Revisiting Okinawa after 70 Years: Retracing a Sad Reality

This presentation will address the question of dealing with war guilt and post-traumatic stresses caused by the war in the Pacific during the Second World War. In particular, it will begin with an analysis of the literature addressing Okinawa and the final days of fighting there; and try to bring the perspective of the US military who fought there and that of the Okinawans who lived there together. Then, the presentation will examine the place of this topic in college courses on World War II and peace studies. It will include a "reception" analysis from the perspective of twenty-first century students, many of whom are members of the US military themselves.