

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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**Management committee:** Professor Brian Bocking, [bb@soas.ac.uk](mailto:bb@soas.ac.uk), Dr. Lucia Dolce,  
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**Associate members:** Dr. Satoru Kishimoto (Academic visitor), John LoBreglio (Junior  
research fellow), Yukiko Nishimura [NishimuraYukiko2@aol.com](mailto:NishimuraYukiko2@aol.com), Anna Schegoleva  
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**From the Centre chair**

Welcome back to the start of the new academic year. I must begin by thanking Professor Brian Bocking for running the Centre while I was on leave last year. Thanks are due, too, to Anna Schegoleva for the help she gave Brian. Dr. Dolce's involvement before she took leave in January was, as ever, absolutely critical to the running of CSJR.

In this issue, we publish the draft CSJR Constitution which, when approved, will guide the operation of the Centre. A few implications of the Constitution bear mentioning here: from now on the Chair will rotate every 3 years. There is a new Centre management committee too and Professor Bocking, Dr. Dolce, and Professors Gerstle and Barrett have very kindly agreed to serve. Finally, the Centre is required to hold an AGM. This will be convened, all being well, in autumn 2003. Details will follow.

I have returned from leave, but Lucia is away now doing research at Tokyo University on a Canon Foundation grant. Anna too is in Japan on a Japan Foundation fellowship studying at the National Museum of Japanese History in Chiba. Dr. Matsuoka Hideaki has moved on to William and Mary college after a very successful year as the CSJR Post doc fellow. His conference in May of this year 'Space, experience and the sacred: towards the study of Japanese religious landscape' was certainly one of the highlights of the past academic year. The two-day conference drew scholars from the UK, France, Japan and the USA and plans are afoot to put together a conference volume in the not too distant future. As we bid farewell to at least one member of the CSJR, we are delighted to welcome two new members. Dr. Satoru Kishimoto from Tottori University is the Centre's first academic visitor and John LoBreglio, a PhD student at Santa Barbara, is our Junior research fellow for the year. We hope they will be very happy at SOAS.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Seminars this term, but please note that the Seminars are now held in Vernon Square, V223. Vernon Square is a stone's throw from Kings Cross Thameslink. Please call SOAS on 0207 637 2388 if you need instructions.

John Breen

## CSJR Seminars

Thursdays, 5:00 -6:30 pm V223

- October 31 **Timothy Fitzgerald**  
(Stirling University)  
Do Japanese religions exist? A problem of history  
and epistemology
- November 14 \* **Fabio Rambelli**  
(Hokkaido University)  
Materiality and performativity of sacred texts
- December 5 **Michael Ashkenazi**  
(Independent scholar)  
Myths, mythicising, and internationalisation
- December 11\*\* **Keller Kimburgh**  
(SISJAC fellow, SOAS)  
Marketing Buddhism for women

\* Dr Rambelli's paper remains to be confirmed.

\*\*Dr. Kimburgh's paper is a joint seminar with the Japan research Centre. Note that December 11 is a Wednesday. The seminar room, in Russell Square campus, is G50.

## Japanese Religions Forum

Thursdays 5:00 -6:30 pm V223

- October 24 **Agonshu in contemporary society**  
Paul Mitchell  
Trustee, European branch of Agonshu
- November 21 **Buddhist priests in contemporary Japan**  
Horie Mitsu  
University of Kent

For updates on the monthly programme, please check the CSJR website on  
<http://www.soas.ac.uk/centres/centreinfo.cfm?navid=19>  
or contact John Breen on [jb8@soas.ac.uk](mailto:jb8@soas.ac.uk)

## New members to the CSJR

Introducing:

**Dr. Satoru Kishimoto** Academic visitor, 2002-3

I am assistant professor at Tottori University and for this academic year am the guest of the CSJR. My research has focused on religion and politics in Choshu domain at the end of the Tokugawa period. My major publications have analysed the phenomenon of the apotheosis of the Mori family in Choshu. I have published 'Choshu hanzo sobyo no keisei' (The development of mausoleum dedicated to the Choshu lord), *Nihonshi kenkyu* 438 (1999) and 'Choshu han no hanzo kensho to hansei kaikaku' (Venerating the lord of Choshu and reforming domain administration), *Nihonshi kenkyu* 464 (2001). While at SOAS, I will be working on the issue of anti-foreignism in 19th century Japan. I am particularly interested in Western, Christian-influenced approaches to Japanese anti-foreignism.

**John LoBreglio** CSJR Junior research fellow, 2002-3

I am a PhD candidate in Religious Studies at the University of California at Santa Barbara. I completed the doctoral course in Nihon bunkaron (Japanese Cultural Studies) at Kyoto University. My publications include 'The Revisions to the religious corporations law: an introduction and annotated translation, *Japanese Religions*, 22:1 (1997) and several articles ("Nipponzan Myohoji;" "Japan Buddhist Federation") in the recently published, *Religions of the world: a comprehensive encyclopedia of beliefs and practices*, ABC-CLIO, 2002. I am currently working on a doctoral dissertation on the formation of Soto Zen doctrine in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

## **Members' research-related activities**

### **February**

*John Breen* gave a talk at Yasukuni jinja, 'Igirisu kara mita Yasukuni jinja' (23).

### **April-May**

*Anna Schegoleva* was engaged in PhD fieldwork in the Kansai area funded by a Sanwa International Foundation scholarship.

### **May**

*Lucia Dolce* delivered a paper "Esoteric Interpretations of the Lotus Sutra in Japan" and *Brian Bocking* spoke on 'Use, misuse, and abuse of the Lotus sutra' at the V International Conference on the Lotus Sutra at Philipps-Universität, Marburg. (4-7)

### **June**

*Anna Schegoleva* gave a talk on 'Marketing the horror or Japanese ghost stories on screen' at the CSJR seminar series

*Lucia Dolce* attended the Sixth Asian Studies Conference Japan, Sophia University, Tokyo (22-23)

### **July**

*Lucia Dolce* delivered a guest lecture "Nichiren and esoteric Buddhism" at Waseda University, Tokyo (17)

### **September**

*Lucia Dolce* is visiting researcher at the Institute of Indian Philosophy and Buddhist Studies, Tokyo University, on a Canon Foundation in Europe grant

### **October**

*Anna Schegoleva* begins a Japan Foundation fellowship at the National Museum of Japanese History in Chiba doing research on 'Ghosts: stories of Japanese modernity'.

## **Members' publications and on-going research**

### **Brian Bocking**

#### *On-going research*

Leverhume trust funded research on Madhyamika and Yogacara thought in early Chinese Buddhists texts

**John Breen***Publications*

‘Samazama na Yasukuni jinja’, *Izumi* 56, 1-5 (2002).

‘Public rites, private support: how the Japanese monarchy prepared itself for the 21st century’, in Tom Bentley and James Wilsdon eds., *Monarchies: what are kings and queens for?*, Demos, 2002.

‘Yasukuni: Igrisu kara no tenbo’, *Koen, shinpojiumu, benkyokai: kirokushu*, Yasukuni jinja sukei hosankai, 2002.

‘Takeda Hideaki, Ishinki tenno saishi no kenkyu’ Review in *Shinto shukyo* 184-5, (2002)

*On-going research*

Imperial court in Restoration Japan; late Meiji shrine mergers; an edited collection of translations of non-Japanese articles on Shinto.

**Lucia Dolce***Publications*

‘Between duration and eternity: Hermeneutics of the "Ancient Buddha" of the Lotus Sutra in Chih-i and Nichiren, in Gene Reeves ed., *A Buddhist Kaleidoscope: Essays on the Lotus Sutra*, Kosei Publishing Co., 2002

*On-going research*

A study of Taimitsu (Tendai esoteric Buddhism): doctrines and rituals.

**PhD research at SOAS on Japanese religions**

*Meri Arichi*, Hie Sanno mandara: iconography of kami and sacred landscape in medieval Japan (Dr. Screech, Art and Archaeology)

*Usami Hirokuni*, Social crisis and religious change in pre-Kamakura Japan (Dr. Breen, East Asia)

*Chi Ho Ivan Hon*, Japanese and Chinese intellectuals views on state and religion, mid 19th- early 20th (Prof. Bocking, Study of religions)

*Arthur Marques*, On concepts of healing and charity in Japanese new religions (Drs Martinez and Davies, Anthropology)

*Yukiko Nishimura*, Worship of Avalokitesvara in Japan (Dr. Dolce, Study of religions)

*Anna Schegoleva*, Ghosts in Japan: re-constructing horror in modernity (Prof. Bocking, Study of religions)

*Philip Swift*, Ghosts and spirit possession in Japan’s new religions (Dr.. Martinez, Anthropology)

## **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](mailto: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 around 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  
bb@soas.ac.uk



## **CSJR Constitution: Draft**

### PURPOSE OF THE CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF JAPANESE RELIGIONS

1. The Centre for the Study of Japanese religions (hereafter the CSJR) is an officially constituted centre of the School of Oriental and African Studies.
2. The principal purpose of the CSJR is to promote the academy study of Japanese religion in all its diversity and through the deployment of multiple methodologies.
3. The CSJR seeks to promote the academic study of Japanese religions inter alia by
  - (a) organising and hosting national and international conferences, workshops and seminars (including the CSJR Seminar series and the CSJR Japanese religions forum for MA and PhD students );
  - (b) hosting the MA in Japanese religions programme in the Department of the Study of Religions at SOAS
  - (c) encouraging postgraduate research in the field of Japanese religions through the CSJR postgraduate studentship;
  - (d) inviting Post doctoral fellows on the CSJR post doctoral fellowship scheme
  - (e) enhancing the SOAS library collection of books on Japanese religion through the funds set aside for that purpose
  - (f) fostering contacts with other academic organizations engaged in the promotion of the study of Japanese religions in the United Kingdom and internationally ;
4. The CSJR will be located in the Department of the Study of Religions at SOAS and, unless otherwise stated, is subject to the regulations and procedures pertaining to all departmental Centres at SOAS.

### MEMBERSHIP OF THE CSJR

5. (a) Faculty membership of the CSJR is open to all academic staff at SOAS with an interest in Japanese religions. Faculty Members are eligible to vote at CSJR meetings and may be involved in consultation for a new Chair of CSJR.
- (b) Ordinary Membership of the CSJR is open to Postgraduate students at SOAS with an academic interest in Japanese religions and to individuals outside the School who share

an academic interest in Japanese religions and wish to participate in the CSJR's activities, subject to the approval of the CSJR Management Committee. Such membership does not confer any voting rights, nor does it allow the member to be consulted about the selection of a new CSJR Chair. An up-to-date list of the current Faculty and Ordinary Members will be maintained by the CSJR and deposited with the School's Centres and Conference Office.

## MANAGEMENT OF THE CSJR

6. As a SOAS centre, the CSJR is responsible to Academic Board (through the Academic Review Committee) and to the Director & Principal for its activities and conduct. The School has the power to close or suspend the CSJR's activities should this be deemed necessary by the School.
7. The CSJR is headed by a Chair, who is a member of the SOAS academic staff. He or she will be chosen after consultation among the Faculty Members of the CSJR, subject to approval by the Director & Principal.
8. The Chair will normally serve a term of three years commencing during the summer term. This term may be extended by up to three further years on the recommendation of the CSJR's Management Committee and with the approval of the Director & Principal.
9. The Chair is responsible to the School, through the CSJR's Management Committee and via the Academic Review Committee to Academic Board for the administrative business of the CSJR and for organising and overseeing its activities. For financial matters, the Chair is responsible to the School through the CSJR's Management Committee, Academic Review Committee and Finance and General Purposes Committee.
10. The Chair is authorised to liaise on behalf of the CSJR with the relevant staff of the School's Centres and Conference Office.
11. The Chair is required to submit reports on the work of the CSJR to the Academic Review Committee every two years and to supply such other reports as may be required by the School.
12. The Chair is advised and assisted by a Management Committee, the members of which will be notified to, and approved by, the Academic Review Committee. It will consist of:
  - (a) the Chair of the CSJR for study of Japanese religions;
  - (b) either the Pro-Director for Research (ex officio), or another current member of the Academic Review Committee;

(c) the Head of the Department of the Study of Religions (ex officio);

(d) two other members of the SOAS academic staff;

(e) one SOAS postgraduate student; and

(f) two external members.

13. Membership of the Management committee shall normally be for a term of 3 years, renewable after that for a further 3 years.

14. It is for the Management Committee to decide whether the Chair of the CSJR or another member of the Management Committee shall preside over meetings of the Management Committee.

15. The Chair and Management Committee of the CSJR will liaise with, and report to, the School's Scholarships Committee with respect to the awarding of the CSJR Post doctoral fellowship and the CSJR postgraduate scholarships.

16. The Chair and Management Committee of the CSJR are responsible to the Head of the Department of the Study of Religions and to the Pro-Director for Taught Courses for any Masters courses that may be offered by or through the CSJR, and to the Head of the Department of the Study of Religions and the Pro-Director for Research for any postgraduate research training programmes offered and for the supervision of any postgraduate research students assigned to the CSJR.

#### CSJR MEETINGS

17. The Chair and Management Committee will constitute an Advisory Board, which includes no more than twenty non-SOAS members, to advise on the general running of the CSJR and to strengthen links with other individuals and institutions with an academic interest in Japanese religions. The Advisory Board will, however, have no power to intervene in the financial and administrative running of the CSJR.

18. An annual general meeting, open to all CSJR members and notified publicly at least three weeks in advance of the meeting, will be held each academic year during term time. It will review the work of the CSJR over the previous year and consider future plans. It is the responsibility of the Chair to ensure that formal minutes of this meeting are kept and made available for inspection on request to members of the CSJR.

19. Subject to public notice no less than ten working days in advance, the Chair (or, alternatively, at least three other members of the Management Committee) can convene an extraordinary general meeting to discuss any issues relating to the organisation, purposes and leadership of the CSJR.

AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION

20. The constitution of the CSJR is subject to approval and periodic review by the Academic Review Committee. Amendments to the constitution can be proposed by a majority of members present at a duly notified annual general meeting or at an extraordinary general meeting called for the purpose, but they remain subject to ratification by the Academic Review Committee.