

2020

**HISTORY
MEETS
HUMANITY**

Past & Present Issues: Japanese Military Sexual Slavery

Keynote Speaker

Michelle Kang

Student at Etobicoke School of the Arts

Bayview Secondary School, YRDSB

April 29th 2020

HAP Art Contest | "Descent" by Charisma Panchapakesan, 2015



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for more information.

CONFERENCE ON WWII IN ASIA FOR GRADES 10-12 STUDENTS



HMH WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

Workshop Facilitators

Judy Cho

Program Director

The Road to Justice: Apology and Reconciliation for the Former “Comfort Women”

This workshop will present and contextualize Japan’s movements toward, and away from, redress for former “comfort women”. Drawing on government documents, scholarly research, and victim testimony, we will trace the paths leading up to the present. The tensions around justice, state apology, and official reparations will be highlighted, with governmental statements contrasted by voices of activists, advocates, and the former “comfort women” themselves. This workshop will challenge the audience to consider what justice looks like and how it plays out, and to think creatively about how reconciliation might finally be achieved.

Carolina Ruiz

*Research & Resource
Development Associate*

Intersections of Race and Gender: Japanese Military Sexual Slavery during WWII

Women and girls of different nationalities were placed under Japan’s system of Military Sexual Slavery during WWII in "Comfort Stations" all over the Asia Pacific. Using select case studies, this workshop encourages students to reflect about the links and the juxtaposition of decades-long silence of the “comfort women” with the recent rise of the #metoo movement. Students are invited to reflect on how racial discrimination and stereotypes continue to shape perceptions about rape and sexual harassment victims, as well as influence which victims’ stories are featured prominently and receive most media attention.

Mitchell Wilson

*Education
Program Associate*

Intergenerational Trauma and Complexities of Reconciliation

Using primary source documents and interactive activities, the workshop will focus on the impact the Japanese Military Sexual Slavery (JMSS) had on the victims and survivors. By investigating survivor testimonies, students will examine how poverty, class, race and other aspects of identity affected the “comfort women” who were deceived, taken and forced into the JMSS system. In addition, the lack of redress and the trauma the “comfort women” experienced are explored. Students will gain a greater understanding of intergenerational trauma and issues of reconciliation