



## 異文化コミュニケーション学会 SIETAR Japan New Year Program

We are pleased to inform you that SIETAR Japan is holding its first program of the new year on Saturday, January 20, 2024. The program will feature an author and columnist Baye McNeil, who has given numerous talks and workshops on the black experience in Japan, race issues, reducing presumptions, and diversity & inclusiveness in Japan, at universities, companies, and organizations throughout Japan. We look forward to welcoming you all to this interactive yet thought-provoking workshop!

**Date and Time:** Saturday, January 20, 2024, 14:00-16:00

**Method:** Face-to-face

**Venue:** Toyo University, Hakusan Campus, 5 Chome-28-20 Hakusan, Bunkyo City, Tokyo 112-0001  
(Lecture hall: 8 B11 - Basement floor of the main building across the cafeteria – Building no 8)

**Language:** English

**Access map:** <https://www.toyo.ac.jp/about/introducing/access/>

### **【Registration fee and application】**

Please register through Peatix.

Peatix: <https://sietar20240120.peatix.com>

Tickets:

Members: 1500 yen

Non-Members: 2000 yen

Students: 250 yen

(We will contact those who have completed their registration with further details.)

The workshops will be followed by a New Year's party in Hakusan from around 5:00 pm. Please join us there as well.

### **Bio**

Baye McNeil is an author and columnist, born and raised in Brooklyn, NY. He's the author of two critically acclaimed books on life as a non-Japanese / person of African descent living in Japan. He's a columnist for both the Japan Times and Toyo Keizai, where he profiles people of color from the African continent and the African diaspora, as well as shares his own reflections on living in Japan while black and on current events. He also lectures and conducts workshops on the black experience in Japan, race issues, reducing presumptions, and diversity & inclusiveness in Japan, at universities, companies, and organizations throughout Japan. He has also spearheaded activism in Japan, including a successful petition to preempt the airing of a blackface minstrel show on FUJI-TV, in 2015, and took NIPPON-TV to task in 2018 for having a famous comedian perform in blackface on their most viewed program of the year. He's been profiled in many publications including the NY Times and has done Op-Eds for several including the Washington Post. He currently resides with his wife in Tokyo.

### **Workshop Title: Reducing Presumptions in our Everyday Lives: Why does it matter?**

The goal of this workshop is to examine the presumptions we make about other people, particularly people

of another race, ethnicity, or nationality (but also others of a similar background). As Japanese society continues to globalize, and as opportunities to interact with non-Japanese increase, it would be useful for people to prepare themselves for the challenges to come. And one of these challenges will be building relationships with non-Japanese through effective and presumption-free communication. I'll be introducing different phases of the discussion with anecdotes illustrating how presumptions play out in the real world and how they pose significant problems. Some reasons people might find this workshop useful: A- For example, if you're looking to work for an international company where you'll be expected to communicate and build relationships with non-Japanese. B- Or students might participate in an exchange or homestay program. C- Since the pandemic emergency ended, tourism has been on the rise in Japan, and thousands of foreigners will likely be roaming around Japan. D- Or perhaps your company will send you abroad to work in their overseas office. E- Even some companies here in Japan, like Rakuten, and most recently Honda have set English as their official language to strengthen their positions in the global marketplace. Of course, they'll be looking to hire people with minds prepared for globalization. F- Reducing the presumptions that we make will help us achieve a more globalized outlook and open our minds to unlimited opportunities.

Please contact:

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