



SOAS Japan Research Centre

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SOAS
University of London



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Japan
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“It has been an immense pleasure to be Chair of the Japan Research Centre over the past six years. I am very proud to have been the first female Chair of the JRC in its 40+ years of history and I hope there will be more in the future.”

It has been an immense pleasure to be Chair of the Japan Research Centre over the past six years. There have been so many enjoyable events during that time but a few of my personal favourites have been hosting the Dulwich Boys and Beyond: 100 Years of Japanese Studies at SOAS back in 2016, establishing SOAS as the institutional home of the British Association for Japanese Studies (BAJS) from 2017, convening the JRC Sport Symposia Series commencing in 2017, hosting A Celebration of 40 Years of the SOAS Japan Research Centre (1978-2018) and establishing the JRC 40-40 Fuwaku (不惑) Fund in 2018. None of these highlights, alongside all other JRC events over these years, would have been possible without the fantastic support and collegiality I have received from JRC academic and professional colleagues, SOAS students and the wider Japanese Studies community both in the UK and internationally.

I am also grateful to our wonderful JRC sponsors and supporters who have generously funded activities in the past six years, notably Meiji Jingu Intercultural Research Institute, Toshiba International Foundation, Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation, British Association for Japanese

Studies, Japan Foundation London, Embassy of Japan in the UK, Japan House London, Daiwa Anglo Japanese Foundation, Japan Society, Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures, Japan Society for the Promotion of Science and Japan Sport Council.

The past academic year 2020-21 has been a challenging and unprecedented year for all of us and although some of our key events and our on-campus activities had to be cancelled, there was also the opportunity to use online technology to expand our international reach both in terms of guest speakers and audience for our JRC Seminar Series. As we move back on campus for the forthcoming academic year we can once again engage face to face with colleagues, visiting scholars and students while at the same time embrace digital outreach and the resilience learned during the pandemic.

Finally, on a personal note, as somebody who both studies and advocates for gender equality, I am very proud to have been the first female Chair of the JRC in its 40+ years of history and I hope there will be more in the future. As I now hand over the Chair role to Fabio I am fully confident that he will bring new energy and ideas into the role and I look forward to remaining as a member of the JRC Steering Committee under his leadership. Again, my sincere thanks to everybody who supported me during the past six years.



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“ I see it as our task as academics to provide nuanced insight into Japanese language, history and culture beyond the particular media interests of the day. ”



It is an honour to welcome everybody back to SOAS at the beginning of a new academic year as the new Chair of the Japan Research Centre. I would like to take this opportunity to offer my heart-felt thanks to Helen Macnaughtan, who was at the helm of the JRC for not one, but two consecutive terms. It is due to her efforts that the JRC is in a stable and financially viable position in a quickly changing institutional landscape. Her exceptional leadership through the pandemic interruption has been inspirational. By moving the seminar series online, she has created an opportunity to invite speakers from all over the world (time zones allowing) and has greatly expanded the audience. I will try my utmost to continue in this vein and can announce that the Wednesday seminar series will remain online, at least for term one. I am also delighted to announce that Prof. Joylon Baraka Thomas from the University of Pennsylvania has agreed to be our speaker at this autumn's Meiji Jingu lecture. After proceedings had to be cancelled last year due to the Covid-19 pandemic, this year's lecture will be the first Meiji Jingu lecture to be held online.

I have been a regular participant at JRC events since 2005, when Tim Screech invited me, then a lowly PhD student at UCL, to present in a PhD workshop. I remember how impressed I was by the sense of mutual support and intellectual community, rather different from the more fractious and combative tone that prevailed in the UCL anthropology department. Since then, I have heard similar statements many times over: from visiting scholars from Japan who were surprised at weekly meetings, often followed by dinner; but also from speakers from other institutions who told me that where they come from people first carefully check whether no colleagues were in the corridor before leaving their offices.

Fostering a sense of community is no easy task in the wake of a global pandemic. Informal chats at talks or in corridors, so important for the exchange of ideas, have been curtailed by social distancing. Several high-profile members who played important roles when it came to hospitality have retired without being replaced. Once our normal routines are re-established, one of my main responsibilities will be to create a space in which we can come together to help each other, to discuss our research, and to organise events. With the Olympics and the Paralympics held in Tokyo this year under unprecedented, difficult circumstances and the ten year anniversary of the terrible disasters in Tōhoku and Fukushima, Japan remains in the international spotlight. I see it as our task as academics to provide nuanced insight into Japanese language, history and culture beyond the particular media interests of the day.

I am looking forward to working with the Steering Committee and all of you to continue the vital work of the Japan Research Centre, now in its 43 year!



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

Lecturer in Anthropology / Chair, Japan Research Centre

Expertise: Anthropology of Japan, material and visual culture, medical anthropology, popular culture, gender, embodiment and performance
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ECONOMICS

Professor Costas LAPAVITSAS

Professor in Economics

Expertise: Japan: theory of banking and finance; history of economic thought; the Japanese financial system
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Dr Satoshi MIYAMURA

Senior Lecturer in the Economy of Japan

Expertise: Development economics; labour economics; labour-management bargaining; mathematical economics; statistics; econometrics; research methods in economics
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Dr Ulrich VOLZ

Reader in Economics

Expertise: International Finance, Open Economy Macroeconomics, Financial Market Development and Stability, Development and Transition Economics, Global Economic Governance, East Asian Financial Markets
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FINANCE & MANAGEMENT

Ms Yoshiko JONES

Senior Teaching Fellow
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Dr Helen MACNAUGHTAN

Senior Lecturer in International Business & Management (Japan)

Expertise: Japanese work and employment, Human Resource Management, Gender and Development, Sport in Japan
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Dr Sarah PARSONS

Senior Teaching Fellow
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HISTORY OF ART & ARCHAEOLOGY

Professor Timon SCREECH

Professor of the History of Art

Expertise: History of Japanese art; Edo painting; contacts between Japan and Europe in the 18th century; history of science in Japan; the theory of art history
ts8@soas.ac.uk

One of the largest concentrations of Japan specialists outside Japan

Dr Monika HINKEL

Lecturer in the Arts of Japan

Expertise: Japanese woodblock prints, Contemporary reworkings and interpretations of Ukiyo-e, Meiji nostalgia
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Dr Jenny PRESTON

Lecturer in the Arts of Japan
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JAPAN & KOREA: EAST ASIAN LANGUAGES & CULTURES

Dr Filippo CERVELLI

Lecturer in Modern and Contemporary Japanese Literature
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Dr Alan CUMMINGS

Senior Lecturer in Japanese Studies

Expertise: Pre-modern language, literature, and drama; Tokugawa theatre and popular culture; the history and aesthetics of Japanese post-war popular culture and subculture
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Dr Akiko FURUKAWA

Reader in Japanese and Applied Linguistics

af15@soas.ac.uk

Dr Christopher GERTEIS

Senior Lecturer in History of Contemporary Japan

Expertise: Modern and contemporary Japanese history, especially the intersection of consumer capitalism and historical memory; social and cultural history of the 20th century; work and gender
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Dr Seiko HARUMI

Lecturer in Japanese and Applied Linguistics

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Dr Griseldis KIRSCH

Reader in Contemporary Japanese Culture

Expertise: Contemporary Japanese culture with particular interest in television; representation of "Otherness" within the fictional media genre
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Dr Barbara PIZZICONI

Reader in Applied Japanese Linguistics

Expertise: Japanese applied linguistics; linguistic (im)politeness; language and culture learning, intercultural communication; language teaching methodology
bp3@soas.ac.uk

Dr Natsuko SHIBATA PERERA

Lecturer in Japanese and Language Acquisition

Expertise Japanese language pedagogy and second language acquisition, especially interested in applied drama and sociocultural approach; bilingualism and translanguaging.

np43@soas.ac.uk

Dr Satona SUZUKI

Lecturer in Japanese and Modern Japanese History
ss116@soas.ac.uk

Mrs Kaori TANIGUCHI

Lecturer in Japanese
kt16@soas.ac.uk

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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LINGUISTICS

Dr Nana SATO-ROSSBERG

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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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



Barbara PIZZICONI

Reader in Applied Japanese Linguistics

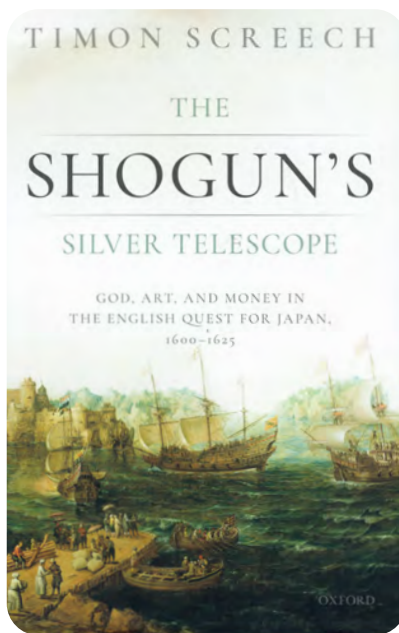


After a long gestation, the comprehensive Handbook of Japanese Semantics and Pragmatics saw the light in 2020; Barbara's contribution outlines the evolution of scholarly approaches to politeness and keigo, and highlights the advantages of recent approaches to deixis for the study of its properties: a non-deterministic perspective which better accounts for social and semantic variability, and diachronic dynamism. Pizziconi Barbara (2020) Social deixis: honorifics and polite speech in Jacobsen, W. M., & Takubo, Y. (Eds.). (2020). Handbook of Japanese Semantics and Pragmatics. Berlin, Boston: De Gruyter Mouton.

Barbara continues her collaboration with former SOAS colleague Noriko Iwasaki (now at Nanzan University), in the context of the AILA (International Association of Applied Linguistics) research network (REN) on Intercultural Mediation. This REN is approaching the end of a 6-year long collaboration, and adding the final touches to a bilingual publication on the subject, to come out before the end of the year. Additional studies from the REN teams were presented at the August 2021 Groningen conference (like most, in fact, online) and will be published independently. The study presented by Pizziconi & Iwasaki challenges the notion, often presupposed in sociocultural approaches to learning, that "expert" peers (typically native speakers) can invariably "scaffold" (or provide interpretive assistance) for learners of Japanese, and shows instead how nuanced, non-essentialist interpretations of cultural matters can also be facilitated by reflexive practices among learners. Pizziconi and Iwasaki 2021 Friends as mediators in study abroad contexts in Japan: Negotiating the understanding of Japanese culture, AILA Groningen.

CHAPTERS IN EDITED BOOKS

- Pizziconi Barbara (2020) Social deixis: honorifics and polite speech in Jacobsen, W. M., & Takubo, Y. (Eds.). (2020). Handbook of Japanese Semantics and Pragmatics. Berlin, Boston: De Gruyter Mouton (INCLUDED IN NARRATIVE SECTION)



Timon SCREECH

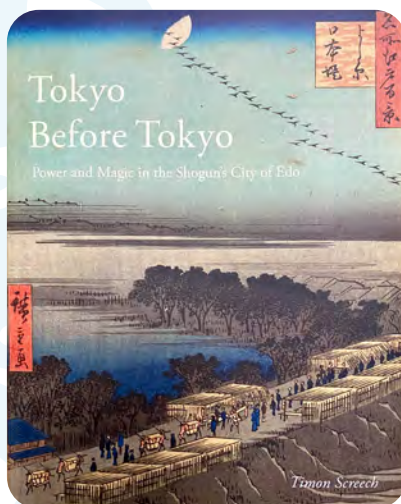
Professor of the History of Art



Timon spent the last academic year in Tokyo on unpaid leave from SOAS. Tokyo Gaidai provided the affiliation, but he was mostly in Waseda library - which was deserted. Thanks to this long period of study, Prof Screech was able to complete the research stage of his new project on the cult of Tokugawa Ieyasu as the 'Great Avatar', and is now writing the manuscript.

BOOKS

- *Tokyo before Tokyo: Power and Magic in the Shogun's City of Edo* (London: Reaktion Books; Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2020)
- *The Shogun's Silver Telescope: God, Art and Money in the English Quest for Japan* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020)"



Griseldis KIRSCH

Reader in Contemporary Japanese Culture



Griseldis was very busy running the department of East Asian Languages and Cultures for the past academic year. Nonetheless, she was keynote speaker at the online conference Adaptation, Mediation and Communication of Otherness in a Globalizing World, on 26 March 2021, at the University of Kobe. The workshop was organised by a SOAS Alumnus, Thomas Brook. She gave her presentation on Teaching Cool Japan in the UK. This event also marked the publication of a volume of the same title, which was the result of a series of workshops led and organised by Thomas Brook, in collaboration with PhD candidates at Kobe University and with the kind support of their Faculty of Letters.

CHAPTER IN EDITED BOOK

- Kirsch, G. (2021). *Japan's Charm Offensive. NHK World and Soft Power*. In: T. Brook and K. Ohashi, ed., *Adaptation, Mediation and Communication of Otherness in a Globalizing World*. Perspectives from Japan. Kobe: Kobe University Press, 152-166.

Satona SUZUKI

Lecturer in Japanese and Modern Japanese History



Satona has been involved in the UKRI/AHRC funded research project, Cultural translation and the interpretation of Covid-19 risks among London's migrant communities, which Dr Nana Sato-Rossberg leads. As a researcher for the Japanese community in London, she reported the national narratives and their impact on the East Asian migrants' communities with her fellow East Asian researchers at the project workshop on the 17th of February, 2021.

She also participated in a documentary film interview for "Inside Japan's War," a new four-part documentary-series from Wildbear Entertainment. The series is due to be aired at the end of this year.



An image from 'Inside Japan's War'

Natsuko SHIBATA PERERA

Lecturer in Japanese and Language Acquisition



Natsuko has successfully carried out a project that has promoted sociocultural perspectives and drama education in Japanese language learning/teaching under the BATJ project, funded by the Japan Foundation. She has provided a series of online seminars on the sociocultural approach, conducted reading sessions, and organised members' practice exchange sessions. The project has invited prominent scholars and drama practitioners from both UK and Japan. Dr Neelands from Warwick Business School was the lecturer of our open seminar in March, which attracted 140 registers. She has received another funding from the Japan Foundation, London, for 21-22 to organise seminars and workshops calling for articulation between higher and primary education (including young children and adult education) to promote life-long Japanese language learning through applied drama. Dr Allen Owens from the University of Chester is the lecturer of our kick-off event in August with 100 participants. The project members include not only Japanese language educators/researchers but also drama and Rakugo practitioners. Aside from the drama project, she held an online workshop/discussion on blended/hybrid learning under Covid-19 as a board member of the KOIDE Japanese Language Teaching Association in Japan.

Fabio GYGI

Lecturer in Anthropology



After a year of manic online teaching, Fabio Gygi participated in a workshop on "House/Keeping" organised by Sasha Newell and Edgar Tasia at the Free University of Brussels and presented a paper on Marie Kondo called "Falling in and out of Love with Stuff: Affective Affordance and Horizontal Transcendence in Styles of Decluttering in Japan". Together with Iza Kavedžija he is convening the Anthropology and Sociology section of the European Association of Japanese Studies Conference in August 2021 (online).

ARTICLES

- Gygi, F. (2022) *The Afterlives of Dolls: On the Productive Death of Terminal Commodities*. *Ars Orientalis* (forthcoming).

BOOKS

- Gygi, Fabio and Hansen, Gitte Marianne (eds) (2021) *The Work of Gender: Service, Performance and Fantasy in Contemporary Japan*. Copenhagen: NIAS Press

CHAPTERS IN EDITED BOOKS

- Gygi, F. (2021) *The Great Heisei Doll Massacre: Disposal and the Production of Ignorance in Contemporary Japan*. In: T. Brox, ed., *Buddhism and Waste*. London: Bloomsbury

Akiko FURUKAWA

Reader in Japanese and Applied Linguistics



Dr Akiko Furukawa SFHEA has led a collaborative work with the Japan Year Abroad Coordinators from 6 other universities (Cardiff, Durham, Edinburgh, Keele, Newcastle, Sheffield and previously Regent's London) to create a virtual year abroad for students from across the UK whose Year Abroad has been curtailed or cancelled due to the pandemic. This programme, called Inter-University Support Programme (<https://japaneseyearabroad.wixsite.com/jyap2/j-yap-inter-university-support-proj>), has been awarded a grant for the Japan Foundation Grant Program for Sakura Network and further developed into an undertaking commissioned by the Embassy of Japan (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan) via BATJ. A wide variety of language, culture and Japanese Studies sessions and careers and other events were offered in 2020-2021 by the members of the British Association for Teaching Japanese as a Foreign Language and the British Association for Japanese Studies, as well as graduates of the participating universities. Very positive feedback was received from the students and the support from the Embassy of Japan has been extended to March 2022. Any support or contribution from the JRC members will be much appreciated.

Lucia DOLCE

Numata Professor of Japanese Buddhism



Several conferences Lucia had been invited to were postponed to more travel-friendly times. A few research projects with Japanese colleagues have continued online and Lucia was able to take part in a workshop on Jien (originally planned in Paris) and a workshop on a medieval texts (which meets on Sundays mornings!) Lucia is also part of a project on comparative metaphysics led by Stephen Green (Lord Green of Hurstpierpoint), which after many zoom meetings finally manage to hold a workshop in person this September in the beautiful Cumberland Lodge in Windsor Park. As the Chair of the SOAS Centre of Buddhist Studies and of the SOAS Centre for Japanese Religions Lucia has organised and chaired a number of guest lectures, seminars, book launches and discussion fora on Japanese religion and Buddhism - all online.



The open seminar of BATJ Drama Project organised in March 2021. The cherry blossom background picture is from my Obi collection.

ARTICLES

- Dolce, Lucia (in press). "A (Presumably) Chinese Tantric Scripture and Its Japanese Exegesis: The *Yuqi jing* 瑜祇經 and the practices of the yogin." *Studies in Chinese Religions* 7, 3-4.

CHAPTERS IN EDITED BOOKS

- Dolce, Lucia. (in press). "The *Abhiseka* 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. (in press). "And the *zasu* changed his shoes": The *Resurgence of Combinatory Rituals in Contemporary Japan*. In Giovanni Bulian and Silvia Rivadossi, eds. *Itineraries of an Anthropologist. Studies in Honour of Massimo Raveri*. Venezia, Edizioni Ca' Foscari.

Helen MACNAUGHTAN
Senior Lecturer in International
Business & Management



CONFERENCES AND EVENTS:

The academic year 2020-21 marked Helen's sixth and final year as Chair of the JRC – a role which she has found immensely enjoyable. Chairing the JRC Wednesdays seminars in a new online format helped extend the outreach of the seminar series in 2020 as well as provide much needed social interaction during the lockdown months. In 2020, Helen became Co-Editor (together with JRC Research Associate Dr Verity Postlethwaite) of a forthcoming 'Handbook of Sport in Japan' contracted by MHM Japan Documents Publishing. This Handbook is an exciting collaboration with 25 Japanese Studies colleagues and will incorporate my previous research on women's volleyball and the Tokyo 1964 Olympics in Japan as well as my current research on the corporate history of men's rugby in Japan. With the recent hosting of the Rugby World Cup in Japan in 2019 and the hosting of the postponed Tokyo Olympics in 2021, the subject of sport mega-events in Japan has had much attention during the past academic year and I have been invited as guest speaker for various online events focused on the Olympics and sports in Japan, including talks for University of Edinburgh, SISJAC, PTI Education Ltd, the Japan Society, Japan House London, Japan

Sports Stories podcast and Japan on the Record podcast. A few of the event links can be found below.

- <https://japansportstories.buzzsprout.com/1203395/6308365-the-oriental-witches-the-greatest-team-you-ve-never-heard-of-with-dr-helen-macnaughtan>
- <https://podcasts.apple.com/fj/podcast/naomi-osaka-womens-sport-in-japan-on-record-dr-helen/id1460020493?i=1000498532696>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Flb1TyqaTzI>

PUBLISHED ARTICLES

- Macnaughtan, Helen (2020). 'From the Witches of the Orient to the Blossoming Sevens: Volleyball and Rugby at the Tokyo Olympics'. *Japan Focus: The Asia Pacific Journal*, (18) 4. <https://apjif.org/2020/4/MacNaughtan.html>
- Macnaughtan, Helen (2020). 'Japan, the Olympics and the COVID-19 pandemic'. *East Asia Forum*. 23 June, 2020 <https://www.eastasiaforum.org/2020/06/23/japan-the-olympics-and-the-covid-19-pandemic/>

Filippo CERVELLI
Lecturer in Modern and
Contemporary Japanese
Literature



Despite the disruptions and uncertainties caused by the pandemic, Dr Cervelli presented at a number of online international research conferences, some of which had been postponed from 2020. In March 2021 he had the pleasure of co-organising an online workshop on narrative representations of nerds across cultures with the contributors of the related special issue he is co-editing (with Benjamin Schaper, University of Oxford) for the journal *Exchanges*. In May 2021 he presented his comparative research on magical realism in the novels of Abe Kazushige and Gabriel García Márquez at the ESCL; in June he had the pleasure of participating in the SOAS-Nankai-Nichibunken research symposium on Japanese Studies, discussing his research on loneliness and nerds in the anime film *Summer Wars*; in July he presented his new project on Jules Verne's *Twenty Thousand Leagues under the Sea* and its Japanese animated adaptation *Fushigi no umi no Nadia* (*The Secret of Blue Water*), at the IAWIS/AIERTI conference, titled 'Water in all its states'. From 24 to 28 August, with Nozomi Uematsu (University of Sheffield) he co-convened the modern literature section at the EAJIS conference. Despite the challenges of moving a large conference online, and managing panels with speakers connecting from very different time zones, the section was a successful experience, enjoying a greatly diverse body of scholars, and of papers on literature ranging from early 20th to the 21st century.

CHAPTERS IN EDITED BOOKS

- Cervelli, F. (2021). *Genpatsu no naka no dōbutsu tachi: Takahashi Gen'ichirō no 3.11 go no bungaku wo kyōteki ni saikō suru*. In: S. Kimura, and A. Bayard-Sakai, eds., *Sekai bungaku toshite no 'shinsai go bungaku'*. Tokyo: Akashi shoten, 406-436.
- Cervelli, F. (2021). *The Oppression of Democracy: Political (Mis)representation and Community in Takahashi Gen'ichirō's Writings*. In: A. Bednarczyk, M. Kubarek, M. Lewicka, and M. Szatkowski, eds., *Crossroads of Liberty: Asian, African and European Literature Towards Freedom and Oppression*. Warsaw: Dom Wydawniczy 'Elipsa', 25-36



Screening: 'The Witches of the Orient' Introduced by Helen Macnaughtan

映画：東洋の魔女

The Hall, Lower Ground Floor

Saturday 21 August, 16:00-18:15 (BST)
FULLY BOOKED

Booking Essential; Admission Free
*Please note that there are limited seats to this event on a first-come, first-served basis.

SHARE





HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

Monika HINKEL
Lecturer in the Arts of
Japan



In September 2020 Monika became an academic member of the Japan Research Centre (JRC).

For the session 2020/21 Monika covered the postgraduate module Shogunal Iconography in Edo Period Japan and the undergraduate module Visual Culture of Early Modern Japan for Professor Timon Screech. She also contributed two lectures to the module Themes in the Art and Archaeology of East Asia on Japan: Early Buddhist Art and Japan: Art and Modernity.

Between April and July 2021, Monika convened the Japanese and Korean Art module of the SOAS Postgraduate Diploma in Asian Art, which had a cohort of 28 students from around the world who joined the online module.

In September and October 2020, she participated in two online showcase events for the SOAS Postgraduate Diploma in Asian Art. The October event was co-hosted by the Friends of the Museum of Far Eastern Antiquities, Stockholm, and Christie's Stockholm. For both events Monika presented a talk titled A Modern print that discussed a work by the contemporary Japanese artist Abe Koya. In November and December 2020 Monika gave two online talks for Stories of Art, London and for the Circle of Japanese Art, London on Meiji art and modernity.

In October 2020 she became the editor-in-chief of Andon, the Journal of the Society for Japanese Art, Leiden.

Monika continued her teaching as tutor at Morley College with an online course on The Beauty of Japanese Ceramics and contributed to the V&A course Age of innovation.

Stephen DODD
Emeritus Research Associate



Stephen acted as moderator with eminent Japanese to English literature translators, Polly Barton and SOAS graduate, Ginny Tapley, for an online Roundtable by the Japan Foundation on 18 June this year, entitled, 'How do they read? Voices and Practices of Japanese literature translators'

He also gave an online presentation of his recent research on Nagai Kafu's representation of cultural and racial difference in his novel, *Tales of America* (Amerika monogatari), entitled '*The Interaction of Cultural Identities in Nagai Kaku's Tales of America*', on 29th July, sponsored by Japan Society Northwest. Stephen was interpreter for an online talk by Ven. Iizuka Daiko, entitled '*Opening the Eye of the Heart* (Kokoro no me wo hiraku)', on 14th March, sponsored by Shobo-an Zen Temple, London. Another four online talks (in which he interprets) are planned during the next six months.

Stephen is in the final stages of his Penguin Classic translation of the Mishima Yukio novel, *Beautiful Star* (*Utsukushii Hoshi*).

ARTICLES

- Dodd, S. (2020). '*The pleasure of dark places: heterotopia in Mishima Yukio's Inochi urimasu* (Life for Sale)'. Japan Forum (Published online 04 November)

Andrew GERSTLE
Emeritus Research Associate



Gave a presentation at EAJS in August 2021 on 'Surimono as Elegant Advertising: Performing Artists and Haikai poetry'. Received a small grant from the Art Research Center of Ritsumeikan University for digitalization of the Paul Berry Painting (Hakutakuan) collection.

ARTICLES

- Gerstle, C.A., *Review of Laura Moretti, Pleasure in Profit: Popular Prose in Seventeenth-Century Japan, The Seventeenth Century*, vol. 36:5, pp. 855-856.
- *Review of David J. Gundry, Parody, Irony and Ideology in the Fiction of Ihara Saikaku*, in *Nihon Kenkyu*,



Surimono. Kabuki actor Mimasu Daigorō IV's 7th-year memorial, and Daigorō V inheriting teacher's name. Date: 1865; Artist: Gyokuen; Geneva Museum of Art and History



Japan Research Centre

The JRC hosted a quite busy series of weekly seminar also in the year 2020-2021. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all of the events have taken place online. The webinars drew a varied audience with an interest in the region. All events were free and open to the public.

AUTUMN TERM

The Cat and The City: Creative Writing and Japan

14 OCTOBER 2020

Nick Bradley (Author and Visiting Research Fellow at UEA)

In Tokyo - one of the world's largest megacities - a stray cat is wending her way through the back alleys. And, with each detour, she brushes up against the seemingly disparate lives of the city-dwellers, connecting them in unexpected ways.

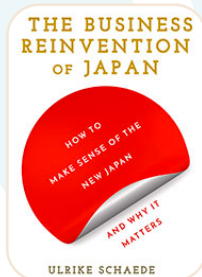
But the city is changing. As it does, it pushes her to the margins where she chances upon a series of apparent strangers - from a homeless man squatting in an abandoned hotel, to a shut-in hermit afraid to leave his house, to a convenience store worker searching for love. The cat orbits Tokyo's denizens, drawing them ever closer.



The Business Reinvention of Japan: What has changed since we last looked

28 OCTOBER 2020

Ulrike Schaede (University of California San Diego)



Japan's business organization was a hot topic in the 1980s and 1990s. Since then, Japan has been overshadowed by China, and whatever we hear about Japan tends to be either negative or quirky. But contrary to the image that Japan has "lost it", Japan is still the world's third largest economy, and Japanese input materials and components critically anchor many global supply chains. The background plot is that leading Japanese companies have relinquished many consumer end product markets and moved upstream, to make the deep-technology inputs needed to make those products. This is also opening new important avenues for Japan in the digital transformation, from robotics to edge computing and AI applications. All this has required a strategic repositioning and a change in business culture. Ulrike Schaede will explain how Japan's leading manufacturing companies are moving into these new territories, and how they are managing the requisite corporate culture change.

Death Care Disarranged: Buddhism, memory and the afterlife of human remains in contemporary Japan

18 NOVEMBER 2020

Paulina Kolata (University of Chester)

How can people morally avoid becoming waste? What are the afterlives of human remains? How are the dead taken care of in ageing communities or in those on the fringes of social structures? How does a person continue to belong in death when traditional kinship networks are no longer guarantors of this belonging? Living alone or dying alone isolated from one's community due to illness and social/infrastructural disconnect is not uncommon in contemporary Japan. As migration, neoliberal social policies and commercial developments of the end-of-life and after-life care continue to drastically transform how ageing and death are experienced, Buddhist actors (many of whom are elderly) are faced with a necessity (or a choice) to develop various proactive approaches to their own and others' afterlives. In this lecture, through the prism of the practice of storing ashes in *nōkotsudō* facilities, Dr Kolata explore the cost of dying in an ageing Buddhist community and the challenges that the duties of caring for others pose in contexts where significantly more people grow older and live alone, and where heightened anxieties about social and family fragmentation pose a threat to community-based elder and death care. By drawing on three different case studies of urban and rural communities where *nōkotsudō* facilities have been created at a local temple, the speaker looked at different socio-economic circumstances that led to development of the facilities and how people are approaching their and others' death in a pro-active way. In doing so, Dr Kolata explored psychological and economic circumstances surrounding these choices to discuss people's creative responses to the uncertain futures of the dead in their depopulating neighbourhoods. Equally, she paid careful attention to the economic factors associated with the practice and comment on the institutional fragility of Buddhist institutions today and their uncertain economic futures. The paper was ethnographically informed and based on 15 months of fieldwork in rural and urban Japan in 2016-2017 and 2019.

From Black Ships to Black Smoke: Karatsu coal in the history of transpacific Japan

25 NOVEMBER 2020

Martin Dusinberre (University of Zurich)



In the classic woodblock prints depicting Commodore Perry's 1853 arrival in Japan, the key protagonist is often taken to be the black ships. But in this talk, Prof Dusinberre argued that the most important--and overlooked--element of the print was the billowing black smoke. And this, in turn, leads historians towards a different conception of the "terraqueous" in the history of mid-nineteenth century Japan. For in the new age of steam, ships had to be coaled; and in their need for coal, ships on the seas were in fact bound ever more tightly to the land. Thus, as US leaders and entrepreneurs sought to expand their Pacific presence following the annexation of California (1848), they increasingly turned to Japan, a land which they believed to be "abundant" with coal. The speaker's paper first reconstructed the line of knowledge which led back from the corridors of power in Washington DC, via the mediation of Philipp Franz von Siebold, to the coalfields of Karatsu (northwest Kyushu). In trying to

understand the nature of the relationship between the steamship and the land, the paper secondly reconstructed the labour that contributed to the coal's journey from mine to engine room. Shamelessly piggybacking on William Cronon's "Kennecott Journey: the Paths Out of Town" (1992), the presentation concluded with a reflection on how a transpacific history of global breadth must also be, thanks to the materiality of coal, an analysis of earthly depth.

Japanese Culture Through Videogames: Games as Texts and Discursive Practice

2 DECEMBER 2020

Rachael Hutchinson (University of Delaware)

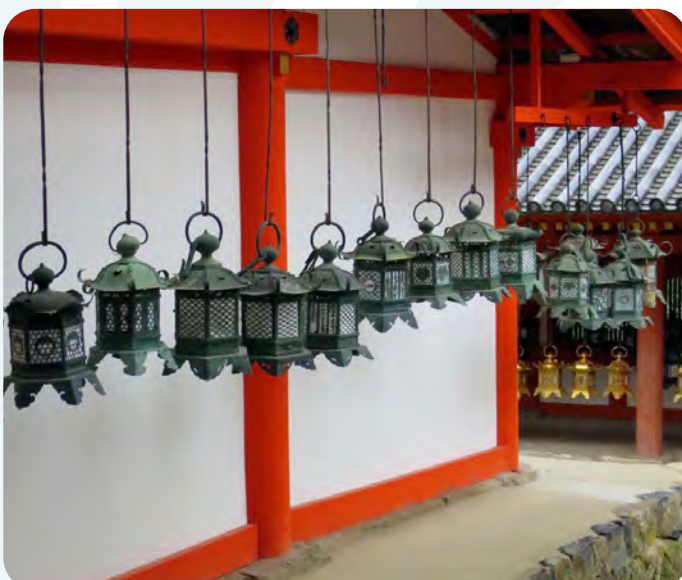
In her newest book, *Japanese Culture Through Videogames*, Rachael Hutchinson explores videogames as a window into the Japanese worldview. This talk focussed on the cultural content of globally popular games such as *SoulCalibur*, *Final Fantasy*, and *Metal Gear Solid*. Delving into character design, background setting and environment, aesthetic style, thematic content, and games dynamics and goals, Hutchinson pointed to ways in which Japanese role-playing games serve as popular entertainment narratives that tackle big issues like social anxiety, absentee parents, nuclear power, and war memory. Video games are not only texts with aesthetic value, but may also be read as part of contemporary discourse, while gameplay itself can be understood as discursive practice.



Entrepreneurial Aristocrats and Courtly Casters: Seeing Social Status through Artisanal Labor in Medieval Japan

9 DECEMBER 2020

Paula R. Curtis (Yale University)



Prevailing images of premodern Japan often evoke elegant, courtly life or the violence of warrior competitors. But what about the mundane? Who fashioned their tea kettles, provisioned their banquet lanterns, and kept their sword hilts in prime condition? This talk highlighted the lives of those "downstairs," the lower nobility and artisanal producers whose work gave substance to elite ideals, and considered their social and economic intersections in order to better understand the underlying structures of medieval institutions of authority. Focusing on the imperial court, Dr Curtis examined how Matsugi Hisanao, a low-ranking courtier, reestablished lapsed patronage relationships with artisanal metal caster organizations in the later sixteenth century. His entrepreneurial pursuit of transregional business relations with casters and their provincial overlords was not new, but built upon a long legacy of privileges that casters enjoyed as purveyors of goods and services to the court. A fuller understanding of the roles and prerogatives that these lower nobility and artisanal laborers retained reveals the permeability and fluidity of social status in medieval Japanese society, as well as how the labor of some of its least visible figures was critical to the longevity of its most iconic institutions.

SPRING TERM

The Metabolist Imagination: Visions of the City in Postwar Japanese Architecture and Science Fiction

20 JANUARY 2021

Will Gardner (Swarthmore)

In this talk, Prof Gardener presented highlights from his recent book *The Metabolist Imagination: Visions of the City in Postwar Japanese Architecture and Science Fiction* (University of Minnesota Press, 2020). This book explores how, in the wake of the destruction of Japanese cities in the Second World War, both architects and science fiction authors imagined alternatively utopian and apocalyptic futures for reemerging postwar cities. In particular, the book examines writings and architectural projects by figures associated with Metabolism, an avant-garde architecture movement formed in 1960, together with works by their contemporary SF authors, including prose writers Komatsu Sakyō and anime filmmakers Ōtomo Katsuhiro and Oshii Mamoru. In this talk, he discussed how architects, authors, and filmmakers elaborated shared themes such as futurity, ruins, and apocalypse, as well as architectural and urban forms including megastructures, capsules, and cybercities.



Knowing and Showing Difference: Sex, Gender and Disability in Japanese Film

27 JANUARY 2021

Forum Mithani (JRC Research Associate)



The Tokyo Paralympics, scheduled to be held in late summer 2021, will bring renewed focus to the potentialities of people with disabilities on an international scale. The hosts have been keen to stress the importance of diversity and inclusion under the banner 'know differences, show differences' (chigai o shiri, chigai o shimesu). Indeed, people with disabilities will not only be shown, they will be celebrated during this two-week global event. Nevertheless, this progressive slogan may seem remarkable given the long history of denial and ignorance Japanese people with disabilities have suffered in terms of their sexual and reproductive rights. The practice of forced sterilisations of those considered to be suffering from hereditary disabilities, which only ended in 1996, as well as the public uproar over sex education in special needs

schools are indicative of a reluctance to address issues of sexuality and desire among people with disabilities. Gender brings an additional dimension to this difficult terrain: although there now exist a range of sexual services aimed at the disabled community, most are designed to fulfil male needs, ignoring the sexual desires of disabled women.

This reluctance to view women with disabilities as sexual beings has manifested itself in cinematic representations, which have tended to romanticise disabled women as persevering, heroic and essentially asexual. However, recent film *37 Seconds* (2019), the story of a young woman with cerebral palsy who embarks on an exploration of her sexuality, confronts the stigmatisation of non-normative female bodies from the fore with its frank depictions of nudity and sexual desire. Furthermore, the decision by director Hikari to cast a disabled actor in the lead role makes the film truly ground-breaking. As such, it both complements and contrasts with another recent film, *Perfect Revolution* (2017), which explored similar themes from a male perspective. Through a discussion of cultural and media representations of disability, gender and sexuality in Japan, Forum Mithani demonstrated how contemporary Japanese film both pushes, while simultaneously reinforcing, boundaries of acceptable discourse in relation to gender, sexuality and non-normative bodies.

Empress Shōken and the Politics of Meiji Imperial Images

3 FEBRUARY 2021

Alison J. Miller (Sewanee: The University Of The South)

Soon after coming to the throne in 1868, Empress Shōken became the first Japanese empress with a visible presence outside of the palace. Through her appearances in woodblock prints, which show her public visits and stylish fashions, Shōken defined the position of empress in modern Japan. These prints served a didactic function, providing the Japanese public with a means to learn about this new royal position, and about the proper comportment and activities of imperial and aristocratic women. As a public persona, Shōken often utilized the optics of European royalty, but as a means of manipulation, not imitation, and balanced with complimentary scenes of historically inspired Japanese palace life and attire. Carefully crafted under the oversight of the Imperial Household Agency, the feminine sovereign image utilized the power of representation to exert domestic political influence. This talk examined elements of visually imagined cultural encounter and exchange in prints featuring Empress Shōken in the 1880s and 1890s in order to analyze the social and political impacts of the messaging envisioned within the disparate settings and sartorial selections featured in the images.



Kobayashi Kiyochika, 1895, "Illustration of the Empress Visiting the General Staff Headquarters," Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Okinawa-ron: Representations of Okinawa in Essay Literature

24 FEBRUARY 2021

Ina Hein (University of Vienna)

Even though Okinawa has been a part of Japan for over a century by now, the prefecture is constantly being discussed and constructed as an 'internal other' within the wider framework of 'Japan'. Sometimes this 'Okinawan difference' is explained by using the notion of a 'temporal lag'. In this line of argument, Okinawa is being equated with a past Japan: elements of Japanese culture which allegedly were lost in the process of hyper-modernization are supposedly still alive in Okinawa. On the other hand, however, it is often argued that the difference between Okinawa and Japan is a fundamental one, Okinawa having its own history (as Ryukyu Kingdom), culture, religious traditions and language. The respective motivations for taking each of these positions are always politically charged: on the one hand, Japanese claims of sameness between Okinawa and Japan tend to support the point of view that it is only natural for Okinawa to have become a part of Japan in the 1870s, and that it has rightfully been handed back to Japan in 1972 after 27 years of American occupation. On the other hand, Okinawans advancing the 'sameness argument' have aimed at establishing equal rights between Japanese mainlanders and Okinawans. By doing so, the situation of Okinawans who, as they felt, have been treated as second-class citizens by the government in Tokyo, would improve. A third approach, predominantly followed by Okinawan authors who refer to Okinawa's past as a prosperous Kingdom in its own right, fosters the idea that Okinawa can and should become independent – or at least gain a much higher grade of autonomy within Japan.



This ongoing debate becomes manifest across many different kinds of media. This lecture focussed on examples of non-fiction writings discussing various aspects of Okinawa and its relation to Japan, which can be subsumed under the term "Okinawa-ron".

Welcoming the Foreign: Hospitality and International Tourism in the Japanese Empire, 1912–1941

3 MARCH 2021

Andrew Elliott (JRC Visiting Scholar)



In the first issue of *Tsūrisuto* (June 1913), the trade magazine of the nascent Japan Tourist Bureau, Secretary Shōno Danroku declared that Japan has a hospitality problem: *"The unkind and dishonest treatment regularly meted out to globetrotters may well mar the beauty of our scenery."* Solving it, Shōno wrote, would demand attention from not only the Bureau but the general public. Over the following three decades, the management of this encounter between *gaiyaku* (foreign guests from, predominately, Europe and the United States) and Japan as tourism host nation would be a mainstay of inbound tourism policy. Showing an unprecedented level of interest by a modern state in the minutiae of recreational travel, the Bureau, industry leaders, and official organs of tourism like the Board of Tourist Industry advised on facilities, practices and, increasingly, what to say about national polity in face-to-face meetings. The economic reasons for increasing visitor numbers aside, reforms were initially aimed at projecting an image of Japan as a civilisational equal to the West and, primarily, service providers were expected to internalise and reproduce real or imagined international norms. But, as the propaganda potential of "international tourism" was prioritised in the 1930s, guidance to front-stage workers like guides, hotel and *ryōkan* staff, and "host-citizens" across the touristic nation, explicitly positioned these in relation to guests and the national-cultural community as loyal, welcoming subjects. Concurrently, inbound tourists were themselves selected and shaped as "good guests" – meaning, typically, the willingness to listen and learn from Japan – in an avowedly bilateral process of negotiation and accommodation.

Yet how did this play out on the ground? To what extent could the state ensure that the moment of service delivery worked as intended? Throughout the lecture, the speaker also turned from official policy and publications on the subject of tourism hospitality to the more difficult task of recovering local and individual experiences of providing and receiving hospitality, in mainland Japan and colonial territories.

History, Fiction, and Japan

10 MARCH 2021

Amy Stanley (Northwestern University)

From James Clavell's *Shogun* to Arthur Golden's *Memoirs of a Geisha* to Edward Zwick's *The Last Samurai*, historical fiction about Japan has proved to be incredibly popular with English-speaking audiences. These works appear to offer a glimpse into "how it really was," and even critics praise their pedagogical function in introducing readers and viewers to an unknown -- and previously unknowable -- world. Meanwhile, historians of Japan, many of whom actually do want to serve a pedagogical function, have to contend with the outsized role of fiction in shaping public perception. This talk, from a Japan historian whose work has often been miscategorized as fiction, considered the opportunities and dangers of borrowing the narrative strategies of the novel, and presented some ideas about why fiction and history are so often confused when we talk and write about Japan.



Discourses of Discipline - Anthropological Notes on Corporal Punishment in Japan

24 MARCH 2021



Aaron L. Miller (Oxon) (California State University)

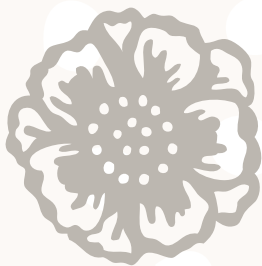
This talk explored the many "discourses of discipline" that encircle the issue of "corporal punishment" (*taibatsu*) in Japanese schools and sports. These discourses encompass the ways that people discuss discipline, the patterns of rhetoric about what discipline should be, as well as what discipline signifies. In this talk, the speaker gave a brief overview of the research process that led to writing *Discourses of Discipline*, and briefly offered an update regarding recent related events in Japan.



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.



EVENTS SUMMARY

The Japan Foundation / BAJS Postgraduate Workshop is back! A lot has changed since the 2020 iteration, and this year's online workshop was tackling the effects of the global pandemic on academia head on. The workshop took place online and was spread over two mornings. The aim of this workshop was to help postgraduate students develop their careers in JS navigating the 'new normal'.

Participating students were also able to present their latest research to academics and their peers, gaining important feedback at a time when presenting opportunities were low.

There were also discussions about key areas surrounding the rapidly changing world of Japanese Studies.

Topics included:

- Funding opportunities available to PhD candidates and early career researchers.
- The current state of academia in Japan and the effects of COVID-19
- Job opportunities both inside and outside of academia
- Creating a social media research presence
- And more...

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/).

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.

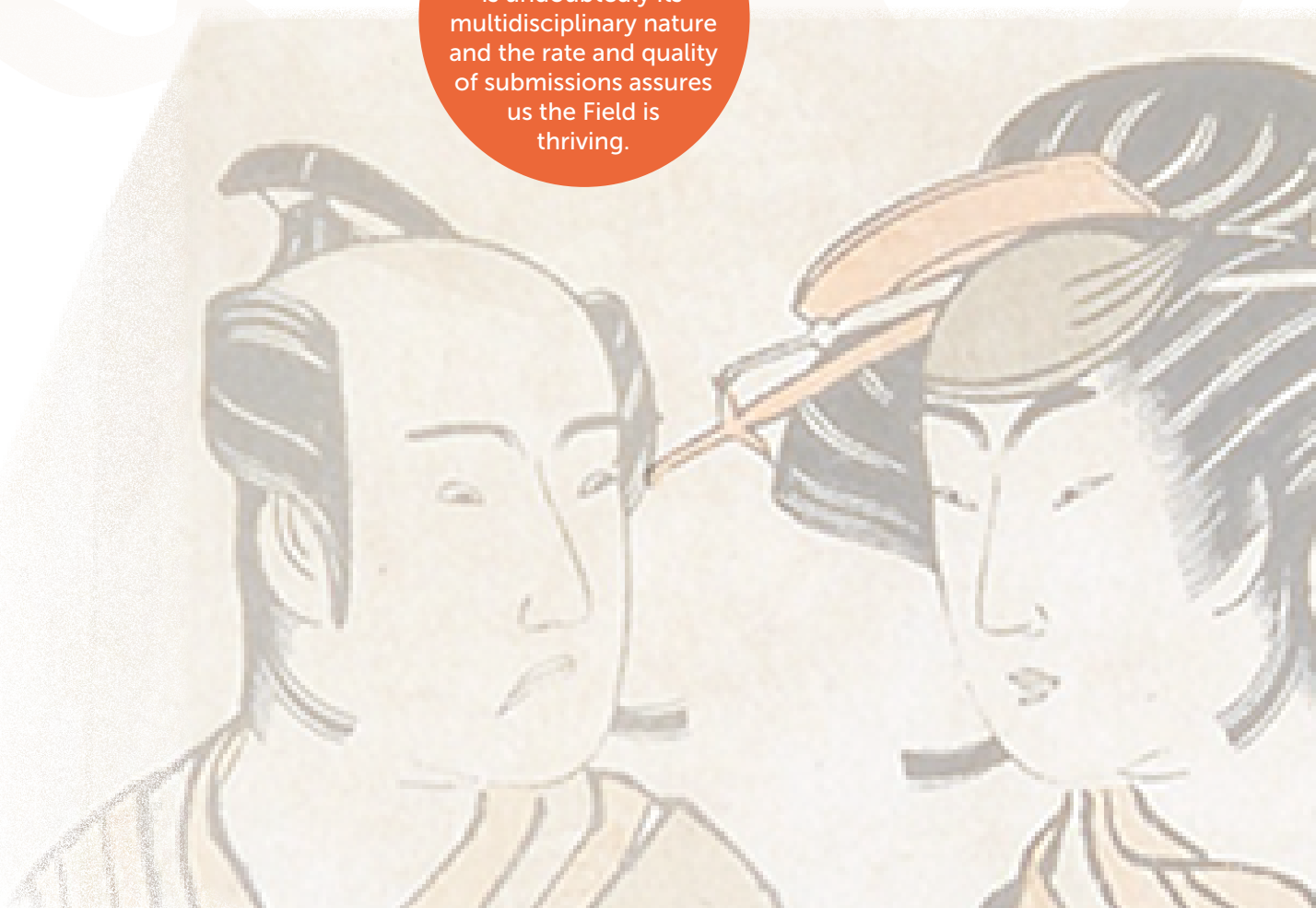
SUBMITTING TO JAPAN FORUM

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 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.





Find out more at bit.ly/2EjeUME

Japan Forum is the official journal of the British Association for Japanese Studies. Its primary objective is to publish original research in the field of Japanese Studies, making available scholarship on Japan to an international readership of specialists and non-specialists. From 1996 Japan Forum has been published by Taylor and Francis, a major publisher in the area of Japanese Studies.

Japan Forum is multidisciplinary, publishing contributions from across the arts and humanities and social sciences. Articles range from archaeology, language, literature, philosophy and culture to history.

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- 1 Japan Forum Podcast 1 With Harry Harootunian 5:15
- 2 Japan Forum Podcast 2 With Miki Dezaki Director Of Shusenjo The Main Battlegr... 8:35
- 3 Japan Forum Podcast 3 With Justin Jesty - Author Of 'Art And Engagement In E... 2:08
- 4 Japan Podcast 4: Oleg Benesch coauthor of 'Japan's Castles: Citadels of Modern... 1:54
- 5 Japan Forum Podcast 5 with Patrick W. Galbraith - Otaku and the Struggle for L... 2:00
- 6 Japan Forum Podcast 6 with Franz Prichard - Residual Futures 2:05

Listen to the Japan Forum Podcast episodes on <https://soundcloud.com/soas-university-of-london/sets/japan-forum>



Japan Research Centre

You can watch and listen to many JRC past events from the youtube playlist or the soundcloud playlist
 You can keep an eye on the most recent upload on the JRC media gallery page here: www.soas.ac.uk/jrc/podcasts/

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From Early Adopter to Rigorous Regulator: the Case of Cryptocurrency in Japan
 20 OCTOBER 2021

Body Like Withered Wood and Heart like Dead Ashes. Reconfiguring the Remains of Kamatari's Statue at Tōnomine
 3 NOVEMBER 2021

See all the upcoming events in the series here: www.soas.ac.uk/jrc/events/seminar-and-events/

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

GOLD
£10,000+

SILVER
£1,000-
£10,000

BRONZE
under
£1,000

For more information visit:
www.soas.ac.uk/jrc/40-40_fuwaku_fund/

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:



AUTOMOBILITY AND THE CITY IN TWENTIETH-CENTURY BRITAIN AND JAPAN

By: Simon Gunn, Susan C. Townsend

Automobility and the City in Twentieth-Century Britain and Japan is the first book to consider how mass motorization reshaped cities in Japan and Britain during the 20th century. Taking two leading 'motor cities', Nagoya and Birmingham, as their principal subjects, Simon Gunn and Susan C. Townsend show how cars changed the spatial form and individual experience of the modern city and reveal the similarities and differences between Japan and Britain in adapting to the 'motor age'.

The book has three main themes: the place of automobility in post-war urban reconstruction; the emerging conflict between the promise of mobility and personal freedom offered by the car and its consequences for the urban environment (the M/E dilemma); and the extent to which the Anglo-Japanese comparison can throw light on fundamental differences in cultural understanding of the environment, urbanism and the self. The result is the first comparative history of mass automobility and its environmental consequences between East and West.

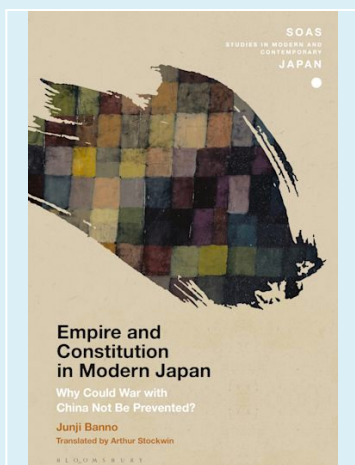


THE ORIGINS OF THE MODERN JAPANESE BUREAUCRACY

By: Yuichiro Shimizu (Author), Amin Ghadimi (Translator)

What is a bureaucracy, from where does it come, and how does it develop? The Japanese have long described their nation as a "kingdom of bureaucrats", but until now, no historian has fully explained the historical origins of the mammoth Japanese executive state. In this ground-breaking study, translated into English for the first time, Yuichiro Shimizu traces the rise of the modern Japanese bureaucracy from the Meiji Restoration through the early 20th century. He reveals how the making of the bureaucracy was none other than the making of Japanese modernity itself. Through careful political analysis and vivid human narratives, he tells the dynamic story of how personal ambition, new educational institutions, and state bureaucratic structures interacted to make a modern political system premised on recruiting talent, not status or lineage.

Bringing cutting-edge Japanese scholarship to a global audience, The Origins of the Modern Japanese Bureaucracy is not only a reconceptualization of modern Japanese political history but an account of how the ideal of "pursuing one's own calling" became the foundational principle of the modern nation-state.



**EMPIRE AND CONSTITUTION IN MODERN JAPAN
WHY COULD WAR WITH CHINA NOT BE PREVENTED?**

By: Junji Banno (Author), Arthur Stockwin (Translator)

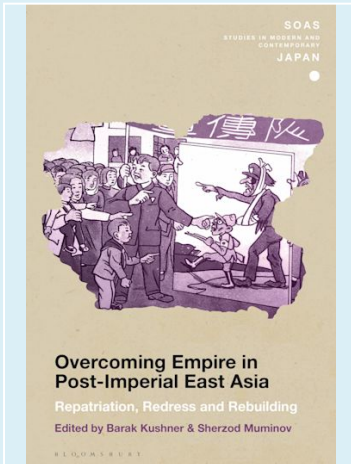
Since the beginning of the Meiji period when Japan evolved into a modern and powerful nation-state, ideas of empire and constitution imbued Japanese rule and progress. In Empire and Constitution in Modern Japan, Junji Banno expertly analyses how these conflicting concepts operated together in Japan from 1868 until 1937.

By 'empire', Banno means the Japanese impetus to create its own empire; by 'constitution', he identifies Japanese efforts to create a constitutional government. In this book, Banno discusses the complicated relationship between these two concepts, ranging from incompatibility in some periods to symbiosis in others. Furthermore, understanding the complex and competing nature of these ideals, he persuasively reasons, is key to our understanding of why Japan and China went to war in 1937, leading to Pearl Harbor just four years later.

Translated by eminent scholar Arthur Stockwin, Banno's highly accessible account of the dynamics of pre-war Japanese political history provides an engaging survey of imperialism and constitutionalism in modern Japan. It will be of vital importance to all scholars of modern Japanese history.

**OVERCOMING EMPIRE IN POST-IMPERIAL EAST ASIA
REPATRIATION, REDRESS AND REBUILDING**

By: Barak Kushner (Anthology Editor), Sherzod Muminov (Anthology Editor)

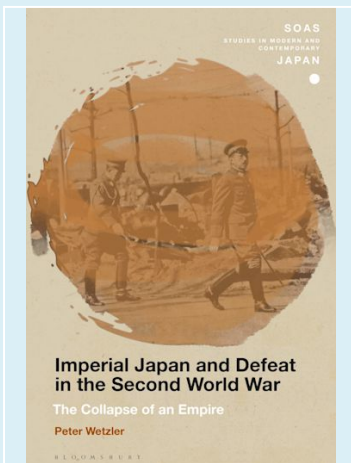


When Emperor Hirohito announced defeat in a radio broadcast on 15th August 1945, Japan was not merely a nation; it was a colossal empire stretching from the tip of Alaska to the fringes of Australia grown out of a colonial ideology that continued to pervade East Asian society for years after the end of the Second World War. In *Overcoming Empire in Post-Imperial East Asia: Repatriation, Redress and Rebuilding*, Barak Kushner and Sherzod Muminov bring together an international team of leading scholars to explore the post-imperial history of the region.

From international aid to postwar cinema to chemical warfare, these essays all focus on the aftermath of Japan's aggressive warfare and the new international strategies which Japan, China, Taiwan, North and South Korea utilised following the end of the war and the collapse of Japan's empire. The result is a nuanced analysis of the transformation of postwar national identities, colonial politics, and the reordering of society in East Asia. With its innovative comparative and transnational perspective, this book is essential reading for scholars of modern East Asian history, the cold war, and the history of decolonisation.

**IMPERIAL JAPAN AND DEFEAT IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR
THE COLLAPSE OF AN EMPIRE**

By: Peter Wetzler



Informed Western understanding of Imperial Japan still often conjures up images of militarism, blind devotion to leaders, and fanatical pride in the country. But, as *Imperial Japan and Defeat in the Second World War* reveals, Western imagination is often reductive in its explanation of the Japanese Empire and its collapse. In his analysis of the Emperor, Imperial Japanese Army and Navy during the Second World War, Peter Wetzler examines the disconnect between nation and state during wartime Japan and in doing so offers a much-needed nuanced and sensitive corrective to existing Western scholarship.

Rooted in the perspective of the Japanese, Wetzler makes available to readers vital primary and secondary Japanese archival sources; most notably, this book provides the first English assessment of the recently-released Actual Record of the Showa Emperor. This book is an important advance in English-language studies of the Second World War in Asia, and is thus essential reading for all those wishing to understand this crucial period in Japanese history.

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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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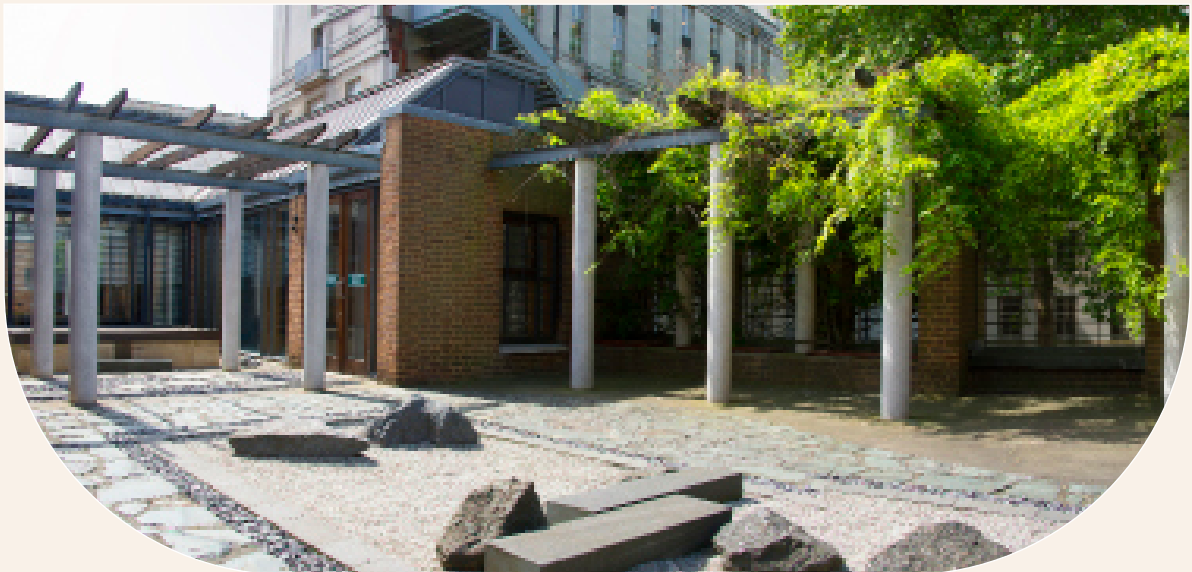
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The Japanese-inspired roof garden at SOAS, University of London was built during the Japan 2001 celebrations and was officially opened by the sponsor, Mr Haruhisa Handa (Toshu Fukami), an Honorary Fellow of the School, on 13 November 2001. It provides 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.

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!

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。

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.

The Japanese Roof Garden is currently closed.

To check updates on the reopening please visit:

www.soas.ac.uk/visitors/roofgarden/



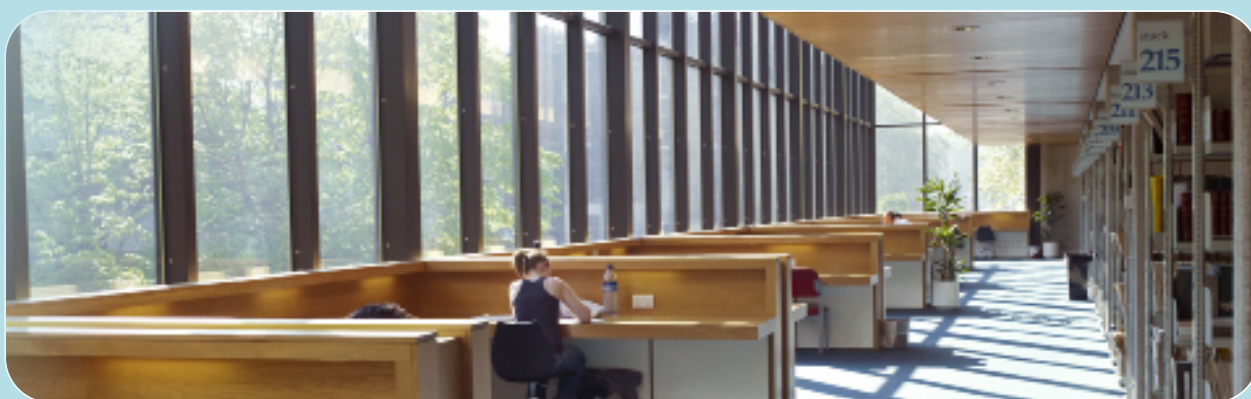
After the OPS restructuring in Summer 2019, Jiyeon Wood (formerly, the Arts Librarian) succeeded Fujiko Kobayashi as the Japan and Korea Librarian.

In December 2019, SOAS Library applied for the Metropolitan Center for Far Eastern Art Studies Library grant 2020/21 and received USD \$5,000. SOAS Library has been fortunate to receive the Metropolitan Center for Far Eastern Art Studies Library grant twice before, in 2015/16 and 2018/19. With the grant support, the Library has acquired a digital version of Fuzoku gaho [風俗画報], known as Japan's first graphic magazine (518 volumes were published from February 1889 (Meiji 22) to March 1916 (Taisho 5)). The contents cover many aspects, such as Edo, Meiji and Taisho's social aspects, customs, history, literature, geography, wars and disasters.



Another important acquisition was made via the SISJAC Library grant (£6,000). SOAS has had a close collaborative relationship with SISJAC (Sainsbury Institute of Japanese Art & Culture) and over the past few years has received the Library grant annually. A digitised journal of "Gakuto [學鏡]" (1897-2018) and 20 volume set of Ryūkyū Ōkoku Hyōjōsho monjo [琉球王国評定所文書] were added to the Library collection. Due to the global pandemic, the Library's acquisitions have shifted to electronic resources. This year's exciting acquisition is the Meiji Japan database which is a collection of manuscripts and papers of Edward Sylvester Morse (1838-1925) who, while teaching science at the Imperial University of Tokyo, devoted much of his time to documenting life in Japan before the modernization.

Due to Covid-19, the physical library was closed on 17th March, but from July the Library has offered various services including 'Click and collect' and 'Book returns' for SOAS students and staff. In June, Subject Librarians offered a series of Information Skills sessions focussing on electronic resources to support PG students who were working on their dissertations remotely. The Library is currently working on developing services on-campus to prepare for the new academic year.



ABOUT SOAS LIBRARY JAPAN COLLECTION

The Library holds some 160,000 monographs for Japanese studies. In addition, there are over 1,000 Japanese language periodicals, some 300 western language periodicals, and over 300 audio-visual materials for teaching and research in Japanese studies. The main focus is on the humanities & social sciences.

The Japan Collection (Level C) holds books on Japan in western and Japanese languages. Materials on Japanese art and archaeology are located in the Art Section (Level D) and the Law Collection (Level D) holds western language books on Japanese law.

The Library includes an extensive collection of pre-modern texts and prints including some 300 woodblock print books; over 500 prints are held in the collections, and some Japanese manuscripts are held in the Archive section. Details can be found in A descriptive catalogue of the pre-1868 Japanese Books in the SOAS Library (Chibbett. 1975, Ref.D010/348099) and Catalogue of Japanese Manuscripts in the SOAS Library (Yasumura. 1979, Ref. D010/462453).

Databases on Japan

The Library subscribes to major research databases including major Japanese language databases. The details are available at the Library's databases list. The databases on subscription can be accessed from the SOAS Library webpage: www.soas.ac.uk/library/subjects/japkor/databases-on-japan/

The Library has received more reading lists this academic year in comparison to previous years. The lists are helpful in identifying the needs for additional copies and e-books. The Library aims to replace paper copies with e-books for core reading titles.

明治神宮

Meiji Jingu Intercultural Research Institute

MEIJI JINGU SCHOLARSHIPS 2021-2022

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/registry/scholarships



SHIH-CHENG HUANG
Meiji Jingu Recipient 2021-2022

Working title of the project:

Return to Japan: Modernity and Cultural Identity in Japanese Photography, 1920s-1960s

Outline of the project: The thesis will argue how Japanese photography represents modernity and Japanese cultural identity by selected photographers who had experienced the catastrophes, the rise of modern Japanese photography and nationalism, the surrender of Imperial Japan, and post-war Americanisation.

Introduction to the research:

My research opens with a survey of graphic montages produced in the late 1920s and concludes with photographs produced both for Japan's urban consumer culture and the social isolation of the late 1960s. In interwar Japan, avant-garde photography—such as the photomontage—declined, and journalistic photography substituted for propaganda, showing zealous patriotism and working to promote traditional culture. Later, increasing economic growth triggered an enthusiasm for things Japanese, peaking with 1960s American counterculture, while social unrest and protests occurred due to the automatic ratification of the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty (known in Japanese as Anpo) in 1960.

I will select some photographers as case studies to shed new light on how modernity was interwoven with cultural identity in the Japanese socio-political context, with an emphasis on materials belonging to the genres of the photographic magazine and photobook, which occupy a particular place in the history of photography in Japan. My protagonists are six photographers who to some extent shared a sense of loss, displacement, and alienation: Horino Masao (1907-2000); Hamaya Hiroshi (1915-1999); Dōmon Ken (1909-1990); Yamahata Yōsuke (1917-1966); Tōmatsu Shōmei (1930-2012); and Narahara Ikko (1931-2020). While they all deployed the concept of tradition in order to locate modernity and cultural identity, I will indicate how these photographers represented their own individuality and projected a vision for each decade in Japan. Also, I probe further into how these scattered experiences in everyday life represent discourses around such areas as modernity, ethnography, nationalism, trauma, and cultural identity between different regions in Japan.



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/jrc/awards-and-grants/

Sponsored by:



Leah CREWS

Sasakawa PG Studentship Recipient 2021-2022

INTRODUCTORY REPORT

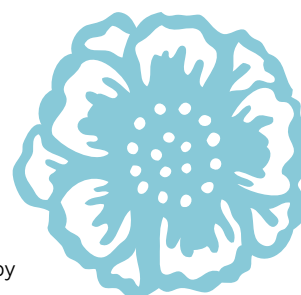


Thesis working title:

Censoring the Floating World: The Influence of Government on Ukiyo-e Woodblock Prints

Outline of the project:

An exploration into the production process and subject matter of Edo period woodblock prints, detailing its rise in popularity and subsequent censorship by the government.



Introduction:

The classic imagery of Ukiyo-e woodblock prints is well known throughout the world; a glimpse of Mount Fuji through Hokusai's 'Great Wave'; Hiroshige's rainy scenes of Edo Tokyo; Utamaro's 'Famous Beauties'. What is lesser known however, is the manner and context in which these iconic works were created. The production of a woodblock print typically involved four parties: a publisher, an artist, a carver and a printer. In addition to this, the work would have to be approved by a censor before it went into production, with certain themes being deemed inappropriate.

This research will examine the roles of the artists, as well as the often unmentioned artisans and publishers, in creating and distributing Ukiyo-e prints during the Edo Period. Artworks depicted the 'Floating World' a term used to describe the emerging urban culture of Edo, particularly the pleasure districts. With the prints being produced in large numbers, they could be affordably purchased by ordinary people and began to proliferate throughout society. It was this rise in popularity that led the government to begin intervening in the kinds of imagery being circulated, enforcing boundaries on the image of society being promoted. Analysing the motives of the government in enforcing censorship and looking at the specific themes that were prohibited at various times throughout the period will provide a different insight into familiar imagery.

Clare DONOVAN

Sasakawa PG Studentship Recipient 2021-2022

INTRODUCTORY REPORT



Thesis working Title:

The role of women in religion: Focusing on the Ryukyuan religion, the indigenous belief system of the Ryukyu Islands

Outline of the project:

My research will look at the role of women as Yuta, and as Noro, in the Ryukyuan religion. I will seek comparisons between Okinawa's indigenous belief system and Japan's largest religion Shinto.

Introduction:

I am interested in the tradition and practice of "Ancestor Worship" and the unusually prominent and powerful role of women in Okinawan early religious practice. "Ancestor Worship" has played a major role since the earliest days of the Ryukyu Kingdom. It centres around the "Ultimate Ancestors": heaven/utin, earth/jichi, sea/ryugyu from which all life came, which collectively may be understood as the Okinawan equivalent of "God" in Western Christian teaching. As with many aspects of Okinawan culture which set it apart from practices on the Japanese mainland, "Ancestor Worship" has been subject to attempts to suppress it. Spirit/mabui is a fundamental belief and the Yuta, Shaman Priestess, as the servant of the gods, plays an important role. Whereas Yuta are self-declared spirit-mediums, the Noro, the Head Priestess, known as the "Kikoe Ogimi", was a position of power inherited by a senior female relative of the King.

In Shinto there are thousands of “kami” which has been translated as “God” but which differ from the Western concept of God. In Shinto, Ujigami are important kami and considered the ancestors of the clans who believed that a particular kami was both their ancestor and their protector, and dedicated their worship to that spirit. The Sun Goddess Amaterasu is considered Shinto’s most important kami/god. Amaterasu is the Japanese sun goddess, daughter of creator deities Izanagi and Izanami, and central to the Shinto religion. It is from her the Japanese nobility claims descent and their divine right to rule.

Jennifer SCHOFIELD

Sasakawa PG Studentship Recipient 2021-2022

INTRODUCTORY REPORT



Thesis working title:

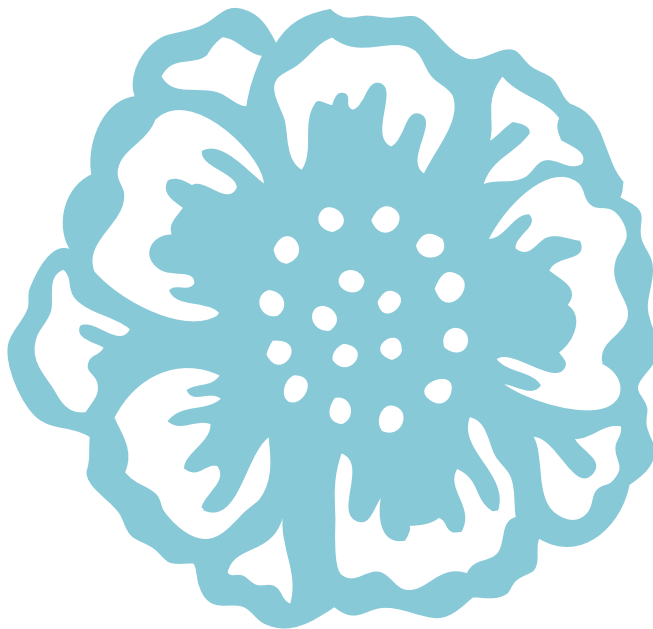
Advances in accessibility technology and their potential applications in the workplace in Japan

Outline of the project:

My research will examine advances in accessibility technology, especially those developed throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, and their applications in improving workplace accessibility for people with disabilities.

Introduction:

This project will seek to analyse the availability of accessibility technology in the workplace to people with disabilities in Japan, and evaluate which recent advances in accessibility technology in the West (including work from home technologies developed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic) could prove useful in integrating people with disabilities into the workplace with an aim to improving the retention rate of employees with disabilities. Using an inductive approach within an interdisciplinary theoretical framework, this project will use field research in the form of interviews and questionnaires with Japanese companies and their employees in order to focus on highlighting technology which would prove specifically useful as self-identified by the employees themselves. During the discourse analysis, the project will conclude by compiling and analysing the collected data in order to theorise which approaches to accessibility technology would best support those with disabilities in the workplace.



SOAS

Our academic focus on the languages, cultures and societies of Asia, Africa and the Middle East makes us an indispensable interpreter in a complex world

SOAS University of London is the only Higher Education institution in Europe specialising in the study of Asia, Africa and the Near and Middle East.

SOAS is a remarkable institution. Uniquely combining language scholarship, disciplinary expertise and regional focus, it has the largest concentration in Europe of academic staff concerned with Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

On the one hand, this means that SOAS scholars grapple with pressing issues - democracy, development, human rights, identity, legal systems, poverty, religion, social change - confronting two-thirds of humankind while at the same time remaining guardians of specialised knowledge in languages and periods and regions not available anywhere else in the UK.

This makes SOAS synonymous with intellectual enquiry and achievement. It is a global academic base and a crucial resource for London. We live in a world of shrinking borders and of economic and technological simultaneity. Yet it is also a world in which difference and regionalism present themselves acutely. It is a world that SOAS is distinctively positioned to analyse, understand and explain.

SOAS has the largest concentration of specialist staff (300+ academics) concerned with the study of Asia, Africa and the Middle East at any university in the world.

現在SOASにて学部生 5 0 0 名余り、院生 1 0 0 名余りが日本及び日本語に焦点を当てて学際的に学んでおります。欧州における当分野の研究機関としては最大の学生数となります。

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



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

The eBulletin highlights the latest events, funding and knowledge being shared and other topical opportunities that we think will be of interest to you.

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JRC Annual Review

Current and past editions of the JRC Annual Review are available to download from:

www.soas.ac.uk/jrc/newsletter/

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