

SOAS

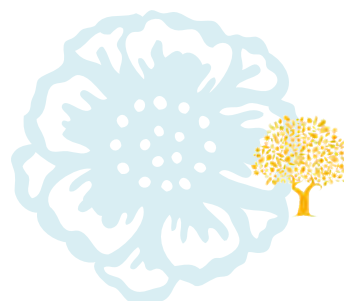
JRC at 40



SOAS Japan Research Centre

ANNUAL REVIEW

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SOAS
University of London



Our 40th birthday celebration event offered us the occasion to be able to reflect on the past, current and future contribution and importance of Japanese Studies here at SOAS.

As we begin a new academic year I take this opportunity to thank all our JRC Members, Associates, Visiting Scholars, funding bodies, and followers of our JRC social media sites for helping to ensure the JRC remains an engaging and dynamic space for the study of Japan here at SOAS.

It has been a pleasure to serve as Chair since 2016-17 and I am looking forward to my final year in the role as we enter 2019-20. As we look back on last year's activities, you will see that 2018-19 was a special year as we celebrated 40 years since the JRC was first established back in 1978. It was an action packed year of events, with a full and vibrant Wednesday Seminar Series as well as the hosting of our eleventh Annual Meiji Jingu Autumn Lecture and our sixth W.G. Beasley Memorial Lecture. We also continued our JRC Sport Symposia Series in collaboration with the CISD and the Japan Foundation London (2017-2020). Our 40th birthday celebration event offered us the occasion to be able to reflect on the past, current and future contribution and importance of Japanese Studies here at SOAS, and we were honoured that the Japanese Ambassador to the UK, His Excellency Mr Koji Tsuruoka opened our 40th Celebrations. At the event, I was also delighted to launch our new JRC funding initiative - the 40-40 Fuwaku Fund - which aims to support JRC activities through the next 40 years and beyond. I would like to thank donors who have contributed to the fund in its opening year, particularly Mr Makoto Ichikawa who kindly donated funds to support the JRC Seminar Series for 2018-19, marking 40 years since the Series first began.

As the following pages in this Annual Review will testify to, Japanese Studies learning and research remains exciting and diverse. Our academic members continue to work at the forefront of research, publishing an array of topics and pursuing a range of scholarly and media activities across the fields of Japanese Studies.

We continue to welcome Visiting Scholars from Japanese universities who contribute to academic networking within the JRC, and our students. The JRC's publishing activities also continue to thrive. The editorial team of Japan Forum enter their sixth year at the helm of the BAJIS journal, producing quarterly issues that reflect cutting edge research from international Japanese Studies scholars. And, the research monograph series SOAS Studies in Modern and Contemporary Japan, in association with Bloomsbury continues to publish several books annually reflecting the strength and diversity of Japanese Studies scholarship. I am also pleased to report that the JRC accounts continue to show a surplus, thanks to the contribution of key supporters, in particular the the Meiji Jingu Intercultural Research Institute.

At the end of 2018-19 we said a sad farewell to several JRC members leaving SOAS – Prof. Drew Gerstle, Prof. Steve Dodd, Dr Angus Lockyer, Ms Fujiko Kobayashi, Ms Jane Savory and Dr Ryotaro Mihara. I thank all of them for their years of service at SOAS and their wonderful support of JRC activities. They will be much missed but are always welcome back to JRC events and we hope to not say a final goodbye.

The JRC flourishes because of your collaboration and support, and I look forward to working with you all during 2019-20, in particular with my fabulous JRC Steering Committee (Fabio Gygi, Griseldis Kirsch, Lucia Dolce and Alan Cummings). I'm also indebted to Angelica Baschiera and Charles Taillandier-Ubsdell in the SOAS Centres & Programmes Office without whom our JRC activities would not run as smoothly as they do. Stay tuned in to our JRC website, our social media feeds and to our regular JRC Bulletin for all our activities coming your way this year.





センター長便り - ヘレン・マクノートン

新年度にあたり、ジャパン・リサーチ・センターのスタッフを始め、アソシエイト及び客員研究員、ご支援をいただきました企業及び団体、また、ソーシャル・メディア等を通じて日頃ジャパン・リサーチ・センターの活動を支えてくださいました皆様には、ここに心より感謝申し上げます。

2016年8月にセンター長を拝命いたしましたがおかげさまで就任後の3年を無事に終えることができました。ジャパン・リサーチ・センターの40周年の記念を振り返りながら、これからの1年間もジャパン・リサーチ・センターのためにベストを尽くす所存です。この1年を振り返りますと、第11番目の明治神宮特別講演から始まり、第6番目のピースリ記念特別講演、週ごとに様々なトピックを取り上げましたセミナーも皆様のご理解とご協力を得て無事に終了し、2018/2019年度も実りある一年となりました。またSOASの外交や国際研究のセンターと協力し、2017年から2020年までのジャパン・リサーチ・センターのスポーツ・シンポジウムのシリーズが続きました。

このジャパン・リサーチ・センターの年次活動報告書をご覧いただければ、日本研究の多様さと奥の深さから、その面白さを実感していただけることでしょう。ジャパン・リサーチ・センターのメンバー一同、第一線での日本研究を目指して、今後も研究及びその成果の公表に精進し、さらに日本研究の枠にとらわれることなく学際的な立場から、学術活動やメディアを通じて、あまねく日本研究の紹介を行ってまいります。また、研究活動を通じたジャパン・リサーチ・センターとの結びつきを広げるためにも、今後も日本の大学からより多くの客員研究員を受け入れるべくその体制も整えてまいります。さらに、学生たちには、講義を通じた学びや研究調査活動の指導においても研究成果を還元できればと思っています。

ジャパン・リサーチ・センターの研究活動の成果も着実に出版されています。英国日本研究学会の季刊誌ジャパン・フォーラムの現編集メンバーの体制も今年で6年目を迎えました。英国内外の日本研究者による最先端の研究成果のご紹介を常に心がけています。学術書としては、ブルームズベリー社との連携によるSOASモノグラフ「近現代の日本研究」シリーズも、日本学の勢力や多様性を反映する本を刊行し続けます。今年度のジャパン・リサーチ・センターの収支ですが、明治神宮国際神道文化研究所を始め、忠実な支持者のおかげさまで、今年度も純益を計上できましたことをここに報告させていただきます。

最後に、以上ご報告させていただきましたジャパン・リサーチ・センターのこの1年の活動は、皆様の日頃のご協力とご支援のたまものにはかなりません。2019/2020年度も、運営委員会のメンバーであるファビオ・ギギ、グリゼルディス・キルシュ、ルチア・ドルチェ、アラン・カミングズ（敬称略）とともに活気のあふれる1年にしたいと思っています。センターの事務所のアンジェリカ・バスキエラとチャールズ・タヨンジ・アブズデルにも深く感謝しております。今後どうぞよろしくお願い申し上げます。

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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One of the largest concentrations of Japan specialists outside Japan

JAPAN & KOREA: EAST ASIAN LANGUAGES & CULTURES

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JRC Steering Committee

- Dr Alan Cummings
- Dr Lucia Dolce
- Dr Fabio Gygi
- Dr Griseldis Kirsch
- Dr Helen Macnaughtan

LAUNCH OF 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



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

DONATION FROM MR ICHIKAWA TO SUPPORT AND PROMOTE JAPANESE STUDIES RESEARCH AT SOAS

The SOAS Japan Research Centre has received a donation from Mr Makoto Ichikawa to support and promote Japanese Studies research at SOAS and to further develop the friendship between the UK and Japan.

The donation will support the JRC Seminar Series for 2018-19. The Series has been running for 40 years since its establishment in the Autumn term of 1978. It contributes to SOAS's specialist teaching and learning environment for students undertaking BA/MA/PhD Japanese Studies degrees, and provides a regional focus for students combining an element of Japan-focused study within other discipline-based degrees offered across SOAS.

The public seminars are delivered by established Japanese Studies scholars from the UK, Europe and beyond, providing opportunity for wide debate on a diverse range of research issues within the field of Japanese Studies. The JRC Seminar Series has a positive effect on the Japanese Studies research community within SOAS, and extends to a broader community with external visitors comprising half the audience at weekly seminars.

Mr Makoto Ichikawa is the President of Ichikawa Jin Company Limited, a customer relations and advertising company based in Kyoto and Tokyo, first established in 1945. The donation was inspired by the long friendship of 45 years between Mr Ichikawa and Mr Stephen McEnally, JRC Senior Fellow, the wish to promote an enhanced understanding of Japan in the UK, and to further develop the friendship and close ties that exist between the two countries.



JRC IN THE MEDIA 

A weekly round up of the news coverage by JRC members.

www.soas.ac.uk/jrc/news/jrc-in-the-media/

DONATION FROM MR STEPHEN MCENALLY SUPPORTS THE 2019 W.G. BEASLEY MEMORIAL LECTURE



We are very grateful to the generous support of Mr Stephen McEnally, which makes the 2019 W.G. Beasley Memorial Lecture possible. This annual lecture, created in 2013, provides an opportunity to commemorate the life and writings of SOAS historian Professor William G Beasley (1919–2006). Professor Beasley was not only a leading figure in the development of Japanese Studies in Britain, he also had strong links with SOAS. During his tenure at SOAS, Professor Beasley headed the History and Far East departments and was the founding Chair of the Japanese Research Centre (1978-83).

DONATION FROM PROFESSOR PETER FRANCIS KORNICKI FBA

The SOAS Japan Research Centre (JRC) has received a gift from Peter Francis Kornicki FBA, Emeritus Professor of Japanese Studies at the University of Cambridge and Professorial Research Associate of the JRC.

Peter hopes that Japanese studies at SOAS continues to flourish and was encouraged to make the donation because of his frequent use of the SOAS library and regular attendance at the JRC seminars.



DONATION FROM DR JAMES HOARE TO SUPPORT ACADEMIC RESEARCH MATERIALS.



The SOAS Japan Research Centre has received a donation from Dr James Hoare to support a small grant for academic research materials.

Dr Hoare, Research Associate, SOAS Centre of Korean Studies has a PhD in Japanese history from SOAS University of London.

He has long been a member of the Anglo-Korean Society, the Korean Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society and President of the British Association of Korean Studies (BAKS) in 2006.

James is a regular contributor to the UK and global media and participants in conferences, briefings and talks around the world. His latest book, published this year, is J E Hoare, Ed., Culture, Power and Politics in Treaty-Port Japan, 1854-1899. This two-volume collection, supported by an in-depth introduction that addresses origins, actuality, endgame and afterlife, brings together for the first time contemporary documentation and more recent scholarship to give a broad picture of Japan's Treaty Ports and their inhabitants at work and play in the second half of the nineteenth century.

Stephen DODD
Professor in Japanese



It is a cliché to say that endings and beginnings overlap, but as I leave SOAS and embark on a new phase the reality of this expression has really come to life. As academics, we are all too familiar with piles of unwanted administrative jobs that we have to endure. However, I can say in all sincerity that my role as Chair of the JRC was the most pleasurable administrative job I undertook at SOAS. To attend so many fascinating and varied talks, to try and ensure that Japanese scholars were able to participate in our thriving Japanese studies community at SOAS, and to speak as a representative of the JRC at various outside functions both in the UK and overseas was an honour and, well, fun. I certainly intend to continue showing up for various JRC talks, so this isn't the end, but this is a perfect opportunity to thank Helen, Jane and all my fabulous academic colleagues for their friendship and intellectual stimulation over the years. As far as new beginnings go, there is still a certain continuity: I'll be a Visiting Fellow at Nichibunken in Kyoto for one year starting April 2020. But there is also an exciting new development for me in the form of literary translation.



My translation of Mishima's *Life for Sale* (Inochi urimasu) came out this August, and I have been commissioned to do a second Mishima novel, an intriguing sci-fi work called *Beautiful Star* (Utsukushii hoshi).

Griseldis KIRSCH
Senior Lecturer in
Contemporary Japanese Culture



In November 2018, Griseldis was invited to the University of Southampton, presenting a talk on her research on colonial nostalgia in Japanese television drama and film. She was also invited to give a talk at the University of Vienna, expanding slightly on the topic, by looking at how self-censorship affects content production in Japanese media.

She received the JRC Fuwaku Research grant, enabling her to go on fieldwork in Japan, visiting the Kobe Planet film archives as well as acting as discussant and keynote speaker at the symposium 'Aspects of the Media: Local and Global Currents', on 4 July 2019 at Kobe University. From 1 August 2019, she has become Head of the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures at SOAS.

CHAPTERS IN EDITED BOOKS

(2019): "Recreating Memory? The Drama *Watashi wa kai ni naritai* and Its Remakes." In: Guarné, Blai, Artur Lozano-Méndez and Dolores Martínez (eds): *Persistently Postwar: Media and the Politics of Memory in Japan*. New York, Oxford: Berghahn Book, pp. 85-102.

Timon SCREECH
Professor of the
History of Art



Timon Screech has continued his world-wide speaking activities, including at the University of Sydney and Gallery on New South Wales in Australia, the universities of British Columbia and Victoria in Canada, plus Waseda and Tokyo Gaigo-dai in Japan. He also taught summer schools at Meiji University in 2018 & 2019. Summer 2019 saw him take a research trip to the Ogasawara Islands (also known as the Bonins), 26 hours from Tokyo by boat.

He will be on leave from SOAS for the whole 2019-20 academic year.

BOOKS

- Screech, Timon (forthcoming 2020), *The Shogun's Silver Telescope: God, Art & Money in the English Quest for Japan, 1600-1625* (Oxford: Oxford University Press,, 2020)
- Screech, Timon (forthcoming 2020), *Tokyo Before Tokyo: Power and Magic in the Shogun's City of Edo, 1590-1868* (London: Reaktion Books & Chicago: Chicago University Press, 2020)

CHAPTERS IN EDITED BOOKS

Screech, T. (2019), 'Floating Pictures: The European Dimension to Japanese Art in the Eighteenth Century', in, S. Sloboda & M. Yonan (eds), *Eighteenth-Century Art Worlds: Global and Local Geographies of Art* (London: Bloomsbury, 2019)



A Kannon image installed as a war memorial on Haha-jima in the Ogasawaras (aka the Bonins) [photo by Timon Screech]

Hitoshi SHIRAKI
Senior Lecturer in Japanese



Hitoshi Shiraki was awarded Fellowship by Higher Education Academy. In his fellowship application, Hitoshi put the spotlight on his commitment to peer learning as a way to encourage students to get the most out of his lectures. In class, he actively encourages students to teach each other and learn from each other - which can help make classes more lively and creates a non-threatening education atmosphere. Through peer learning, students also learn how to work in a cooperative manner and learn how to explain things in a way which teaching staff may not have considered.

Hitoshi said: "The fellowship was not only a bonus to my profile, but a good opportunity to reflect on my teaching experience and improve teaching skills. Once I started to reflect on my teaching and how it relates to some of the learning and teaching theories, the application process became more interesting and I started to want learn more. I realised that some of the things I naturally do in class have an actual theoretical basis, so that was a nice surprise."

Christopher GERTEIS
Senior Lecturer in History of Contemporary Japan



On the 30th of October 2018 Christopher Gerteis was interviewed in an New York Times article on a Japan-Korea reparations case.

Read the full article here:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/10/30/world/asia/south-korea-japan-compensation-world-war-two.html>



Yoshikatsu SHINOZAWA
Senior Lecturer in Financial Studies



In April 2019 Yoshikatsu Shinozawa, Senior Lecturer in Financial Studies, discussed the international impact of Brexit on BS Television Tokyo, Nikkei Plus 10.

Helen MACNAUGHTAN
Senior Lecturer in International Business & Management



Helen continues her roles as JRC Chair and Co-editor of Japan Forum at SOAS. The JRC was established in 1978 and celebrated 40 years in 2018, and Helen is proud to be the first female Chair in that forty year history. Helen continues her research on gender equality and employment in Japan, and is writing a co-authored book (with colleagues Peter Matanle, Arjan Keizer and Jun Imai) titled: Resilience and Fragmentation at Work: Employment in 21st Century Japan, due to be published with Oxford University Press in 2020.

Helen also continues her research on sport in Japan, building on her previous research on Japanese women's volleyball at the Tokyo 1964 Olympic Games, with her new projects focused around Japan's hosting of Sports Mega Events and the history of gender and rugby in Japan.

On 20 September 2018 she hosted an event exactly one year out from the kick-off date of the Rugby World Cup 2019, as part of the JRC's Sport Symposia series (2017-2020) in collaboration with the SOAS Centre for International Studies and Diplomacy (CISD), the Japan Foundation London and the Japan Sport Council.

ARTICLES

Macnaughtan, Helen (2019) 'Can Sporting Mega-Events bring change to Japan?'

<https://www.eastasiaforum.org/2019/04/25/can-sporting-mega-events-bring-change-to-japan/>

During a recent trip to Tokyo as JRC Chair, Helen visited the Meiji Jingu Intercultural Research Institute who have generously funded our Annual Autumn Lecture, Research Scholarships and Research Grants for SOAS staff since 2008.



Helen also visited Mariko Kuwayama of the Toshiba International Foundation, who have generously supported the WG Beasley Memorial Lecture and the JRC Sport Symposia Series in recent years.



Prof Timon Screech was asked to advise Inuyama city about better understanding of their rich cultural heritage - such as the castle keep seen here (completed 1620) [photo by Timon Screech]

Barbara PIZZICONI
Reader in Applied
Japanese Linguistics



Barbara continues to collaborate with Dr Kizu and Dr Gyogi in the investigation of the development of modal particles in Japanese learners' language (see the paper published in April, below), and with Dr Iwasaki on intercultural pragmatics (two papers in the pipeline), as well as continuing her own work on Japanese (im)politeness.

ARTICLES

Pizziconi B. 2019 The development of interactional positioning in L2 Japanese, with Mika Kizu and Eiko Kyogi, *East Asian Pragmatics* (DOI 10.1558/eap.38217)



Kristin SURAK
Senior Lecturer in



During April and May 2019, Kristin Surak discussed the abdication of the Emperor of Japan and the shift to a new imperial era as well as Japan's new Emperor on: BBC Radio 4, BBC Radio 5, BBC Radio Guernsey, BBC Radio Wales, BBC Radio Somerset, BBC 3CR, and BBC Scotland and Channel News Asia TV

Ulrich VOLZ
Senior Lecturer in
Development Economics



On 22 February 2019, Ulrich Volz was quoted in UrduPoint on the prospects of a bilateral free trade agreement between the UK and Japan and future economic relations between the two countries.

THE JAPAN ECONOMY NETWORK

The Japan Economy Network (JEN) was established in July 2015 and aims to promote research on the Japanese economy in comparative perspective 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. The JEN is hosted by the SOAS Department of Economics.

For further information on the JEN please visit:

www.soas.ac.uk/jen/

Conference

Fourth Annual Conference of the Japan Economy Network held at the Bank of Japan in Tokyo

SOAS-based network organises major conference at the Japanese central bank

26-27 AUGUST 2019

The Japanese central bank hosted the Fourth Annual Conference of the Japan Economy Network at its headquarters in Tokyo on 26-27 August 2019. Over two days, 22 papers were presented in various sessions covering labour economics, monetary economics and inflation dynamics, international trade and investment, depopulation and city shrinkage, capitalism and well-being, and equity markets.

The conference also featured a panel discussion on monetary policy challenges and a special session on sustainable finance in Japan. Professor Naoyuki Yoshino, Dean of the Asian Development Bank Institute and Emeritus Professor at Keio University, delivered a keynote speech on "An Aging Population and the Declined Effectiveness of Monetary and Fiscal Policy".

This year, three academics from the SOAS Department of Economics – Satoshi Miyamura, Jan Toporowski and Ulrich Volz – as well as SOAS Economics PhD student Simon Dikau presented their work at the conference.



Broadly speaking, SOAS Library's collections reflect the British interaction with Africa and Asia over the last 250 years, and include archives of missionary societies, NGOs and campaign groups, and business organisations, as well as papers of individuals, including diplomats, campaigners, and academics.

Archive Collections

Our archive collections include original unpublished primary sources, including correspondence, minutes, diaries, reports, photographs, slides, maps, plans, posters, leaflets, drawings, engravings, film footage, and sound recordings.

Manuscript Collections

We also hold an internationally important resource of several thousand unpublished manuscripts in over 100 different languages, with significant holdings in Arabic, Persian, Swahili, South, South-East & East Asian languages.

Rare Book Collections

We provide access to SOAS Library's collection of rare books and periodicals relating to Africa, Asia, and the Middle East, dating back to the 15th century



One
of only five
National Research
Libraries in
the UK

About the Collection: Japan

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.

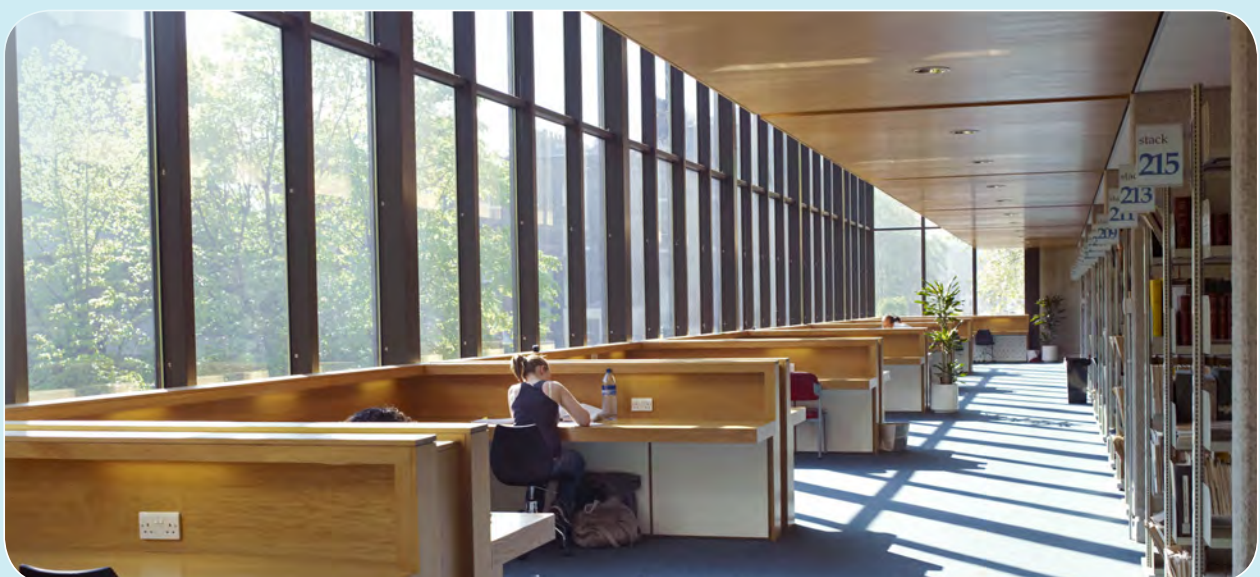
The Japan Collection (Level C) holds books on Japan in western and Japanese languages. Materials on Japanese art and archaeology are located in the Art Section (Level D) and the Law Collection (Level D) holds western language books on Japanese law.

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.



A celebration of the life and work of Ron Dore

25 JUNE 2019

This event was a celebration of the life, both personal and professional, of Ron Dore, with contributions from his family and former associates ranging over his life and career.

Professor Ronald P. Dore, CBE FBA died on Wednesday, 14 November 2018 in Italy, at the age of 93.

Ron was a British sociologist specialising in the Japanese economy and society and the comparative study of types of capitalism. He was a fellow of the British Academy, the Japan Academy, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. The citation for his eminent scholar award from the Academy of International Business described him as “an outstanding scholar whose deep understanding of the empirical phenomena he studies and ability to build on it to develop theoretical contributions are highly respected not only by sociologists but also by economists, anthropologists, historians, and comparative business systems scholars”.

Ron Dore was one of the “Dulwich Boys” chosen to study Japanese language at SOAS. In 1942 the Board of Education, at the behest of the War Office, established a scholarship scheme for boys from secondary and public schools aged 17 and 18 to study languages critical to the war effort. Accommodated at Dulwich College, the “Dulwich Boys” as they came to call themselves, attended language courses at SOAS every afternoon, and returned to the college each morning to study the regular Dulwich curriculum. On completing their 18 months of language training, each student was inducted into the military or intelligence services. After injuring himself before he could take part in active service, Ron returned to the UK to teach Japanese, and complete his external degree. His first trip to Japan was in 1950. His academic career began at SOAS, but he subsequently held positions at the University of British Columbia, the Institute of Development Studies at Sussex University, the Technical Change Centre at Sussex, the Institute for Economic growth in Delhi, Imperial College, Harvard University, and MIT.



In the 1980s, when Japanese firms were changing the nature of competition in international business, Ron’s research was an invaluable resource for scholars seeking to understand Japanese business firms and the environment from which they were expanding. Dore’s pioneering comparative study of employment relations and factory organisation in British Factory Japanese Factory (1973) provided a solid base for understanding the patterns adopted by the Japanese in setting up production facilities abroad. His 1986 book, *Flexible Rigidities*, further explored the relationships across firms and between firms and governments in a comparative context. The challenges and processes of learning across borders were themes of his work from his classic book on Land Reform in Japan (1959) through to his 2000 book, *Stock Market Capitalism, Welfare*

Capitalism: Japan and Germany versus the Anglo-Saxons.

In February 2016, the JRC was honoured to have Ron as a panellist for our event, ‘Dulwich Boys and Beyond: 100 Years of Japanese Studies at SOAS’. Ron was the last surviving “Dulwich Boy”.

Throughout his life, Ronald made an extremely valuable contribution furthering the understanding of Japan in the UK, and JRC members extend their deepest condolences to his family.



A Secret Beauty: The Spirit of Japanese Maki-e - Lacquer Works by Koyanagi Tanekuni

Brunei Gallery: 11 July – 21 September 2019

Report by Meri Arichi



The Brunei Gallery hosted an exhibition of lacquer works by the contemporary Japanese artist Koyanagi Tanekuni in summer 2019. Koyanagi studied the art of maki-e (sprinkled pictures) lacquer from three holders of the title Ningen kokuhō (Living National Treasures), and has been making lacquer works of great beauty both in traditional and modern styles for more than 50 years. He regularly exhibits in the Japan Traditional Craft Exhibition where he has been awarded many prizes. He has had several exhibitions in Japan, but the Brunei Gallery exhibition was his first solo exhibition outside Japan. Over 70 of his recent works were brought from Japan, providing a rare opportunity for a British audience to admire the intricate art of maki-e.



Lacquer has been used in Japan for over 10,000 years to coat wooden or ceramic objects for protection from damage and decoration. The technique of maki-e evolved from around the 8th century, and various styles and techniques including raden (mother-of-pearl inlay) were developed to decorate religious and secular utilitarian objects.

Lacquer works are still highly regarded in Japan today, but learning the craft requires many years of training and the process of production is difficult and time-consuming, which means that the end-products are extremely expensive. The lack of a younger generation of artists to take up the craft is a serious problem today, and Koyanagi is working tirelessly to keep the tradition alive. This exhibition is a part of his attempts to demonstrate the beauty of maki-e to a wider audience.

The highlight of the exhibition included several boxes exquisitely decorated with gold maki-e and shell inlay. After the exhibition some of the objects were donated to a number of major European museums. The Brunei Gallery has received a beautiful black box decorated with gold motifs of birds and

pine, as well as a set of sample boards as teaching resources.

In conjunction with the exhibition, a Lacquer Study Day was organized by the SOAS Diploma in Asian Art Course on the 13th July. Five speakers, including the artist himself participated, making this the most informative and rewarding day for the students.

The exhibition was supported by the Daiwa Anglo-Japanese Foundation and the Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation.

The exhibition was a part of the Japan- UK Season of Culture 2019-2020 organized by the Embassy of 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

On the first of March 2019, the British Association for Japanese Studies organised the Japan Forum 'History of Disability' Initiative. It was a half-day workshop to discuss draft articles written in English especially for this workshop by prominent Japanese scholars. The aim of the initiative was to expand the base of Japanese authors writing for English language journals.

The workshop was an intensive discussion of pre-circulated manuscripts that includes roundtable discussions of general difficulties in translation as well as disciplinary distinctions in approaching the study of disability in modern Japan.

The manuscripts will be revised and submitted for consideration as a special issue for Japan Forum, the journal of the British Association for Japanese Studies.

The initiative was headed by Dr Christopher Gerteis with support from the SOAS Japan Research Centre and the British Association for Japanese Studies.

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/).



Participants of the Japan Forum 'History of Disability' Initiative

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.

In 2019, Bill Mihalopoulos took on the role of Chief Editor. Helen Macnaughtan and Christopher Gerteis continue as Co-editors, and Emily Chapman as Managing Editor. Steve Dodd and Griseldis Kirsch stepped down from the team.

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.soas.ac.uk/jrc/publications/japan-forum/

ジャパン フォーラム

英国日本研究学会の学術雑誌『ジャパン・フォーラム』は、アカデミーの発行するオフィシャルな日本学研究に関する学際的な専門雑誌としては、ヨーロッパ屈指のものとなっています。編集メンバーは、ジャパン・リサーチ・センターのステイブン・ドット、クリストファー・ガーティス、グリセルディス・キルシュ、ヘレン・マクノートン（敬称略）の4名に、編集長のエミリー・チャプマン（SOAS博士課程、史学専攻）が加わり、2014年9月から編集を担当しています。

本学術雑誌の強みとしては、その理論と実践のバランスが取れた学際性があげられます。また、各号への応募件数の数量もさることながら、その掲載への採択決定には、年齢や社会的な立場を問うことなく、内容を重視する厳選な審査を実施しており、選りすぐりの質の高い秀逸な内容の論文が掲載されています。芸術、人文学、社会学はもとより幅広い分野からの応募をお待ちしています。




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.

英国日本研究学会

2017年9月にSOASは英国日本研究学会のホストになりました。英国日本研究学会はイギリスでの日本学を促すという目的で1974年に創立しました。現在、500人以上のメンバーがいます。評議会は英国日本研究学会の会議で選ばれています。英国日本研究学会はメンバーの年間購読料でまかなわれ、全部の活動は自己金融です。

英国日本研究学会に関するお問い合わせは下記までお願いいたします。

マラ・バテッショ
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ウェブサイト www.bajs.org.uk

BAJS  British Association for Japanese Studies | 英国日本研究協会

SEMINAR SERIES

AUTUMN TERM

17 OCTOBER 2018
English の Rakugo
 Traditional Japanese stories told through the art of Rakugo and performed in english for all to hear.

24 OCTOBER 2018
Jannette Cheong (Poet, writer, designer and curator)
 What is an author's view of noh? How is a new noh in traditional style conceived from 'page to stage'?

31 OCTOBER 2018
Jennifer Coates (Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures)
 Poisoning the Well: From Postwar Anti-Nuclear Protest to J-Horror

14 NOVEMBER 2018
Prof Yuhsuke Koyama (Shibaura Institute of Technology)
 History of the Japanese Video Game Industry (AUDIO available)

21 NOVEMBER 2018
Dr Casper Wits (University of Cambridge)
 Journalists and the Establishment of Cold War Sino-Japanese Relations (AUDIO available)

28 NOVEMBER 2018
Prof Neil Jackson (University of Liverpool in London)
 Nihon to Seiyō – Japan and the West

5 DECEMBER 2018
Dr Hannah Osborne (SOAS)
 Kanai Mieko's Textual Bodies: Dancing Girls and Inflated Men (AUDIO available)

12 DECEMBER 2017
Dr Scott Wilbur (EHESS)
 The Relationship between Credit Guarantees and Zombie Firms: A Case Study of Japan's Credit Guarantee System for SME

WINTER TERM

9 JANUARY 2019
Prof Miki Sugiura (Hosei University)
 Mass Consumption of Refashioned Clothes: Re-dyed Kimono in Post-war Japan

16 JANUARY 2019
Tomas Lockley (Nihon University College of Law)
 'Yong lads of very good capacitie.'
 Christopher and Cosmus, Anglo-Japanese pioneers (AUDIO available)

23 JANUARY 2019
Dr Chris Perkins (University of Edinburgh)
 The Captivity Epistles of '69

30 JANUARY 2019
Dr Jamie Coates and Dr Mark Pendleton (University of Sheffield)
 Still Thinking from the Yamanote: space, place and mobility in Tokyo

6 FEBRUARY 2019
Prof Janet Hunter (LSE)
 Loss, Profit and Opportunity: Local Economic Responses to the Great Kantō Earthquake of 1923

27 FEBRUARY 2019
Dr James Wright (EHESS)
 Robots vs immigrants? Reconfiguring the future of Japanese institutional eldercare (AUDIO available)

6 MARCH 2019
Prof David Ambaras (North Carolina State University)
 Japan's Imperial Underworlds: Intimate Encounters at the Borders of Empire

SPRING TERM

20 APRIL 2019
Prof Stephen Dodd (SOAS)
 Radical Writing for Radical Times: Mishima Yukio's Inochi Urimasu (Life for Sale) as a Critique of Post-War Japanese Culture

24 APRIL 2019
Prof Manami Yasui (Nichibunken)
 Visualizing the Fetus in Pre-modern and Modern Japan: Reading Illustrated Manuals, Magazines and Guidebooks for Pregnant Women

7 MAY 2019
Prof Hideto Tsuboi (Nichibunken)
 Exploration of New Territory: Itō Hiromi's Works after American Era

22 MAY 2019
Prof Kenji Aramaki (Tokyo Woman's Christian University & University of Tokyo)
 Japan's Long Stagnation, Deflation, and Abenomics - Mechanisms and Lessons

先に触れたJRC主催の講演会は、毎週40名を超す出席者に恵まれた。参加者には専門分野の知識を深めるだけでなく、日本についての全く新しい見識を得る機会を提供してきた。多岐にわたる本講演の主題は、学際的な日本関連研究のテーマが驚くほど幅広いことを示唆している。



Japan Research Centre Podcasts and Videos
 Recordings from Japan Research Centre events.

Video Recordings

On the Trail of Shiba Ryutaro and Junzo Aizawa | S...

Audio Recordings

SOAS Podcasts: Professor Hugh Dobson: Who's Son's how? The a...

SOAS Anniversary Lectures

SOAS Podcasts: Professor Hugo Dyson: 'Who's Son's how? The afterlife of Japanese Army Officers...

SOAS Podcasts: Reading from the 20th Century: 80 Years of Tomioka Taro's and Annual Taisho La...

SOAS Podcasts: Japan! In the Western Imagination: A Study of 'Japan and the East'

SOAS Podcasts: 'Give the Bomb Some!' The Case of Seto and the 'Japan' Annual Taisho Lecture...

SOAS Podcasts: 'Bad Medicine and 'Frankfurt Views': Japan and International Debates on Communi...

SOAS Podcasts: Time and Chronology Politics: Art and Protection: Genji: 1960s Japan - Professor Hideo...

SOAS Podcasts: 'From revolutionary culture and the Fukushima Catastrophe: Annual Taisho Lecture 2...

Japan Research Centre
 Home page

Japan Research Centre Podcasts and Videos are available on
<https://www.soas.ac.uk/jrc/podcasts/>

KEY EVENTS

Symposium

20 SEPTEMBER 2018

[Countdown to kickoff: Japan's rugby history one year out from the 2019 Rugby World Cup](#)

Panellists:

- Helen Macnaughtan (SOAS)
- J. Simon Rofe (SOAS)
- Phil McGowan (World Rugby Museum, Twickenham)
- Simon Chadwick (Salford University Manchester)
- Hilary Frank (Cornwall Council)

The Meiji Jingu Autumn Lecture

3 OCTOBER 2018

Prof Simon Partner (Duke University)

[The Merchant's Tale: one family's experience of the Meiji Restoration and the transformation of Japan](#)

Celebration

10 OCTOBER 2018

[A Celebration of 40 Years of the SOAS Japan Research Centre](#)

Symposium

20 FEBRUARY 2019

[Sake Symposium: Understanding the Unique Aspects of Sake](#)

Forum

1 MARCH 2019

[Japan Forum 'History of Disability' Workshop](#)

Workshop

10-11 APRIL 2019

['Creative Collaboration': Kyoto-Osaka Pictorial Arts and Salon Culture, 1750-1900](#)

Celebration

25 JUNE 2019

[A celebration of the life and work of Ron Dore](#)



2018-2019 Meiji Jingu Japanese Studies Research Scholarships Award Ceremony

FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN 2019

Meiji Jingu Autumn Lecture 2019

[Hush-hush: Japanese studies in wartime Britain and Bletchley Park](#)

3 OCTOBER 2019

Professor Peter Kornicki (Robinson College, Cambridge)

Early in 1942 SOAS began a series of Japanese courses designed to produce interpreters, translators, interrogators and radio eavesdroppers, but this was no secret: advertisements for the courses even appeared in the newspapers. At the same time, however, a much more secret course was launched in Bedford to train men and women for intelligence work at Bletchley Park. Their story deserves to be told, for their contribution to the war effort may have been hidden but it was highly esteemed at the time.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

The Meiji Jingu Autumn Lecture

The Merchant's Tale: one family's experience of the Meiji Restoration and the transformation of Japan

Prof Simon Partner (Duke University)

3 OCTOBER 2018

The Japan Research Centre held their Annual Meiji Jingu Lecture on Wednesday 3rd October 2018, and the event was, as always, a wonderful start to the new academic year. Meiji Jingu is a Shinto shrine in Tokyo, founded in 1920 and dedicated to the deified spirits of Emperor Meiji and his wife, Empress Shōken. Japan's ancient religion of Shinto is based on values such as harmony with nature.

The Meiji Jingu Intercultural Research Institute was established in 2008 to promote the understanding of Shinto culture as well as to organise cross-cultural exchange programmes with academic institutions in Japan and abroad. Since its establishment in 2008 the Institute has funded three research activities in the JRC: the Annual Meiji Jingu Lecture held in Autumn, an annual scholarship programme for two SOAS doctoral students studying any aspect of Japanese Studies, and an annual small research grants fund for JRC academic members. Each year Mr Masahiro Sato, Director of the Meiji Jingu Intercultural Research Institute, who visits SOAS to celebrate this relationship with the JRC, attended the lecture and presented the Meiji Jingu Scholarships in an Awards Ceremony hosted by Valerie Amos, SOAS Director.



This year Mr Sato was accompanied by his colleague Mr Aoyama, a Meiji Jingu Priest. The 2018 lecture, the 11th Meiji Jingu lecture in the series, was delivered by Simon Partner, Professor of History at Duke University in the USA. Simon's interest in Japanese history 'from the bottom up' has led him to focus on the lives of previously unknown individuals – farmers, workers, merchants, and housewives. He has published four biographies based on this research, including the recently-published "The Merchant's Tale: Yokohama and the Transformation of Japan" (Columbia University Press, 2017).

This year marks 150 years since the Meiji Restoration in Japan in 1868, and Simon's lecture providing insight into one merchant family's experience of the Meiji Restoration and the transformation of Japan was a fascinating insight into this turbulent period of Japanese history through the eyes of one family. It was a pleasure to welcome both Simon Partner and Director Sato to SOAS, and the JRC thanks the Meiji Jingu Intercultural Research Institute for their ongoing and very generous support of Japanese studies here at SOAS.

You can watch the video recorded lecture here:
<https://youtu.be/PQSumVxC4mw>

Symposium

Countdown to kickoff: Japan's rugby history one year out from the 2019 Rugby World Cup

20 SEPTEMBER 2018



Exactly one year out from the start of the 2019 Rugby World Cup fixtures, SOAS held a symposium on the theme of Japanese rugby. The symposium was organised by the SOAS Japan Research Centre, SOAS Centre for International Studies and Diplomacy and the Japan Foundation and sponsored by the Toshiba International Foundation and Sake Samurai with support from the Japan Sports Council. Many prominent figures in both the Japanese and English sporting communities were in attendance.

Phil McGowan (World Rugby Museum, Twickenham) and Mike Galbraith (De Montfort University) kicked off the symposium by giving a history of rugby in Japan. The World Rugby Museum at Twickenham Stadium opened an exhibition on Japanese rugby in November 2018.

Dr Helen Macnaughtan (Chair, SOAS Japan Research Centre) spoke to the progress made by Japanese communities in the sport of rugby. Dr Macnaughtan touched on the reason for choosing the city of Kamaishi in the Iwate prefecture as one of the cities for one of the World Cup stadiums and said that the World Cup has become a symbol for the recovery for the city after the catastrophic earthquake that hit Japan in 2011.

Hilary Frank (Cornwall Council) discussed the future of rugby in Japan by analysing the history of worldwide sporting events in the country and spoke to the significance of the 2019 Rugby World Cup to be the first of its kind to be held in Asia.

Professor Simon Chadwick (Salford University) identified that the main demographic of Japanese rugby fans is high income Japanese men over the age of 60 and addressed the need to find ways of drawing the interest of young Japanese people.



The symposium concluded with a Q&A session chaired by Dr J. Simon Rofe (SOAS Centre for International Studies and Diplomacy).

An article on the event written by Kyodo News (Japanese News Agency) was featured in two Japanese newspapers, Kahoku Shimpō and Shizuoka Shimbun.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Celebration

A Celebration of 40 Years of the SOAS Japan Research Centre

10 OCTOBER 2018

On 10th October 2018 the Japan Research Centre (JRC) held an event celebrating 40 years since its establishment at SOAS in 1978. The JRC was established in May 1978 by Professor William Beasley, a historian of Japan who was at SOAS from 1947 until his retirement in 1983, and was founded with 3 core remits: (1) to assist in the coordination and promotion of academic research on Japan across SOAS; (2) to provide seminars on topics of scholarly and public interest; and (3) to organise a regular programme of Visiting Scholars from Japan. These still remain the core activities of the JRC, but it has also greatly added to these over the past 40 years. While Japanese language and culture had been taught at SOAS from the outset, and was marked by the JRC in a 2016 Centenary event, the JRC was set up in 1978 when the study of Japan was expanding in the UK, with SOAS at the forefront of that expansion. SOAS had for many years provided courses relating to Japan in the fields of language and literature, geography, history and sociology, but by 1978 was enlarging its range of courses in the social sciences to include economics, law and politics. The JRC commenced its activities in the Autumn term 1978, with Professor Beasley establishing the JRC Seminar Series, inviting both SOAS and external speakers to present their research in a diverse range of fields relating to Japanese Studies, a seminar series which continues to this day, attracting both a scholarly and public audience.



The activities of the JRC have flourished and expanded over the past 40 years, and include activities such as the Meiji Jingu Annual Lecture, the W.G. Beasley Memorial Lecture series, the awarding of postgraduate scholarships and staff research grants, regular seminars, sponsored workshops and conferences, the hosting of Visiting Scholars from Japan and the editorial of research publications. The fields of Japanese Studies now taught across SOAS and linked to the JRC through its membership now include language and linguistics, literature, anthropology, art and archaeology, economics, history, politics, film and media, business and management, religion and music. The JRC is the institutional home of the British Association for Japanese Studies and with one of the largest concentration of Japan specialists outside Japan, the JRC acts as a national and international centre for Japanese studies. The 40th celebration was attended by the Japanese Ambassador to London, His Excellency Mr Koji Tsuruoka who gave welcome remarks (photo above), reinforcing the Centre as vital for mutual growth and cooperation between the UK and Japan. JRC members gave short presentations highlighting the range and depth of Japanese Studies research, and the celebration was attended by SOAS staff, students, members of the public, and long terms supporters of the JRC including the Japan Foundation London and the Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation. The Celebration was in the spirit of 'Fuwaku' (translation: "following the right course after 40 years") and launched the "40-40 Fuwaku Fund", an initiative which aims to target 40 sponsors over the next 40 years to sustain and expand the research activities of the Japan Research Centre up to 2058, and beyond.

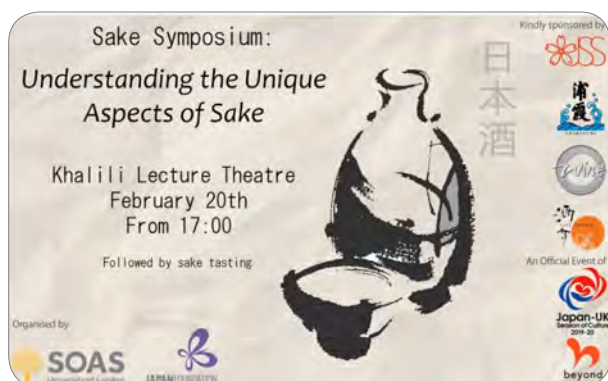


You can watch the video recorded celebration here:
<https://youtu.be/dMjan7yZ4gU>

Symposium

SOAS JRC hosts Sake Symposium

20 FEBRUARY 2019



On 20th February 2019, SOAS held a symposium on the theme of Japanese sake, bringing in various experts from the world of sake to discuss the theme from different perspectives. The symposium was organised by the SOAS Japan Research Centre and the Japan Foundation and was sponsored by the Japan Sake and Shochu Makers Association, Sake Samurai UK, Urakasumi Sake Brewery, and International Wine Challenge. This event was part of Japan-UK Season of Culture 2019-20 and beyond 2020.

Kouchi Saura of Urakasumi Sake Brewery spoke to the idea that maintaining the sake brewing business is to maintain Japanese culture. Minister of Finance at the Embassy of Japan in the UK, Yusaku Shimizu, highlighted the efforts that are being made to grow the consumer base for sake outside of Japan.

The symposium concluded with a Q&A session chaired by Dr Helen Macnaughtan and a sake tasting session.

An article on the event written by Kyodo News (Japanese News Agency) was featured by 19 different news websites.

Programme

- Heritage of sake making and future (Koichi Saura, (13th generation of Kuramoto (owner) of Urakasumi Sake Brewery, Vice president of Japan Sake and Shochu Makers Association, Founding Chairman of Sake Samurai Association)
- Internationalisation of Sake
Minister Yusaku Shimizu (Minister of Finance at the Embassy of Japan in the UK)
- Sake Export from Japan and overview of the UK sake market
Hirohisa Ichihachi (Director of JETRO London)
- International Sake promotion through the IWC wine platform
Chris Ashton (Director of International Wine Challenge (IWC))
- Promoting sake globally from London
Rie Yoshitake (Sake Promoter, Sake Samurai UK, Rep of Japan Sake & Shochu Makers Association)

You can watch the video recorded lecture here:
<https://youtu.be/71yD8FTI4Lc>

Performance

English の Rakugo

20 FEBRUARY 2019

Rakugo is a form of traditional Japanese entertainment. A lone performer sits on stage and tells a variety of stories. Some are funny, some are sad, and both incorporate dialogue between multiple characters, who are distinguished by the changing directions of the performer's face. Rakugo was born about 400 years ago. It is said that rakugo originated from Buddhist sermons and religious talks. Such Buddhist sermons or talks were so difficult that people at the time easily got bored with them. Some Buddhism priests tried to make sermons or talks interesting to attract people and this is how rakugo was born. A Japanese traditional fan and towel are only props you need while performing rakugo. Rakugo performers take various actions with these two tools, such as eating something, smoking something. No stage sets, no backdrops, just a fan and towel. That's what rakugo performers are allowed to use on the stage. A strong imagination is the only thing that rakugo performers will expect from you. Without your imagination, rakugo stories could not exist. When a rakugo performer says something with excitement like "What a beautiful woman she is!", a beautiful woman should appear in your mind. When a rakugo performer eats noodles, a bowl of yummy-looking noodles should beckon you in your mind. Just imagine what the rakugo performers are saying.

Performers Biography

For over 4 years this group of Rakugo and Japanese artists has been performing all over Japan, making crowds laugh with their comedic stories passed down through generations of performers. Although comedy is their specialty, they have stories from all genres. For the first time ever, this group was touring the UK and shared these stories.



Performers:

- koneko (Miharu Kimura/musician)
- Lycopene (Toshiko Nishikawa/musician)
- Yukiha (Yukiko Ito/dancer juggler)
- showto (Yoshinori Iwamoto/Rakugo performer)
- Arara (Sekiko Tanaka/Rakugo performer)
- Merin (Merin Araki/Rakugo performer)
- Mika Araki (support staff)
- Kanta (Rakugo performer)
- Kanta's wife (support staff)



EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Annual Lecture

On the trail of Shiba Ryotaro and Jane Austen: Novels, Heritage, and Contents Tourism in Japan and the UK

13 MARCH 2019

Japan and the United Kingdom are two leading examples of nations that have converted rich literary heritage into important tourist resources. This talk examined tourism generated by one much-loved novelist from each nation: Shiba Ryotaro and Jane Austen. Discussion of Shiba centred on the way that his epic novel *Clouds Above the Hill* transformed tourism relating to the Russo-Japanese War.



Discussion of Jane Austen centres on the explosion in Austenmania and related tourism since the mid 1990s, particularly in the aftermath of the BBC's adaptation of *Pride and Prejudice*. What connects these seemingly disparate examples is the role of novels in creating a resonant "narrative world", which is then expanded via screen and other adaptations into "contents" that induce tourism at heritage sites related to the original novels and adaptations. Using the Japanese concept of "contents tourism" (a variant of the more familiar terms "literary tourism" and "film-induced tourism"), this talk discussed how and why despite the technological wizardry of the modern film industry, it is still the written word that underpins these and many of the other most successful examples of tourism induced by works of popular culture.

Speaker Biography

Philip Seaton is a professor in the Institute of Japan Studies, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies.

His main research areas are Japanese war memories and contents tourism relating to historical narratives and heritage sites.

He is the author or (co-) editor of four books on these topics, and has guest edited special editions of *Japan Forum* and *Journal of War & Culture Studies*. Please see Philip Seaton's website for further information.

We are very grateful for the generous support of Mr Stephen McEnally, which makes the 2019 W.G. Beasley Memorial Lecture possible.

You can watch the video recorded lecture here:
<https://youtu.be/WhgQuui3SEw>

Workshop

'Creative Collaboration': Kyoto-Osaka Pictorial Arts and Salon Culture, 1750-1900

10-11 APRIL 2019

This workshop, supported by a grant from the UK research councils: ESRC and AHRC, and the SOAS Fuwaku Fund, launched a new project.

Speakers

- Andrew Gerstle (SOAS, Osaka Performing Arts) (photo on the right)
- Ellis Tinios (Leeds, Illustrated books)
- Anna Beerens (Leiden, Intellectual networks)
- Hans Thomsen (Zurich, Kyoto Painting)
- Michael Kinski (Frankfort, Intellectual Networks)
- Nobuo Nakatani (Kansai U, Osaka Painting)
- Yoshinobu Hirai (Kyoto Museum of Modern Art, Osaka painting)
- Ryo Akama (Ritsumeikan, Digital Humanities)
- Yoshitaka Yamamoto (Osaka U., Kanshi Circles)
- Keizō Akeo (Osaka Shogyo, Osaka painting and salons)
- Scott Johnson (Kansai U, Haikai surimono)
- Ikki Tsukuda (Sencha, Sencha salons)
- Taro Ida (Kindai U., Haikai)
- Yukari Yamamoto (Kyoto-Osaka painting)
- Paul Berry (Kyoto-Osaka painting)
- Akiko Yano (British Museum, Kyoto-Osaka painting)
- Timothy Clark (British Museum, Maruyama-Shijō Painting)



Project Aims

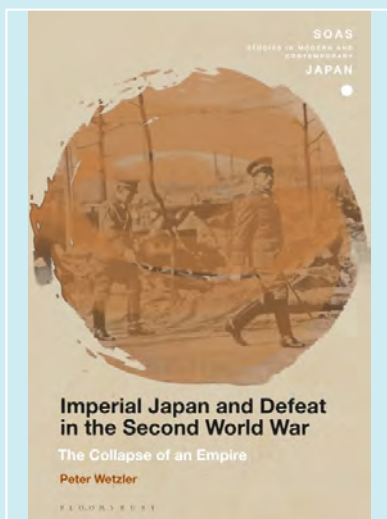
The focus of this project is on developing new and innovative approaches for research into the arts created in the Kyoto-Osaka area in the 18th and 19th centuries, particularly the paintings, sheet prints (surimono) and illustrated books in the British Museum. During this period many people, both men and women, participated in artistic production through aesthetic salons. Individual creativity was of course vital, but 'collaboration' was a distinctive element. Art and literary histories have tended to focus on great figures, those we consider today to have been 'professional' artists, and to ignore others. Salon groups instead display a wide spectrum from those who were professional, in the sense of highly proficient in an art, to relative novices who were still learning the techniques.

Rather than the usual way of investigating artists in a vertical sense of their individual life and work, we propose that in this period it is more effective to take an horizontal approach that stresses the links among people and how art was no longer only for the private sphere but was also, if not more importantly, for communal production and appreciation.

Sponsor

SOAS Japan Research Centre, British Museum, Kansai University for Open Research for Asian Studies (KU-ORCAS), Kyoto National Museum of Modern Art (MOMAK), and Ritsumeikan Art Research Center

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



**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 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 original study presents a nuanced and sensitive account of the critical period between the fall of Saipan and the end of the Second World War.



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

By: Barak Kushner, Sherzod Muminov

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.

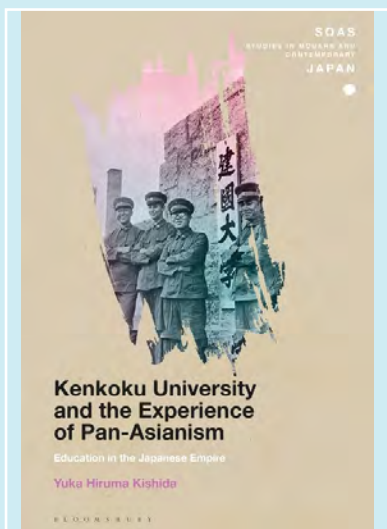


THE ORIGINS OF THE MODERN JAPANESE BUREAUCRACY

By: Yuichiro Shimizu

What is a bureaucracy, from where does it come, and how does it develop? 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 groundbreaking 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.

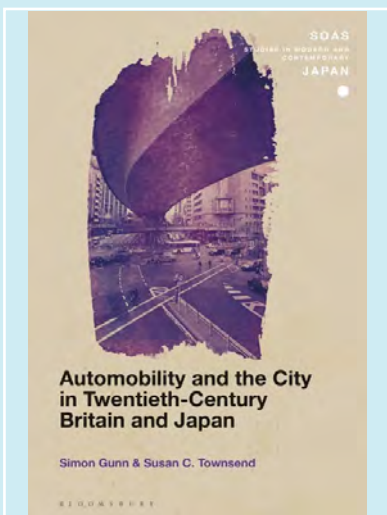


KENKOKU UNIVERSITY AND THE EXPERIENCE OF PAN-ASIANISM EDUCATION IN THE JAPANESE EMPIRE

By: Yuka Hiruma Kishida

Kenkoku University and the Experience of Pan-Asianism makes a fresh contribution to the recent effort to re-examine the Japanese wartime ideology of Pan-Asianism by focusing on the experiences of students at Kenkoku University or “Nation-Building University,” abbreviated as Kendai (1938-1945). Located in the northeastern provinces of China commonly designated Manchuria, the university proclaimed to realize the goal of minzoku kyowa (“ethnic harmony”). It recruited students of Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Taiwanese, Mongolian and Russian backgrounds and aimed to foster a generation of leaders for the state of Manchukuo. Distinguishing itself from other colonial schools within the Japanese Empire, Kendai promised ethnic equality to its diverse student body, while at the same time imposing Japanese customs and beliefs on all students.

In this book, Yuka Hiruma Kishida examines not only the theory and rhetoric of Pan-Asianism as an ideal in the service of the Japanese Empire, but more importantly its implementation in the curriculum and the daily lives of students and faculty whose socioeconomic backgrounds were broadly representative of their respective societies. She draws on archival material which reveals dynamic exchanges of ideas about the meaning of Asian unity among the campus community, and documents convergences as well as clashes of competing articulations of Pan-Asianism. Kishida argues that an idealistic and egalitarian conception of Pan-Asianism exercised considerable appeal late into the Second World War, even as mobilization for total war intensified contradictions between ideal and practice.



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.

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SOASの日本近現代研究シリーズ

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

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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.

The garden

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

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

The Japanese Roof Garden is currently closed due to building works.

To check updates on the reopening please visit:
www.soas.ac.uk/visitors/roofgarden/

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.



屋上日本庭園

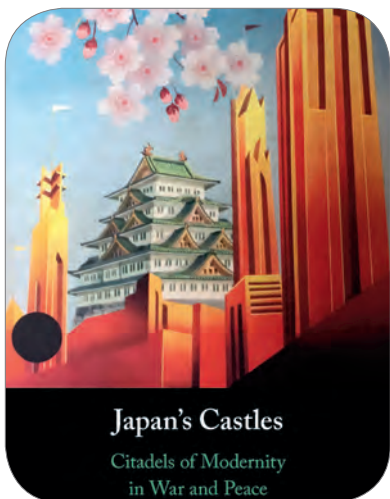
ロンドン大学SOASの屋上日本庭園は、日本2001記念行事が開催された、2011年の11月に公開されました。SOASの名誉フェローである深見東州氏(本名:半田晴久)がスポンサーを務めました。この庭園は、町の喧騒から離れて、静かな癒しの一時を訪れた人たちに与えてくれます。

Oleg BENESCH
Research Associate



In 2019, Oleg published his second monograph, *Japan's Castles: Citadels of Modernity in War and Peace*, co-authored with Prof Ran Zwigenberg at Pennsylvania State University. He also published a related article in the *Transactions of the Royal Historical Society* in December 2018, and presented his research on Japanese castles at the Association for Asian Studies in Denver, the Israeli Association of Japanese Studies in Tel Aviv, the British Association for Japanese Studies in Sheffield, as well as in several invited talks.

Oleg also discussed some of his recent work on Japan-China relations at the European Association for Chinese Studies in Glasgow, and presented an ongoing project on the history of martial arts at the International Society for Chinese Philosophy in Bern, as well as at a workshop at Durham University. He convenes the research strand "Medievalism and Imperial Modernity"



at the University of York, collaborating with the Centre for Modern Studies, Centre for Medieval Studies, Department of History, and York Asia Research Network. For more information on Oleg's research and other activities, please see www.olegbenesch.com

BOOKS

Oleg Benesch and Ran Zwigenberg. *Japan's Castles: Citadels of Modernity in War and Peace*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2019.

ARTICLES

Oleg Benesch. "Castles and the Militarization of Urban Society in Imperial Japan," *Transactions of the Royal Historical Society*, Volume 28 (December 2018), pp. 107-134.

Penelope FRANCKS
Research Associate



ARTICLES

'Diet and the comparison of living standards across the Great Divergence: Japanese food history in an English mirror', *Journal of Global History* (2019), 14: 1, 3-21



Tateichiro YOSHIDA
Visiting Scholar



The year I spent at SOAS as a visiting scholar was very meaningful. I published a paper on the research features of China's modern history in Japan in comparison to that in China, and a paper on the analysis of the Japan's attempt to secure wool made in China during the Second Sino-Japanese War.

I collected numerous materials regarding China's trade of tea and livestock products in the 20th century at the SOAS library. I would like to write a new thesis using these materials as soon as possible.

The Wednesday evening seminar series hosted by JRC turned out to be a good opportunity for me to objectively reflect on Japan. I proactively visited historical sites in the UK and felt the weight of its history. Thanks to the wonderful staff at SOAS, I had a fulfilling year. I deeply appreciate it.



Monika HINKEL
Research Associate



Monika was invited to the Cheltenham Literature Festival in autumn 2018 to contribute to their special festival theme East-West. She joined the British Van Gogh specialist Martin Bailey and lecturer Christopher Harding from the University of Edinburgh for the event Van Gogh and Japan on the Baillie Gifford Stage at Cheltenham Town Hall on Friday 5 October. For the session Monika presented a talk on Van Gogh and Japanese prints to complement the launch of Bailey's newest book *Starry Night*.



Monika continued her work at other institutions, like the V&A and Morley College, and gave lectures on Japonisme and held courses on Masterpieces of Japanese Art from the British Museum and Japanese Art and the Importance of Seasons & Nature.

In May 2019 she gave a talk at Sotheran's on Japanese Beauty prints, for the launch of their new print exhibition.

ARTICLES

Hinkel, M. (2018). 'Envisioning Meiji Modernity: kaika-e', in: *The Japan Society Proceedings*, Number 155, 2018, pp 70-83.

DR DAVID W. HUGHES AWARDED KOIZUMI FUMIO PRIZE FOR ETHNOMUSICOLOGY FOR 2018

Dr David W. Hughes, Research Associate of the Department of Music and the Japan Research Centre and former head of Music at SOAS, has been awarded the Koizumi Fumio Prize for Ethnomusicology for 2018 for "his long-term contribution to ethnomusicology in research and education, with emphasis on Japanese folk music in theory and practice."



Koizumi Fumio was one of David's teachers at Tokyo University of Arts from 1978-81, and the first great scholar in Japan who would have been called an ethnomusicologist. Sadly, Koizumi passed away in his 50s in 1983. His work on Japanese traditional music, especially on folk songs and on scales and modes, has been crucial to David's own research and writing. David cited ten of Koizumi's works (one they co-authored together) in his book *Traditional Folk Song in Modern Japan* (2008). Among other things, while David was his student, Koizumi chose him to do 13 programmes in English on Japanese music for the international branch of NHK, which according to David, was an embarrassing but lovely honour.

Now in its 30th year, the award ceremony will be in Tokyo on 23rd May 2019, and David will be providing 2 or 3 lectures in Tokyo and Kansai around that time.

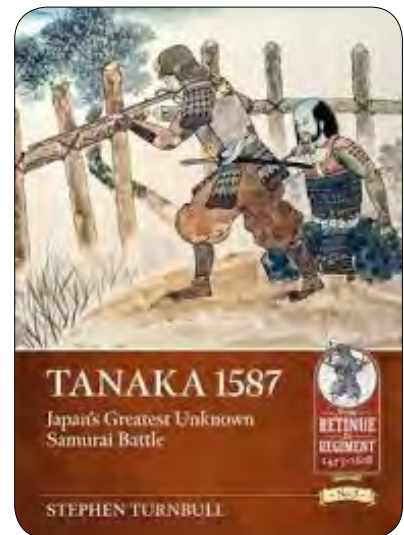
A year ago, David was also awarded The Order of the Rising Sun from the Emperor of Japan.

Stephen TURNBULL
Research Associate



Stephen Turnbull appeared on a panel alongside Oleg Benesch at the 2018 The Times/Sunday Times Cheltenham Literary Festival to discuss the topic of the social context of suicide in Japanese history. In November he returned to Japan for a final research visit to the site of Tanaka Castle in Kumamoto Prefecture prior to the completion of his book on the siege of 1587 by Toyotomi Hideyoshi. He is now working on a book about Japanese mercenaries in Southeast Asia during the early Tokugawa Period.

PUBLICATIONS



Tanaka 1587: Japan's Greatest Unknown Samurai Battle (Casemate Publications, 2019)



MEIJI JINGU JAPANESE STUDIES RESEARCH GRANTS FOR SOAS STAFF

Grants are offered to assist full-time academic staff members of the JRC, SOAS, to promote Japanese Studies.

Funds may be used for personal research, conferences, etc, or to purchase research-level books for the SOAS Library. Group projects are acceptable, but should be submitted in the name of one representative individual.

Total subsidy of up to £2,200 will be offered in any one calendar year, for the duration of the agreement, to be divided between successful applicants. Awards will be assessed according to their importance for Japanese studies, as interpreted by the Steering Committee of the JRC. The Committee, together with the approval of Meiji Jingu, will decide who the successful applicant will be.

Further information:
www.soas.ac.uk/jrc/awards-and-grants

明治神宮

Meiji Jingu
Intercultural Research
Institute

2018/2019 RECIPIENTS



Ryotaro MIHARA

Project title: The Trans-Asianising of Japanese Cultural and Creative Industries: Case Studies of Animation Projects in China, India and beyond



Ulrich VOLZ

Project title: The Effectiveness of Unconventional Monetary Policy in Japan



Timon SCREECH

Project title: Oxford History of Japanese Art publication





Luba AMPLEVA
Meiji Jingu Recipient 2019-2020
INTRODUCTORY REPORT

Working title of the project:
The Beautiful Other: Behind the Images of Russian Caucasian Fashion Models in Contemporary Japan.

Outline of the project: This PhD research is an inquiry into the phenomenon of images of Russian Caucasian fashion models that can be found in most spheres of the contemporary Japanese media.

Introduction to the research: In this research I am interested in investigating the differences between the lives of the images and the lives of the models in them. On the one hand, the images of the models are desired, admired, and move freely between the many spheres of Japanese society. On the other hand, the models' time and bodies are strictly controlled and they often find themselves living on the margins of society.

I am adopting a two-sided approach of analysing the context of both the consumption and production of the images. From the consumption point of view, it appears that the Japanese are extremely attracted to the Caucasian look, which is conceptually closely related to notions of domination and control, transnational mobility and world culture, self-indulgence and independence.

From the production point of view, I am interested in who the models in the images are, where they come from and why. My preliminary research indicates that the majority of Caucasian models in Japan come from Eastern Europe and specifically from Russia. They enter Japan on short term visas, tend to be very young and spend most of their time going to modelling auditions and working. Subject to strict control and linguistically disadvantaged, the models find themselves in a precarious position: away from family and friends, unable to communicate with people around them and participate fully in Japanese ways of life, they are valued only to the extent of their labour.



Eric VINTNER SMITH
Meiji Jingu Recipient 2019-2020
INTRODUCTORY REPORT

Working title of the project:
A World of Our Own: Contemporary Japanese Animation and the Negotiation of Individual Cosmologies

Outline of the project: This PhD research is an inquiry into the lived experiences of consumers of Japanese animation, exploring the way they use media to situate themselves within their world.

Introduction to the research: In this research I will be exploring how consumers of contemporary Japanese animation use that media to situate themselves within their world. In doing so I hope to problematize notions of the 'fan' and 'otaku', a community that is often only understood in terms of their most visible behaviors, while re-framing the classical anthropological notion of cosmology in a contemporary context.

Traditionally, the cosmologies that anthropologists have studied have been group cosmologies, describing how bounded groups situate themselves within the larger context of their world. I am interested in how these models change when they are confronted by an unbounded and media rich environment. Fans of Japanese animation often live in environments which are the epitome of unbounded and media rich.

The particular group that I will be researching only gather together online and during special events. What binds them as a group is their common and daily participation in an online forum and their love of anime. Eschewing more traditional ideas of site, I will be situating myself wherever my participants are sited. In this case this means in the digital environment of the forum, and the physical environments of London, United Kingdom; Tokyo, Japan; and Stuttgart, Germany. This diversity of sites will get me closer to understanding the way media is used to negotiate cosmologies both during outlier performative events, such as conventions and in-community communication, and during daily life. Likewise, it will allow a more complete understanding of a community who has sited itself in a non-national space.

**MEIJI JINGU
SCHOLARSHIPS
2019-2020**

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

JRC FUWAKU SCHOLARSHIP

To celebrate the Japanese Research Centre's (JRC) 40th anniversary, the JRC is pleased to announce the JRC Fuwaku Scholarship 2019. There are two JRC Fuwaku Scholarships available. Each Scholarship is valued at £10,000.

For more info please visit: www.soas.ac.uk/registry/scholarships/jrc-fuwaku-scholarship.html

The following students have been awarded the Fuwaku Scholarships:



Laurence GREEN

Recipient of the Fuwaku Scholarships 2019-2020

Working title of the project: From score to song - The rise of the 'star composer' and the role of music in contemporary anime

Outline of the project: Exploring a theoretical framework through which we might examine the significance of music in

relation to the medium of Japanese animation and its value as both a creative and commercial tool.

Introduction to research: From the late 80s onward, Japanese animation (anime) has increasingly been consumed as a 'global' product, with iconic films such as Akira and Ghost in the Shell achieving cult-like status on both the art-cinema circuit as well as via home-video releases. The 2010s have seen anime consumption move primarily to digital streaming platforms, while in cinemas, 2016's Your Name became the highest-grossing anime film worldwide to date, with earnings of over \$281 million. Existing English-language research on anime to date has, however, mostly ignored music's role within the artistic medium - which encompasses both classically trained composers and pop musicians creating catchy, vocal led 'opening' and 'ending' themes for televised anime series.

By examining the work of a number of composers and how their representative material dovetails both artistic and financial interests, I believe my study will form part of a developing narrative in analysis of anime which is moving away from monolithic studies of individual auteur-directors and their key cinematic output, and toward a more fully-developed discussion of anime as a product of many individual, diversely skilled creators working together in synthesis as part of defined system. I will look to locate music as a core ingredient within the wider package of 'cultural product' engaging increasingly global audiences with a distinctly Japanese kind of 'media mix'. In doing so, contemporary Japanese music, its creators, audiences and their consumption habits can then be better represented alongside the existing wider coverage of the country's traditional music and cinema scenes as a whole.



Julia STOLYAR

Recipient of the Fuwaku Scholarships 2019-2020

Working title of the project: Proximate but Different: Japanese remakes of Korean Television Drama.

Outline of the project: My research focuses on television drama remakes as a means to explore the practice of drama remake in Asia and its role in the construction of the concepts of "Japaneseness" and "Koreanness".

Introduction to research: Since the 2000s there was a steady growth in the cultural flow between Japan and South Korea. The gradual lifting of the ban on Japanese culture in Korea between 1998-2003 enabled Japanese culture to officially enter Korea and the success of the Korean Wave in Japan gave rise to growing interest in Korean pop culture, language, history and cuisine (Mori, 2008). The success of Japanese dramas was attributed to their quality of "mukokuseki" (odourless) (Iwabuchi, 2002) and similarly the success of Korean dramas was attributed to the idea of "cultural proximity" (Straubhaar, 1991). However, the growth of television drama remakes between Japan and Korea since the 2000s challenges the claims for "mukokuseki" and "cultural proximity". If the cultures are "proximate" enough for audiences to understand and relate to the dramas of the other country as is, why is there a need to remake and localise? And if there is a need to remake and localise, what is it in the original dramas that is not proximate and not compatible with the local culture to require a change and adaptation? Focusing on Japanese remakes of Korea television dramas, I explore the thematic, conceptual, and audio-visual differences between the versions, taking into account the difference in television industries and the discourses surrounding Japanese and Korean dramas in Japan.

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George NUMMELIN

Sasakawa PG Studentship Recipient 2019-2021 (part time)

INTRODUCTORY REPORT

Thesis Title: Music as a Method for Sustaining and Revitalizing the Ainu Language and Identity

Outline of the project: To investigate how contemporary Ainu music is affecting the position of the Ainu language and Ainu identity, and to document the methods and impact of using Ainu by contemporary amateur and professional performers.

Introduction: The Ainu are an indigenous group native to the northern Japanese island of Hokkaido, the island of Sakhalin and the Kurils. After many years of cultural and ethnic marginalisation, and forced and gradual displacement, the Ainu found themselves with a critically endangered language and a disrupted cultural identity, with the lack of an efficacious script for the language compounding issues. As a result, the dissemination of examples of Ainu music and language were often reduced to archival footage or recreations of Ainu culture at tourist locations in Hokkaido. However, in recent years Ainu musicians have begun to gain popularity and media recognition in Japan and abroad, creating a new audience base for both Ainu music and the Ainu language.

I will be engaging with professional and amateur performers and composers, and with the diverse audiences that engage with the music. Additional fieldwork participants will be Ainu language learners of both Ainu and non-Ainu heritage. The aim of my research is to draw on these participants' experience of learning, creating and performing contemporary Ainu identity through music and language, and to document how these practices can affect the revitalization of cultural traditions, and the Ainu language.

As part of my research I am exploring the potential for the creation of an online collaborative community that will bring researchers, performers, composers, language experts, students from within and outside of the tradition, and educators together to create and share tools to teach the Ainu language and musical traditions. An element of this part of the project is the reflexive ethnography of my own Ainu language learning, and construction and learning of the tonkori.

Emanuela SALA

Sasakawa PG Studentship Recipient 2019-2020
INTRODUCTORY REPORT



Thesis Title (working)
The Yōtenki

Outline of the project

I investigate various conceptualisation of kami identities, looking at material produced in shrines and temples between the thirteenth and fifteenth century.



Introduction

The identities of medieval Japanese deities (by which I mean their agency and origins, their physical aspect, correct worship and geographical location), are often vaguely and contradictorily defined. I think that this vagueness (and sometimes outright confusion) is the result of specific semiotic and affective processes, and I aim to find a way of talking about kami identities that preserves this complexity.

Sannō shintō is the name we now give to a wealth of narratives, doctrinal analyses and artistic depictions related to the deities of the Hie (now Hiyoshi) shrines, in Sakamoto, near lake Biwa. The identity of these deities was conceptualised in a manner based the doctrinal and hermeneutical framework of Tendai Buddhism, which is a Buddhist school founded in Japan by the monk Saichō (767-822) in the eighth century, and based chiefly (but not only) at the Enryakuji, on Mt Hiei, arguably the wealthiest and most influential monastic complex of medieval Japan.

Sannō shintō is a somewhat misleading label: clumped together under the same name, these multifarious narratives might be read as a unified, coherent theological system (possibly also created and diffused “top-down” by powerful religious institutions). Such a reading would however hide the fact that, at least in the middle ages, these narratives were manifold and often in contrast with each other, produced by numerous institutions and lineages which used the identity of the Hie deities to “situate” themselves in the fluid religious world of medieval Japan.

Close examination of material related to sannō shintō compels us to expand a paradigm of Japanese religion which sees it stemming exclusively from extremely powerful temples, and to re-think definitions of kami as local entities; my research makes a case for seeing kami discourses as trans-local and centrifugal forces, both from a geographical and cultural point of view.

Lyman GAMBERTON

Sasakawa PG Studentship Recipient 2019-2020
INTRODUCTORY REPORT



Thesis Title
“Each Life Has Its Place”: Embodiment, Nation-Work, and Transgender Existence in Contemporary Japan

Outline of the project

This project is an ethnographic study of transgender, transsexual, and gender-nonconforming identities in contemporary Japan, with a particular focus on trans communities in Kyoto and Osaka.

Introduction

My research project is an ethnographic examination of transgender, transsexual, and gender non-conforming identities across contemporary Japan, with a particular locative emphasis on Kansai and other regional communities outside of Tokyo. I take a multi-sited, interdisciplinary approach to this topic, involving both queer theory and ethnographic surveys. My main points of interest in this project include the ways in which transgender individuals and communities have situated themselves in relation to the 2003 Gender Recognition Act in Japan; the ontological shift in transgender theory from performativity to embodiment and how (or if) this is expressed practically in everyday trans lives; and the connection between the medical profession and trans individuals and the relationship of both to the Japanese State.

To date, my fieldwork has involved participant observation in several LGBTQ+ community groups in the Kyoto/Osaka area, coupled with individual semi-structured interviews and attendance at events such as Osaka Pride 2018; the Japanese Society for the Study of Gender Identity Disorder’s annual conference in Okayama; and the first-ever Osaka University Queer Film Festival. My own identity as a transgender anthropologist, and my emic experiences of trans communities in the UK and Japan, inform my research and provide a greater richness and depth of engagement in the field. This research comes at a time of great change for, and increasing public awareness of human rights issues affecting, the LGBTQ+ community in Japan: my hope is that it will provide a significant contribution to this conversation both within and outside of the academic sphere.



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