

INSTITUTIONAL LOGIC AND SOCIAL CHANGE: THE U.S. ARMY AND 'THE PROBLEM OF RACE' DURING THE US WAR IN VIETNAM

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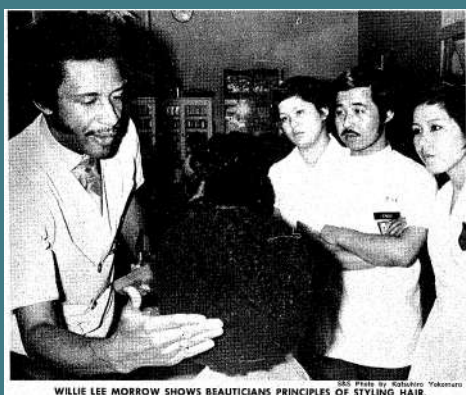
12/20 6:00-7:30PM

WEDNESDAY

Collaboration Room 3, 4th floor, Building 18,
Komaba Campus

駒場キャンパス 18号館 4階コラボレーションルーム 3

* Lecture and discussions in English * No prior registration required



Abstract

In the late 1960s, the U.S. Army confronted what some characterized as an internal “war” — a level of racial violence that senior army leaders believed threatened its ability to provide for the defense of the nation. Given the high stakes of the problem, army leaders pursued multiple solutions, including some that were in tension with the usual practices, values, and institutional logic of the army. In an era of cultural nationalism, as young African American soldiers demanded recognition of black identity and symbols of black pride, army leaders accommodated the fundamental point of contestation: that black racial identity mattered. I will discuss the Army’s institutional attempts to manage “the problem of race” by tracing struggles over hair, as black soldiers demanded the right to signal racial identity and army leaders struggled to fit those demands into an institution structured around uniformity, universally applicable regulations, hierarchy, discipline, and order.



The University of Tokyo

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