JRC NEWS
Newsletter of the Japan Research Centre, SOAS
http://www.soas.ac.uk/jrc

No. 49 January 2003

JAPAN RESEARCH CENTRE SEMINARS
Wednesdays at 5pm in Room G50

22 January Dr Gus Heldt (Bard College)
Writing Like a Man: gender, poetry, and property in the Tosa Diary

29 January No seminar

5 February Mr Albert Axell (Author)
The Kamikaze Mentality

12 February Dr Yorimitsu Hashimoto (Yokohama National University)
Religious Fanaticism or Modern Chivalry? Bushido propaganda and the British Empire during the Russo-Japanese war

19 February Reading week

26 February JRC Member’s Annual Dinner

5 March No seminars. (See inside for details of The Toshiba Lectures in Japanese Art)

12 March

19 March Professor Drew Gerstle (SOAS)
Creating Celebrity and Fame: Kabuki actors, poets, artists

26 March Dr Helen Macnaughtan (SOAS)
Female Labour in Japan's Postwar Textile Industry
From the JRC Chair

NB Dr Cho is visitor
Welcome back everybody to a new year and a new term.

We have another busy but fascinating term of seminars and lectures ahead of us. Issues addressed by this term’s seminars range from 10th century gender issues as they relate to the *Tosa nikki* through 18th century kabuki actors to 20th century militarism and post war labour issues. The absence of seminars in the first half of March is in order to enable members to attend John Rosenfield’s Toshiba lectures in Japanese arts at the Brunei gallery. He will be giving two lectures on the 12th century Buddhist monk, Chogen. Full details can be found inside this Newsletter.

New this term is a series of seminars in Japanese. Topics addressed include contemporary funeral practise, Japanese responses to Western imperialism, Natsume Soseki’s depictions of women and the deification of daimyo in Choshu. Everybody is of course most welcome to attend. Japanese visitors who would like to offer papers are invited to mail me on jb8@soas.ac.uk. The annual members’ dinner is the other event not to be missed this term. It will take place on Wednesday February 26th and details will be mailed out to members and MA and PhD students shortly.

If you have any news you would like included in the next issue of the JRC Newsletter, please contact me by e-mail.

John Breen
JRC Seminars in Japanese
Mondays 5.00 – 6.30pm

3 February, Room G51
Yamada Shinya (kokuritsu rekishi hakubutsukan)
‘Gendai Nihon ni okeru soso girei no henyo’

17 March, Room 106
Aoyama Tadamasa, (Bukkyo University)
‘1850 nendai ni okeru nihon no rekkyo ni taisuru taio’

24 March, Room 116
Kitagawa Fukiko, (Tottori University)
‘Soseki shoki sakuhin no josei byosha: Nihon ni okeru shosetsu no seiritsu, buntai, genru’

5 May, Room 116
Kishimoto Satoru, (Tottori University)
‘Shinkakuka suru daimyo ke sosen: kinsei koki no Mori ke o sozai toshite’

CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF JAPANESE RELIGIONS
SEMINARS
Thursdays, 5-6.30pm, Room V223, Vernon Square Campus

16 January
Professor Michel Mohr (Hanazono University)
Examining the Avatars of Bodhidharma: Toorei’s commentary on the Damoduoluo chanjing and its Japanese context

23 January
Dr Peter Clarke (Kings College University of London)
Sekai kyuseikyo

6 February 6
Dr Robert Duquenne (Hobogirin Institute, Ecole Francaise d'Extreme-Orient)
Ebisu

27 February
Dr Christophe Kleine (University of Marburg)
Ritual suicide in Japanese Buddhism

21 March*
Dr Urs App (Independent Scholar, Kyoto, Japan)
Francis Xavier's discovery of Zen

* Please note - this seminar is on Friday.
The Sainsbury Institute presents
The Toshiba Lectures in Japanese Arts

John M. Rosenfield
Professor Emeritus, Harvard University

The Renaissance of Japanese Buddhist Art and the Great Deeds of Monk Chôgen (1121-1206)

Tuesday 4 March 2003: Sculptors and Builders
Tuesday 11 March 2003: Power of Faith

at the Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre
SOAS, University of London
Russell Square, London

Thursday 20 March 2003: Power of the Throne

Blackfriars Hall
St Andrew’s Plain, Norwich

All lectures start at 6.00 pm, followed by an informal reception

ADMISSION FREE ALL WELCOME

Sponsored by the Toshiba International Foundation

For further information: Phone 01603 624349 / Fax 01603 625011
Introducing JRC Visitors

Professor Yuriko Takahashi, Sophia University
April 2000 to March 2003

Recent publications:
‘On Jiguge Shuowen Ding by Duan Yucai’, Chinese Culture, 1997
‘Lao She's Literature and His Views on Literature’, Journal of Arts and Letters, 1989

Current research:
Philological study of an Ancient Chinese dictionary, focusing on Shuowen Jiezi.
Comparative study of an Ancient Chinese dictionary, focusing on Shuowen Jiezi Wuyin Yunpu, Chinese version and Japanese Kanbun version.
Historical study of a Christian Chinese novelist, Lao She, focusing on his life and his novels, using missionary archives of the Special Collection Room in SOAS Library.

Dr Reiko Tanimura, International Christian University
November 2002 to October 2003

Recent publications:
Ii Naosuke Kenkyu -Shuyo toshiteno Chanoyu, Sobunsha, 2001

Current research:
Study of political power and culture in 18th century Japan.
Analyze the materials which are categorized as “tea” in the British Museum. I think that I would gain visual information on the tea ceremony in Edo era through that investigation.
JRC Members Research and Travel

**Dr Steve Dodd**, (East Asia Department), will be co-convenor of the first workshop for the AHRB City and Literature project, to be held 30 April - 2 May 2003 at SOAS; Dr Dodd is also convenor for the Japanese Literature section of the European Association for Japanese Studies (EAJS) to be held in late August in Warsaw; he will present a paper, entitled Kajii Motojiro, the City, and Modernism, at a workshop ‘The Other in Japanese Literature’ to be held at Leeds University, 25 - 27June.

**Dr Lucia Dolce**, (East Asia Department), gave a talk on ways of studying Buddhism in Europe at Taisho University, 17 October 2002; gave two lectures on Nichiren's interpretation of esoteric Buddhism, at the University of Tokyo, 4 December 2002, and at the Kokusai bukkyogaku daigakuin daigaku (ICABS), Tokyo, 28 January 2003; and will give a lecture on mediaeval prophecies at the Italian School of East Asian Studies, Kyoto, 28 March 2003; has taken part in the annual meeting of the Tendai gakkai in Eisan gakuin, Sakamoto, 8 – 9 November 2002; attended the opening conference of the Nihon sogo bukkyo kenkyukai at the University of Tokyo, 8 December 2002.

**Dr Lola Martinez**, (Anthropology and Sociology Department), gave a paper entitled Kurosawa, the Price of Global Fame at the conference on Japanese popular culture ‘Popular Noise’, at the University of Bielefeld, Germany, November 2002; gave a paper entitled From Fairy Tale to Science Fiction for the AHRB workshop series ‘Translation and Genre’.

**Dr Gary Scott**, (East Asia Department), gave a paper entitled “Japanese-style” Languages and Adjective Ordering Restrictions at the Centre National de Recherches Scientifiques, Paris, December 2002.


JRC Members Publications


Introducing New JRC Members


Dr Chris Jones is a Visiting Lecturer in Japanese Politics at SOAS from the University of Kent at Canterbury.

Recent Publications:
‘The State of the Art on Zen (and the Art of the State)’, *Global Society*, 16:3 (2002)

Over the past year, Chris has presented a number of papers on the connections between Heidegger’s political thought and that of Nishida Kitarô – including one at Oxford University and one at Leiden University.

Current Research:
Chris is currently putting together a special issue of the journal *Global Society*, themed on ‘Locating the ‘I’ in ‘IR’’. It is concerned with de-centring and challenging the hegemony of Euro-American theories of politics and international relations. It will appear in April 2003. He is also working on a book for Manchester University Press, *Japanese Politics and Political Thought* (forthcoming, 2003), as well as on a monograph, *Ideas at War: Nishida Kitarô and the Philosophical Context of the Co-Prosperity Sphere*. His main research interests are in Japanese philosophy, political thought, and the intellectual history of Japan.
Japan Related MPhil and PhD Dissertations at SOAS

Anna Schegoleva, Ghosts in Japan: re-constructing horror in modernity  
(Prof. Brian Bocking and Dr Lucia Dolce)

Christian Boehm, Early Heian Buddhist Chinzo Sculpture

Robbert Fehmers, Late Edo bunjin calligraphy  
(Prof John Carpenter)

Irena Hayter, Interrogating realism: literary self-consciousness in the modern Japanese novel

Helen Weetman, Dislocation in Japanese literature: Ishikawa Jun and post-war experimental writing  
(Prof Steve Dodd)

Yukiko Nishimura, Worship of Avalokitesvara in Japan  
(Prof Lucia Dolce)

Kristian Bering, Takizawa Bakin and Kabuki theatre

Barbara Cross, Shikitei Sanba and Kabuki theatre

Alan Cummings, Kawatake Mokuami and kabuki playwriting, 1850-1891

Makiko Tsuchida, Kabuki theatre and music  
(Prof Drew Gerstle)

Shino Arisawa, Text relations in Japanese jiuta

Matthew Gillan, Traditional music and identity in Yaeyama, Japan  
(Prof David Hughes)

Kris Chapman, Learning in the martial arts.

Mari Hirano, Gift-giving in Japan

Miki Kawabata, Nikkeijin in Okinawa

Anne Mette-Fiske, Japanese youth and political identity

Daisuke Murakami, Japanese tourism in Tibet

Satoshi Ota, Japanese popular culture in Taiwan

Neil Raven, Naturalised foreigners and companies in Japan

Rei Sugimoto, Youth and technology in Japan

Phil Swift, Japanese new religions and healing  
(Prof Lola Martinez)

Noriko Inagaki, Linguistic politeness in Japanese language acquisition

Akiko Furukawa, Passives in Japanese language acquisition  
(Prof Barbara Pizziconi)

Meri Arichi, Hie-Sanno Mandara: the Iconography of Kami and Sacred Landscape in medieval Japan

Alfred Haft, The Art of Mitate  
(Prof Tim Screech)

Etsuri Motoyoshi, Japanese Imperial Household Diplomacy in the Taisho and Showa periods, with special reference to Anglo-Japanese Court relations  
(Prof Richard Sims)

Inessa Connor, Japanese and Russian cinema: cross cultural perspectives

Chris Howard, Art House cinema

Mari Kamada, Film audiences and film consumption in Japan and Britain  
(Prof Isolde Standish)

Silke Neuhusman, Translating Japanese manga in European countries  
(Prof Standish and Prof Lola Martinez)
MA Dissertations at SOAS

The following dissertations were submitted by students as part of the MA Japanese Studies programme 2001-2002:

**Charmaine Keng-Siew Chan**, The interaction between Western media stereotypes of Japan and home-grown uniqueness  
(Supervisor: Dr Lola Martinez)

**Martin William Dusinberre**, Travel in Japan: pilgrimage and identity in the Kunisake peninsula  
(Supervisor: Dr Lola Martinez)

**Mitsunobu Komatsubara**, A Study of Matasaburo the Wind Imp  
(Supervisor: Dr Steve Dodd)

**Duncan Laing**, Japanese Cinema: media images through contemporary film  
(Supervisor: Dr Lola Martinez)

**Caragh Law**, East Goes West: the effect of Western Music on the Contemporary Music of Japan  
(Supervisor: Dr David Hughes)

**Joanne Catherine Mercer**, Akira Kurosawa and Film: Comprehending Apocalypse in the Atomic Age  
(Supervisor: Dr Lola Martinez)

**Kate Moran**, Macrocosms: representations of symbolic immortality in Noh theatre  
(Supervisor: Dr Lola Martinez)

**Patrick Andreas Pemler**, The Japanese IT Policy  
(Supervisor: Professor Chris Howe)

**Monica Ruiz-Marques**, An Insight Into Japanese Politeness: (language and culture)  
(Supervisor: Dr Hitoto Hoshi)

**Kazuhiko Sato**, Tokyo-jin and Osaka-jin: a comparative study  
(Supervisor: Dr Lola Martinez)

**Philppa Clare Symington**, Japan's Immigration and Refugee Policy; can it remain unchanged in the 21st Century?  
(Supervisor: Dr G Healey)

**Lok Yee Szeto**, Complex Predicates in Japanese and Chinese  
(Supervisor: Dr Hiroto Hoshi)


2002 Japanese Language Proficiency Test

The JLPT was held at SOAS on Sunday 1 December 2002 with the highest number of applications --- 647 --- since we began hosting the test some years ago. Applications for the test were, Level 1: 89, Level 2: 169, Level 3: 215, Level 4: 174. Test results will be sent to candidates in March, by the Japan Research Centre. Our thanks to staff and students who assisted on the day.
**Contributions to JRC News**

Voluntary contributions towards the cost of mailing the JRC News are very welcome. We suggest the following guidelines:

- Corporate subscribers: £50
- Individuals: £10
- Students/Concessions: Free

Please make your cheque payable to ‘SOAS’ and send to the Japan Research Centre. Subscriptions are for one year.

We would like to thank readers who have already sent in contributions.

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**JRC News - mailing list update**

To assist us in keeping the JRC mailing lists (postal and electronic) up-to-date, please send any changes by completing the slip below, or email details to <bl1@soas.ac.uk>

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