



Robert D. Eldridge, Ph.D. Bio

Dr. Eldridge serves as an advisor to numerous regional organizations on matters of international security, development, trade, alliance management, disaster response, international education, and human rights, and is affiliated with several think tanks, including the Institute of International Public Policy and the Japan Forum for Strategic Studies, both in Tokyo, Hosei University's Institute of Okinawan Studies, and Okinawa International University's Institute of Law and Politics. Effective October 2017, he was named the International Exchange Ambassador for Taka Town, in Hyogo Prefecture, Japan, where he first served as an Assistant English Teacher on the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program(me) from 1990-1992.

A native of the United States, Dr. Eldridge earned his Ph.D. in Political Science from Kobe University in 1999, and taught International Public Policy at Osaka University's School of International Public Policy from 2001 to 2009, with a focus on international security and bilateral disaster response. He then joined the U.S. Department of Defense as the Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff, Marine Corps Bases Japan, and served in that capacity until 2015, where he implemented alternative approaches to community relations, public diplomacy, and alliance management based on transparency, dialogue, and pro-active outreach. During that time, he served as the political advisor for the forward-deployed command of U.S. Forces Japan after the March 2011 disaster, and launched the Disaster Cooperation Program in the months after the disaster to build cooperative relations between local communities and the U.S. Marine Corps in preparation for the next major disaster. Upon leaving DOD, he established his own institute and consulting firm, and continues to assist the stricken area as the founder of the Oshima Children's Fund. He regularly speaks at international academic conferences and Track II meetings, as well as a guest commentator on television and radio, and has won several awards for his public service and writings, including the prestigious the Suntory Academic Award (2003), Prime Minister Nakasone Yasuhiro Award (2012), and Ohira Masayoshi Award (2016).

He is the author of dozens of books and hundreds of articles and op-eds on U.S.-Japan relations, Okinawa, and Japanese politics, including *The Origins of the Bilateral Okinawa Problems: Okinawa in Postwar U.S.-Japan Relations, 1945-1952* (Routledge, 2001), *Secret Talks Between Tokyo and Washington: The Memoirs of Miyazawa Kiichi, 1949-1954* (Lexington Books, 2007, translation), *Japanese Public Opinion and the War on Terrorism* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2008, co-edited with Paul Midford), *An Inoffensive Rearmament: The Making of the Postwar Japanese Army* (Naval Institute Press, 2013, edited memoirs of Colonel Kowalski), *Japan's Backroom Politics: Factions in a Multiparty Age* (Lexington, 2013, trans.), *The Diplomatic History of Postwar Japan* (Routledge, 2010, trans.), *The Origins of U.S. Policy in the East China Sea Islands Dispute: Okinawa's Reversion and the Senkaku Islands* (Routledge, 2014), *Megaquake* (Potomac, 2015, trans.), *The Prime Ministers of Postwar Japan: Their Lives and Times* (Lexington, 2016, trans.), and *The Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force: The Search for Legitimacy* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2017, co-edited with Paul Midford), and *Changing Security Policies in Postwar Japan: The Political Biography of Sakata Michita* (Lexington, 2017, trans). Other recent books include one about the lessons on the Great East Japan Earthquake and a book about the Marine Corps' assistance during the earthquake and the emotionally-riveting relationship established with the affected communities. He is currently working on books about the reversion of Okinawa, crisis management in alliance affairs, the contemporary aspects of the Senkakus issue, and a translation of a book about the problems facing the SDF, among other projects.

Dr. Eldridge resides in Hyogo Prefecture with his wife and two children, and can be reached at robert@reedintl.com.