“Not a Dissolution, but a Rejuvenation”

~Restoring the Ainu Culture, Identity, and Community in Greater Tokyo~

Lecture by Dr. Yoshiko Kayano, Meisei University

The Ainu, indigenous to northern Japan, were deprived of their ancestral land by the Meiji Government in its process of colonization and reclamation in the late nineteenth century. A long oppression, forced assimilation, and destruction of natural environment followed. Later on, many Ainu migrated to Greater Tokyo, turning their back on their Ainu identity. However, they eventually started to gather and restore their culture, identity and community in the mainstream Japanese society, away from their ancestral land. Dr. Kayano addresses how they have made it possible, what she has learned from them about their rich cultural tradition abundant with old ecological knowledge and wisdom, and what difficulties they are still facing.

Tuesday, February, 8th
6:00-7:30PM
Smith Student Union 238