

CSJR Newsletter
The SOAS Centre for the Study of Japanese Religions

SOAS

日本宗教研究
センター

<http://www.soas.ac.uk/centres/centreinfo.cfm?navid=19>

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From the Centre chair

Welcome back everybody to the New Year and the new term.

This term we have, once more, a full programme of events. There are 5 seminars spread through the term, and I am hoping to put on one talk in the Japanese religion's forum towards the end of the term. Details will be announced later. I would like to draw your attention to a series of lectures given Professor John Rosenfield on the Buddhist monk, Chogen. Full details are inside the hardcopy of this newsletter.

Last term Paul Mitchell spoke to the Forum of his experiences as an Agonshu practitioner and Horii Mitsu spoke about his graduate research on the Sokagakkai priesthood in contemporary Japan. In the more formal seminar series, Timothy Fitzgerald asked us to consider whether Japanese religions really existed, and Michael Ashkenazi explored the use of the internet in producing and re-producing Japanese mythology. In the last seminar of the term, the SOAS SISJAC fellow, Keller Kimburgh, drew on visual and textual sources from popular literature to examine the marketing of Buddhism for women in the late medieval period. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our speakers for their contributions. The one regret was that Fabio Rambelli was finally unable to make it to London. We hope that he can address us on the materiality and performativity of sacred texts in the not too distant future.

Lucia Dolce is still on research leave in Japan. Just how research-active she has been you can see from the section below on members' research activities. Anna Schegoleva continues doing fieldwork for her PhD.

Please note that once again this term the CSJR seminars are held in Vernon Square, in room V223. Vernon Square is a stone's throw from Kings Cross Thameslink. Please call SOAS on 0207 637 2388 if you need instructions.

I look forward very much to seeing you all at the seminars this term.

John Breen

CSJR Seminars

Thursdays, 5:00 -6:30 pm V223

- January 16 **Michel Mohr**
(Hanazono University)
Examining the Avatars of Bodhidharma: Toorei's
commentary on the *Damoduoluo chanjing* and its
Japanese context
- January 23 **Peter Clarke**
(Kings College, University of London)
Sekai kyuseikyo
- February 6 **Robert Duquenne**
(Hobogirin Institute, Ecole Francaise d'Extreme-
Orient)
Ebisu
- February 27 **Christophe Kleine**
(Phillips University Marburg and Free University,
Berlin)
Ritual Suicide in Japanese Buddhism
- March 20th* **Urs App**
(Independent Scholar, Kyoto, Japan)
Parsifal's secret
- March 21st* **Urs App**
(Independent Scholar, Kyoto, Japan)
Francis Xavier's discovery of Zen

* **NB** Please note that Dr Apps talks take place on Thursday and Friday. The time and place remain to be confirmed.

For updates on the programme, please contact John Breen on jb8@soas.ac.uk

Members' research-related activities

October, 2002

Lucia Dolce gave a talk at Taisho University on ways of studying Buddhism in Europe (17).

November, 2002

Lucia Dolce took part in the annual meeting of the Tendai gakkai in Eisan gakuin, Sakamoto (8-9)

December, 2002

Lucia Dolce gave a lecture on Nichiren's interpretation of esoteric Buddhism at the University of Tokyo (4)

Lucia Dolce attended the opening conference of the Nihon sogo bukkyo kenkyukai at the University of Tokyo (8)

January , 2003

Lucia Dolce spoke on Nichiren's interpretation of esoteric Buddhism at the Kokusai bukkyogaku daigakuin daigaku (Icabs), Tokyo (13)

Members' publications

John Breen, 'The rituals of Anglo-Japanese diplomacy: imperial audiences in early Meiji Japan' in Gordon Daniels and Chushichi Tsuzuki eds., *The history of Anglo-Japanese relations 1600-2000 5: social and cultural perspectives*, Palgrave, 2002.

Lucia Dolce, 'Hokke Shinto: Kami in the Nichiren tradition', in Fabio Rambelli and Mark Teeuwen, eds., *Buddhas and Kami in Japan: Honji Suijaku as a combinatorial paradigm*, Curzon/Routledge, 2002.

Kishimoto Satoru, 'Bakumatsu Nara bugyo to kobutsu: Kawaji Toshiakirta to tennoryo' in Suzuki Ryo and Takagi Hiroshi eds., *Bunkazai to kindai Nihon*, Yamakawa shuppan, 2002.

CSJR Post-doctoral fellowship in Japanese religions, 2003-4

Applications are now invited for the one-year CSJR Postdoctoral fellowship in Japanese religions (any area) to be held at SOAS from September 2003.

The main purpose of the fellowship is to enable the holder to bring his/her recently completed PhD thesis to publication during the year at SOAS. Whilst at SOAS, the CSJR Fellow will be expected to contribute a maximum of 3 hours of teaching per week. In addition, s/he will be expected to organise a workshop/symposium in his/her speciality. Financial and administrative support will be available to this end. The Fellow will have access to appropriate study facilities and will be a member of the Senior Common room and a full member of the SOAS library.

The fellow's annual stipend will be £20,470 plus London weighting.

It is expected that the successful candidate's doctorate will have been awarded no earlier than September 30, 2000.

Applications consist of a curriculum vitae (to include a list of publications) an abstract/summary of the applicant's doctoral thesis, a clear statement of the candidate's academic plans for the postdoctoral year and the names of three referees. Five copies of these documents together with a covering note should be sent to Human Resources Department, SOAS, Russell Square, London, WC1H 0XG.

For informal inquiries, please contact Dr. John Breen, Chair, Centre for the study of Japanese religions, SOAS, Russell Square, London, WC1H 0XG.

The closing date for applications is Friday April 4th, 2003.

Interviews will be held during May/June 2003.

For informal enquiries, please contact Dr. John Breen, e-mail: jb8@soas.ac.uk

MA in Japanese Religion

The SOAS MA Programme in Japanese Religion is the first European taught graduate programme devoted to the study of Japanese religions. The degree provides an overview of Japanese religion, both past and present, and supplies the tools of analysis for further research in the field. The degree comprises four components: three taught courses and a dissertation and may be completed in one calendar year (full time), or in two or three calendar years (part-time).

The programme centres on the course "Religious Practice in Japan: Texts, Rituals and Believers," which presents religious phenomena in Japan in their historical context and devotes attention to specific themes relevant for the understanding of the social aspects of Japanese religion and the influence of religion upon Japanese culture. Students have the opportunity to select other courses, depending on their specific interests and previous knowledge, in order to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the characteristics of Japanese religion. Options include the study of Asian context, contemporary developments outside

A previous knowledge of the Japanese language is not required for entry. However, students with a sufficient knowledge of Japanese and an interest in approaching primary sources will be able to take "Readings in Japanese Religions." In addition, the degree offers language courses in modern Japanese. Students on the programme will benefit from seminars, discussion groups, guest lectures, and international workshops organized by the Centre for the study of Japanese religions.

Application forms are available from the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, SOAS.

For further information, contact Professor Brian Bocking, Study of Religions
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