Prof. Ambaras will be discussing his newly-published book and its vivid accounts of encounters between Chinese and Japanese people living at the margins of empire that elucidate Sino-Japanese relations in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Ambaras explores mobility in East Asia through the histories of often ignored categories of people, including trafficked children, peddlers, ‘abducted’ women and a female pirate, to reveal the shared experiences of the border populations of Japan and China. Such mobility not only destabilized the state’s policing of geographical borders and social boundaries, but also stimulated fantasies of furthering imperial power, fundamentally shaping the territorial boundaries that defined Japan’s imperial world and continue to inform present-day views of China.