

PUBLIC LECTURE

No War, No Peace, No Incentives: Political, Economic and Strategic Bases of Inertia in Russian-Japanese Reconciliation

by Peter W. Richardson, Ph.D.

Despite the end of World War II seventy years ago, Russia and Japan have not signed a peace treaty terminating hostilities from that conflict. The absence of de jure diplomatic normalization persists largely because of ongoing dispute of ownership of the southern Kuril Islands – seized from Japan by the Soviet Union in August 1945. Notwithstanding these obstacles, the two countries expanded relations in political, economic and strategic spheres and abstained from military confrontation for seven decades. Although such accomplishments are notable given the circumstances, bilateral ties are neither exceptional nor indicative of normalization through 2050. The relationship constitutes one of “no war, no peace” and there exists little incentive for genuine reconciliation.



Boston Public Library – Brighton Branch
40 Academy Hill Rd., Brighton MA 02135
(Monday) May 9, 2016
6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
(30-minute lecture, 30-minute audience Q & A)

Dr. Peter W. Richardson received his Ph.D. in Political Science from Northeastern University in 2011 with a specialization in Russian foreign policy in Asia-Pacific. He recently has presented papers on Russian-Japanese relations at the International Studies Association 2015 ISSS-ISAC Joint Annual Conference in Springfield, MA and Northeastern Political Science Association 2015 Annual Conference in Philadelphia, PA – and was nominated for a “best paper” award at the latter. As an adjunct professor in the Northeastern University College of Professional Studies (NU CPS) M.S. in Global Studies and International Relations Program since July 2012, Dr. Richardson has instructed graduate courses on conflict resolution, international terrorism and nuclear nonproliferation. He was nominated for the Excellence in Teaching Award at NU CPS in Spring 2015. Happily married in August 2015, Dr. Richardson and his wife, Meredith, live in Brighton.

