

# “The Happiest Land of them All” Uchimura Kanzō and how Denmark became a role model for Japan

The purpose of this talk is to conduct a trans-cultural study that transcends the framework of common acknowledged ideas. Central here will be Uchimura Kanzō 内村鑑三(1861-1930) and his book “The Story of the Land of Denmark” (Denmaruku-koku no hanashi デンマルク国の話, 1911). The story of Denmark as “the happiest country in the world,” has been told again and again both in national but also international medias. But, where does this story of “the happy country Denmark” come from? And to what extent does this narrative correspond with reality? Furthermore, to what extent did scholars complicit in the creation of this narrative and how and why have scholars perpetuated this narrative ever since? These questions and many more will be explored in this talk.

## Dr. Esben Petersen

Lecturer, Ritsumeikan University



# Saturday July 2, 2022

【Kyoto, Japan】 13:30-15:00

**ZOOM Platform** with registration  
organized by CISMOR, Doshisha University

【Language】 English only, No interpretation

【Program】 13:30-13:35 Opening Remarks  
13:35-14:35 Lecture Dr. Esben Petersen  
14:35-15:00 Discussion