



# SOAS Japan Research Centre

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**SOAS**  
University of London

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University of London



**“In the upcoming academic term, we will continue to host not only academics to discuss their research but also curators, visual artists, musicians, dancers, and writers.”**



**A**s we approach the end of the year, I would like to take this opportunity to express gratitude to all our JRC members, associates, visiting scholars, and funding bodies that have helped us maintain the JRC as a dynamic space for conversation and exchange. As the chair, I also want to extend my thanks to the JRC steering committee, and particularly to Charles Taillandier-Ubsdell, for his invaluable administrative support.

The academic year commenced with the 16th Annual Meiji Jingu Autumn Lecture, delivered by Dr. Olga Khomenko (CARA/British Academy Fellow at the Nissan Institute, University of Oxford). We were pleased to welcome back Mr. Masahiro Sato, the director of the Meiji Jingu Intercultural Research Institute, and Mr. Kaito Nakajima after a three-year hiatus. The lecture, titled “The enemy of my enemy is my friend: Ukrainian-Japanese cooperation in Manchuria against the Soviet Union (1932-1945),” explored the largely forgotten history of Ukrainians in Manchuria under Japanese occupation.

The autumn term of 2023 also marked the return of a full weekly seminar program on-site in the Khalili Lecture Theatre. With the support of our sponsors, we invited speakers from Sheffield, Cardiff, Poznan, and Paris to address current topics such as green energy in Japan (Naomi Hirose), Japanese female writers (Dr. Nozomi Uematsu), Toussaint Louverture and the Haitian Revolution in Meiji Japan (Dr. Ruselle Meade), racialization, authenticity, and affect in tango (Dr. Yuiko Asaba), and classical music (Dr. Beata Kowalczyk).

Thanks to the generous contributions of the Meiji Jingu Intercultural Research Institute and the Great

Britain Sasakawa Foundation, we continue to offer scholarships that support the education of the next generation of scholars conducting research on all aspects of Japan. Hosting visiting scholars from Japan and elsewhere helps us create a multicultural scholarly community in Central London. The JRC also remains the institutional host for the British Association for Japanese Studies and collaborates closely with the Japanese Embassy to host the Japan English Teaching (JET) departure meetings, this year attended by the Japanese Ambassador, His Excellency Hajime Hayashi.

I am pleased to report that the JRC has received a generous donation from Xebio Holdings. The founder of Xebio Holdings built the Morohashi Museum of Modern Art in Fukushima prefecture to house his collection of surrealist and contemporary painters. This donation will enable us to organize workshops, symposia, and conferences and to invite speakers to our seminar series from further afield. In the upcoming academic term, we will continue to host not only academics to discuss 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, providing them with a space for their interests.

Sign up for our regular e-bulletins to stay in touch and ensure you don't miss any of our activities!

I wish you a happy holiday season and a great start into the New Year!

Fabio Gygi

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。

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**Dr Lucia DOLCE**

Numata Professor of Japanese Buddhism  
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Book club event with Toshikazu Kawaguchi hosted by Dr Filippo Cervelli on 23 May 2023.

**Filippo CERVELLI**  
Lecturer in Modern and Contemporary Japanese



Filippo presented his projects on the novelist Ōe Kenzaburō at international gatherings. He discussed his approach to Ōe and Abe Kazushige's novels giving voice to peripheral communities at the BAJCS conference in Manchester (September 2022), as an invited speaker at the University of Cambridge (February 2023), at Newcastle in March, and at SOAS as a speaker for the Centre for Cultural, Literary and Postcolonial Studies (CCLPS) in May. He presented his other research strand, a comparative reading of Ōe and Dante Alighieri's *Divine Comedy*, at the University Paris 3 Sorbonne-nouvelle both in December, within a seminar series on the Italian author, and in June, as part of a conference on translation, and later at the conference of the European Association for Japanese Studies (EAJS) in August. Lastly, in June he explored the power of literary imagination in Ōe's reports on the victims of the Hiroshima atomic bomb, within a seminar series on indirect testimonies of conflicts that he co-organised with Paris 3 University.

With Ōe's passing in March, Filippo's involvement with the author extended also to knowledge exchange initiatives: his reflections on Ōe's literature and legacy appeared on *The Conversation*, *Kyodo News* and on Italian cultural platforms. His public engagement continued with the hosting of a book club with bestselling author Toshikazu Kawaguchi, held at SOAS on 23 May (co-organised with the Japan Foundation and Picador).

Finally, Filippo spent a period of three months (June-August) in Japan, doing research as a Japan Foundation Japanese Studies Fellow affiliated with Waseda University.

#### ARTICLES

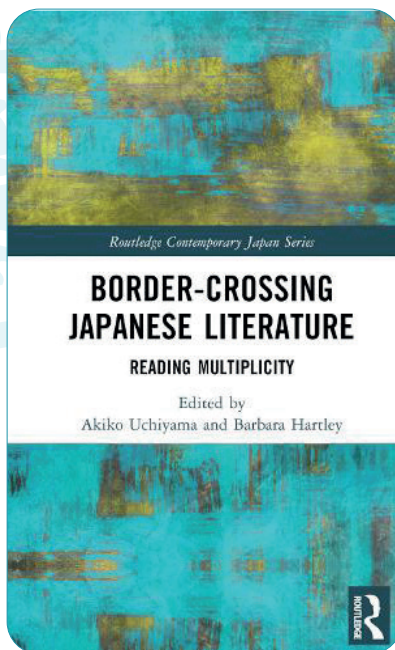
- Cervelli, F. (2023). "L'eredità di Kenzaburō Ōe" [The Legacy of

Kenzaburō Ōe]. *La Balena Bianca*, 7 July.

- Cervelli, F. (2023). "An Introduction to the Work of Kenzaburō Ōe in Five Books." *The Conversation*, 29 March.
- Cervelli, F. (2023). "Kenzaburō Ōe: A Writer of Real Humanity and the Real Japan." *The Conversation*, 16 March.
- Cervelli, F. (2022). "Mindless Happiness: Presentism, Utopia and Dystopian Suspension of Thought in *Psycho-Pass*." *Japan Forum* [published online].

#### CHAPTERS IN EDITED BOOKS

- Cervelli, F. (2023). "Salva l'ibis e salverai te stesso: Otaku, hikikomori e disagio sociale in Nipponia Nippon di Abe Kazushige" [Save the Ibis and You Will Save Yourself: otaku, hikikomori and Social Malaise in Abe Kazushige's Nipponia Nippon]. In *Indagini sul Giappone. Nuove prospettive di studio e di ricerca*, edited by Giorgio Amitrano, Silvana de Maio, and Antonio Manieri, pp. 101-113. Napoli: Unior Press.



**Stephen DODD**  
Emeritus Research Associate



Steve was employed at the International Research Centre for Japanese Studies (Nichibunken), Kyoto, between April 2022 and March 2023 as a visiting research scholar. His main area of research was the literature of Mishima Yukio. He is now working on an article related to Mishima's novel, *Beautiful Star*.

Steve drew on his research to give a talk, entitled 'The Politics of Flying Saucers in Yukio Mishima's *Beautiful Star*,' at the Italian School of East Asian Studies, Kyoto, on 24 January 2023. He has also presented two lectures at Sugiyama Jogakuen University, Nagoya. The first, on 15 June, was entitled 'What is Correct Translation?' The second lecture, on 4 July 2023, was entitled 'Empowering the Female Body in Kawakami Mieko's *Breasts and Eggs*.'

Steve has already translated two Mishima novels in previous years, and this year he continues to work on a third novel, *The Adventures of Natsuko*, for Penguin Books. He is also in the process of negotiating the production of a jointly-authored new collection of Mishima short stories. During the last year, he accepted a position as special professor (*tokumei kyōju*) at Sugiyama Jogakuen University, for a maximum of five years. This summer, he has been preparing new coursework for classes at Sugiyama, which begin from October 2023.

Steve served as discussant for an AAS online panel, entitled "In the Flesh: Aesthetic Experiments of the Body in Modern East Asia," on 17 February 2023. He was also a discussant at a Nichibunken Symposium on the Iwakura Mission, the following day on 18 February.

#### CHAPTERS IN EDITED BOOKS

- Dodd, S. (2024). "Living on the Edge: The Negotiation of Modern Borders in Nagai Kafū's Amerika monogatari," in Hartley, B. and Uchiyama, A. (eds.), *Border-Crossing Japanese Literature: Reading Multiplicity*, pp. 43-58. London: Routledge.
- Dodd, S. (2022). "Two Essays by Hamao Shirō (1930)," in Miller, S. (ed.), *Queer Subjects in Modern Japanese Literature: Male Love, Intimacy, and Erotics, 1886-2014*. pp. 147-170. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.

**Lucia DOLCE**  
Numata Professor of  
Japanese Buddhism



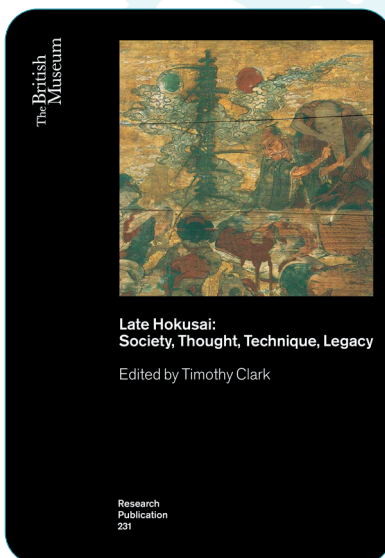
Lucia was on sabbatical for the first term of the academic year 2022-23 and was thrilled to be able to return to Japan after the long break due to the pandemic. She spent almost three months as a visiting researcher at Kyoto University, thanks also to a JRC Meiji Jingu staff grant. She did extensive fieldwork and archival research in temples of the Kyoto area. Particularly exciting was the opportunity to study ritual documents from the archives, usually inaccessible to researchers, of Onjōji (Miidera), the headquarters of the Jimon school of Tendai Buddhism, as well as to attend their end-of-year liturgical ceremonies.

Through the year Lucia was invited to speak at a number of international conferences, including: a conference on Buddhist philology to celebrate the Numata Fund at UC Berkeley (October 2022); a conference on astrological knowledge and ritual practices in Asia at Yale University (March 2023); a symposium on East Asian Buddhism at University of California Los Angeles, where she delivered a keynote speech (June 2023); and a summer school on Writing global medieval history in Turin, where she also was one of the keynote speakers (Sept 2023). She gave guest lectures at Tokyo University, Ōtani University, Northwestern University, and acted as senior advisor at the EAJS publication workshop in Zurich. Finally, she attended the triennial conference of the European association of Japanese Studies, which was held in person after a 6 years' hiatus in Ghent (Belgium), and presented in a panel on medieval ritual creativity (August 2023).

Lucia has taken on a number of new research-related roles internationally: among others, she has been appointed to the Executive Board of Canon Foundation in Europe for the period 2023-2028.

#### PUBLICATIONS

- Dolce, L. (2023). "The Buddhist World of Hokusai: Lotus Practices and the Religious Frenzy of Urban Edo," in *Late Hokusai: Thought, Technique, Society, Legacy*, Timothy Clark ed. London: British Museum Press (Research Publications 231), pp. 89-102.
- Dolce, L. (2023). "A Sutra as a Notebook? Printing and Repurposing Scriptures in Medieval Japan," *Ars Orientalis* 52 (special issue on "Re-use and recycling in Japanese visual and material culture"), pp. 40-72.



**Akiko FURUKAWA**  
Reader in Japanese and  
Applied Linguistics



In 2022-2023, Akiko further developed a Japan Year Abroad network with other UK universities (Cardiff, Durham, Edinburgh, Keele, Leed and Newcastle) and universities in Japan, following the creation of a virtual year abroad programme during the pandemic.

On the research side, she is working on a collaborative research paper with the members of the Inter-University Support Programme and other academic staff from UK universities, with an analysis of the data collected via the programme. In August 2023, she presented a paper in a different area of research on a negotiated syllabus and the teacher's role in the EAJS 2003 Conference organised by the European Association for Japanese Studies at the University of Ghent. Research-informed teaching is extremely useful in teaching, and she intends to keep working on this line of research.

**Fabio GYGI**  
Chair, Japan Research Centre /  
Senior Lecturer in  
Anthropology



As chair of the JRC, Fabio has had a busy and productive year. A British Academy Small grant allowed him to travel to Japan in November, March and December to observe doll-related rituals in Tokyo, Kyoto and Wakayama. He has also worked on a number of smaller projects on religion in space and animism and animation in the development of human androids. This resulted in a new undergrad module in anthropology called "Do Robots Dream of Culture? Anthropological Approaches to AI and Social Robotics". In March 2022 he gave a talk at University College Cork

(Ireland) on the purported soul of the doll and in September he participated in the 4th Off-Earth Atlas workshop on cosmologies in Oxford.

#### ARTICLES

- "The Afterlives of Dolls: On the Productive Death of Terminal Commodities." *Ars Orientalis* 52: 197-221.

#### EDITED VOLUMES

- *The Work of Gender: Service, Performance and Fantasy in Contemporary Japan*, edited by Fabio Gygi and Gitte Marianne Hansen. NIAS Press 2022.

#### CHAPTERS IN EDITED BOOKS

- Locating Hoarding: How Spatial Concepts Shape Disorders in Japan and the Anglophone World. In *Of Hoarding and Housekeeping: Material Kinship and Domestic Space in Anthropological Perspective*, edited by Sasha Newell, 119-142. New York/Oxford: Berghahn, 2023.

**Monika HINKEL**  
Lecturer in the Arts of  
Japan



Monika curated the exhibition *Nijūchidaishū – Japan's Imperial Poetry Anthology* for Eton College. The successful and popular show ran from 24 November 2022 to 16 April 2023 in the Verey Gallery at the college. Monika also wrote the catalogue for the exhibition. The display centred around a Japanese object from the Eton College collection: a lacquer box containing the *Nijūchidaishū - Collection of 21 Reigns*, gifted by the then Crown Prince of Japan Hirohito (1901-1989) to Eton College after his visit in 1921. The exhibition highlighted the Crown Prince's visit to Eton College as part of his European tour, Japanese courtly culture and *waka* poetry, and recurring poetic themes relating to nature and the seasons. Other objects from the college's collection and loans from the British Museum, Ashmolean Museum, and the Ezen Foundation complemented the display. On 27 February 2023, His Excellency the Japanese Ambassador Mr. Hayashi Hajime and his wife visited Eton College, and Monika guided them through the exhibition.

On 8 March 2023, the Japanese Embassy invited Monika to give a talk accompanying the Embassy's exhibition 'The Beauty of Transience – A Journey through the Seasons of Japan'. The topic of her lecture, 'The Four Seasons – Source of Inspiration in Japanese Art',

highlighted the poignancy of the four seasons in Japanese art, presenting distinct compositions and specific motifs, often stimulated by poetry, that symbolise each season and introduced iconic examples of paintings, prints, lacquerware, and ceramics.

In March 2023, Monika was appointed project curator by the Dulwich Picture Gallery to curate an upcoming exhibition on the Yoshida family of printmakers. She is currently compiling the catalogue for the special exhibition.

In June 2023, The Courtauld invited Monika to contribute to the online conference *Avant et Après: Gauguin's final words* centring around the artist's manuscript written in 1903, the year of his death. Monika discussed three Japanese prints of beauties, *bijin-ga*, which were pasted prominently by Gauguin inside the covers of *Avant et Après*.

**PUBLICATIONS**

- Hinkel, M. (2022). *Nijūchidaishū – Japan's Imperial Waka Poetry Anthology*. Eton College.

**ARTICLES**

- Hinkel, M. (2022). "Early Western Collectors of Japanese Prints." *Sotheby's*, July.
- Hinkel, M. (2022). "Modernity, Internationalism, Vision: The Dramatic Era of New & Creative Print Movements in 20th-Century Japan." *Sotheby's*, November.
- Hinkel, M. (2023). "Under the Wave off Kanagawa." *Sotheby's*, June.



Award ceremony for first prize winner, Mr Samy Narrainen (Jagex Games Studio), at the 31st Sir Peter Parker Awards for Spoken Business Japanese

**Yoshiko JONES**

Co-ordinator, SPPA and JLPT



As in previous years, Yoshiko co-ordinated the 31st Sir Peter Parker Awards for Spoken Business Japanese, which was held on 8 November 2022 in collaboration with JETRO (The Japan External Trade Organisation) after a 19 month delay caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

It was the first time since the event moved from SOAS Language Centre to the Japan Research Centre. Fortunately, we were supported by regular and new sponsors to be able to run the event as before.

The speech contest was conducted by JRC chair Dr Fabio Gygi and Professor Nana Sato-Rosberg participated as one of the judges.

The Awards ceremony was co-hosted by the Director of SOAS, Professor Adam Habib, and the Director General of JETRO, Mr Naritaka Nakaishi. More than 80 Japan related guests attended the event.

All 6 finalists gave excellent speeches. When replying to the interlocuter's question the First prize winner surprised everyone by informing them that he has never attended any Japanese language classes, but he learned Japanese through YouTube. Videos of all finalists' speeches can be watched on the JRC website.

**Helen MACNAUGHTAN**

Senior Lecturer in International Business & Management



Helen continued as Convenor of the JRC Sport Symposia Series, first launched in 2017 to study the build-up to and impact of Japan's hosting of sports mega events, including the Rugby World Cup (2019) and the Tokyo Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games (2020/1). The final event of this series was held in May 2023 at SOAS, where Helen and her colleague Verity Postlethwaite (JRC Research Associate) launched their forthcoming publication *Handbook of Sport and Japan* contracted by MHM Japan Documents Publishing. This Handbook is a culmination of the research outcomes from the JRC Sport Symposia Series and is an exciting interdisciplinary collaboration, documenting the development of various key sports in Japan, concentrating on themes such as culture, gender, media, mega-events and diplomacy. The research details 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.

Helen is grateful to the Toshiba International Foundation for their support of this project and the receipt



Dr Helen Macnaughtan presented with the Ambassador's Commendation by Mr Hayashi Hajime, Ambassador of Japan to the United Kingdom. Photo courtesy of the Embassy of Japan.

of a grant for a broader project on "Sport & Japan: the global, social, and economic significance of sport". As part of this project, Helen was able to visit the Women's Rugby World Cup held in Autumn 2022 where she conducted fieldwork on the growth of women's rugby in Japan and the Asia Pacific. In March of this year, Helen was also delighted to be presented with an Ambassador's Commendation by Mr Hayashi Hajime, Ambassador of Japan to the United Kingdom, in recognition of her 'distinguished service' in contributing to the "deepening of mutual understanding and friendship between Japan and the United Kingdom". Helen would like to acknowledge the support of the Embassy of Japan for JRC activities over the years and expresses her deep gratitude for this award.

#### PUBLICATIONS

- Barrass Chapman, Emily and Macnaughtan, Helen (2023). "Gendering Postwar Japan" in Simon Avenell, (ed.), *Reconsidering Postwar Japanese History: A Handbook*. Tokyo, Japan: Japan Documents, MHM Ltd, pp. 127-145.

#### Sarah PARSONS

Senior Teaching Fellow in East Asian Business and Management



During the past academic year, Sarah has appeared on: BBC Radio 4 Women's hour talking about Japanese Women in Politics, BBC World Service talking about Kishida's visit to the US and his defence policy implications for the Japanese economy and more recently, helped the BBC research and record a segment to investigate the validity of the statement that more adult nappies are sold in Japan than baby nappies (it was proved to be incorrect!).

She also contributed towards a report published by the Fawcett Society about Child Care around the world used for UK government policy on child-care, by researching about child-care provisions in Japan. In line with this theme, Sarah also did a SOAS executive briefing to the Irish Ambassador to the UK on Women and Children in Japan.

#### PUBLICATIONS

- Parsons, S. (2023) 'How gender inequality is hindering Japan's economic growth', *The Conversation*, August 17th.
- Parsons, S. (2022) "Reimagining the Gender Roles within Japan to Achieve Sustainable Gender Equality" in Skjerven and Fordham (ed.) *Gender and the Sustainable Development Goals*, Routledge.

#### Barbara PIZZICONI

Reader in Applied Japanese Linguistics



The international research network of the AILA (International Association of Applied Linguistics) that Barbara joined a few years ago finally published the outcome of an experimental research project into Intercultural Mediation. The project saw an international collective of academics from universities in Europe (France, Germany, UK), Asia (Singapore, Japan), Africa (Tunisia) and Australia explore issues around interculturality, while adopting two working languages in all of their meetings and publications. Reflecting the languages of the institutions spearheading the project (University of South Australia and INALCO) French and English were adopted as the base languages, and other languages deployed ad hoc during the research. The convention of systematic interpreting and translating of every contribution into another language revealed the intellectual, cognitive and discursive biases impacting our epistemic processes as well as the ontology of our research domains. A description of the project and the publication can be found on the [EAC website](#).

During the summer months Barbara presented at international conferences the first results of a survey into the pedagogy of Japanese honorifics, as well as the results of the study on the Japanese expression - to omou, an ongoing collaboration with former SOAS colleagues.

- Keigo (honorifics) ideologies in the classroom, *Sympol 14*, Madeira
- Keigo (honorifics): discourses of culture and native-speakerism, AILA, Lyon
- -to omou ('I think') utterances in L2 Japanese: testing the effect of user background in their interpretation, IPrA, Brussels (with M. Kizu and E.Gyogi)
- 「つながる」ことをめぐる日本留学中と留学後の語り [Narratives of "connecting" during and after year abroad], (with N. Iwasaki) International Symposium: Connecting cultures, Tokyo Daito Bunka University

#### ARTICLES

- Pizziconi, B. (2023). "Discourse." In M. Derivry-Plard, T. Liddicoat, & R. N. ReN-AILA (Eds.), *La Médiation interculturelle en didactique des langues et des cultures / Intercultural mediation in teaching and learning languages and cultures* (pp. 39-43). *Editions des archives contemporaines*.

- Pizziconi, B. (2023). "Narratives of connecting – intercultural mediation during and after study abroad, with N. Iwasaki." In M. Derivry-Plard, A. J. Liddicoat, & ReN-AILA, R. N. (Eds.), *La Médiation interculturelle en didactique des langues et des cultures / Intercultural mediation in teaching and learning languages and cultures* (pp. 126-137). *Editions des archives contemporaines*.

#### Nana SATO-ROSSBERG

Professor in Translation Studies



Nana was promoted to Professor in Translation Studies in the academic year 2022-23. The British Association of Teaching Japanese kindly invited Nana as a keynote speaker to the 24th Annual Conference (at Cardiff University on 9 and 10 September 2022). The presentation title was 'Decolonizing Translation Studies and Japanese Language Teaching in the UK'.

Nankai University, China, also invited me to give a keynote speech at the *Multidisciplinary Developments in Translation Studies Symposium* (26 and 27 November 2022). It was online, and the presentation title was 'Whose Translation Studies?'.

Tsuda University and The International Research Centre for Japanese Studies: 日文研 invited Nana to give a talk. At 日文研, she talked about 「「国際日本研究」が求める研究視界とハンドブックとは何か」 on 20 November and at Tsuda, she gave a talk on 「コロナにおけるロンドン移民コミュニティを言語と文化から考察する」 on 19 November.

#### ARTICLES

- 「「国際日本研究」が求める研究視界とハンドブックとは何か」 『ヨーロッパ会議記録集』所収 (Nichibunken)
- 「カリキュラムをディコロナイジングする (Decolonizing Curricula)」 in the *BATJ Journal* (24)
- 'Review of: 'Ecologies of Translation in East and South East Asia, 1600-1900.' (Edited by Li Guo, Patricia Sieber & Peter Kornicki. Amsterdam University Press, 2022)' in the *International Journal of Asian Studies* (Cambridge Publishing).

**Timon SCREECH**  
Emeritus Research Associate



In the 2022-23 academic year Timon was fortunate, but also amazed, to receive two major awards. One was the Yamagata Banto Prize, given once every three years by Osaka Prefecture; a previous recipient was our own Peter Kornicki. The other was the Fukuoka Asia Prize, given annually by the City of Fukuoka to three people, once each in art and academia, plus a Grand Prize (mine was the academic one). This was a hugely gratifying if startlingly way to start his second year at Nichibunken, but having said that, he was told by both committees that his name went forward while still at SOAS, so real credit should go to all at the JRC.

Another happy event was that *Sex and the Floating World*, first published in 1999, and something of a long-seller, was translated into Chinese and published in Taiwan (it is also available in Japanese and Polish).

**Satona SUZUKI**  
Lecturer in Japanese and Modern Japanese History



Satona continues to contribute to many media requests, including a film review, interviews on social issues and a discussion on Japanese history, e.g., Afterthoughts on Kitano Takeshi's *Violent Cop* for *TANKtv*, The Breakfast Show interview for *Vol Radio* on the declining birth rate in Japan, and BBC Radio 4's *In Our Time* on the Shimabara Rebellion.

To mark the end of her consultation work for the Royal Opera House's *Madame Butterfly*, Satona appears on the Cinema Relay live interview, providing the historical context and explaining the authenticity of the 2022 production. Her interview is also included in the DVD.

Satona was invited as a guest speaker at a conference for ECOPOSS organised by The Université Catholique de Lille in October 2022. She responded to a paper presented by a Japanese law professor on *Imagery and the Law on Cross-Border Parental "Abduction,"* using *Madame Butterfly* as a case study. She responded from perspectives of imperialism, law, international marriage and gender.

As a BATJ steering committee member for the Japanese Speech Contest for University Students, Satona continues to be heavily involved in promoting, assessing and running the event.

**Ulrich VOLZ**  
Professor of Economics



The SOAS-hosted Japan Economy Network (JEN) held its Fifth Annual Conference at the Center on Japanese Economy and Business at Columbia Business School in New York City. Held over two days, the programme comprised 20 paper presentations addressing a broad range of topics relating to the Japanese economy, including Japan's economic growth perspectives, financial market developments, central bank policy, reform of the pension system, and sustainable finance. Professor Takatoshi Ito from Columbia University delivered a keynote speech addressing the demographic and fiscal challenges facing the Japanese economy. The conference closed with a special Panel discussion on monetary policy challenges.

The JEN was established in 2015 to promote research on the Japanese economy and facilitate exchange between researchers with an active research interest in the Japanese economy. The JEN is an informal network open to researchers from academia, think tanks, international organisations, central banks, governments, NGOs and the private sector. Previous JEN conferences were hosted by the Japanese-German Center Berlin, the Asian Development Bank Institute, the University of Zurich, and the Bank of Japan. The JEN is hosted by the SOAS Department of Economics.

The next JEN conference will be held at Hitotsubashi University in Tokyo in March 2024.



Fifth Annual Conference of the Japan Economy Network, Columbia University, 23-24 March 2023





## CONNECT WITH THE JRC

The SOAS Japan Research Centre is the forum for Japan-related activities at SOAS University of London.



Annual review produced by the SOAS Japan Research Centre:


Edited and Designed by Charles Taillandier-Ubsdell

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- Syuhei Inoue - 'red wooden cross on gray concrete pathway between green trees during daytime' - Cover - [unsplash.com](https://unsplash.com)
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