

**Bio**

Eiko Namiki obtained her Ph.D. from International Christian University (Tokyo, Japan) in 2021. Currently, she is a Doctoral Research Fellow at International Christian University. Also, she is an Adjunct Instructor at Waseda University. Her research field is modern Shinto, in particular Honda Spiritual Learning and its practices.

**Title**

Oracles as Seen in the Historical Documents of the Shinto Miho Church

**Abstract**

This presentation will discuss the religious activities of the Shinto Miho Church (1890s-1926), a devotional society connected to the Miho Shrine and its priest Miyagishima Kinsaku (sobriquet, Uchū; 1873-1921). It will be based on source materials recently discovered at the home of the Miyagishima family, a clan whose members used to serve as priests of the Miho Shrine (located in present day Shimizu Ward, Shizuoka City, Shizuoka Prefecture). It will examine their practice of oracles and their exorcistic method of “prohibiting and expelling” (kin'en hō). Miyagishima Kinsaku was a priest who was able to perform the spirit possession method of “making spirits return” (kishin hō) which was advocated by the Esoteric Shintoist Honda Chikaatsu (1822-1899). Kinsaku was the first priest gifted in such a way to be discovered and recruited by the Miho Shrine's head priest Nagasawa Katsutate (1858-1940), who was a pupil of Honda Chikaatsu. After the Meiji Restoration, the Miyagishima family lost the status it once held as a regional priestly family but sought to retain prominence by forming the Shinto Miho Church. Through an examination of oracle transcripts preserved among the source materials of the Shinto Miho Church, this presentation will shed light on the religious practices by which it responded to the needs of the common people.