



SOAS Japan Research Centre

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'The JRC is committed to support and enable research in the broadest possible sense. In the coming academic year we will not only host academics to talk about their research, but also curators, visual artists, musicians, dancers and writers.'

As we begin a new academic year I take this opportunity to thank all our JRC members, associates, visiting scholars and funding bodies that help us to maintain the JRC as a dynamic space of conversation and exchange.

We kicked off the last academic year with the 14th Annual Meiji Jingu Autumn Lecture, given by Professor Jolyon Baraka Thomas from the University of Pennsylvania. Entitled "The Allied Occupation of Japan, Religious Freedom, and Japanese Public Schools" it was the first of these lectures that was delivered online to a large audience. The Wednesday Seminar series likewise continued online every two weeks with topics ranging from the history of chemistry and family planning in Japan, to the materiality of Buddhist statues, to recent developments in social robotics and cryptocurrency. All of these were recorded and made available online. The Japan Research Centre also hosted a research exchange workshop for the visiting scholars followed

by a well-attended dinner event (konshinkai).

Thanks to the generous contributions of the Meiji Jingu Intercultural Research Institute and the Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation we continue to offer scholarships that help us to educate the next generation of scholars doing research on all aspects of Japan. Hosting visiting scholars from Japan and elsewhere helps us to create a vibrant multicultural scholarly community right in the heart of Bloomsbury. The following pages will testify to the width and breadth of the scholarly and outreach activities that we host at SOAS. The JRC also continues as the institutional host for the British Association for Japanese Studies and is closely collaborating with the Japanese Embassy to host the Japan English Teaching (JET) departure meetings, this year attended by the Japanese Ambassador, his Excellency Hajime Hayashi.

Our research monograph series SOAS Studies in Modern and Contemporary Japan, in association with Bloomsbury, continues to publish several books annually reflecting the strength and diversity of Japanese Studies scholarship. But not everything is rosy in the realm of Higher Education. The institutional landscape the JRC



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operates in has changed considerably over the last two years. Mounting pressure to be financially sustainable has meant that the number of events that we can realistically run in person had to be reduced. And while the JRC members continue to contribute to scholarship at the highest level, it is also obvious that the Japan expertise at SOAS is under threat as well-established colleagues have retired or left without being replaced with full positions. In light of this it is even more crucial for us to continue our work and to emphasise the importance of Japan. As more countries in the Western world and beyond are starting to experience what it means to have an hyper-ageing population, sharing approaches to care work, welfare, rural depopulation and social care becomes even more pressing. It is my hope that we can all learn from the Japanese experience and that the JRC can act as a hub for information exchange in the debates that will inform the future shape of our societies.

The JRC is committed to support and enable research in the broadest possible sense. In the coming academic year we will not only host academics to talk about their research, but also curators, visual artists, musicians,

dancers and writers. In doing so I hope we can reach out to an interested public beyond a narrow academic frame and engage with the Japan-related communities in London and provide them with a space for their interests.

As chair, my work would be impossible without the support of the JRC Steering Committee: Filippo Cervelli, Alan Cummings, Lucia Dolce, Helen Macnaughtan and Satona Suzuki. I am also indebted to Charles Taillandier-Ubsdell and Angelica Baschiera without whom the JRC activities would not run as smoothly as they do. I am particularly grateful to all those who continue to generously support our activities and we continue to encourage financial support through our JRC Fuwaku fund initiative. Our Wednesday seminar series is open to the public and we look forward to seeing you in person at SOAS this year for a range of exciting and thought-provoking events. Sign-up to our regular e-bulletins to keep in touch and you won't miss any of our activities!



JRCは、日本国外における日本学専門家の最大規模の組織の一つであり、会員の研究専門分野は人類学、芸術、経済学、地理学、歴史学、文学、法学、メディア学、音楽、言語学、政治学、社会学、と多岐にわたる。

ANTHROPOLOGY

Dr Fabio R GYGI

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One of the largest concentrations of Japan specialists outside Japan

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LINGUISTICS

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Head of Department of Linguistics / Reader in Translation Studies

Expertise: History of Translation Studies in Japan, Intergeneric translations (manga to film), Translation of oral narratives or orality, Cultural translation, The relationship between translation

and power.

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RELIGIONS & PHILOSOPHIES

Dr Lucia DOLCE

Numata Professor of Japanese Buddhism

Expertise: Japanese religious history, especially the medieval period; Japanese Tantric Buddhism and the esotericisation of religious practice; Millenarian writings and prophecy; Kami-Buddhas associations
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JRC Steering Committee Members

- Dr Filippo Cervelli, Lecturer in Modern and Contemporary Japanese Literature
- Dr Alan Cummings, Senior Lecturer in Japanese Studies (Education)
- Dr Lucia Dolce, Numata Reader in Japanese Buddhism
- Dr Fabio Gygi, Lecturer in Anthropology / Chair, Japan Research Centre
- Dr Helen Macnaughtan, Senior Lecturer in International Business and Management (Japan)
- Dr Satona Suzuki, Lecturer in Japanese and Modern Japanese History (Education)
- Charles Taillandier-Ubsdell, Executive Officer, Centres and Institutes



Satona SUZUKI

Lecturer in Japanese and Modern Japanese History



In the academic year 2021-22, Satona contributed to many media projects, e.g. BBC Radio 4 interview on *1922: The Birth of Now* and Channels Business Global interview on PM Kishida Fumio's new policies. She was also invited by Asia Society Switzerland to participate in "Oxford Debate: Patriarchy is everywhere, the big problem is institutions," and won the debate with her teammate.

Satona continued to be involved in the UKRI/AHRC-funded research project, *Cultural Translation and the Interpretation of Covid-19 Risks Among London's Migrant Communities*, led by Dr Nana Sato-Rossberg. She participated, co-chaired and spoke at the symposium, workshop and conferences as a researcher of the Japanese community in London.

Also, as requested by The Royal Opera House, Satona provided consultations for the revival of *Madame Butterfly*, especially around the historical context of late-nineteenth-century Japan, i.e., imperialism, orientalism and sexism. She also helped curate an exhibition and wrote a piece for the show's programme, *Caught in the Vortex of Imperialism: the Emergence of Modern Japan*. She was also invited to participate in Insight Day at the Royal Opera House.

Finally, Satona was involved in *The 17th Japanese Speech Contest for University Students* as a BATJ steering committee member, preparing the event, assessing the students and operating the contest on the day.

ARTICLES

- Suzuki, S (2021) "Japan: what are the chances of a woman becoming prime minister in a deeply patriarchal society?" *The Conversation*, September 9
- Suzuki, S (2021) "Did the Attack on Pearl Harbor Cost the Axis Powers the War?" *History Today*, Volume 71
- Suzuki, S (2022) "The Emergence of Modern Japan" *Modern History Review*, (24) 4

Fabio GYGI

Lecturer in Anthropology



As chair of the JRC, Fabio has had a busy and productive year. Starting off with the Meiji Jingu Annual lecture given by Professor Jolyon Thomas, the JRC has hosted a number of academic talks focussing around science and technology in Japan and a research workshop for the visiting scholars. From April to September, he was an FFJ fellow at the École des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS) in Paris, researching human-robot interactions cross-culturally.

He gave a talk on the productive death of terminal commodities at the University of Bristol (March 22, 2022) and has presented a paper on Awashima Kangetsu at the JAWS conference in Barcelona (July 6-9). A lecture entitled "Hoarding and Dan-Sha-Ri: What Clutter Can Tell Us about the World, Human Relationships and Everyday Life" organised by the British Council in China has been viewed by 13'000 people in a month. He has been awarded a British Academy Small Grant for a project called "Doll Euthanasia: Anticipating one's own death through rites of disposal in Japan".

ARTICLES

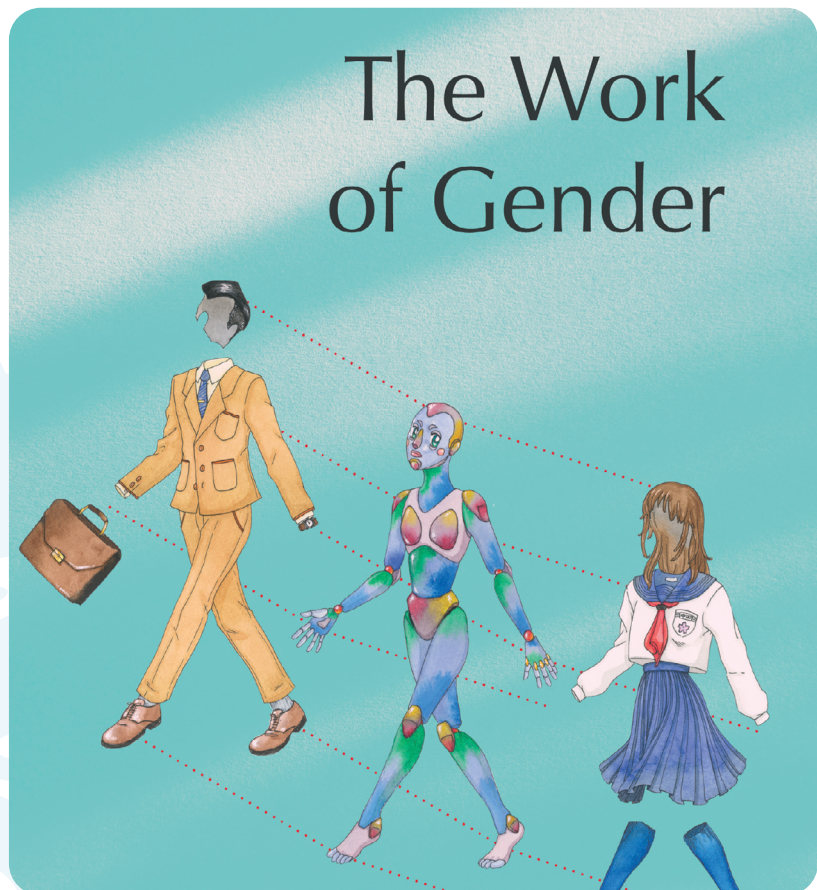
- Gygi, F. (2022). Falling in and out of love with stuff: Affective affordance and horizontal transcendence in styles of decluttering in Japan. *Japanese Studies*, 1-18
- Gygi, F. (2022). Social dreaming in Japan: Some thoughts on sharing dreams as a form of experiential learning. *Tokyo University of Foreign Studies Japan Studies Review*, 2, 1-11

BOOKS

- Gygi, F. and Hansen, G. (2022). *The Work of Gender: Service, Performance and Fantasy in Contemporary Japan*. Copenhagen: NIAS Press.

CHAPTERS IN EDITED BOOKS

- Gygi, F. (2022). The Great Heisei Doll Massacre: Disposal and the Production of Ignorance in Contemporary Japan. In: *Buddhism and Waste: The Excess, Discard, and Afterlife of Buddhist Consumption*, edited by Trine Brox & Elizabeth Williams-Oerberg. London: Bloomsbury, 103-124





Lucia DOLCE
Numata Professor of
Japanese Buddhism



As a member of an international research project on Comparative Metaphysics Lucia took part in the first in-person conference of the project at Cumberland Lodge, Windsor, in September 2021. She has presented on Japanese Buddhism at the monthly meetings of the group and will join the project's pre-publication conference in September 2022. In November Lucia gave a talk on "Hells, prophets and the end of time in medieval Japanese Buddhism" at the Conference on Dante in Dialogue with East Asian Buddhism at UCLA. In December she was a speaker on research agendas in the study of Japanese religion at the training programme for PhDs in Asian studies at the University of Venice.

Among a number of research-related roles, Lucia has been appointed to the National Committee for a new PhD in Religious Studies in Italian universities, to the Advisory Board of the Institute for Asian History of the Austrian Academy of Science, and to the editorial board of Japan Review at Nichibunken. At SOAS, as the Chair of the Centre of Buddhist Studies and of the Centre for the Study of Japanese religions, she has organised the lectures series and seminars of these centres.

Lucia will be on sabbatical from September to December 2022. She will spend most of this time in Japan researching medieval temple archives, hosted by Prof Uejima Susumu at the University of Kyoto. She is the recipient of the 2021-2022 SOAS-MJ research grant, which will support her trip to Japan.

Several publications Lucia worked on last year have finally seen the light this year and three are open sources --do have a look at the books that include the chapters!

ARTICLES

- Dolce, Lucia (2022) "A (Presumably Chinese) Tantric Scripture and Its Japanese Exegesis: The Yuqijing 瑜祇經 and the Practices of the Yogin," *Studies in Chinese Religions*, 8.1 (Special issue: Transmission of Esoteric Buddhism to China and Beyond (III)), pp. 1-32. OPEN SOURCE

CHAPTERS IN EDITED BOOKS

- Dolce, Lucia (2022) "The Abhiṣeka of the Yogin: Bodily Practices and the Interiorization of Ritual in Medieval Japan," in *Rituals of Initiation and Consecration in Premodern Japan: Power and Legitimacy in Kingship, Religion and the Arts*, edited by Fabio Rambelli and Or Porath, Berlin: DeGruyter, pp. 275-325.
- Dolce, Lucia (2022) "Saints, Sects, and (holy) Sites: The Jesuit Mapping of Japanese Buddhism," in *Interactions Between Rivals: The Christian Mission and Buddhist Sects in Japan (c.1549-c.1647)*, Alexandra Curvelo and Angelo Cattaneo eds., Peter Lang, pp. 67-107. (with Ana Fernandes Pinto and Linda Zampol D'Ortia). OPEN SOURCE
- Dolce, Lucia (2021) "...and the zasu changes his shoes: Combinatory Rituals in Contemporary Japan," in *Itineraries of an Anthropologist. Studies in Honour of Massimo Raveri*, Silvia Rivadossi e Giovanni Bulian eds., Venice: Edizioni CaFoscari, 2021, pp. 151-181. OPEN SOURCE Rambelli and Or Porath. Berlin: DeGruyter, pp. 275-325.

Griseldis KIRSCH
Reader in Contemporary
Japanese Culture



On 24 March 2022 Griseldis attended the International Symposium, Decolonisation and the Other at Kobe University, Japan.

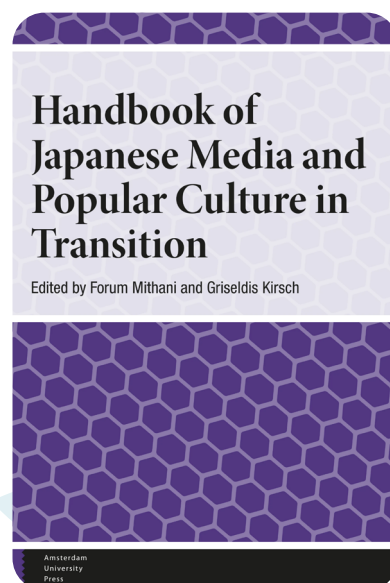
On the 5th-10th July 2022 she attended the JAWS conference Barcelona

BOOKS

- Mithani, F. and Kirsch, G., eds. (2022). *Handbook of Japanese Media in Transition*. Tokyo: MHM Publishing.

CHAPTERS IN EDITED BOOK

- Kirsch, G. (2021). Japan's Charm Offensive: NHK World-Japan and Soft Power. In: *Brook, Thomas and Ohashi, Kantaro*, (eds.), *他者をめぐる人文学 グローバル世界における翻訳・媒介・伝達: Adaptation, Mediation and Communication of Otherness in a Globalizing World: Perspectives from Japan*. Kobe: Kobe University Press, pp 152-166.
- Kirsch, G. (2022). Behind the Voice that Brought Peace: The Emperor as Hero in The Emperor in August (Harada Masato, 2015). In: *Desser, David*, (ed.), *A Companion to Japanese Cinema*. Chichester: Wiley, pp 352-368.
- Kirsch, G. (2022). Imagining Alternative Pasts: Imperial Nostalgia on Japanese Television. In: *Mithani, Forum and Kirsch, Griseldis* (eds.), *Handbook of Japanese Media in Transition*. Tokyo: MHM Publishing.



Filippo CERVELLI

Lecturer in Modern and Contemporary Japanese Literature



Filippo presented his ongoing research projects at a number of international gatherings, both in presence and online. In December, he participated in the 14th Conference of the French Association for Japanese Studies (SFEJ), which had been postponed from the previous year; here, he presented a comparative study on magical realist literature in Abe Kazushige and Gabriel García Márquez, which are part of a current strand of research. Then, in July 2022 he took part in "Gender, Suicide, and Culture", an interdisciplinary online conference organised by the University of Birmingham, where he focused on the relationship between Japanese male writers and suicide, presenting the specific case of Ōe Kenzaburō's 2000 novel "The Changeling", which deals with the alleged suicide of director, and Ōe's own relative, Itami Jūzō. In August, he finally managed to travel to Japan to gather research materials for an upcoming article, and was also invited to give a lecture at Hokkaido University titled "Diversity in Masculinity: Otaku as Alternative Male Identities."

In terms of knowledge exchange, excerpts from his interview appeared in the BBC News article "Anime: How Japanese Animation has taken the West by Storm", published on 26 March 2022. Further, among other publications, in August the interdisciplinary special issue on fictional representations of nerds and loneliness, which he co-edited with Benjamin Schaper (University of Oxford), was published in *Exchanges: The Interdisciplinary Research Journal*.

ARTICLES

- Cervelli, F. (2022). Saved by the Nerd: Otaku and the Space of Family in Summer Wars. *Exchanges: The Interdisciplinary Research Journal*, 9(3), 2022, pp. 203-225.
- Cervelli, F. (2021). Crisis of Time! The Tyranny of the Immediate and Community in Two Literary Works by Takahashi Gen'ichirō. *Japanese Studies*, 41(3), pp. 285-302.
- Cervelli, F. (2021). 4. Shūnen to iu kibō: Abe Kazushige to Usami Rin ni yoru wakamono shōzō [Hope Behind Obsession: Images of Youth in the Works of Kazushige Abe and Rin Usami]. *Nihon bungaku*, 70(10), pp. 22-32.

BOOKS

- Cervelli, Filippo, and Schaper, Benjamin. Special Issue: *The Lonely Nerd. Exchanges: The Interdisciplinary Research Journal*, 9(3), 2022.



Helen MACNAUGHTAN

Senior Lecturer in International Business & Management



Helen is Co-Editor (together with JRC Research Associates Dr Verity Postlethwaite and Dr Emily Chapman) of a forthcoming 'Handbook of Sport in Japan' contracted by MHM Japan Documents Publishing. This Handbook is an exciting collaboration of 20 chapters documenting the historical development of various key sports in Japan, concentrating on themes such as culture, gender, media, mega-events and diplomacy. The Handbook will incorporate Helen's previous research on women's volleyball and the Tokyo 1964 Olympics in Japan as well as her current research on the corporate history of men's rugby in Japan and the 2019 Rugby World Cup. Helen is grateful to the Toshiba International Foundation for their support of this project and the receipt of a grant for a broader project on "Sport & Japan: the global, social, and economic significance of sport". This project will research and document Japan's long history and engagement with sport, from the Meiji period until the present day reflecting the important historical, cultural and social position of sport in Japan.

Barbara PIZZICONI

Reader in Applied Japanese Linguistics



In July 2022, with dread and delight in equal measure, Barbara returned to in-person conferencing. She physically travelled to Ghent, Belgium, and delivered a paper by the title 'Im/politeness studies: the pros and cons of having a field', at the Colloquium "20 years (further) on: Whither politeness studies now?", within the Sociolinguistic Symposium SS24. The point discussed was that having a named field benefits research by enhancing a phenomenon's visibility and hence the discourse about it, but a broad and ill-defined label may seamlessly promote unwarranted generalizations and ontological fallacies - something which is observable indeed in (Japanese) Im/Politeness research. International collaborations continue (mostly online) with a research network on Intercultural Mediation, and a joint project on Japanese Modality.

ARTICLES

- Pizziconi B., Iwasaki N. (2022) Friends as mediators in study abroad contexts in Japan: Negotiating the understanding of Japanese culture, *Language Learning Journal* DOI:10.1080/09571736.2022.2098367

CHAPTERS IN EDITED BOOKS

- 2021 Exploring framing categories in language learners' intercultural positioning: 'Asia' and 'the West', in Teaching and learning second language pragmatics for intercultural understanding, McConachy, Troy and Tony Liddicoat (eds.), Routledge, 60-81. DOI: 10.4324/9781003094128-4



TEACHING AND LEARNING SECOND LANGUAGE PRAGMATICS FOR INTERCULTURAL UNDERSTANDING

Edited by Troy McConachy and Anthony J. Liddicoat



Natsuko SHIBATA PERERA

Lecturer in Japanese and Language Acquisition



As the leader of the project, Drama for All Japanese Language Learning, I entered the third consecutive year of receiving fund from the Japan Foundation. Thanks to the Sakura Network fund between 2019-2020 and the Japanese Language Local Project Support Program fund in 2020-21 and now 2022-23, we have been able to invite renowned scholars from UK, including Dr Neelands from Warwick Business School, Dr. Owens from University of Chester, Dr McGuinn from York University, and impro applied drama performers from Japan through the Japanese Centre of International Theatre Institute. We are planning to expand the scope of the project this year to include art-based education by inviting a professor from Musashino Art University with an artist from Korea-France and a US scholar about Japanese Kamishibai tradition.



I organised three workshops for Drama for All Japanese Language Learning, funded by the Japan Foundation. We invited Dr Allan Owens (University of Chester) and Mr Yosuke Ohashi from Japan for the workshop titled "Applied Drama for Language Learning," Ms Elica Miwa (Committee member of the Japanese Centre of International Theatre Institute) for an Impro workshop, and Dr Nicholas McGuinn (University of

York) for the workshop titled "So That Unexplored Beauty Can Be Created -Enacting Citizenship through Drama." We recognised increased interest in drama and citizenship in language education.

ARTICLES

- Perera, N. (2022). Reflecting on Drama Practice and the Learning Community of Teachers. *BATJ Journal*. (forthcoming)
- Perera, N., Conway, S., Gould, A., and Hart, V. (2022). Covid –A Catalyst for Collaboration in Teaching Enhancement. *The Papers of the Japanese Language Teaching Association 30th Anniversary Special Issue: Japanese Language Teaching in Post Covid Era –From Perspectives of Instructional Design*, 30, pp. 85-104.

Akiko FURUKAWA

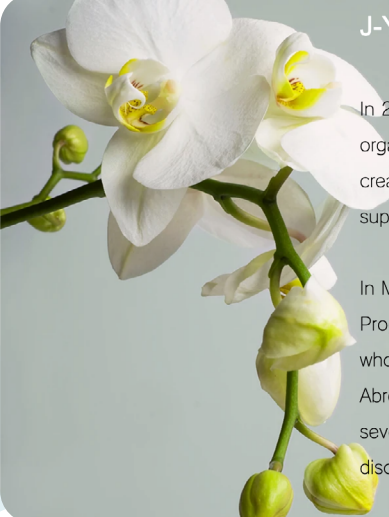
Reader in Japanese and Applied Linguistics



After the successful year of the J-YAP IUSP (Japan Year Abroad Programme, Inter-University Support Programme) in 2020-2021, led by Dr Akiko Furukawa, this undertaking was awarded a further grant until March 2022 by the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Embassy of Japan in the UK. This is a 'virtual year abroad' programme for university students across the UK whose Year Abroad was cancelled due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and it continued to offer a large number of free sessions

in Japanese language, culture, Japanese Studies, language exchange and career talks by graduates and employees of FCDO. It successfully created valuable networks for students who lost such opportunities due to the pandemic. This year the number of participating universities (both British and Japanese) expanded and an increase in the number of students from Japanese universities opened up the opportunities for more student-centred sessions. Since the start of the programme, we have had some 760 total attendees to the sessions. Students are at the very long last allowed to study abroad in Japan. However it is likely that we will find ourselves in a similar situation as the

current pandemic in the future, such as natural disasters. It is hoped that J-YAP IUSP will be able to respond to further emergencies promptly and effectively via this unprecedented collaboration of various UK universities (Cardiff, Durham, Edinburgh, Keele, Leeds, Newcastle, Regents, London and SOAS). (See <https://japaneseyearabroad.wixsite.com/jyap2/j-yap-inter-university-support-proj> for more information.) The J-YAP IUSP member presented a paper and delivered a workshop in the BATJ Conference in 2021 and presented another in a panel discussion in the AJE Symposium at Leiden University in August 2022.



J-YAP Inter-University Support Programmeについて

In 2016, a conference for Japan Year Abroad Programme (J-YAP) Coordinators was organised by the Japan Foundation. Following this conference, the J-YAP network was created for UK university Year Abroad Coordinators to continue to share information and support each other to promote Japan Year Abroad programmes.

In March 2020, four J-YAP members got together to set up an Inter-University Support Programme (IUSP) to provide continued learning opportunities to Year Abroad students who had been forced to leave Japan or been unable to embark on their planned Year Abroad due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Answering calls for support, teachers from seven universities across the UK volunteered to offer lectures/classes, lead group discussions and share teaching materials to help these students.



Timon SCREECH
Emeritus Research Associate



Timon finally left SOAS in August 2021 after 30 years, to take up a permanent post at the International Research Center for Japanese Studies (Nichibunken) in Kyoto. It was a big move and one he never expected to make, but it has been a wonderful experience. He's delighted to be able to retain his link to SOAS, having been made Emeritus, and of course he will hope to be always affiliated with the JRC.


In summer 2021 he was astonished to be offered two major awards. One was the Fukuoka Asia Prize, offered by Fukuoka Prefecture, and awarded in three categories: Academic, Art and Special. Previous Academic winners have been Joseph Needham and Benedict Anderson. Second was the Yamagata Bantō Prize, offered by Osaka Prefecture to a non-Japanese scholar working on Edo, once every three years. A previous winner was our own Peter Kornicki.

While at Nichibunken, he has advanced his project of the deification of Tokugawa Iyasu and the cult of the Tōshō-gū, and hopes to submit a manuscript for publication before 2023.



Detail from the cover of Mishima, Yukio. 2022 (original 1962). Beautiful Star

Stephen DODD
Emeritus Research Associate



Stephen is Visiting Research Scholar at Nichibunken, Kyoto, April 2022 to March 2023, researching on Mishima Yukio. He carried on from previous year as interpreter for online talks (five in total) by Ven. Iizuka Daiko, on the interpretation of the Heart Sutra, sponsored by Shobōan Zen Temple, London. Final talk was on 18 April, 2022.

Stephen gave a talk at Nichibunken on 7 July, 2022, entitled "The Serious and the Shallow: The Task of Translating Yukio Mishima's Life for Sale ('Inochi urimasu')." He is continuing translation of Mishima short stories and novels.

He discussed Mishima's novel, Beautiful Star, on The Spectator Podcast, with Sam Leith, on 27th April 2022.

He also discussed Mishima's novel, Beautiful Star, on BBC Radio Three's Free Thinking, 4th May 2022.

Stephen discussed Japanese literature in general on The Infinite Jigsaw Podcast, with Danny Doran, on 11th July 2022.

BOOKS

- Mishima, Yukio. 2022 (original 1962). Beautiful Star (Utsukushii hoshi, translated by Stephen Dodd). London: Penguin Books.

CHAPTERS IN EDITED BOOKS

- “‘英国圏における三島受容 (Eikokuken ni okeru Mishima juyō).” Tajiri, Y., Dodd, S. and Flanagan, D. in Inoue, T., Kubota,

Y., Tajiri, Y., Fukuda, D. and Yamanaka, T. (eds.), 三島由紀夫小百科 (Mishima Yukio shōhyakka). Tokyo: Suiseisha, 2021, pp 191-197.

- “La translation du modernisme dans ‘La chambre des rêves’ d’Uno Kōji,” in Schaal, S. (ed.), Modan: La ville, le corps et le genre dans le Japon de l’entre-deux-guerres. Paris: Éditions Picquier, 2021, pp 29-41.

Andrew GERSTLE
Emeritus Research Associate



Andrew was on a research trip to Japan in July-August 2022 as an Invited Researcher at Kansai University. He is Co-Investigator on a British Museum led research project: ‘Creative Collaborations: Salons and Networks in Kyoto and Osaka 1780-1880’, funded for three years from Feb 2022 by the UKRI and Japanese JSPS.

CHAPTERS IN EDITED BOOKS

Gerstle, C Andrew, ‘Surimono as Elegant Advertising: Performing Artists and Haikai Poetry’, in the exhibition catalogue, *Salon Culture and the Pictorial Arts of Kyoto and Osaka 2022*.

«Surimono»: artistes vivants et poésie «haikai», online in <https://collections.geneve.ch/mah/publication/surimono-artistes-vivants-et-poesie-haikai>, Exhibition at the Geneva Museum of Art and History, 2022.



The Japanese-inspired roof garden at SOAS, University of London was built during the Japan 2001 celebrations and was officially opened by the sponsor, Mr Haruhisa Handa (Toshu Fukami), an Honorary Fellow of the School, on 13 November 2001. It provides an area away from the noise and bustle of London streets, where visitors can relax and meditate.

The garden is dedicated to Forgiveness, which is the meaning of the Kanji character engraved on the garden's granite water basin.

Peter Swift, a designer with experience of adapting Japanese garden design principles to the British environment and climate, conceived the garden as a place of quiet contemplation and meditation as well as a functional space complementary to the Gallery and its artistic activities.

In 2000 Mr Handa offered to finance the creation of a Japanese-style garden and the designer Peter Swift from Planit EDC Ltd. was engaged to design and implement a suitable scheme.

屋上日本庭園

ロンドン大学SOASの屋上日本庭園は、日本2001記念行事が開催された、2011年の11月に公開されました。SOASの名誉フェローである深見東州氏(本名:半田晴久)がスポンサーを務めました。この庭園は、町の喧騒から離れて、静かな癒しの一時を訪れた人たちに与えてくれます。

The garden was built during the summer of 2001 by Ground Control Ltd., Billericay, Essex with stone supplied by CED Ltd, Thurrock, Essex, and was opened as part of the Japan 2001 celebrations.

The garden

Whether in the rain or the sun, the garden has a lot of character. Its character also changes with the time of day and the season, so it is worth a repeat visit!

Planting has been kept to a minimum, with lemon thyme used in a chequerboard pattern at the north end of the garden and the climbing

wisteria to provide cool shade during the summer. The purple flowers of the wisteria also provide a splash of colour when they bloom in late spring. Various types of stone are used in the garden: a sweeping curve blends the original rectangular sandstone with the irregular green slate; the central area of raked silver grey granite chippings has regular slabs of basaltic rock alluding to a bridge over flowing water; the island stones in the gravel areas are Larvikite from Norway; dark grey pebbles from a contrast in colour and texture to the formal granite edging and to the chequerboard planting.

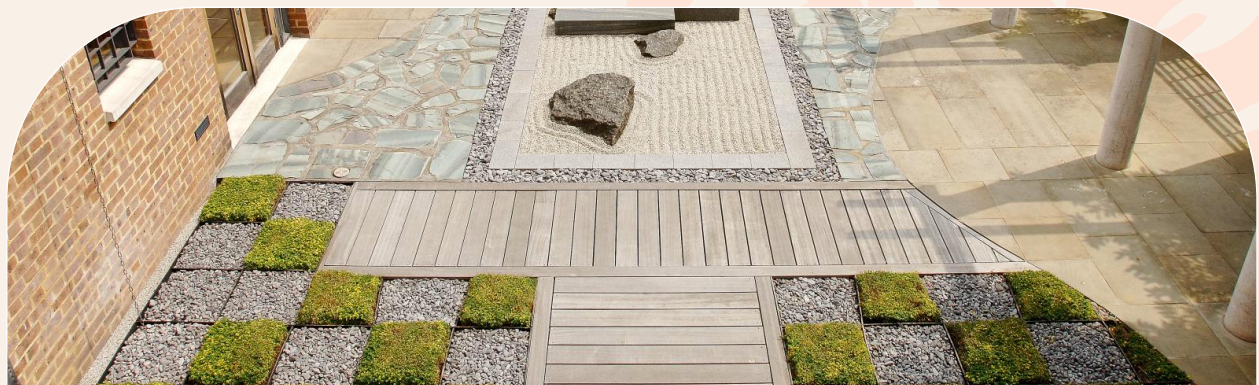
How to find the garden

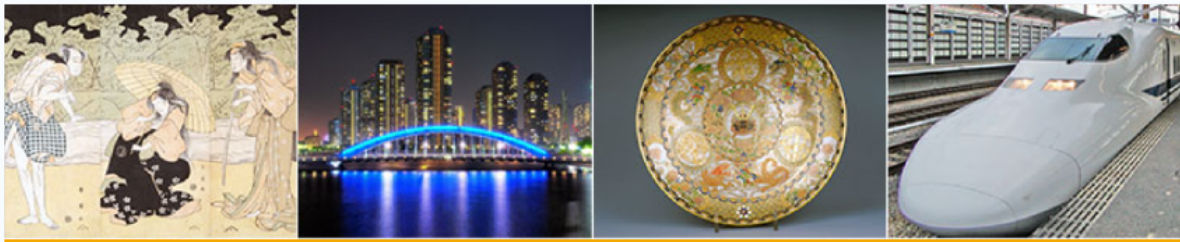
When you are in the SOAS precinct, look for the Brunei Gallery. The garden can be accessed from the first floor of the Gallery, through the exhibitions space.

Opening times

The Roof Garden is open Tuesday to Saturday 10.30am to 5:00pm and late on Thursdays until 8:00pm, except when exhibitions are being changed or during private functions.

For further information, please contact galler@soas.ac.uk





Japan Research Centre

SEMINAR SERIES

AUTUMN TERM

From Early Adopter to Rigorous Regulator: the Case of Cryptocurrency in Japan

20 OCTOBER 2021

Dr Julie Valk (King's College London)



In recent years, cryptocurrency markets and usage have grown across the world. As cryptocurrency becomes increasingly relevant in the financial world and beyond, debate rages about the volatility and adoptability of crypto, and the potential of blockchain technology to revolutionise – or up-end – our existing technological infrastructure. Within this shifting landscape characterised by both enthusiasm and trepidation, Japan presents an interesting case study. Reflecting Japanese openness to new technologies, Japan was an early and enthusiastic adopter of Bitcoin, the earliest cryptocurrency to emerge. A thriving trading and investment market emerged, still very important to this day. But high-profile hacks and concerns over customer safety have prompted stricter regulations for cryptocurrency exchanges where cryptocurrencies are traded. Japanese regulations present a paradox – on the one hand they are upheld as models to emulate in a world

struggling to regulate cryptocurrency, yet their strictness presents potential problem for growth beyond the existing status quo. Within the context of the ESRC project, this talk presents ongoing research on Japan's attitude to cryptocurrency, and the Japanese shift from enthusiastic adopter to cautious regulator.

Body Like Withered Wood and Heart like Dead Ashes. Reconfiguring the Remains of Kamatari's Statue at Tōnomine

3 NOVEMBER 2021

Dr Benedetta Lomi (University of Bristol)

At the beginning of Jōgen 2 (1208), Kinpusen armed troops stormed Tōnomine, setting fire to worship halls and monastic quarters and destroying several sacred items. During the attack, the portrait statue (miei) of Fujiwara Kamatari (614-669) was reduced to ashes and, in the chaos that ensued, these ashes became mixed with rubble and debris. Rumbles coming from the mountain sent a clear sign that a major offence had taken place, leading members of the Fujiwara clan to carry out numerous divinations and launch an investigation into the handling of the incident, all meticulously recorded in the Inokuma Kampaku ki, the personal diary of Konoe Iezane (1179-1243). At the core of the inquiry was the thorny issue of the statue's ashes. Over the course of several months, Fujiwara scholars tried to establish whether the ashes were genuine, whether they should be interred, installed in a newly made statue, or thrown away altogether. To do so, they relied on the help of diviners, investigated illustrious precedents, but also reflected on the nature of the materials involved. What is a miei, and is it replaceable? And what kind of substance ashes are? Simply dead fire or possibly something more?

While these discussions are not surprising, given the notorious complexity of disposing of sacred waste, in this talk, I suggest that such difficulty is linked to the coexistence of multiple understandings of the ontology of sacred materials. These required individuals and institutions to carefully weigh their actions against numerous variables and decide how to proceed depending on the specific circumstances.



Tonomine engi emaki 多武峯縁起絵巻. Property of the Tanzan Shrine and Nara Women's University Academic Information Center.

Family planning in post-WWII Japan through a transnational lens

17 NOVEMBER 2021

Dr Aya Homei (University of Manchester)

“Family planning” (kazoku keikaku), or various efforts made by the government and people to regulate the number of babies born in Japan after the World War II (WWII), has been accounted primarily with a domestic perspective. This talk revisits this nation-centred narrative of family planning by locating the Japanese history in the global population control movement that emerged in the middle of the twentieth century. Specifically, the talk focuses on the birth control pilot projects organized by the Institute of Public Health, which directly influenced the project participants’ reproductive practices as well as the government’s birth control policies in the 1950s. By identifying transnational elements that shaped the flow of money, goods, personnel, and information across Japan, US, India, and other places that shaped the Japanese birth control pilot projects, this talk shows the link between the global population control movement and Japan’s local and national family planning endeavour, thereby adds to the recent historiographical trend that calls for a need to view modern and contemporary Japan through the lens of transnational history.



SPRING TERM

Can robotics-aided care be person-centred? Talk & Film Screening ‘Circuits of Care: Ageing and Japan’s Robot Revolution’

12 JANUARY 2022

Prof Naonori Kodate (University College Dublin) and Prof David Prendergast (Maynooth University)



By 2036, one in three people in Japan will be over the age of 65. While the nation wrestles with a shrinking labour force, the Robot Revolution Initiative was launched to expand robotics into every corner of Japanese economy and society. The session will be kicked off with a short talk from applied social scientist Naonori Kodate, who will share some of his recent research results and set the scene for the film.

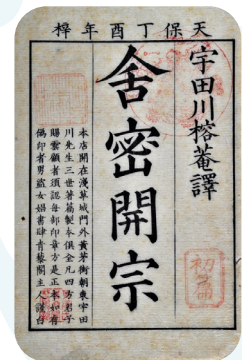
The film ‘Circuits of Care’ follows anthropologist David Prendergast as he meets researchers developing and testing assistive technologies for older adults. From cybernetic walking supports to companion robots and automated sensor networks in nursing homes, older adults and care professionals share their experiences of the practical benefits these technologies bring, the problems they create and the unexpected relationships that can blossom.

Udagawa Youan (1798-1846), Pioneer of Botany and Chemistry Studies in Japan from Western Sources

26 JANUARY 2022

Dr Yona Siderer (Edelstein Center for the History and Philosophy of Science, Technology and Medicine, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

In this article Dr Siderer presented the Japanese book Seimi Kaiso, meaning Introduction to Chemistry, published in Japan between 1836-1847 by the medical doctor and scholar Udagawa Youan. The book was based on his study of and translations from more than twenty four chemistry books from Europe that were imported to Japan by Dutch ships. The books in Dutch, their authors, and their origin from other languages, e.g., Latin, French, Swedish and more was also presented.



Animating Amusement: The Seriousness of Robot Play in Contemporary Japan

9 FEBRUARY 2022

Daniel White (University of Cambridge) and Hirofumi Katsuno (Doshisha University)



Although many robots in Japan are produced for healthcare, they are often first designed for fun. In fact, many engineers in Japan are fond of claiming that their first desire is to create an evocative machine that can attract people’s interest and only second consider such a machine’s applications. Other engineers even claim that robots should be altogether ‘useless’, good for no specific purpose other than amusement. In this presentation, we examine serious engagement in robot play. Drawing on examples from amateur robot builders, pet robots, and the installation of an android bodhisattva at a popular Zen temple, we examine how play and amusement are leveraged to address deeply challenging philosophical questions posed by the increasing rise of machines with artificial intelligence in Japan’s social spaces.

Conceptualizing Robotic Agency: Social Robots in Elder Care in Contemporary Japan

9 MARCH 2022

Dr Anne Aronsson (Yale University)

Japan is a hyper-aging society; it has one of the highest life expectancies in the world and is undergoing a demographic transition that Western nations have yet to experience. The Japanese government is encouraging robotic solutions to address its elder care labor shortage, and authorities have therefore adopted an agenda of introducing social robots. However, increasing numbers of people in Japan are becoming emotionally attached to anthropomorphic machines, and their introduction into elder care may thus be perceived as contentious by elders, caregivers, and family members. By exploring human engagement with social robots in the care context, this presentation argues that rapid technological advances in the twenty-first century will see robots achieve some level of agency, contributing to human society by carving out unique roles for themselves and by bonding with humans. Nevertheless, the questions remain of whether there should be a difference between humans attributing agency to a being and those beings having the inherent ability to produce agency and how we might understand that difference if unable to access the minds of other humans, let alone nonhumans, some of which are not even alive in the classical sense. Using the example of an interaction between an elderly woman and a social robot, I engage with these questions; discuss linguistic, attributed, and inherent agencies; and suggest that a processual type of agency might be most appropriate for understanding human–robot interaction. Machines are already embedded in our lives, but, as we start to treat machines as if they are almost human, we may begin to develop habits that cause us to treat humans as almost machines. We therefore need to consider not only what social robots can do, both now and in the future, but also what humans will become by increasingly forming relationships with machines. I suggest that elderly people can develop an emotional attachment to social robots by attributing agency to them, and, as machine-learning routines grow more sophisticated, those robots will eventually interact with humans in such an insightful way that the division between attributed and inherent nonhuman agency might become meaningless.



Walking the Sutra in Katsuragi, Japan: A Semiotic Theory of Pilgrimage

26 MAY 2022

Dr Tatsuma Padoan (University College Cork)

This presentation will attempt to map the mutual interconnections between ethnography, translation, and pilgrimage from a semiotic perspective, by exploring a mountain ascetic pilgrimage in Katsuragi linked to the twenty-eight sutra mounds of the Lotus Sutra (Katsuragi nijūhasshuku no kyōzuka). In this pilgrimage the twenty-eight chapters of the Mahāyāna Buddhist scripture Lotus Sutra are worshipped at twenty-eight spots, where each chapter is said to have been buried since ancient times, thus inscribing the scripture into the materiality of the landscape. Through an analysis of the contemporary practice and revitalisation of this premodern route by a group of ascetics affiliated to the Tenpōrinji temple on Mt Kongō, I will consider pilgrimage as a process of intersemiotic translation involving body, space, materiality, sacred scriptures, cognitive and affective dispositions of pilgrims. By interpreting the landscape as translation of the Lotus Sutra, ascetics in fact learn how to walk it, through the performance of rituals, mantras, fasting, and other bodily techniques. And they do so by interacting with the material environment, local gods and Buddhist deities who inhabit the landscape, as well as places where the sutra chapters are worshipped as physical relics (shari)



and living presence of the Buddha. To analyse this pilgrimage, we will focus on what I will call its actional spheres—targets, subjects, sources, and evaluators of pilgrimage considered as dynamic positions or “actants” (Greimas 1987; Floch 2000; Fontanille 2007). More specifically, I will examine how these positions are constructed and negotiated by human and nonhuman actors, namely pilgrims, places, institutions, deities, and other entities. By exploring the actional spheres of pilgrimage, and the networks and hierarchies emerging from them, we will see not only how pilgrims constantly translate a Buddhist scripture into a landscape by walking it, but also how they translate ascetic values acquired in the mountains into their everyday lives, at home and at work, in the private and public domains. Finally, I will analyse the role of ethnographers as translators, themselves engaged in making sense of the flow of pilgrimage through their participant observation and their bodily experience of the environment, while learning to perceive a “semiotics of the natural world”.

JRC MEIJI JINGU AUTUMN LECTURE 2021

The Japan Research Centre Meiji Jingu Autumn Lecture is sponsored through the generosity of the Meiji Jingu-Intercultural Research Institute.

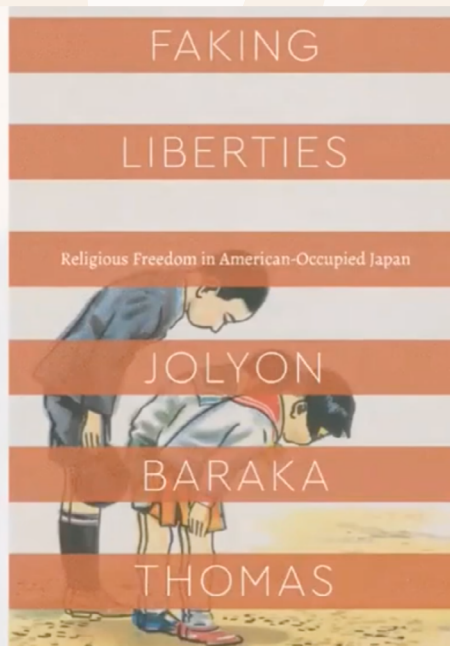
The Allied Occupation of Japan, Religious Freedom, and Japanese Public Schools

6 OCTOBER 2021

Jolyon Baraka Thomas (University of Pennsylvania)

Conventional wisdom has it that the U.S.-led Allied Occupation of Japan (1945–52) brought religious freedom to a theocratic empire. But this tidy narrative overlooks the fact that Japanese people had been refining understandings of their constitutional religious freedom guarantee for decades before the occupiers arrived. By treating the Americans as magnanimous bringers of religious freedom, the conventional story also downplays the fact that the occupiers vehemently disagreed about what counted as religion and how to free it. My alternative account shows that the occupiers and their Japanese interlocutors solved pressing

A Conundrum



administrative and conceptual problems by treating religious freedom not as a civil liberty granted to citizens by their state, but as a universal human right. This newly capacious understanding of personal liberties was rhetorically effective and politically inspiring, but it unfortunately introduced confusion about citizens' social obligations. The confusion was particularly acute in public schools. The postwar constitution prohibited religious instruction, but moral panics about wayward children convinced many observers that schools desperately needed the aid of religion. These longstanding debates over the propriety of morality training and religious instruction constitute an awkward legacy of Occupation-era policy that still impacts education policy in Japan today.

1. **Patriotism:** Make patriotism a matter of "affect" (*kokoro*), not "attitude" (*taido*)
2. **Cultivation of religious sentiment** (*shūkyō teki jōsō no kan'yō*) in moral instruction
3. **Removal of language about "inappropriate control" of education** (Intended to reduce the ability of the Japan Teachers' Union to challenge centralized, top-down decision-making.)



Speaker Biography

Jolyon Baraka Thomas is associate professor of religious studies at the University of Pennsylvania, where he teaches on religion as it relates to media, politics, and the law. He is the author of *Drawing on Tradition: Manga, Anime, and Religion in Contemporary Japan* (2012) and *Faking Liberties: Religious Freedom in American-Occupied Japan* (2019), which won an award for excellence from the American Academy of Religion. He is a member of the Northeast Asia Council of the Association for Asian Studies and serves on the steering committee of the Japanese Religions Unit of the American Academy of Religion.

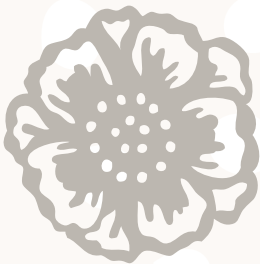




Since September 2017 SOAS has become the institutional home of the British Association for Japanese Studies (BAJS) which was formed in 1974 with the aim to encourage Japanese studies in the UK, in particular by stimulating teaching and research, and has a membership of over five hundred. It is administered by a Council, which is elected at the BAJS Conference. It is funded by an annual subscription from the membership, and all activities (including the Conference) are self-financing. The Association's first Conference was convened in 1975, and following that the BAJS Conference was an annual event. From 2010, the BAJS Conference has been held on a tri-annual basis, alternating with the European Association for Japanese Studies and the Joint East Asian Studies Conferences, with an annual workshop held during the other two years.

If you want more information about BAJS work please contact the Association's secretary, Mara Patessio: bajs@bajs.org.uk or visit www.bajs.org.uk

Dr Mara Patessio. Mara has a Ph.D. from Cambridge University in Japanese modern history and has taught Japanese history in London and Manchester before being hired by BAJS and joining SOAS in September 2017.



2022 JAPAN FOUNDATION AND BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR JAPANESE STUDIES (BAJS) WORKSHOP

This year's annual workshop aimed to assist the development of the next generation of Japanese Studies researchers and to provide networking opportunities to strengthen Japanese Studies in the UK.

The workshop provided opportunity for participants to present their current research projects and receive feedback from peers and senior colleagues. This year's key note theme was 'The Bigger Picture – Funding and Beyond'. The afternoon was dedicated to learning about larger-scale funding applications, projects and interdisciplinary collaborations.

In addition, there was also an opportunity to hear presentations from various organisations regarding funding for current and future research, both in the UK and Japan.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

BAJS also has funding available for students in Japanese Studies, in particular the John Crump studentship (www.bajs.org.uk/funding-and-prizes/john-crump-studentship/) for final-stage PhD students, and conference support grants for students presenting their work in the UK and abroad (www.bajs.org.uk/funding-and-prizes/conference-support/).

The strength of the Journal in theory and in practice is undoubtedly its multidisciplinary nature and the rate and quality of submissions assures us the Field is thriving.

Japanese Studies Postgraduate Workshop 2022:

The Bigger Picture Funding and Beyond

Date: 25 February 2022
Location: University of East Anglia, Norwich

Co-organisers: **BAJS** British Association for Japanese Studies | 英国日本研究協会 | **JAPAN FOUNDATION**

With in-kind support from: **SAINSBURY INSTITUTE** for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures | 三井物産文化財研究所 | **UEA** Centre for the Study of Japanese Studies

BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR JAPANESE STUDIES (BAJS) CONFERENCE 2022

The British Association for Japanese Studies (BAJS) Conference 2022 was held in Manchester on 7-9 September 2022.

This was a long-awaited opportunity to meet and discuss in person over three days. 120 excellent papers across many areas of Japanese studies have been accepted

The topics covered were:

- New Perspectives on Development and Reform in 20th-Century Japan
- Gender and Sexuality in Culture: Modes, Postures, Spaces, and Categories
- Security and Foreign Policy
- Culture Materialized: Reconceptualizing Materiality in Contemporary Japanese Art
- Imperial, Global, Medieval: Recreating the Martial Past in Modern Japan
- Intersections and representations
- Storytelling and Discourse in Pre-Modern Japan
- Representations and expressions of crisis, change, and experience
- Forging Alternatives, 1900-2050
- Noising, Voicing, Displaying (or not)
- Heisei Literature and the Power of Storytelling
- Visual Languages in Edo Japan
- The Exteriority of Inner Life: Cultivating Public Images through the Photographic, the Iconic, and the Artistic
- Movements of Change in Mid-20th Century Japan and the Japanese Empire
- Fiction at an Angle
- Alternative Christian Narratives
- Justice without Mercy? Military Justice and Discipline



- during the Asia-Pacific War
- Engaging Past, Present and Future
- Listening to the Background Noise of Modernity in Japan
- Changing Concepts of Japonisme in East-Central Europe: Japonisme in the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy
- Japan's North
- Constructions of intimacy and sexuality
- Perspectives on Japan's Long 1960s
- Japan and Others
- Crossing Borders, Policing Borders, 1930-1990
- Contemporary Education
- Writing Women and Men
- New Approaches to the Pre-Modern
- Caring for Self and Others
- Transforming Literature 1868-1950
- From the Ashikaga to the Warring States
- Science in Imperial Japan and Beyond
- Bodies Mattering in Japan
- Engagements with Death

JAPAN FORUM: OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR JAPANESE STUDIES

Japan Forum is the official journal of the British Association of Japanese Studies and the leading European journal in the multidisciplinary field of Japanese Studies. Since its first issue in 1989, Japan Forum's primary objective has been to publish original research in the field of Japanese Studies, making scholarship on Japan available to a global readership of specialists and non-specialists. From 1996 the journal has been published by Taylor & Francis, a major publisher in the area of Japanese Studies.

Cementing the place of Japan Forum in the field, every three years responsibility of the Editorial Board is awarded to a different UK Institution including a PhD Studentship alongside the role of Managing Editor.

SOAS was the editor of the Japan Forum for eight years, but in 2021 the responsibility was passed on to the University of East Anglia. Laurence Green (SOAS) continues as the Managing Editor of the journal. Dr Hannah Osborne, Lecturer in Japanese Literature at the University of East Anglia, and also JRC Research Associate, took on the role of Chief Editor.

SUBMITTING TO JAPAN FORUM

If you are interested in submitting to Japan Forum, our Instructions for Authors can be found in detail on the T&F website, but in brief, we ask that manuscripts are submitted in English, are no longer 10,000 words (inclusive of footnotes and references), cite both primary and secondary Japanese-language sources use the Harvard Referencing style.

Please contact our Managing Editor with any questions, comments or feedback japanforum@soas.ac.uk

www.tandfonline.com/toc/rjfo20/current

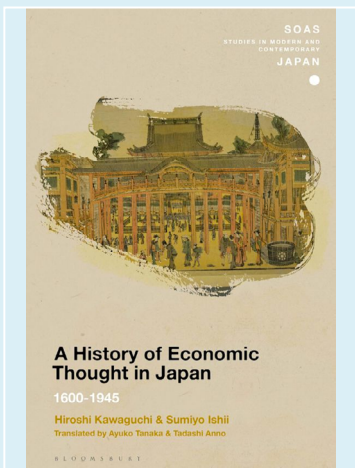


The SOAS Studies in Modern and Contemporary Japan series features new research monographs as well as translations of scholarship not previously available in English.

This year's publications were:

A HISTORY OF ECONOMIC THOUGHT IN JAPAN 1600 - 1945

By: Hiroshi Kawaguchi (Author), Sumiyo Ishii (Author), Ayuko Tanaka (Translator), Tadashi Anno (Translator)



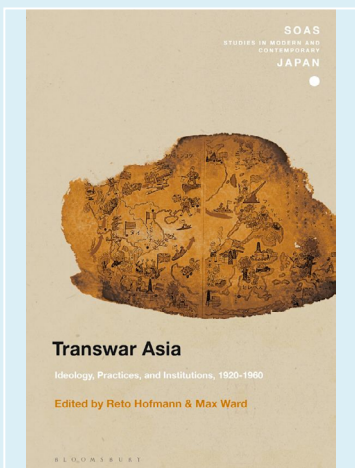
This ground-breaking book provides the first English-language survey of economic thought in modern Japan. Significantly, it offers both a detailed study of economic thought from 1600 to 1945 and a nuanced analysis of Western and Asian perspectives on the field of Japanese economic history.

Expertly translated from Japanese and written by leading scholars in the field, this exciting study includes: A novel approach to economic thought which contextualizes the core values of thinkers across the period; a comparative analysis of Japanese economic history which looks at the continuities across the Meiji divide; the extensive use of archival sources, many of which were previously unavailable in English

A History of Economic Thought in Japan, 1600 - 1945 serves as a case study of how Western economic ideas spread to non-Western regions and interacted with indigenous ideas. It will therefore be of immense value to both scholars of economic thought and those seeking a deeper understanding of the moral, intellectual, and societal forces that shaped modern Japan.

**TRANSWAR ASIA
IDEOLOGY, PRACTICES, AND INSTITUTIONS, 1920-1960**

By: Reto Hofmann (Anthology Editor), Max Ward (Anthology Editor)



This volume considers the possibilities of the term 'transwar' to understand the history of Asia from the 1920s to the 1960s. Recently, scholars have challenged earlier studies that suggested a neat division between the pre- and postwar or colonial/postcolonial periods in the national histories of East Asia, instead assessing change and continuity across the divide of war. Taking this reconsideration further, Transwar Asia explores the complex processes by which prewar and colonial ideologies, practices, and institutions from the 1920s and 1930s were reconfigured during World War II and, crucially, in the two decades that followed, thus shaping the Asian Cold War and the processes of decolonization and nation state-formation.

With contributions covering the transwar histories of China, Indonesia, Korea, Japan, the Philippines and Taiwan, the book addresses key themes such as authoritarianism, militarization, criminal rehabilitation, market controls, labor-regimes, and anti-communism. A transwar angle, the authors argue, sheds new light on the continuing problems that undergirded the formation of postwar nation-states and illuminates the political legacies that still shape the various regions in Asia up to the present.

**HARUKI MURAKAMI AND THE SEARCH FOR SELF-THERAPY
STORIES FROM THE SECOND BASEMENT**

By: Jonathan Dil (Author)



Haruki Murakami, a global literary phenomenon, has said that he started writing fiction as a means of self-therapy. What he has not discussed as much is what he needed self-therapy for. This book argues that by understanding more about why Murakami writes, and by linking this with the question of how he writes, readers can better understand what he writes. Murakami's fiction, in other words, can be read as a search for self-therapy.

In five chapters which explore Murakami's fourteen novels to date, this book argues that there are four prominent therapeutic threads woven through Murakami's fiction that can be traced back to his personal traumas - most notably Murakami's falling out with his late father and the death of a former girlfriend - and which have also transcended them in significant ways as they have been transformed into literary fiction. The first thread looks at the way melancholia must be worked through for mourning to occur and healing to happen; the second thread looks at how symbolic acts of sacrifice can help to heal intergenerational trauma; the third thread looks at the way people with avoidant attachment styles can begin to open themselves up to love again; the fourth thread looks at how individuation can manifest as a response to nihilism.

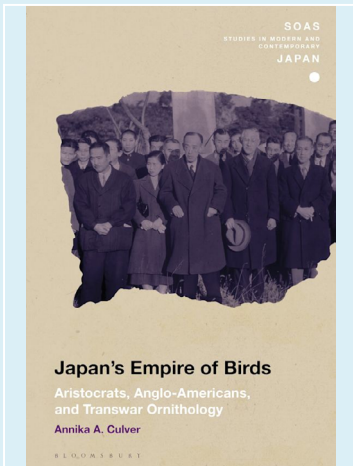
Meticulously researched and written with sensitivity, the result is a sophisticated exploration of Murakami's published novels as an evolving therapeutic project that will be of great value to all scholars of Japanese literature and culture.

**JAPAN'S EMPIRE OF BIRDS
ARISTOCRATS, ANGLO-AMERICANS, AND TRANSWAR ORNITHOLOGY**

By: Annika A. Culver (Author)

As a transnational history of science, *Japan's Empire of Birds: Aristocrats, Anglo-Americans, and Transwar Ornithology* focuses on the political aspects of highly mobile Japanese explorer-scientists, or cosmopolitan gentlemen of science, circulating between Japanese and British/American spaces in the transwar period from the 1920s to 1950s.

Annika A. Culver examines a network of zoologists united by their practice of ornithology and aristocratic status. She goes on to explore issues of masculinity and race related to this amidst the backdrop of imperial Japan's interwar period of peaceful internationalism, the rise of fascism, the Japanese takeover of Manchuria, and war in China and the Pacific. Culver concludes by investigating how these scientists repurposed their aims during Japan's Allied Occupation and the Cold War. Inspired by geographer Doreen Massey, themes covered in the volume include social space and place in these specific locations and how identities transform to garner social capital and scientific credibility in transnational associations and travel for non-white scientists.

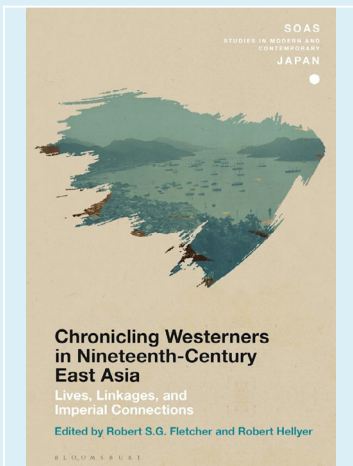


**CHRONICLING WESTERNERS IN NINETEENTH-CENTURY EAST ASIA
LIVES, LINKAGES, AND IMPERIAL CONNECTIONS**

By: Robert S.G. Fletcher (Anthology Editor), Robert Hellyer (Anthology Editor)

This book presents intimate, engaging, and largely untold portraits of Western lives and livelihoods in Japanese and Chinese treaty ports, as well as in the British colonies of Hong Kong, Australia and New Zealand, during the 19th century. It does so by examining how Westerners 'chronicled' their overseas lives in personal letters, diplomatic dispatches, business records, and academic papers. By utilizing these rich but often overlooked sources, *Chronicling Westerners in Nineteenth-Century East Asia* presents new insights into the pace and challenges of daily life, especially in the Japanese treaty ports of Nagasaki and Yokohama but also in Shanghai and Hong Kong. In the process, the volume stresses the 'connectivities' between its subjects, as Westerners' lives intersected, and as they moved between Japanese and Chinese port cities.

Contributors based in the USA, Japan, the UK, New Zealand and Switzerland reveal the various commercial, maritime, and imperial connections, linked in surprising ways to Westerners in East Asia portrayed here, which shaped colonial development in Australia and New Zealand. Through a broad investigation of Westerners recording their lives, the book re-examines wider histories of the so-called 'openings' of China and Japan in the 1850s and 1860s, as well as how Westerners sought to make sense of these events, and to narrate their place within them. Finally the volume considers how flows of people, capital, commerce, and communications not only cut across the histories of distinct treaty ports in Japan and China, but also shows their implications for empire and exchange beyond East Asia, including Australia, New Zealand, and the 19th-century maritime world.



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SOASの日本近現代研究シリーズ

SOASの日本近現代研究シリーズでは、新しい研究論文の発表やこれまで英語になっていない学術論文などの翻訳活動を行っています。私たちの目標は、日本の歴史や政治、文化に関する優れた論文、更に審査をパスした学術論文等を活字化することです。詳細はこちら:

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40-40 FUWAKU (不惑) FUND



In 2018, to mark its 40th year since establishment, the JRC launched the “40-40 Fuwaku Fund”. The meaning of Fuwaku (不惑) is to ‘follow the right course past the age of 40’. The goal of the 40-40 Fuwaku Fund is to sustain the JRC through its next 40 years of activities (2018-2058), with a minimum target of 40 major gifts over 40 years contributing toward core JRC research activities.

The JRC welcomes donations from corporate, institutional and individual donors to sustain JRC research activities within the spirit of Fuwaku (不惑). All donations over £100 are acknowledged on the JRC website and larger donations can have the donor name branded to the research activity.

Sponsor information: how you can get involved

Make a Gift: There are several ways in which you can support the JRC 40-40 Fuwaku Fund. You can make a donation through our secure online account. If you wish to make a donation by cheque or by Direct Debit you can do so by following the instructions on the ‘SOAS Questions worth asking page’.

Gift range: examples of how funds are distributed

- £10,000 Annual postgraduate studentship in Japanese studies
- £3,000 Support of annual lecture or symposium
- £2,000 Support of annual JRC research seminars
- £1,500 Academic research fieldwork travel grant
- £500 Support of JRC outreach and networking activities
- £100 Small grant for academic research materials



For more information please email:
centre@soas.ac.uk

THE LIBRARIAN'S REPORT - by JIYEON WOOD

It has been another challenging year due to the global pandemic. However, SOAS Library remained open and managed to provide services that were near to normal as possible. The school provided blended teaching and the Library engaged with its readers both face to face and online.

Regarding the Japan collection, it has been a very productive year:

ACQUISITIONS

During this academic year, SOAS Library has purchased several important research-level resources, including;

- Bungei Shunju Archives [文藝春秋アーカイブズ] Complete Set 1923-1950
- Taiyo [太陽] Complete Set 1895-1928.
- Shokuminchi shakai jigyo kankei shiryoshu Chosen [植民地社会事業関係資料集《朝鮮編》]

Bungei Shunjū [文藝春秋] is a general monthly magazine founded by the author Kikuchi Kan in 1923. It is one of the most popular and influential literary magazines in Japan. Although SOAS Library subscribed to the print journal of Bungei Shunjū [文藝春秋], our library holdings start in the mid-1950s. This acquisition is great opportunity to fill the gap and to provide increased accessibility to our users through this now digitized journal.



Taiyo [太陽] was a Taiyo was a comprehensive magazine published by Hakubunkan (博文館) from January 1895 to February 1928 (a total of 34 volumes, 531 issues of approximately 175,000 printed pages). It was Japan's first general interest popular magazine which offered political, military, economic and social commentary as well as articles on the natural sciences, literary works, cultural trends and more. It is known especially for its literary criticism, Japanese literature, and translation of Western authors.

TRIALS

From December 2021 to May 2022, SOAS Library participated in the 2021 Nikkei Asia Global Education programme. A total of 96 SOAS students signed up for free subscription of the Nikkei Asia websites, which offered timely insights into Asian business, economics and politics. On average, 18 articles were read per student per month. Interestingly, this is approximately 9 times higher than the average of the other universities that joined the same programme. The Library will look into subscribing to Nikkei Asia.

PERIODICALS MOVE

Due to the Library's new building project, all periodicals that were kept in the mobile stack on Level F were sent to offsite storage in August 2021. Academics and students in the Department of East Asia Languages and Cultures signed the petition to stop this relocation of library journals. However, the space was lost. The Japan Librarian consulted with academics and PhD students to prioritise the important Japanese language journals (Classmark DY) in order to keep them on-site. After the consultation, the identified materials were relocated on Level E with a new classmark 'Lee DY'.

GRANTS

The SOAS Library has had a close collaborative partnership with SISJAC (Sainsbury Institute of Japanese Art and Culture). The partnership agreement was renewed between 2021 and 2022. The Library received a grant worth £6,000 which has been used to support the acquisition of both multi-volume sets of print and electronic resources, including;

- Nakahara yūsuke bijutsu hihyō senshū [中原佑介美術批評選集 / 現代企画室] 8 volumes
- Shokuminchi shakai jigyo kankei shiryoshu. Taiwan [植民地社会事業関係資料集《台湾編》]

Both titles were selected in consultation with academics and PhD students. The Library has built on Japanese modern contemporary Art references. This year's SISJAC grant supported acquisitions of important art critics such as Nakahara yūsuke (中原佑介), Hariu, Ichirō (針生一郎) and Tōno, Yoshiaki (東野芳明) in order to support the research of SOAS PhD students. Shokuminchi shakai jigyo kankei shiryoshu Taiwan [植民地社会事業関係資料集 台湾編] is reproduction of research data on colonial social work during the war. In recent years, research on the history of colonial social work has progressed rapidly. This would be a valuable historical set of data to the research of the Japanese history, international relationship and during the pre-war and the war period.

SASAKAWA POSTGRADUATE STUDENTSHIP

The Sasakawa Postgraduate Studentship, made possible through the generosity of The Nippon Foundation and the Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation.



SOAS can nominate up to three students for studentships of £10,000 (untaxed)

Full details available at:
www.soas.ac.uk/study/student-life/finance/scholarships/sasakawa-postgraduate-studentship



KATHARINE FORBES

Sasakawa PG Studentship Recipient 2022-2023

INTRODUCTORY REPORT

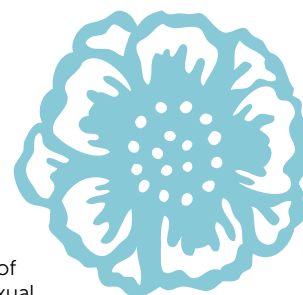


Thesis working title:

Sexual consent in Japan from The Rape of Nanking in 1937 to the present day

Outline of the project:

A comparative exploration of sexual consent in Japan from The Rape of Nanking and the comfort stations of WW2, to the present day issues of sexual assault, street harassment, train groping and upskirting of underage girls.



Introduction:

This project will explore the war crimes of The Rape of Nanking and the comfort stations in Japan-occupied Asia. My research will investigate if these crimes had any impact on views towards sexual consent in Japan today. In present-day Japan, there are many reminders of how societal views towards sexual consent impact daily life. For example, the frequency of "train groping" during Tokyo rush hour. The interesting solution to this prevalent sexual harassment has been to implement "women-only" carriages on trains during the morning. A similar example is the mandatory clicking sound installed on Japanese phones that goes off whenever one takes a picture; in an attempt to reduce the instances of schoolgirls being upskirted. It is acknowledged that both solutions increase the safety of women, however they also neglect to combat the wider issues regarding sexual consent that exist in Japanese society today. I will investigate the weaponisation and normalisation of rape during the eight years of Japan's war. I will further explore how this normalisation of rape by the Japanese army impacted how Japanese men returning from war viewed sexual consent. Furthermore, how these views towards sexual consent impacted the wartime generation and how that generational trauma has manifested itself in present-day Japanese society.

Luca PROIETTI

Sasakawa PG Studentship Recipient 2022-2023

INTRODUCTORY REPORT



Thesis working Title:

A noisy engagement: an analysis on the conscious awareness in Japanese noise music

Outline of the project:

The research studies Japanese noise music genre and its subculture by highlighting social meanings in different timelines like the 1990s post-bubble economy crisis, the 2011 Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant disaster, and the 2020s COVID-19 pandemic, raising questions about how a subculture would help to understand the identity of a country and its transnational reworking process, and the reason of a subculture relevance during a crisis period.

Introduction:

My research focuses on Japanese noise music, an experimental music genre that emerged in the 1960s from Group Ongaku experiments inspired by Western avant-garde musicians like John Cage and Fluxus international movement's artists who developed the noise aesthetics from Futurism and Dada. Considering the relationship between noise and society, I will study this music genre and its subculture by highlighting social meanings in different timelines like the 1990s post-bubble economy crisis, the 2011 Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant disaster, and the 2020s COVID-19 pandemic, raising questions about how a subculture would help to understand the identity of a country and its transnational reworking process, and the reason of a subculture relevance during a crisis period. Thus, I will consider both supportive and revolutionary social implications of noise to underline a historical connection with Edo era kabuki and matsuri.

My study will draw from ethnomusicology and social media ethnography to analyse the social intent carried by the performers and the audience reaction, keeping in touch with fans and communities through webzines, forums, and social networks. Along with primary data composed of news articles, streaming data, and interviews with critics, musicians, and related insiders, I will rely on the existing literature and data collection of past releases and events related to their period. The study will be completed with resources about other subcultures, media, and performing arts to make it accessible to audiences that don't have proper knowledge of the topic, and to underline the social implications of Japanese noise music by comparisons with other subcultures like angura theatre and cyberpunk.



明治神宮

Meiji Jingu Intercultural Research Institute

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There are two scholarships available, each one valued at £7,000 in total.

Scholarships are for one year only, but it is possible to reapply if an award recipient has demonstrated outstanding potential for research. Please note that this scholarship cannot be held during the Extension of Writing-Up (Continuation) status.

Any full-time MPhil/PhD programme where the student will be working on some aspect of Japanese Studies at SOAS is eligible.

Further information:

www.soas.ac.uk/study/student-life/finance/scholarships/meiji-jingu-japanese-studies-research-scholarships

Matt HITCHMOUGH

Meiji Jingu Recipient 2022-2023



Working title of the project:

Painting for the Public: Nihonga at the Nitten Exhibition, 1945-1975

Outline of the project:

An investigation into the representation of nihonga (Japanese-style painting) at the Japan Fine Arts

Exhibition, or Nitten (Nihon Bijutsu Tenrankai), during the early postwar period (1945-1975).

Introduction to the research:

The term nihonga is today used to describe almost any work of painting employing traditional Japanese media and formats; it emerged in the mid-Meiji period as a means of distinguishing existing Japanese forms from Western-style painting. Nihonga exists at a far remove from other streams of contemporary art (gendai bijutsu) in Japan, both in its institutional organisation and, perhaps more fundamentally, its driving moral-aesthetic commitments, but it remains a Modernist form, less easily relatable than prewar nihonga to earlier Japanese painting traditions and closely impacted by twentieth century developments in Euro-American painting. In the early decades of the postwar era nihonga practitioners affiliated with the official art exhibition Nitten, many of whose work encapsulates this careful hybridity,





MEIJI JINGU JAPANESE STUDIES RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS RECIPIENT

became instrumental in shaping the visual identity of the Shōwa state and the Imperial Household, most conspicuously in their contributions to the 1968 renovation of the Tokyo Imperial Palace. This study examines how this under-researched cohort of artists came to adapt nihonga for the postwar age through the institution of Nitten, a successor to the state-sponsored, juried exhibitions that have continued annually since the first Ministry of Education Art Exhibition, or Bunten (Monbushō Bijutsu Tenrankai), in 1907. An institutional history of Nitten's nihonga division across the first three decades of the postwar period (1945-1975) forms the core of this project; this is supported by both quantitative analysis of trends in exhibitor representation, jury composition, and prize-giving, and visual analysis of significant Nitten submissions.

Jenni SCHOFIELD

Meiji Jingu Recipient 2022-2023



Working title of the project:

Accessible “workplaces”:
Assistive technology, disability,
and the changing working
landscape in Japan.

Outline of the project:

My project aims to highlight the lived and embodied experiences of disability amid the changing working landscape in Japan.

Introduction to the research:

This project aims to explore the ways in which disabled workers could better be included in the workplace, by highlighting their voices and experiences using ethnographically informed methodology and an interdisciplinary approach. My aim is to highlight these varied experiences of disability in the Japanese workplace in order to both influence policymakers and employers to improve the accessibility of their workplaces and inspire disabled people to create their own workplaces should an appropriate option for them not already exist.

The project asks what accessibility technologies are available and used currently in Japanese companies, and how do disabled workers assess their effectiveness and usefulness? What is the Japanese ‘workplace’, and how has its evolution affected disabled workers? Have employment opportunities for disabled workers changed along with the changing working landscape? And within the diverse category of ‘disabled workers’, do the experiences of those who become disabled later in life vastly differ from those disabled from birth, and in what ways could this affect access to the workplace?

By discussing the restrictions and limitations present in current workplaces, I hope to provide guidance for employers moving forward to become more accessible and discuss the ways in which some organisations have been developed with disability and accessibility at their core. A major contribution of my research will be to redefine the ‘workplace’, which will have broader implications for employment across Japan, especially for other minority groups in the workplace, including women, the elderly, and foreign workers.

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We produce a News and Updates eBulletin which provides information about the activities of the SOAS Japan Research Centre.

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