I am pleased to report that the budget is in surplus and drive will make her a terrific Chair of the JRC too. Helen looks forward to working closely with all JRC members, particularly the Steering Committee (commencing June 2016), within which we will continue to deliver its regular programmes of high quality of research, seminars, colloquia, and postgraduate research projects as well as take on the challenges we face going into the next century of SOAS Japanese studies at SOAS. With this in mind we have a terrific line-up of lectures, seminars, and book chapters. Many members also continue to contribute to public exhibitions and media, and as Japanese Studies at SOAS enters its 75th year I am excited to say that our members, and our alumni, will figure prominently in several radio, television and film documentaries to be released in 2015 and 2016. Stay tuned to the JRC website for further details!

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In the academic year between September 2014 and August 2015, Steve Dodd had been on sabbatical in Tokyo, where he is based at Sophia University. In early September, before leaving for Japan, he attended a conference at the University Paris Diderot entitled ‘Rereading Kawabata in the 21st Century: Modernism and Japonism Beyond the Myths,’ where he gave a paper, Modernism and Politics in the 1920s: A Comparison of Kawabata Yasunari and Yokomitsu Riichi.

In Japan, Steve moved on to a new area of research, specifically Translation Studies. He used the sabbatical period to read as much as possible in order to get a sense of the field. At the same time, he took the opportunity to give several presentations on the state of his present research.


By a two-year British Academy Leverhulme Trust Fellowship, Steve Dodd left for Japan, in order to continue his focus on shunga of the 18th century. He also published a short article on exhibiting shunga in the Kyoto Shinbun 12 June 2015. His research has continued to focus on shunga of the 18th century. He was a member of the special group that is supporting the Eisai Bank Museum, which will host a major exhibition on shunga from 19 Sept to 23 Dec 2015, which follows on from the 2013 British Museum exhibition. Following Prime Minister Hoshikawa Morihira (Head of Eisai Bank) announced the exhibition plans at a press conference in Tokyo on 25 May 2015. This will be the first such exhibition in Japan.

This year, he has been less translation studies. He has also presented between queer literary readings and research on shunga. He has also presented at ‘Digital Humanities: What Collaborative Projects Can Achieve’, invited to Hong Kong to join the Humanities Panel of the RAE that reviewed the research of the nine HE universities. He has published a short article on shunga and the exhibition plans at a press conference in Tokyo on 25 May 2015. This will be the first such exhibition in Japan. He has also published a short article on exhibiting shunga in the Kyoto Shinbun 12 June 2015. His research has continued to focus on shunga of the 18th century. He was a member of the special group that is supporting the Eisai Bank Museum, which will host a major exhibition on shunga from 19 Sept to 23 Dec 2015, which follows on from the 2013 British Museum exhibition. Following Prime Minister Hoshikawa Morihira (Head of Eisai Bank) announced the exhibition plans at a press conference in Tokyo on 25 May 2015. This will be the first such exhibition in Japan.
Christopher GERTEIS  Senior Lecturer in History of Contemporary Japan

Christopher Gerveis had a very productive year as JRC Chair, and much enjoyed the variety of seminars, lectures, workshops and conferences hosted by the JRC this year.

He was also very pleased to part of the SOAS Editorial Team’s editon of Japan Forum, and thrilled to see the publication of six more books in the SOAS Studies in Modern and Contemporary Japan series published in association with Bloomsbury.

While at the Humboldt University of Berlin during academic year 2015-16, he was working on his book manuscript Angy, Young and Mobile: The Attractions of Political Violence in 20th Century Japan, which investigates the extent to which affordable airline travel influenced the radicalization of socially alienated youth.

Angry, Young and Mobile narrates how the cultural economic of affordable air travel combined with the emergent radical politics to agitate the emergence of the trans-national terror organizations that rocked the world in the early 1970s.

**PUBLICATIONS**


Fabio GYGI  Lecturer in Applied Japanese Linguistics

Fabio Gygi presented at the EALTS conference in Lejbnica on a panel on rubbish in Japan, which will result in an edited volume called “Consuming Post-Bubble Japan.”

In December he gave a talk at the Ochanomizu International Japanese Studies Consortium representing SOAS together with PhD candidate Alessia Costa.

With the generous help of a small research grant awarded by the JRC he spent the month of April in Tokyo on fieldwork, working with men who self-identified as “men who cannot tidy up.”

In June he presents a new research paper on “The Sacred and How to Get Rid of It” at the SJSAC workshop ‘From the Ephemerel to the Eternale: Modest Materials of the Sacred in Japan.’ A further paper on the Tsukamogami is planned for the JAMES conference in Istanbul. From September to 2015 he is teaching a new course called ‘Mind, Culture and Psychiatry’ that will have a strong focus on psychoanalysis and psychiatry in Japan.

**PUBLICATIONS**


Noriko IWASAKI  Senior Lecturer in Language Pedagogy

In 2014/15, to the Chair of the Japanese Language Teachers Association in Europe, e.V. (JATE), Noriko Ishwaki organised the 18th Japanese Language Education Symposium as part of the EALTS Conference in Lejbnica, with 5 panel presentations, 32 oral and 29 poster presentations. Noriko also edited the Proceedings volume "英語による日本語教育18", which is now also in the SOAS Library. Her paper ‘ある日本語学習者の日本語学習の変遷: 鳴門まちや」 is also in the volume. This work was supported by Mej Jingu Small Grant. In November 2014, she completed the tenure of the AJE chair and commenced her new role as the Deputy Chair.

In February 2015, she and Barbara Pizziconi started a new project Study abroad in Japan and the development of intercultural competence, which is funded by JRC Small Grant and the Faculty of Languages and Cultures.

**PUBLICATIONS**


Griseldis KIRSCH  Lecturer in Contemporary Japanese Culture

In September 2014, Griseldis Kirsch organised the symposium Gambairo Nippon - Imagining Japan post 3/11 at SOAS, which brought together people working on the implications that the Great East Japan Earthquake and the Fukushima Nuclear Disaster had on Japanese culture (see page 14). In February, she was invited to the University of Cambridge for a lecture, speaking about Japan’s China Dreams - Imagining China’s Rise in Japanese Cinema and Television Drama. In March, she was invited to Nichibunken in Kyoto, presenting a talk on Re-making History - Watashi wa kai ni nariatsu and the Politics of Memory. In May, she gave a keynote speech at the 3rd conference Japan, Romania - cross points in a global context, held at the Romanian American University in Bucharest, speaking about Japan’s challenges for the 21st century and in June, she spoke at the Workshop Hello Kitty and International Relations at the University of Warwick. Furthermore, she has been doing some consultancy work for a television production company.

**PUBLICATIONS**


Angus LOCKYER  Lecturer in the History of Japan

Angus Lockyer was working on a number of projects this year, including the completion of a book manuscript on Japan and exhibitions and the design of a new BA programme in Global Liberal Arts, to be launched in 2016-17. He also began work on a project on Katsuhisa Hokusai, in collaboration with colleagues at the British Museum and in Japan. This involved research trips to collections and exhibitions in Paris in September, in Tokyo, Hakone, and Obuse in October, and in Washington DC, New York, and Boston in June, and culminated with an application to the Arts and Humanities Research Council for a major grant.

He also gave a number of talks and visiting lectures during the year: a lecture on Japanese golf and a seminar on institutional theory at the Freie Universität Berlin in February; a talk, ‘The inadegacy of culture: fascism and Japan, before (and after) the war,’ for the inaugural seminar of the Japan Research Network Edinburgh in March, a talk and conversation ‘On Global History,’ at the Institute for Global Law and Policy, (IGLP) at Harvard University in June; and some concluding comments, ‘Meji in the World,’ for an international conference, ‘Global History and the Meiji Restoration,’ at Heidelberg University in July.

He was briefly back in Japan in the spring to introduce and attend the second in a bi-national series of six lectures, ‘Tokyo Futures: 1868-2020,’ which is a co-production of Meji-Jingu and SJSAJC and the first two lectures, both on nature, were held in Norwich in April and Tokyo in May. The third, which will double up as the coming year’s Meji-Jingu Annual Lecture, will be given at SOAS in October 2015 by Jordan Sand, of Georgetown University, under the title ‘Between Imperial Capital and World City. The Tourist’s Tokyo a Century Ago.’

The final lecture on the UK side will be given at the British Museum in February 2016.

Helen MACNAUGHTN  Senior Lecturer in International Business & Management (Japan)

In November 2014 Helen was Academic Coordinator for the EU funded Executive Training Programmes (ETP) for the new EU countries and Korea which successfully delivered its third annual cycle of lectures and workshops at SOAS (see page 42). She has been on Sabbatical leave during 2014-15 and has been focusing on research relating to gender and employment in Japan. She has made several fieldwork trips to Japan during the year to gather data and conduct interviews assessing both policy and business impact of the government-led ‘Womenomics’ strategy. This included a visit to the Hokkaido Economic Federation in March 2015, coinciding with International Women’s Day, where she met with the labour team to discuss the regional impact of Womenomics activities. Helen also interviewed Human Resource Managers in several Japanese companies during June/July 2015 to assess the corporate response to the ‘Womenomics’ strategy in Japan, and in particular to discuss the progress of diversity management strategy in firms (see page 37). She is very grateful to both the Japan Foundation Endowment Committee and to Meji-Jingu (Research Grants for SOAS Staff) for funding enabling her to carry out fieldwork during 2014-15.

Helen continues as Co-Editor of Japan Forum this coming academic year, and is also the academic lead for the British Association for Japanese Studies (BAJS) Triennial Conference to be hosted by the JRC on 10-11 September 2015.

**PUBLICATIONS**

Macnaughtan, Helen. (January 2015). ‘Abi’s Womenomics needs to include men too! East Asia Forum.


Macnaughtan, Helen (August 2015). ‘Is Abe’s womenomics working? Australia-Japan Research Centre (A/JRC) and East Asia Forum.
Nana SATO-ROSSBERG
Lecturer in Translation Studies

Nana Sato-Rossberg has joined SOAS in September 2014 and endeavoured to build up Japanese and East Asian Translation Studies, internationally and at the School.

Nana gave an invited lecture on 5 February 2015 on “Translating Culture Thickly: Mashiko Chiri and Translation of Aizu Oral Tradition”. This was a part of the UCL Translation in History Lectures Series. Nana also gave an invited lecture at Ritsumeikan University on 21 July 2015 on “Developing Translation Studies in the Japanese Context”.

Nana has obtained a JRC small grant and travelled in Japan to conduct a joint project on “1970’s Japanese Translation Studies”. Nana has stayed at Kyoto Nichibun-kei in July and in Tokyo in August.

Timon SCREED
Professor of the History of Art

Timon Screech has been on sabbatical for this academic year. For the first four months he was a Yale University on a writing up grant, and during that time was able to complete his major new history of the East India Company and its first sailings to Japan, tentatively entitled ‘The Shogun’s Silver Telescope’.

Since New Year he has been at Waseda working on his next project, which is the Japan volume for the Oxford History of Art series.

Isolde STANDISH
Reader in Japanese Politics

Isolde Standish has been awarded a Leverhulme Major Research Fellowship for a two year sabbatical (beginning 1 September, 2015) to complete her book: Oshima Nagisa: A Politics of Cinema.

In Politics, Porn and Protest: Japanese Avant-Garde Cinema in the 1960s and 1970s (2011), she argued that out of the background of war, occupation and the legacies of Japan’s post-defeat politics, there emerged in the 1960s a dissenting group of avant-garde filmmakers who created a counter-cinema that both challenged mainstream conservative domestic and international political policies, and dominant historical interpretations of Japan’s imperialist ambitions on the Asian mainland between 1931 and defeat in the Pacific War in 1945. Oshima Nagisa (1932-2013) was central to this movement as not only did he experiment with very different conceptions of visual style that challenged images and narratives dominant in the films of the mainstream ‘major’ studios, he was also a prolific writer and social critic publishing thirteen books and numerous journal articles.

In this study, through an analysis of Oshima’s writings in conjunction with his films and their critical reception in Japan, the aim is to reach an understanding of how Oshima himself conceptualized and articulated his filmmaking practices and how these practices were informed by his political beliefs, and how his films impacted on and contributed to counter-cultural debates within Japan.

Kristen SURAK
Senior Lecturer in Japanese Politics

Over the past year, Kristen Surak continued her work on the tea ceremony and nationalism while pursuing an additional project on migration in East Asia. Her book Making Tea, Making Japan: Cultural Nationalism in Practice was named the Outstanding Book of the Year for 2014 by the American Sociological Association’s Section on Asia. A Japanese translation is under contract with Ohsumi Publishers.

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Kristen was also awarded a fellowship at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, where she will continue her migration research in the upcoming academic year. Her critical review article “Re-Selling Japan” appeared in the New Left Review, and she published a short piece, “Culture, Nation, and the Tea Ceremony,” in the Center for Comparative Japanese Studies Annual.

The year was also one of much travel, which took her to several universities to discuss her tea book, including Princeton, Columbia, UBC–Chapel Hill, Zurich, Cambridge, Michigan, Oxford, Doshisha, and Tokyo University, among others. She also presented her current research on migration policies at the American Sociological Association’s annual meeting in San Francisco and at the Japan Society in London.
With the kind support of the Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation Professor Iwabuchi opened the day with a very well received keynote speech on the role of the media in making sense of Fukushima and its aftermath, drawing on a wide range of examples. We then continued the day with a panel on Reframing Japan in Film and Television Drama, with papers by Kristina Iwata-Weickgenannt (Goldsmiths, University of London), Dolores P. Martínez (Oxford/SOAS), Kristina Iwata-Weickgenannt talked about how in Sono Shion’s film The Land of Hope actually those groups that were most vocal in the fight against radioactivity, women and mothers, are rendered voiceless and without agency.

Dolores P. Martínez’s talk dealt with the changing representation of family in the aftermath of 3/11, using the most successful drama of 2011, Kaseifu no Mita (Our Housekeeper Mita) as example how ‘family values’ on the small screen seemed to echo the ideology of kizuna (bonds) that was propagated in Japan post 3/11. Dolores Martinez talked about how the film Fish Story that imagines a major disaster, thus ‘reconstruct’ Japan themselves. After that, Christopher Hood (Cardiff) linked the title of the symposium – Gambarou Nippon – with transportation issues, highlighting how various aircraft carriers as well as train companies carried it ‘to the world’ and around the country. Finally, Yohei Koyama (SOAS) gave insight into how in Sono Shion’s film The Land of Hope actually those groups that were most vocal in the fight against radioactivity, women and mothers, are rendered voiceless and without agency.

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In the afternoon, Griseldis Kirsch (SOAS) talked about the significance of NHK World and the consumption of some of its most iconic programmes around the world – and how audiences thus reconstruct Japan themselves. After that, Christopher Hood (Cardiff) linked the title of the symposium – Gambarou Nippon – with transportation issues, highlighting how various aircraft carriers as well as train companies carried it ‘to the world’ and around the country. Finally, Yohei Koyama (SOAS) gave insight into how in Sono Shion’s film The Land of Hope actually those groups that were most vocal in the fight against radioactivity, women and mothers, are rendered voiceless and without agency.

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After a break, the symposium reconvened with a panel on theatre and photography – Kyoko Iwaki (Goldsmiths, University of London), Barbara Geilhorn (Cardiff) linked the title of the symposium – Gambarou Nippon – with transportation issues, highlighting how various aircraft carriers as well as train companies carried it ‘to the world’ and around the country. Finally, Yohei Koyama (SOAS) gave insight into how in Sono Shion’s film The Land of Hope actually those groups that were most vocal in the fight against radioactivity, women and mothers, are rendered voiceless and without agency.

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The convenors reflect back on events
Professor Janet Hunter (LSE) gave the 2014 W.G. Beasley Memorial Lecture to an enthusiastic audience on 8 December 2014. Her lecture, entitled ‘Bad Practices’ and ‘Fraudulent Means’: Japan and International Debates on Commercial Morality in the Late 19th – Early 20th Centuries’, examined discussions on the morality of business conduct in Japan within a global discourse on commercial morality in the late-19th – early 20th centuries, a period during which Japan became increasingly integrated into international commercial transactions.

The W.G. Beasley Memorial Lecture is made possible by the generous support of the Toshiba International Foundation. It was created in 2013 to commemorate the life and writings of SOAS historian Professor William G Beasley (1919–2006). A leading figure in the development of Japanese Studies in Britain, Professor Beasley was appointed to the post of Lecturer in Far Eastern History at SOAS in 1947, and appointed in 1954 to the post of Professor of the History of the Far East. During his tenure at SOAS, Professor Beasley headed the History and Far East departments and the Founding Chair of the Japanese Research Centre (1978-83).

In her Beasley lecture, Professor Hunter explained that this discourse included a perceived global hierarchy of standards of business morality, a hierarchy in which Japan was regarded as being situated at the bottom. Professor Hunter’s research on this topic explores the evolution of this transnational discourse, Japan’s part in it, and the response of Japan’s business and political leaders to the criticisms levied at their country.

Janet Hunter has written widely on the economics and social development of modern Japan, focussing in particular on the development of the female labour market, the textile industry, and the development of communications. Her current research is focussed on two projects: the economic effects of the Great Kantō Earthquake of 1923 and on the international discourse on commercial morality (in conjunction with the Shibusawa Eichi Memorial Foundation).

This past academic year, with the generosity of the Toshiba International Foundation the JRC launched an In Conversation’ lunch series for postgraduate students interested in an extended, small-group discussion with a noted academic in the field of Japanese Studies.

We launched the ‘In Conversation’ luncheon series with Professors Ted Bestor and Vicky Bestor of the Reischauer Institute for Japanese Studies at Harvard University. Over lunch at a local sushiya the Professors Bestor led an in-depth discussion of doing postgraduate field research in Japan, the topic of a book they published in 2007. Professor Janet Hunter (LSE) led our second ‘In Conversation’ lunch, and Dr Aaron Moore of Manchester University, and winner of the Leverhulme Prize for 2015–2017, spoke with SOAS postgraduate students about doing comparative studies of Japan in East Asian contexts. The project has been widely popular and the JRC is pleased to announce that the ‘Toshiba International Foundation has agreed to fund it for a second year.

For further information about how you might participate please contact Ms Nenna Chuku at centres@soas.ac.uk.

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Annual Tsuda Lecture

‘Give me Some Skin’: The Cult of Datsueba in Medieval Japan

25 FEBRUARY 2015

The Japan Research Centre’s Annual Tsuda Lecture is sponsored through the generosity of Ms Kayoko Tsuda whose generosity has supported a series of annual lectures and PhD student bursaries for the past decade.

The 2015-2016 academic year will be the final year of Kayoko’s generous ten year gift, and the members of the JRC wish to take this opportunity to express their deepest gratitude to Kayoko, and her husband Stanley Guy, whose support for this endowment continued after Kayoko’s untimely death in April 2012.

The 2014 Tsuda Lecture was given by Bernard Faure (Kao Professor of Japanese Religion, Columbia University). Examining the medieval period in Japan, Faure argued that the period saw the emergence of a number of new deities that blurred the traditional distinction between buddhas and kami. One of them was Datsueba, the old hag who takes the clothes between buddhas and kami. Through a discussion of that figure, Faure examined how Datsueba defines a new category of deities, the so-called ‘placenta deities’, as a means to provide a more complex vision of premodern Japanese religion.

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In early 2014, SOAS BA Japanese student Thomas Brook was presented with the opportunity to subtitle the Japanese documentary film ‘A Home Within Foreign Borders’, released in Japan in 2013, a film about the life of a Westerner to write novels in the Japanese language. Brook and Okawa presented the film, with a panel discussion at SOAS, Sheffield, Leeds, Edinburgh, and Manchester, and finished their tour with a screening at the Cambridge Arts Picturehouse.

Audiences were intrigued by the fact that Levy Hideo, the first Westerner to write novels in Japanese, was presented with the opportunity to subtitle the Japanese documentary film ‘A Home Within Foreign Borders’, released in Japan in 2013, a film about the life of a Westerner to write novels in the Japanese language. Brook and Okawa presented the film, with a panel discussion at SOAS, Sheffield, Leeds, Edinburgh, and Manchester, and finished their tour with a screening at the Cambridge Arts Picturehouse.

Documentary screening tour

A Home Within Foreign Borders

4 MARCH 2015

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Event Reports

The convenors reflect back on events

Kayoko’s and Stan’s generosity has made a tremendous difference to the JRC, its members and the field of Japanese Studies. Their gift provided ten bursaries for SOAS PhD students in Japanese Studies as well as funding ten annual lectures given by noted scholars in the field. While we are sad to see this relationship come to an end, we are eternally grateful for the experience, and much better for it.

With this in mind the Steering Committee and I wish to invite all to the final Tsuda Lecture, which will be given on 24 February 2015 by Professor Laura Hein (Northwestern), who is also the SOAS Centenary Fellow for 2015-2016. We hope you all will join us in celebrating the life and generosity of Kayoko Tsuda in this final year of her ten years of support for the JRC.

Of his experience organizing this project Brook writes: “Individually I have benefited immensely from being given the means to organise and carry out this tour. I wrote my undergraduate thesis on Levy’s literature, and it is not unlikely that I will continue to study his works at postgraduate level, and even perhaps translate them into English. Being able to see how audience members react to his first encounter with Levy, through this film, has also been particularly revealing. Both during the panel discussions/Q&A sessions and through our day-to-day activities, I interpreted for Keiko Okawa, and had the opportunity to deepen a personal and professional relationship that as she is planning to follow Levy to China for her next project, could well lead to further subtitling work and more screenings.”

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Workshop

Economic Stagnation and Deflation: Challenges for Japan in Comparative Perspective

3-4 JULY 2015

Supported by a JRC Small Grant, the Department of Economics hosted a workshop on ‘Economic Stagnation and Deflation: Challenges for Japan in Comparative Perspective’ at SOAS on 3-4 July. With contributions from senior scholars and officials from Japan and Europe, the workshop analysed the causes of and possible remedies for economic stagnation and deflation in Japan from a comparative perspective.

The participants discussed structural issues such as demographics, changes in labour markets, the hollowing out of the manufacturing sector as well as financial, monetary and exchange rate policies and their domestic and international effects. The workshop included a keynote speech by Prof Naoyauki Yoshino, the Dean of the Asian Development Bank Institute in Tokyo, on ‘Stagnation and deflation in Japan and lessons for Europe’, as well as a panel discussion on possible policy responses to overcome the problems of stagnation and deflation in Japan and Europe.

The workshop was intended as first in a series of regular workshops organised by SOAS and partner institutions with the aim of developing an active research group working on challenges facing the Japanese economy. At the end of the workshop, participants agreed to establish the Japan Economy Network.

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Anyone interested in joining the network is encouraged to contact Ulrich Volz (SOAS Department of Economics and JRC) on un@soas.ac.uk.

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Symposium
Shifting Perspectives on Media and Materials in Early Modern Japan
4-5 JULY 2015

The International Symposium Shifting Perspectives on Media and Materials in Early Modern Japan took place from 4 to 5 July 2015 at SOAS. It was organised by Senior Teaching Fellows in the Department of the History of Art and Archaeology, Rudi Lecca and Doreen Mueller, guided by Dr Christopher Gerakis, with generous support from the Japan Foundation, the Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation and the SOAS Japan Research Centre. The symposium was attended by international scholars and SOAS MA and PhD students.

Panel presenters and discussants from the UK, Japan, US, and Europe shared approaches to interpreting the cultural production of early modern Japan through selected materials and media such as printed books, manuscripts, prints and paintings. Established paradigms, such as elite versus popular, were challenged by scholars with the practical and critical tools to uncover the field of cultural production of early modern Japan.

1) Primary sources/archival research including skills in Japanese paleography,
2) Rethinking categorisations and taxonomies of research materials,
3) Building international research networks giving equal responsibility to all members.

We are confident that this symposium has inspired both young and experienced researchers, and encouraged the creation of new and vibrant research networks.

view Japanese Roof Garden

The newly built garden

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 open to the public when the Brunei Gallery is open, normally Tuesday to Saturday, 10.00am to 5.00pm except when exhibitions are being changed or during private functions.

Admission to the garden is free.

The newly built garden

Whether in the rain or the sun, the garden has a lot of character. Its character also changed 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 roses 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 gravel are used in the garden; a sweeping curve blends the original rectangular sandstone with the irregular green slate, the central area of paved river grey granite chippings has regular slabs of basaltic rock alluding to a bridge over flowing water; the island stones in the gravel areas are Lava Rock from Norway; dark grey pebbles from a contrast in colour and texture to the formal granite edging and to the chequerboard planting.

Opening Times

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Admission to the garden is free.

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The China Problem in Postwar Japan
By: Robert Herrick (University of Texas, Pan-American, USA)

The China Problem in Postwar Japan challenges some common assertions or assumptions about the role of Japanese national identity in postwar Sino-Japanese relations, showing how the history of Japanese relations with China in the 1970s is shaped by the strength of Japanese national identity, not its weakness.

2014-2015 PUBLICATIONS

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

www.soas.ac.uk/jrc/moderncontemporary-japan/

Published by

BLOOMSBURY

SERIES EDITOR: Christopher Gerstle
(SOAS, University of London)

The SOAS Studies in Modern and Contemporary Japan series is the leading platform for research monographs as well as translations of scholarship not previously available in English.

By: Griseldis Kirsch (SOAS, University of London)

Covering the years from 1989 to 2005, this book looks at Sino-Japanese relations through film and television drama in the crucial time of China’s ascent to an economic superpower in opposition to Japan’s own ailing economy. It provides an overview of how Japan views China through its visual media, offers explanations as to how oppositions between the two countries came to exist, and how and why certain myths about China have been conveyed.

Media, Propaganda and Politics in 20th-Century Japan
By: The Asahi Shimbun Company

Media, Propaganda and Politics in 20th-Century Japan investigates the role played by the Asahi Newspaper, one of Japan’s largest daily newspapers, as a mediator of information and power during the 20th century, explores the relationship between media and society during the postwar era and into the 21st century.

Japan Forum

Official journal of the British Association for Japanese Studies

Japan Forum is the official journal of the British Association for 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 1995 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.

Following our successful bid, in September 2014 the SOAS Japan Forum team - Dr. Stephen Dodd, Dr. Christopher Gerstle, Dr. Griseldis Kirsch and Dr. Helen Macnaughton - started the editorial tenure with Emily Chapman, a PhD Student in the Department of History, as Managing Editor. As we approach the end of our first year at the helm, this newsletter is a great chance to reflect on the months’ past.

The strength of the Journal in theory and in practice is undoubtedly its multidisciplinary nature and the role and quality of submissions assures us the Field is thriving. We have welcomed submissions from across the arts, humanities, and social sciences from both younger researchers as well as established scholars. This past year, Japan Forum has devoted its pages to subjects as diverse as “Oshi- tourism and the site-specific performance phenomenon in Japan,” (Okamoto Takehito, December 2014), “Re-animating a radioactive landscape: informal life politics in the wake of the Fukushima nuclear disaster” (Tessa Morris-Suzuki, June 2015) and “Uneven space of everyday modernity: the colonial logic of the subtext in Tanizaki Jun’ichiro’s A Fool’s Love” (Rede Inoue, March 2015).

The vibrancy of submissions trickles into our format and in addition to full-length standalone articles we also feature Special Issues as well as state of the Field reflections such as Joy Hendry’s fascinating essay on “The state of anthropology in and of Japan” (June 2015).

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 using the Harvard Referencing style.

Please contact our Managing Editor with any questions, comments or feedback japanforumn@soas.ac.uk

www.soas.ac.uk/jrc/publications/japan-forum/
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Professor Shingo SHIRATO
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Gina BARNES
Professorial Research Associate

The last three years have seen intensive re-writing of Gina Barnes 1993/1999 publication, now newly published as the Archaeology of East Asia: This is widely used as a textbook in university courses on early East Asia. The new edition is twice as long as the former and includes up-to-date information in archaeological sciences as well as excavation results. Continuing her interests in Japanese geology, she attended a 3-week geology fieldtrip to New Zealand in November 2014, taking in the volcanics and earthquake activities of the islands and comparative fieldtrip to New Zealand in November 2014, taking in the volcanics and earthquake activities of the islands and comparative...
Being retired but not tired, David Hughes main activities this year (aside from occasional lectures, PhD supervising/ examining, etc) have involved performance. For the SOAS Min’yō Group (Japanese folk songs), this meant: sake-related songs for sake events at the Japan Embassy and Japan Foundation, a concert to celebrate re-launching Durham’s Japanese Studies BA, Hyper Japan; two events celebrating Satsuma 150 (see did a song & dance from Kagoshima); and music for the play ‘Tama: Tales of Shiba’. The London Okinawa Kagoshima); and music for the play “Yama: BA; Hyper Japan; two events celebrating re-launching Durham’s Japanese Studies Japan Foundation; a concert to celebrate folk songs), this meant: sake-related songs with his research!

In autumn 2014 Peter gave the Carmen Blacker Lecture in Norwich and in London - the subject was the role of Tsushima as a conduit of information and goods from Korea to Japan. In December Peter lectured in Berlin and in March 2015 he spent a week at Yale as the Edwin McLellan Visiting Professor and gave the keynote address at the ‘Treasures from Japan’ conference held there. In May he ran a workshop on how to read Edo-period books and documents at the University of Warsaw; in June Peter lectured at Tōhoku University and in August he gave the keynote address at a conference at the National Institute of Japanese Literature in Tokyo.

Naoko SHIMAZU
Professional Research Associate

In the academic year 2014-15, Naoko has been on leave from Birkbeck University of London. In November 2014, she was invited to participate in the plenary panel on “The Future of History: Held to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the Department of History at Goldsmith College. She is spending six months from January to June 2015 as a Fernand Braudel Senior Fellow at the European University Institute (EUI) in Florence, to work on her research monograph, Diplomacy as Theatre: The Bandung Conference and the Making of the Third World. In February 2015, she was invited to present her current major project on the presidential-themed panel to commemorate the sixtieth anniversary of the Bandung Conference in 2015, at the annual conference of the International Studies Association held in New Orleans. In April, she was invited to give the Marcus B. Jansen Memorial Lecture 2015 at Princeton University. April also saw the publication of “Views from the Trenches: New Year’s Truck, Bloody Sunday and Japanese Attitudes toward the 1905 Revolution in Russia,” HORIZONS, 5:2 (2014), which resulted from the workshop paper she presented at the Seoul National University in July 2014. From January 2015, Naoko has joined the International Advisory Board of The Historical Journal for five years to expand the journal’s publication of non-Western histories.

Evgeny STEINER
Research Associate

In October 2014 Peter Koricki retired from the professorship of Japanese at Cambridge and consequently now have more time to get on with his research!

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Evgeny Steiner presented the following papers during the last academic year:

“Between glorification and discontent: Vereschagin’s ‘Orientalism,’” a paper at the 105th College Art Association Conference, 11-14 February, 2015, New York. It was about a peculiar kind of Orientalism represented by an artist Vasily Vereschagin who fell in action in Japan in the Russo-Japanese war.

“Hokusai, Bumpo, and Mochi,” a paper at the 17th International Conference History & Culture of Japan, Russian State Univ. for the Humanities. 16-18 February, 2015, Moscow.

“Love’s Labor Lost, or the Russian Way from Japanophiles to Japanophobes,” a paper at the IX ICCES, 3-8 August 2015, Makuhari, Japan.

He also delivered two invited lectures:


“Zen Ladder, or the Steps of Ascension to Enlightenment.” // Psychotherapeutics and Altered States of Consciousness. - St. Petersburg: RICH, 2015, pp. 234-244.

“Unending Ripples from The Big Wave: Japanisme and Russian Art Nouveau.” The Ryabushinsky mansion (The Gorky Memorial Museum, part of The Institute of World Literature, The Academy of Sciences), 16 May, 2015, Moscow.

In July Evgeny taught courses on Japanese culture at The Second European Summer School of Oriental Studies in Malta.

Peter KORICKI
Research Associate

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Honorary Appointments

Highlights from our Visiting Scholars and (Professorial) Research Associates

Lone TAKEUCHI
Research Associate

Lone Takeuchi is finishing a short monograph entitled, Kings and the King-like: some tenth century kanabo as religious literature. The central chapters present analyses and interpretations of Book XIX–XX of Kokinshu and of Utsuho monogatari as esoteric Buddhist soteriological procedures.

Ellis TINIOS
Research Associate

The part year Ellis Tinos was occupied with leading workshops and seminars at various venues and with lecturing. Ellis delivered the keynote address at the meeting of International Ukiyo-e Society in Tokyo in November 2014. His lecture title was “Greater than Utamaro: the Fame of Ukiyo-e Monogatari”.

In February 2015, he ran a two-day book workshop at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles on the art of the book. That was followed, in March 2015, by a three-day workshop devoted to the bibliography of the Edo period, offered jointly with Laura Moretti at Emmanuel College, Cambridge University. In June 2015 Ellis ran three book workshops at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. They were based on the Ventidius collection recently acquired by the Museum. Each session was aimed at a very different constituency: Europanists (curators, librarians, curators), Japan specialists, and docents. In April he participated in a one-day Edo publishing workshop in Norwich jointly organised by SISAC and Chuo University.

PUBLICATIONS


Carla TRONU
Research Associate

In the fall term Carla Tronu was still a JSPS Postdoctoral Researcher at Terri University, where she co-organized the ‘Terri Kirishitan Workshop’ (11-12 October 2014) with Prof. Higashibaba Ikuo. She gave research seminars in Japanese on various topics related to her research on sacred space in early modern Nagasaki at several institutions: the Japanese Association of Religious Studies (13–14 September), the Waseda Institute for Advanced Studies (24 November), the Association for Kirishitan Studies (15 November), the Terri University Oyasaki Institute for the Study of Religion (28 November), the Kyoto University Association for Christianity and Religious Pluralism in Asia (24 January 2015) and the Association for the Study of Popular Religion (31 January).

She is currently a Visiting Researcher at the ICC. Sophia University (Tokyo) where she gave a public lecture on the connection between the parish system and the lay confessionalism in early modern Nagasaki (4 June). During summer she gave presentations in English at international conferences in Japan, at TSUF (29–31 July) and the Japanese Association for Renaissance Studies (18-19 July), and in Germany, at the International Association of the History of Religions (Erfurt 22-29 August), where she organised a panel on the transformations in the historical discourse on the Japanese martyrs in Japan, Mexico and Europe since the 17th century to the present.

PUBLICATIONS

Tronu, Carla. ‘The rivalry between the Jesus and the Mandarin orders in Nagasaki at the end of the sixteenth century and the beginning of the seventeenth century’ in Agora, 11, 2015, pp.25-39

Stephen TURNBULL
Research Associate

In January 2015 Stephen Turnbull was guest lecturer at Mei University’s Faculty of Humanities, where he presented a paper about his ongoing research into Japanese mercenaries in Southeast Asia in the seventeenth century. His time at Mei also allowed him the opportunity to follow a long-standing interest in the possible historical origins of the popular (and largely spurious) cult of the ninja. Iga-Ueno City is the centre of the ‘ninja industry’, and Mei University has boldly begun a serious study into the phenomenon. Stephen had already contributed to the programme with a highly critical article recently published by Kennesaw State University in Atlanta, Georgia where he presented his ideas in 2013. The trip to Mei allowed him to join in with their research including making the first ever translation into English of Ninjutsu Ogido, the last of the so-called ‘ninjutsu manuals’ that was produced about 1800. He also joined them in analysing the relationships that existed between the Rikka family of Ömi Province and the small independent landowners whose activities during the Sengoku Period were partly responsible for the ninja myth developing. After leaving Mei he visited selected sites to put the finishing touches to his book about Japan’s sexual shrines, which was published in June 2015.

PUBLICATIONS


Akiko YANO
Research Associate

Akiko Yano spent the year as a Visiting Research Fellow at the International Research Center for Japanese Studies (NICHIBUKEN) in Kyoto. She gave two public lectures for Nichibunken on media reactions to the 2013 British Museum shunga [Japanese erotic art] exhibition, one in Kyoto (Dec) and one in Tokyo (Feb) at the International House. She was also invited to give presentations on the impact of the same exhibition socially and academically at the International Ukiyo-e Society (Hokusai ukiyo-e-gaikaikai) conference in Tokyo in June and at the conference of the joint association of art-related societies of Japan (Geijutsugaku kanren gakkai) in Tokyo. She is currently a Visiting Researcher at the International Research Center for Japanese Studies (NICHIBUKEN) in Kyoto.

Kayoko Tsuda Bursary (Japanese Studies)

Kayoko Tsuda Recipient 2014-2015

Thesis Title
A Foreigner's Dream of Japan: The struggle over power and authenticity in a German-Japanese coproduction

Kayoko would like to express her sincere gratitude to the JRC and to the late Mrs Kayoko Tsuda for her generosity. The Tsuda bursary 2014/2015 has supported the final months of writing her thesis and enabled her to bring the project to an end that she is very happy with.

Her thesis, A Foreigner’s Dream of Japan: The struggle over power and authenticity in a German-Japanese coproduction the international film project The Samurai’s Daughter (Die Tochter des Samurai, 1937, Fanck) and New Earth (Maratshiri tsuudo 1937, Takakura). Iris argued against previous, predominantly political readings of the project as a piece of political propaganda, with a focus on Fanck’s German-Japanese edition, and their lasting impact on interpretations of the participants. Such approaches, relying on seemingly straightforward causal relations, neglect to take into consideration the films themselves as well as Japanese interests in the costly undertaking. In interplay with political currents, the project became the locus of a power struggle over representational authority, and the notion of authenticity of the national image of Japan on international cinema screens emerged as a critical key to understanding the project’s discursive role and as the main factor in the two directors’ failed interactions, eventually resulting in two versions of the film. An overdose comparative analysis suggested the necessity to reconsider films as the creations of abstract and aesthetic power struggles, and hence as cultural, rather than purely political artifacts.

The JRC’s support and the feeling of obligation towards Mrs Tsuda’s generosity gave her a strong motivation in the rather difficult final months to finish the project. Moreover, the Tsuda lecture provided the precious possibility to present my research to the JRC and to receive valuable feedback. She has now successfully defended my research to the JRC and to receive valuable feedback. She has now successfully defended my research to the JRC and to receive valuable feedback. She has now successfully defended my research to the JRC and to receive valuable feedback. She has now successfully defended my research to the JRC and to receive valuable feedback. She has now successfully defended my research to the JRC and to receive valuable feedback. She has now successfully defended my research to the JRC and to receive valuable feedback. She has now successfully defended my research to the JRC and to receive valuable feedback. 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She has now successfully defended my research to the JRC and to receive valuable feedback. She has now successfully defended my research to the JRC and to receive valuable feedback. She has now successfully defend...
The Library has agreed with Brit to cooperate with the Brit Asian Newspapers project. The Japan Chronicle has been completely digitized. Times, Pacific 'Weekend' and the Japan Times Weekly are now in the process of digitization.

External funding and acquisitions in 2014/15

- As in previous years, the Library has received an annual grant (£8,000) from the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Art and Culture. The Library’s acquisitions supported by this include Gunsho Ruijū (see above) and Tōyō Bunko Zenpon Sōsho (12 volumes).
- Jyen Wood (the Art Section’s grant application for The Metropolitan Centre for Far Eastern Art Studies was successful. The Library has received US $3,500 for research materials.
- The Library has acquired Higashiyama Kaki Zen Sakuhinshū (periodical) from the Kaki family on the special fund from an anonymous alumnus last year.
- The Library has received resources for Japanese studies from various institutions and individuals in the UK and Japan including the Historiographical Institute at the University of Tokyo, IDE-JETRO, Imperial Household Agency, Kagoshima Prefecture, Meiji Jingu, National Museum of Ethnology, Okinawa Prefecture, Sibusha Eiri Memorial Foundation, and Tōyō Bunko.

The Library holds some 165,000 monographs for Japanese studies. In addition, there are over 1,000 Japanese language periodicals, some 300 western language periodicals, and over 500 audio-visual materials for teaching and research in Japanese studies. The online catalogue is available at www.soas.ac.uk/library.

The Library subscribes to major research databases; the list is available at www.soas.ac.uk/library/resources/a-z.

Dr Helen Macnaughtan Diversity Management in Japanese companies: constraints, challenges, solutions £1,020

The aim of this project is to assess the impact of diversity management programmes in Japanese companies over the last decade (2005–2015), and to analyse how ‘diversity’ has been defined and changed over time within the Human Resource Management (HRM) policies of Japanese companies. In doing so I will evaluate the issues and challenges facing diversity management in Japanese firms, and assess the ‘match’ between top-down government policy and bottom-up strategies being implemented at the corporate level (and at the regional level).

Although there are earlier origins, Japanese companies arguably only began to actively work on diversity management in the mid-2000s. Diversity in Japanese companies has been most focused on women workers, with attempts to recruit and retain greater levels of female employees within corporations. Some Japanese companies can be seen to be diversity champions and have already established necessary support systems for female employees. As a result, we can now observe some improvements from the perspective of corporate diversity.

However, Japan continues to rank low in global gender equality rankings, particularly in terms of social and economic equality, and encouragement of women into corporate positions of leadership. Both international pressure and economic concerns has prompted the current government to focus on female empowerment, advocating ‘Womenomics’ policy.

The project will assess whether this is a viable policy and to what extent it matches the needs of corporations and women themselves. The key challenge for Japanese companies is to transform their corporate culture, employees’ mind-set and the working lifestyles of both men and women. I hypothesise that no Japanese company has succeeded in this yet, but there are signs of a corporate endeavour to come up with strategies that seek to redefine ‘Japanese-style’ HRM as well as possibly challenge western-based ‘best practice’ diversity management.

Research Summary:

Fieldwork for this project comprised three phases:

Phase 1: Case study of regional ‘diversity’ activities in Hokkaido (March 2015)

Phase 2: Attendance at Waseda University Diversity Management Workshop and 15 interviews with HR/Diversity Managers of Japanese firms (Tokyo, June/July 2015)

Phase 3: Case study of regional ‘diversity’ activities in Kansai (Spring 2016)

Write up of the project is ongoing with expected submission to a journal based in the academic field of Human Resources Management in 2016.

Helen is extremely grateful to Meiji Jingu for providing her with the funds to carry out phase two of this research.
Elia DAL CORSO
Meiji Jingu Recipient 2014-2015

Thesis Title
Study On Evidential Strategies In The Sakhalin Dialect Of Ainu And Nikiv

Elia’s PhD research focuses on the instances of grammatical evidentially found in Ainu, an endangered indigenous language spoken in Northern Japan. In his research he uses both a descriptive and a comparative approach. He intends to give the first general cross-dialectal account on Ainu evidentials that considers both the Hokkaido variant and the Sakhalin variant of the language, and he speculates what instances of language contact in relation to evidentiality are found among Ainu and three other neighbouring but unrelated languages: Nikiv, Udehine and Japanese.

Being awarded the Meiji Jingu scholarship for this first year of PhD was an honour and a priceless help for Elia’s study experience. The scholarship allowed him to live in London and to frequent the university on a daily basis. There he was able to benefit from the rich array of resources and from the exchange of ideas with different people that were fundamental to his learning. He is happy to use this award for my research.

Michiko SUZUKI
Meiji Jingu Recipient 2014-2015

Thesis Title
History of Disaster, Recovery, and Humanitarianism in Wartime Japan, 1931-1945

Michiko’s project explores the wartime humanitarian relief activities of the Japanese Red Cross Society (JRCS) personnel between 1931 and 1945, including the Second Sino-Japanese War (1937-1945) and the Pacific War (1941-1945). It focuses on their visits to POW camps, their treatment of refugees – civilians and diplomats of hostile nations, and their humanitarian operations in the battlefields overseas and air raids in the Japanese Archipelago during World War II. The research also highlights their initial atomic bombing relief operations in Hiroshima and Nagasaki on the days of bombings, and their first aid medical treatment for radiation diseases. Concerning the history of institutional behaviours and the JRCS ethos, the project explores the 20th International Conference of the Red Cross in Tokyo in 1934, which was the first Red Cross International Conference in Asia. The congress could be analysed in the view of the crisis of internationalism. It also examines how the JRCS was involved in the establishment of the Manchuko Red Cross Society (MRCS), which the JRCS worked with, as well as Red Cross workers from colonial territories of Japan, such as Taiwan and Korea.

In fulfilling the aims of the project Michiko hopes to discover ‘the grand humanitarianism’, which was spontaneously guided by human instinct and escaped from any kinds of political influences. It also aspires to elevate historical humanitarian narratives into an idea of ‘chikō gōitsu: (onee-kotoba)’ which stresses the importance of achieving full integration between knowledge and practice. In other words, the humanitarian idea and the humanitarian action are two sides of the same coin, synchronous and ever inseparable in the reality of human sufferings.

It has been such a great honour for Michiko to receive the Meiji Jingu Japanese Studies Research Scholarships. It has provided her with great financial support, and thus far enabling her to concentrate on her studies satisfactorily throughout the year without any concerns.

Marcello FRANCIONI
Meiji Jingu Recipient 2015-2016

Thesis Title
Onee-kotoba: Language, Sexuality and Social Change in contemporary Japan

Japanese non-heterosexual men and women, or Japanese sexual minorities, are a clear example of emerging social characters that symbolize the period of cultural change contemporary Japan is going through, mirroring the long-promoted myth of a socially homogeneous nation of salary-men and housewives. Using onee-kotoba (or ‘big sister talk’) as a case study Marcello will analyse the linguistic and social interactions among the users of this linguistic variety – mainly, non-heterosexual Japanese men. The study will mainly focus on the Shinjuku Ni-Chome area, where onee-kotoba is mostly practiced in Tokyo, and it will try to give reason of the meaning attributed to the use of this variety, studying how these people express independence and creativity on a linguistic, relational and political level.

The research will not focus only on onee-kotoba’s morpho-syntactic features, but it will also discuss the state of onee-kotoba at a sociolinguistic level – whether it is a dialect, a jargon or a linguistic standard, and it will try to compare its geographic diffusion to its demographics.

Onee-kotoba will allow us to better understand what is constructed as the Other through linguistic and nonlinguistic practices, while also providing a more defined portrayal of the relationship between language and sexuality among this group of non-heterosexual Japanese speakers.

Finally, the aim of Marcello’s research is to make more accessible the knowledge and understanding of an existing reality in contemporary Japan such as the cultural dynamics of the people who may not recognize themselves in this dominant paradigm and may express that adopting onee-kotoba.

This project aims to illustrate the contours of ecotourism ideology within the context of Japanese tourism studies. It expands upon previous research findings that argue for the effectiveness of a target culture norm-oriented approach to the translation of tourist texts. Disparities between Anglo-Oceanic and Japanese ideologies of ecotourism present unique challenges to the English and Japanese translators of the tourist texts published to inform and persuade foreign visitors to participate in eco-tours offered in Japan, Hawaii, New Zealand and Australia. This project examines the translation strategies employed by English and Japanese translators to navigate these ideological differences while simultaneously adhering to the target culture-oriented approach advocated by tourist text translation scholars.

This project will first compile and assess data composed of translated and non-translated ecotourist texts. The translation strategies identified as indicators of ideological assumptions are repetition, overlexicalization, translativity, and style-shifts. Using corpus software, this project will then analyse data sets to investigate how these strategies influence the target reader’s view of the host culture’s ecotourism model.

The aim of this research project is to determine if current translation practices, specifically between Japanese and English, in the ecotourism sector within the Pacific Region are detaching from or contributing to effective cross-cultural communication in the international ecotourism industry. By doing so, this project will provide insight into how current ecotourism translation practices in Anglo-Oceania and Japan might be further developed to bridge the gap between foreign visitors’ perception of ecotourism and the host culture’s ecotourism goals.
The Sasakawa Postgraduate Studentship was created to provide financial support to postgraduate students studying at SOAS, University of London. The studentship is awarded on the basis of academic merit and is available to students from anywhere in the world. The studentship covers tuition fees and a maintenance stipend for the duration of the student's studies.

This year, the Sasakawa Postgraduate Studentship was awarded to Lois Barnett, a PhD student in the Department of Japanese Studies.

Lois Barnett
Sasakawa PG Studentship Recipient 2014-2015

Lois Barnett has been investigating the spatial imaginary of the Japanese spatial imaginary of the “outside” and “other” in the late seventeenth century. This thesis is chronologically focused on the late seventeenth century, which he considers to have been a time of rapid changes in the spatial experience, and focuses on the impact of representations on the changing spatial imaginary of the period. His investigation shows the degree to which the cultural identity of urban publics depended on references to peripheral spaces and identities.

This fourth year has been the busiest in Radu’s doctoral programme. He has stayed well within the schedule of writing up his thesis, while teaching undergraduate and postgraduate classes on Japanese Art at SOAS throughout the year. A peer-reviewed article stemming from his doctoral research has been published in Comparative Critical Studies, and a chapter in an edited volume on Women, Gender and Art in East Asia is undergoing review and is due to be published with Ashgate next year. In June 2015 he co-organised an international interdisciplinary symposium on pre-modern Japanese studies, held at SOAS on 4-5 July.

The Sasakawa Studentship has been invaluable in providing him financial security during this critical and stressful period, especially when it came to travel and accommodation expenses. Having this support encouraged me to participate in a variety of events during which he was able to present and receive feedback on his research, which is especially relevant in view of his desired future academic career in Japanese Studies. He would like to extend his deepest thanks to the Sasakawa Foundation for supporting, among other topics, research on pre-modern Japanese cultural history.
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EUROPEAN EXECUTIVES VISIT FOR EXECUTIVE TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR JAPAN AND KOREA

OAS welcomed the latest cohort of participants on the EU-funded Executive Training Programmes for Japan and Korea in for 3 weeks in November. Thirty-six participants in total attended the 3-week programmes which were delivered by over thirty Japan and Korea experts, drawn mostly from the Japan Research Centre and Centre of Korean Studies but also involving practitioners from businesses and academics from other institutions. The programme aims to equip executives from all over the EU with the skills and knowledge needed to help them develop their business activities in Japan or Korea.

The Executive Training Programmes for Japan and Korea reflected the diversity and strength of academic research at SOAS by colleagues affiliated with the JRC and CKR.

I am grateful to all my academic and business colleagues who contributed to the programme this year and I look forward to working with you again in the future.

The European Commission are currently reviewing the objectives and structure of the Executive Training Programme and will announce later this year whether there will be funding for future cycles.

Study Abroad or Exchange students at SOAS are able to design their course while back to their home university so that the courses they select at SOAS for either a semester or a year. Students can transfer credit undergraduate and postgraduate students the opportunity to study at SOAS for either a semester or a year. Students can transfer credit

For further information about the ETP visit www.euetp.eu

SOAS Enterprise Team: www.soas.ac.uk/enterprise/

As in previous cycles, participants attended sessions providing historical, political, economic and cultural background as well as an introduction to the East Asian business environment. They also benefitted from practical skills training such as developing effective business plans and an introduction to the Japanese and Korean business environments.

SOAS is part of a consortium with Waseda University in Tokyo and Yonsei University in Seoul to deliver the one-year programme; following the European module participants move to Japan or Korea for nine months where they undergo intensive training in Japanese or Korean language, business and management and attend a three month internship in a relevant sector.

For students from around the world. You can find some language courses that are very hard to learn in any other institutions! Not only that SOAS provides us with a wide range of courses specialising in Asia and Africa, there are so many international students from around the world. You can find some language courses that are very hard to learn in any other institutions! Not only that SOAS provides us with a wide range of courses specialising in Asia and Africa, there are so many international students from around the world. You can find some language courses that are very hard to learn in any other institutions! Not only that SOAS provides us with a wide range of courses specialising in Asia and Africa, there are so many international students from around the world. You can find some language courses that are very hard to learn in any other institutions! Not only that SOAS provides us with a wide range of courses specialising in Asia and Africa, there are so many international students from around the world. You can find some language courses that are very hard to learn in any other institutions! Not only that SOAS provides us with a wide range of courses specialising in Asia and Africa, there are so many international students from around the world. You can find some language courses that are very hard to learn in any other institutions! Not only that SOAS provides us with a wide range of courses specialising in Asia and Africa, there are so many international students from around the world.
SOAS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION IN JAPAN (SAIJ)

SOAS alumni are part of a global, unique and diverse network of graduates. The Alumni Network is an online community to connect with fellow alumni and the School, as well as access the service and benefits SOAS offers you as an alumnus.

Overview

The SOAS Alumni in Japan (SAIJ) are one of our most active alumni associations and welcome visiting staff and students, as well as alumni in the region, to join in their regular events. SAIJ welcomes the following:

1. SOAS alumni and students currently studying at SOAS who have ties with Japan
2. Anyone who has ties with SOAS and Japan (even if they are not SOAS alumni).
3. Anyone who wants to have non-commercial ties with SOAS and Japan, including prospective students and Japanese graduates of other British universities who want to maintain connections with the UK.

Get in touch

For more information on alumni activity in Japan, please contact the SOAS Alumni Relations team at alumni@soas.ac.uk or on +44(0) 20 7898 4041. You can also view photos on the SOAS Alumni Office flicker page www.flickr.com/photos/soasalumni/ and read updates from the SOAS alumni network and SAIJ on the Facebook pages: www.facebook.com/Soas.Leavers and www.facebook.com/SOAS.alumni.japan.

JAPANESE SPEECH CONTEST: SPOKEN BUSINESS JAPANESE

Overview

Dedicated to the memory of the late Sir Peter Parker

The Sir Peter Parker Awards for Spoken Business Japanese were established in 1990 by the Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO) London, and the SOAS, University of London. The Awards are widely recognised as having made a significant contribution to the recent growth in the use of Japanese in business, as well as having benefited participants in their professional careers.

Purpose of the Awards

The purpose of the Sir Peter Parker Awards for Spoken Business Japanese is to deepen the understanding of Japanese business culture by businessmen and women of the countries of the European Union through study of the Japanese language, and to contribute to goodwill and mutual understanding with the people of Japan through better communication.

Sponsors

Supported by

The 25th Sir Peter Parker Awards for Spoken Business Japanese was held on Tuesday 10th February 2015 at SOAS.

First Prize Winner
Mr Ming Jeong (NNA)
Proposed Global Changes to Japanese Companies’ Middle Management Hiring Strategy

Second Prize Winner
Miss Livia Scumpieru (Denso Automotive Deutschland GMBH)
The role of the women in the Japanese companies

Third Prize Winner
Mr Angus Turvill (Freelance Translator)

Special Prize Winner
Mrs Raile Rauk (Mitsubishi Heavy Industries)
Business Communication in Japan

Get in touch

For more information on the Sir Peter Parker Awards for Spoken Business Japanese visit www.soas.ac.uk/languagcentre/awards/sppa or get in touch with the Secretariat on sppa@soas.ac.uk and +44 (0)20 7898 4828.
At SOAS the understanding of Japanese language, history, and culture has been a core area of study since the university admitted its first students in 1917 as the School of Oriental Studies. SOAS’ commitment to nurturing, refining, and expanding the study of Japan has only grown over the last century.

Last year, the numbers of first-year intake of students for BA Japanese and MA Japanese Studies combined were our highest yet. We currently have over five hundred undergraduates and over one hundred postgraduates at SOAS whose interdisciplinary studies include an aspect centred on Japan or Japanese. No other institution in Europe has such a high concentration of students with a focus on the field.

Furthermore, with more than twenty five academic specialists, SOAS houses one of the largest concentrations of Japan specialists outside of Japan. SOAS’ Japan Research Centre (JRC) has been the forum for Japan-related research activities at SOAS since 1978 and continues to thrive.

WHY CHOOSE SOAS?
SOAS attracts the brightest and most exceptional candidates for PhD research in all areas, and the study of Japan and Japanese is no exception. Year on year since 2009, the number of PhD students studying some aspect of Japan has held steady, with an average of nearly thirty research students each year.