960s Japan* (Duke University Press, 2013)([UCLA press release here](#)). The study addresses the politics of culture and everyday life in Japan in the early 1960s, explored through a focus upon transformations in avant-garde artistic production and performance. The book examines the advent of this art-based activism in Japan in the late 1950s and early 1960s in its complex relation with an internationalized art world, mass culture, domestic protest movements, and evolving forms of state practice, law, and surveillance. It reflects upon the significance of this history for understanding the 1960s as a global moment, and the particular role of art and performance in these transformations. Professor Marotti's current project follows this work with an expanded consideration of the politics of the 1960s in Japan, and their articulation with the global phenomena of the decade.

The seminar is made possible by a generous grant from the Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation