Japan Research Centre
ANNUAL REVIEW
ISSUE 62: September 2011 - August 2012
that SOAS is distinctively positioned to present their acutely. It is a world world in which difference and regionalism technological simultaneity. Yet it is also a shrinking borders and of economic and is a global academic base and a crucial intellectual enquiry and achievement. It is a humankind. social change - confronting two-thirds of identity, legal systems, poverty, religion, democracy, development, human rights, scholars grapple with pressing issues - On the other hand, it means that SOAS academic staff concerned with Africa, Asia and the Middle East.combination language scholarship, discipli- nation in the UK specialising in the study of Asia, Africa and the Near and Middle East.

SOAS offers a wide range of undergraduate, postgraduate and research degrees. Stud- ents can choose from more than 400 un- dergraduate degree combinations and from more than 100 postgraduate programmes (taught and distance learning) in the social sciences, humanities and languages with a distinctive regional focus and global rele- vance, taught by world-renowned teachers in specialist faculties.

SOAS is consistently ranked among the top higher education institutions in the UK and the world. In 2006 SOAS joined the top 20 European universities in the Times Higher Education Supplement rankings, and in 2007 the Guardian listed it again among the top 100 UK universities, which include other University of London colleges (UCL, LSE and King’s College) as well as Oxford and Cambridge.

SOAS offers a friendly, vibrant environment right in the buzzing heart of London with the capital’s rich cultural and social life on its doorstep.

STUDYING AT SOAS

The international environment and cos- mopolitan character of the School make student life a challenging, rewarding and exciting experience. We welcome students from more than 130 countries, and 50% of them are from outside the UK.

The SOAS Library has more than 1.5 million items and extensive electronic resources. It is the national library the study of Africa, Asia and the Middle East and attracts scholar- s all over the world.

SOAS offers a wide range of undergraduate, postgraduate and research degrees. Stud- ents can choose from more than 400 un- dergraduate degree combinations and from more than 100 postgraduate programmes (taught and distance learning) in the social sciences, humanities and languages with a distinctive regional focus and global rele- vance, taught by world-renowned teachers in specialist faculties.

SOAS is consistently ranked among the top higher education institutions in the UK and the world. In 2006 SOAS joined the top 20 European universities in the Times Higher Education Supplement rankings, and in 2007 the Guardian listed it again among the top 100 UK universities, which include other University of London colleges (UCL, LSE and King’s College) as well as Oxford and Cambridge.

SOAS offers a friendly, vibrant environment right in the buzzing heart of London with the capital’s rich cultural and social life on its doorstep.

SOAS is a college of the University of Lon- don and the only Higher Education institu- tion in the UK specialising in the study of Asia, Africa and the Near and Middle East.

SOAS is a remarkable institution. Uniquely combining language scholarship, discipli- nary expertise and regional focus, it has the largest concentration in Europe of academic staff concerned with Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

On the one hand, this means that SOAS remains a guardian of specialised knowl- edge in languages and periods and regions not available anywhere else in the UK. On the other hand, it means that SOAS scholars grapple with pressing issues – democracy, development, human rights, identity, legal systems, poverty, religion, social change – confronting two-thirds of humankind.

This makes SOAS synonymous with intellectual enquiry and achievement. It is a global academic base and a crucial resource for London. We live in a world of shrinking borders and of economic and technological simultaneity. Yet it is also a world in which difference and regionalism present themselves acutely. It is a world that SOAS is distinctively positioned to analyse, understand and explain.

CONTENTS

0.3 Letter from the Chair
04 JRC Members
05 Members News
08 Academic Events 2011-12
09 Event Reports
11 Research Students 2011-12
11 Honorary Appointments 2011-12
18 Honorary Appointment News
21 SSJAC News
22 Awards & Bursaries
25 Japanese Roof Garden
26 Brunei Gallery
26 Join the Centre

I have now come to the end of my first year as chair of the JRC. After settling in to the post thanks to the kind and extremely competent help and advice of Jane and Rahima in the Centers and Programmes Office, I really came to enjoy being part of this highly stimulating and enterprising part of SOAS life.

I have found it particularly interesting to be involved in the many lectures and seminars that we put on during the year. Prof. Cecile Sakai gave a fascinating talk on contemporary Japanese women’s literature at the Meiji Jingu lecture in October. And we were particularly delighted to welcome Rev. Atsami, Mr. Moriyasu Ito and Dr. Yoshiko Inazumi from Meiji Jingu to the event. Their presence at the award ceremony in the Director’s Office, when certificates were given to the recipients of the Meiji Jingu scholarships, helped make it a particularly happy and festive occa- sion. In November on a visit to Tokyo, I was delighted to take part in an unforgettable ceremony at Meiji Jingu and receive the kind hospital- ity of all there. The speaker at the Tsuda Annual lecture was Prof. Anne Wallihan, who spoke about the role of guns during the Tokugawa period. It was a great pity that Kayoko Tsuda was unable to attend the event this year, but we were delighted to welcome Stan. Both lectures drew large crowds and offered real insights into various aspects of Japanese culture and society. As ever, our regular seminar series provided rich pickings for anyone with an interest in Japan, and we learnt about things as varied as the role of the Japanese Prime Minister to book sellers’ catalogues during the Tokugawa period.

I have been booking seminar speak- ers for the coming year, and there is much of interest to look forward to.

Some of you may be aware that we are entering the 400th year anniversary ofAnglo-Japanese relations. As I write, we are consider- ing plans for the best way to celebrate this date, so please watch out for details as they become available.

Under the continuing auspices of Chris Gerets, the SOAS Translation Workshop in Japanese Studies took place at SOAS in July 2011. Three of the Workshop faculty were JRC members. We have now set up a webpage to contain occasional translations in Japanese Studies, edited by Chris, and it is available to scholars world wide. This development will allow the JRC to reach out to an increasingly wide community of people with an interest in things Japanese.

I let me take the opportunity to offer a fond farewell to last year’s visiting scholars who have now returned to Japan, and also to welcome the new visitors for the coming year. On behalf of all academics involved with Japan stud- ies at SOAS, we look forward to getting to know you and sharing ideas in the coming months.

Finally, it was very sad indeed to hear that Kayoko Tsuda passed away in April this year. An obituary appears on P6, but let me just note that although I did not have the opportunity to come to know Kayoko well during this year, I did have the honour of attending a memorial service. At that service, I came to realize that Kayoko was a woman with so many interests and a real zeal for life. We continue to deeply appreciate the support Kayoko has given to the JRC.

Steve Dodd
Members News

In August, Alan Cummings gave a paper entitled “Japanese Folk and the Authenticity Blues” as part of a highly enjoyable panel that examined artistic interventions in Japan’s high-growth era of the 1960s at the 13th European Association of Japanese Studies conference in Tallinn, Estonia.

October saw a flying three-day visit to Japan to give a paper on the practical use of digital video and virtual reality in arts education at the Delphiwa ibuka jidai no sho ryoku kurikaekurikyoku (デジタル映像時代の宗教文化教科書) international conference at Nihongaku University in Tokyo.

In March he gave a series of lectures on premodern Japanese literature at the University of Iceland in Reykjavik.

The summer will be taken up with working on a small volume of translation of haiku for The British Museum Press, English subtitles for several bunraku puppet theatre DVDs, and a translation of a chapter on bunraku for A History of Japanese Theatre, due to be published by Cambridge University Press.

During this academic year Steve Dodd has been very busy with teaching, and also getting the hang of being the Chair of the JRC. However, he has managed to squeeze some things in. In November 2011, Steve was invited to attend a symposium on modern Japanese literature at Waseda University. The symposium transcript is now being turned into a publication. In March 2012, Steve followed the usual practice of presenting a paper at a JRC seminar related to the research he undertook during his Sabbatical the previous year. The talk was entitled “The Youth of Things: Life and Death in the Age of Kaji Motoryou.”

He was fortunate to receive JRC funding that allowed him to visit Hino for three weeks during the Easter break. This allowed Steve to work on a paper on Ibö Sei in preparation for a book project he is working on in conjunction with colleagues in Japan. While there, he also managed to complete a substantial part of the final chapter of his book manuscript on Kaji, and finished the whole project after returning to London. The manuscript is now in the hands of the publisher awaiting reader reports.

Steve has also completed an article entitled “History in the Making: The Negotiation of History and Fiction in Tanizaki Junichiro’s Shunkoshunzoku” (Japan Review, July 2012). In March, he took part in a panel discussion on literature and disaster at the Japan Foundation in London together with two visiting JRC scholars from Japan. In early June, he took part as a supervisor in an EAWS-sponsored PhD student workshop in Newcastle. In late June, he gave a talk at the Institute of Japanology at Goethe University, Frankfurt, on the topic of Kaji’s aesthetics.

After two years of hard work, Christopher Gerteis is very pleased to report that Bloomsbury will publish Japan since 1945: From Postwar to Post-Bubble. London and New York: Bloomsbury. (In Press)


2012 “The Nexus of Economic and Social Change in Modern Japan.” In: Gerteis (ed.). Critical Readings on the History of Industrialization in Modern Japan. Leiden, the Netherlands: Brill. (Forthcoming)


Andrew Gerstle has continued to work on shunga, Japanese traditional erotic art, with Timothy Clark of the British Museum and others within the Leverhulme sponsored three year international project. The British Museum ‘Shunga’ exhibition is now scheduled to open on 3 October 2013 and end on 5 January 2014. He visited Japan in March 2012 to discuss the plans for a Tokyo gallery to host the shunga exhibition, which hopefully will take place from April 2014. On 5 April 2012 Drew was invited to the University of Michigan to give a talk on ‘Parody and Satire in Shunga: Takehara Shunshô’s Pillow Book for the Young 1766’. He also made surveys of public and private collections of shunga in Tokyo, Paris, Amsterdam and Leiden during the past year. He gave a presentation at the European Association of Japanese Studies (Tallinn) August 2011 on ‘Parody in Shunga’.

Griselidis Kirsch
Professor of Japanese Culture
In August 2011, Griselidis Kirsch convened the Anthropology section at the conference of the European Association for Japanese Studies (EAJS), together with Anemone Platz (Aarhus, Denmark). She also presented a paper entitled ‘Recreating memory: Looking at the politics of memory in the TV drama Watsuki no kai nari to and its remakes’, in the panel ‘Politics of cultural production. Memory and representation’ organised by Delores Martinez, Artur Lozano Mendez and Blai Guarme.

Mika Kizu
Senior Lecturer in the History of Japan
Mika Kizu spent the year finishing up his term as Undergraduate Tutor in the History Department, before heading off on sabbatical in 2012-13. He continued to work on exhibitions, giving an invited paper at a conference at Sakurazumi University in January. He also gave a couple of talks on golf, in Manchester in November and at the Association of Asian Studies annual meeting in Toronto in March, the latter to launch the publication of an edited volume on consumption. Finally, also in March, in collaboration with Professor Haruniko Fujita of Osaka University, he organised a two-day symposium at SOAS on Art and Design in Asia, incorporating a graduate student workshop on new work on Japan and a colloquium exploring the question of method, through a range of case studies from East and South Asia.

Angus Lockyer
Lecturer in the History of Japan
Angus Lockyer has been researching the development and history of the automatic rice cooker in Japan, within a broader historical context of Japanese home appliances as well as within the context of consumption and specifically the role of Japanese women as consumers. He has presented this research at the Nissan Institute, Oxford, at Cardiff Business School and at the AAS Conference in Toronto during 2011-12.

Helen Macnaughtan
Lecturer in Modernist Narratives and Management Japan
Helen Macnaughtan has been researching the development and history of the automatic rice cooker in Japan, within a broader historical context of Japanese home appliances as well as within the context of consumption and specifically the role of Japanese women as consumers. She has presented this research at the Nissan Institute, Oxford, at Cardiff Business School and at the AAS Conference in Toronto during 2011-12.

Barbara Pizziconi
Lecturer in Modern Japanese Linguistics
In the first half of the year 2011, in the context of the collaborative project on the acquisition of Modality with Mika Kizu (and other colleagues) at SOAS, ICU and Kansai university, see JRC review 60 which has now reached its intermediate point. Barbara Pizziconi has begun to collect information on the conditions of study during the residence abroad. It is the first time that a longitudinal study of modality acquisition tackles the ‘life-style (patterns of study and social interaction) of the learners, which we hope will obtain significant information on the variables responsible for differential developmental pathways.

Aktiko Yano
Research Fellow
Aktiko Yano’s main focus has been work on the Shunga international project as a Leverhulme Research Fellow. She gave a presentation at the European Association of Japanese Studies (EAJS) August 2011 in Tallinn on pre-Edo period paintings related to shunga, and has submitted an article on this for publication. She is now working with the project team to complete the plans and catalogue for the British Museum shunga exhibition, to be held from 3 October 2013 to 5 January 2014. She made a trip to Tokyo in March 2012 to survey shunga collections. She also volunteers one day a week cataloguing the collection of Japanese Edo-period books in the British Museum.
8      SOAS, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON 9      SOAS, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Academic Events
Sept 2011-Aug 2012

Seminar Series
6 October 2011
Ikuo Higashibua (Tenri University)
Practicing Christianity in Early Modern Japan: Symbol, Prayer, and Mirror

12 October 2011
Julie Nelson Davis (University of Pennsylvania)
Reading The Mirror of the Beauties of the Azure Towers, Compared

30 October 2011
Shigemi Nakagawa (Ritsumeikan)
Literary imagination in Visuality: Japanese Modern Literature and Modernity

26 October 2011
Christoph Brumann (Max Planck)
Open skies over Kyoto: How the townscape conflicts could be settled

21 November 2011
Gyewon Kim (SISJAC)
The Emperor (Tenran)

23 November 2011
Lesley Downer (Independent Scholar)
The Yoshiwara and the world of Japanese courtesans and geisha

14 December 2011
Christopher Hood (Cardiff)
A Tale of Two Forests: Memorialization, Symbolism and Death in Japan

11 January 2012
Laura Moretti (Newcastle University)
The scope of the Edo-period publishing trade: a glance through shojukuroku (bookkeepers’ catalogues)

16 January 2012
Ewa Machotka (Leiden University)
Hokusai’s landscapes and the myth of “innocent eye”

27 June 2012
Jonah Salt
Kyogen in Translation: Page to Stage to Page

1 February 2012
Ito Yasunobu (UCL / JAIST)
Covert Contested Creativity: an anthropological approach to disharmonious situations at the medical workplace

7 December 2011
Lesley Downer (Independent Scholar)
The Yoshiwara and the world of Japanese courtesans and geisha

14 December 2011
Christopher Hood (Cardiff)
A Tale of Two Forests: Memorialization, Symbolism and Death in Japan

11 January 2012
Laura Moretti (Newcastle University)
The scope of the Edo-period publishing trade: a glance through shojukuroku (bookkeepers’ catalogues)

9 January 2012
Ewa Machotka (Leiden University)
Hokusai’s landscapes and the myth of “innocent eye”

21 March 2012
Steve Dodd (SOAS)
The Youth of Things: Life and Death in the Age of Kaji Motojirō

2 May 2012
Dr Kiri Paramore (Leiden University)
A Single History of Christianity in East Asia: China-Japan interaction of the past and East Asian Christianities today

9 January 2012
Ewa Machotka (Leiden University)
Hokusai’s landscapes and the myth of “innocent eye”

21 March 2012
Steve Dodd (SOAS)
The Youth of Things: Life and Death in the Age of Kaji Motojirō

2 May 2012
Dr Kiri Paramore (Leiden University)
A Single History of Christianity in East Asia: China-Japan interaction of the past and East Asian Christianities today

2 February 2012
David-Antoine Malinas (Associate Professor, Paris VII-Diderot University)
Inquiring the growth and decline of the very poor in Japan

29 February 2012
Jenny Presdon
Love, Money and the Landscape of Imperial Loyalty: The Illustrated Books of Nishikawa Sukenobu

7 March 2012
Professor Ivo Smits (Leiden University)
The anecdotal mode of discourse in classical Japan

20 April 2012
Dr Linda Flores (Oxford University)
Takahashi Takakō’s To the Far Reaches of the Heavens’ and the Question of War Responsibility

14 March 2012
Dr Takako Takahashi’s “To the Far Reaches of the Heavens’ and the Question of War Responsibility

19 September 2011
Sanshotei CHARAKU
Rakugo ‘Funatoku’ performed by Sierk Horn

7 November 2011
Paper cutting by Hayashiya Imamaru

2 March 2012
Approaching Art and Design from Asia
Young Researchers’ Workshop: New Work on Japan

28 February 2012
Annual Tsuda Lecture
Anne Walthall
Guns in Japan, 1543-1786: Myths, Secret Traditions, and the Royal Hunt

22 February 2012
Annual Tsuda Lecture
Anne Walthall
Guns in Japan, 1543-1786: Myths, Secret Traditions, and the Royal Hunt

2 March 2012
Approaching Art and Design from Asia
Young Researchers’ Workshop: New Work on Japan

20 April 2012
Elin Lindqvist (Freelance Journalist)
Lecture

19 September 2011
Sierk Horn, Senior Lecturer in Japanese Studies at the University of Leeds, presented on his latest research examining Japanese and European multinational enterprises (MNEs). Japanese firms have a reputation as influential foreign investors. Dr Horn’s research finds that Japanese investment behaviour is evolving. While benefiting from a strong presence within Europe, Japanese firms are in the process of reconfiguring their UK presence. Recent surveys show Europe losing ground as a promising region for medium-term overseas business operations, and Japanese manufacturers have downgraded the attractiveness of the UK as a business destination. In the last decade the number of Japanese firms in the UK has declined considerably, indicating an appreciable slow-down in interest from Japan.

In light of the continued importance of Japan as an inward investment source country despite investment ‘newcomers’, most notably from India and China, the long-term commitment of Japanese investors and their contribution to the regional regeneration of the UK represents a useful context in which to examine the current strategies and localisation behaviour of Japanese companies. A comparative and longitudinal analysis of the spatial distribution of Japanese Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the UK over the past two decades help explore agglomeration economies, investment exit scenarios and the changing role of regional industrial policies.

Event Reports

TENRI GAGAKU CONCERT
16 September 2011
On the evening of 16 September, the Centre hosted the Tenri Gagaku Concert, performed by the award winning orchestra from Japan. The Tenri University gagaku group flew in from Munich after performing at the university of Colin on the occasion of 150th Japan-Germany Friendship Anniversary. The tour, which was funded by the Japan Foundation, took in 5 performances across Europe.

Gagaku, literally ‘elegant music’, is generally called ‘Japanese court music’. Aside from the imperial palace, however, it is also performed in numerous temples and shrines, and since the late 19th century also by many secular groups as an art music.

Gagaku is possibly the oldest surviving orchestral tradition in the world. Though the music and the associated bugaku dance have undergone major changes in Japan, in particular there has been an extreme slowing down, which demands tremendous expressiveness from the performers. This has attracted and challenged modern composers such as Takemitsu and Stockhausen.

The instruments of the orchestra include the rôsetsuki and komabue flutes, hichiriki oboe, shô mouth organ, 13-string koto and 7-string shakuhachi, and various percussion. These instruments are virtually unalterable for over a thousand years.

The Tenri ensemble offered a diverse performance including instrumental gagaku pieces, bugaku dances, and saibara vocal music.

Then and Now: Japanese Investment in the UK
19 September 2011
Sark Horn, Senior Lecturer in Japanese Studies at the University of Leeds, presented on his latest research examining Japanese and European multinational enterprises (MNEs). Japanese firms have a reputation as influential foreign investors. Dr. Horn’s research finds that Japanese investment behaviour is evolving. While benefiting from a strong presence within Europe, Japanese firms are in the process of reconfiguring their UK presence. Recent surveys show Europe losing ground as a promising region for medium-term overseas business operations, and Japanese manufacturers have downgraded the attractiveness of the UK as a business destination. In the last decade the number of Japanese firms in the UK has declined considerably, indicating an appreciable slow-down in interest from Japan.

In light of the continued importance of Japan as an inward investment source country despite investment ‘newcomers’, most notably from India and China, the long-term commitment of Japanese investors and their contribution to the regional regeneration of the UK represents a useful context in which to examine the current strategies and localisation behaviour of Japanese companies. A comparative and longitudinal analysis of the spatial distribution of Japanese Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the UK over the past two decades help explore agglomeration economies, investment exit scenarios and the changing role of regional industrial policies.
it very fortunate that Sheldon Garon was in Europe in November last year and the JRC was able invite him to SOAS to attended lecture. At a very well attended lecture, Prof. Garon addressed one of the most pressing questions of our times in a talk entitled: “Beyond Our Means: Why America Spends While the World Saves.”

His question was: a time when America has saved too little and spent too much, what sort of lessons can be learnt from East Asia and European nations about creating more financially sensible and sustainable financial practices? Prof. Garon set out on an historical background to the way in which the U. S. government promoted mass consumption and reliance on credit, culminating in the global financial meltdown.

Prof. Garon’s talk went far beyond the financial meltdown. It was very fortunate that Sheldon Garon was in Europe in November last year and the JRC was able invite him to SOAS to attended lecture. At a very well attended lecture, Prof. Garon addressed one of the most pressing questions of our times in a talk entitled: “Beyond Our Means: Why America Spends While the World Saves.”

His question was: a time when America has saved too little and spent too much, what sort of lessons can be learnt from East Asia and European nations about creating more financially sensible and sustainable financial practices? Prof. Garon set out on an historical background to the way in which the U. S. government promoted mass consumption and reliance on credit, culminating in the global financial meltdown.

Prof. Garon’s talk went far beyond the financial meltdown. It was very fortunate that Sheldon Garon was in Europe in November last year and the JRC was able invite him to SOAS to attended lecture. At a very well attended lecture, Prof. Garon addressed one of the most pressing questions of our times in a talk entitled: “Beyond Our Means: Why America Spends While the World Saves.”

His question was: a time when America has saved too little and spent too much, what sort of lessons can be learnt from East Asia and European nations about creating more financially sensible and sustainable financial practices? Prof. Garon set out on an historical background to the way in which the U. S. government promoted mass consumption and reliance on credit, culminating in the global financial meltdown.

Prof. Garon’s talk went far beyond the financial meltdown. It was very fortunate that Sheldon Garon was in Europe in November last year and the JRC was able invite him to SOAS to attended lecture. At a very well attended lecture, Prof. Garon addressed one of the most pressing questions of our times in a talk entitled: “Beyond Our Means: Why America Spends While the World Saves.”

His question was: a time when America has saved too little and spent too much, what sort of lessons can be learnt from East Asia and European nations about creating more financially sensible and sustainable financial practices? Prof. Garon set out on an historical background to the way in which the U. S. government promoted mass consumption and reliance on credit, culminating in the global financial meltdown.

Prof. Garon’s talk went far beyond the financial meltdown. It was very fortunate that Sheldon Garon was in Europe in November last year and the JRC was able invite him to SOAS to attended lecture. At a very well attended lecture, Prof. Garon addressed one of the most pressing questions of our times in a talk entitled: “Beyond Our Means: Why America Spends While the World Saves.”

His question was: a time when America has saved too little and spent too much, what sort of lessons can be learnt from East Asia and European nations about creating more financially sensible and sustainable financial practices? Prof. Garon set out on an historical background to the way in which the U. S. government promoted mass consumption and reliance on credit, culminating in the global financial meltdown.

Prof. Garon’s talk went far beyond the financial meltdown. It was very fortunate that Sheldon Garon was in Europe in November last year and the JRC was able invite him to SOAS to attended lecture. At a very well attended lecture, Prof. Garon addressed one of the most pressing questions of our times in a talk entitled: “Beyond Our Means: Why America Spends While the World Saves.”

His question was: a time when America has saved too little and spent too much, what sort of lessons can be learnt from East Asia and European nations about creating more financially sensible and sustainable financial practices? Prof. Garon set out on an historical background to the way in which the U. S. government promoted mass consumption and reliance on credit, culminating in the global financial meltdown.

Prof. Garon’s talk went far beyond the financial meltdown. It was very fortunate that Sheldon Garon was in Europe in November last year and the JRC was able invite him to SOAS to attended lecture. At a very well attended lecture, Prof. Garon addressed one of the most pressing questions of our times in a talk entitled: “Beyond Our Means: Why America Spends While the World Saves.”

His question was: a time when America has saved too little and spent too much, what sort of lessons can be learnt from East Asia and European nations about creating more financially sensible and sustainable financial practices? Prof. Garon set out on an historical background to the way in which the U. S. government promoted mass consumption and reliance on credit, culminating in the global financial meltdown.
Russell Squire is a long way indeed from the Molokabatei in Asakusa or the Suehirotsu in Shinagaku, but something of the warm, freewheeling spirit of those famous Edo yose vaudeville theatres was recreated for a full and enthusiastic house in G2 on November 7th.

In the few remaining yose theatres today, the gaudy, performative, form of sit-down comedy narrative known as rakugo is the most familiar art presented on stage. Many rakugo performers still enjoy a degree of celebrity in Japan, appearing frequently on TV and radio. But yose bills today (and in the Edo period) also featured a wide variety of other turns to provoke the laughter, tears and gasps of amazement of popular audiences. These so-called iromono performances encompassed everything from jugglers to magicians to musical acts.

The evening began with a demonstration of the varieties of rhythms and melodies of the spirited yosebayashi music. In the theatres, yosebayashi is used to punctuate performances, sometimes to introduce performers (each has their own theme tune), other times to provide a sense of place or to suggest natural phenomena in a similar way to geza music in kabuki. Shunpuetsu Shomatsu illustrated the different rhythmic patterns on the drum, while Yumiko provided the melodies on shamisen. Interestingly, the music can also be used for comic effect - at appropriate moments during the later performances, ‘Yumiko stylo quoted from ‘Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer’ and even Stephen Foster’s ‘Camptown Races’.

Next up was Hayashiya Imamaru, a seasoned performer of the venerable art of kamikiri or papercutting. Popular in yose since at least the early part of the Meiji period, kamikiri performers create complex paper cutouts, responding instantaneously to requests from the audience. Imamaru delighted the audience with his well-honed dexterity, creating silhouettes of squirrels, a mako, a galloping horse, a portable shrine, and even paper-and-scissors portraits of members of the audience.

Rounding off the evening was Sanshōhei Charaku, a veteran performer of rakugo who presented his version of the popular Funatoku story in English. Using just his tone of voice, facial expressions and his fan, Charaku summoned up a vivid sense of the great city of Edo in the stifling heat of midsummer and that familiar story of the hapless Toku, the dispossessed wastrel son of a merchant family who tries his luck at becoming a boatman on the Sumida River. Toku is employed by two customers to ferry them across the river, but of course nothing goes quite according to plan...

Alan Cummings

The conference ‘Making a Difference – Representing/Constructing the Other in Asian/African Media, Cinema and Languages’ was held from 16–18 February 2012 at SOAS and organised by Griseldis Kirch. As part of a consortium of African and Asian Studies SOAS, it was this year that SOAS hosted the conference and hence most of the participants came from CAAS institutions. The conference attracted academic interest not just from the participating institutions, in the end over 40 participants from seven different nations were hosted. Consequently, the conference ran in two parallel sessions over two of the three days and all attracted large audiences. Rather than a small symposium, we were able to make this a big and international event.

All of the panels were well visited and discussions were lively and fruitful. The speakers mostly engaged in case studies of how ‘difference’ was appropriated when familiar and cultural proximity also played a vital part. Researchers came from different fields of study and looked at different regions, but all of them looked at either Asia, Africa or the Middle East, but with a distinct emphasis on the Middle East and Japan. As the conference was multidisciplinary, the aspects in the discussion did not just include questions regarding the papers, but added to the academic debate as sometimes theoretical concepts were highlighted. The papers were put in panels along regions, rather than thematic similarities so that audiences with interest in a particular region, but also those interested in a particular genre could attend. The rooms in which the sessions were held were not far apart, so that anyone interested could easily move between the sections. The keynote speech was given by Dr Dolores Martinez (SOAS), who introduced the theme by looking at various representations of difference in Western and Japanese film.

The conference was sponsored by the British Academy, the Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation and the Faculty of Languages and Cultures.

Our speaker for the annual Tsuda lecture this year was Prof. Anne Walthall, from the University of California, Irvine. Prof. Walthall is a distinguished historian with an impressive array of publications to her name. She has recently been working on the family archives of the Hirata family descended from Hirata Atsutane. Her talk was entitled, “Guns in Japan, 1543–1786: Myths, Secret Traditions, and the Royal Hunt.” She offered a fascinating insight into the material culture of Tokugawa Japan, centering on the role of the gun in Tokugawa culture. She argued that the commonly held view that guns were brought to Japan by the Portuguese was a myth; rather, it is more likely they arrived from South East Asia.

One particularly interesting part of her talk centered on the role of guns during the famous battle of Nagashino in 1575. She suggested that Oda Nobunaga’s victory depended more on the fact that he had a larger number of soldiers rather than due to his employment of guns. Indeed, she used pictorial evidence to argue that gun volleys were not actually used during the battle. On the other hand, while more traditional weapons such as arrows remained very important, she showed how guns conveyed a sense of power and intimidation through their novelty and glamour value. She then went on to trace the importance of guns during the Tokugawa period. During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, technology improved and guns were effectively used by the authorities against pirates, and during time of peasant and Arima uprisings. They also became a tool for hunters of vermin. Guns also made an appearance in popular culture, for instance on the stage of some Kabuki plays such as Chōshūshira. Guns also found their way into ceremonies. For example, they became an important item displayed by rulers accompanying Daimyo during their travels to and from Edo as part of the system of alternating residency (sainkin kōtai). In short, Prof. Walthall very effectively demonstrated that guns were important cultural artifacts during the Tokugawa period as much for their role as status markers as for their effectiveness on the battle field.

Stephen Dodd
Elin Lindqvist is a freelance journalist and author who has worked and lived in over nine countries including Japan, where she studied at Sophia University in Tokyo. Following the tragic tsunami in Japan in 2011 and the consequent nuclear crisis in Fukushima, many foreign journalists decided to leave Japan. In contrast, Elin decided to return to Japan at this time in order to report on the reconstruction process and the continuing nuclear crisis. Early in 2012, she returned briefly once more to Japan to see how things were developing. In April, she came to SOAS to give an update about how people were coping with the continuing crisis. Using extremely moving and informative photographs and oral testimonies, she gave her audience a real sense of how the effects are still being felt at a personal level in Japan. One of the most powerful visual images was of a village that had been swept up en masse on the tsunami wave and deposited in a tangled heap far up a mountain valley. She also gave some sense of the heartening human bonds that the disaster had engendered. For instance, she spoke of a man from one of the most badly affected regions who now lives in Hokkaido. As a member of an old samurai family connected to the affected region, he felt such a strong sense of duty that he returned to the area to do his best to help organize a revival of the local community. Elin very effectively brought home the human cost of this terrible tragedy.
MA JAPANESE STUDIES

STUDY AT SOAS

SOAS offers the most comprehensive MA in Japanese Studies available anywhere in Europe.

Students are able to choose courses that cover all of Japan's historical periods, from the earliest to the present, and ranging over the social and political sciences as well as humanities.

The students who take this degree come from many countries and have a wide variety of academic backgrounds. Some have already studied, or lived in, Japan and wish to broaden their knowledge or understanding. Others wish to focus their training on the region, and wish to broaden their knowledge or understanding.

Some have already studied, or lived in, Japan and wish to broaden their knowledge or understanding. Others wish to focus their training on the region, and wish to broaden their knowledge or understanding.

Knowledge of the Japanese language is not a requirement of the course. Language courses, however, are popular options.

For more information: www.soas.ac.uk/admissions/pg/subject

A Student Perspective

It's a melting pot of languages and cultures where your eyes open to new things you might have never heard about on a daily basis. I really think it is amazing. "

Antonio Stoddart

"London is amazing. It is a big city, there is always something going on, always something interesting to do. Also, you can move around easily and fast. It is a frenetic life, but it is just part of the fun."

Florida Carabasso

Professor Research Associates

Professor Gina BARNES

Professor Neil JACKSON

Professor Peter KORBICKI

Professor Ian NISH

Professor Evgeny STEINER

Professor Yuriko TAKAHASHI

Research Associates

Dr John BREEN

Dr John CARPENTER

Dr Timothy CLARK

Dr Penelope FRANKS

Dr Christine GUTH

Dr Monika HINKEL

Dr David W HUGHES

Dr Olga KHOHENKO

Dr Barak KUSHNER

Dr Nicola LISCUTIN

Dr Jonathan MACKINTOSH

Professor Akiko MIKASA

Professor Mami MIZUTORI

Dr Rajasekhara PANDEY

Professor Sarah TEASLEY

Dr Ellis TIMIOS

Dr Carla TRONU

Dr Stephen TURNBULL

Dr Akiko YANO

Dr MEGUMI SAKAMOTO

Dr Sarah TEASLEY

Dr Ellis TIMIOS

Dr Carla TRONU

Dr Stephen TURNBULL

Dr Akiko YANO

Dr MEGUMI SAKAMOTO

Dr Peter KORNICKI

The Library collects books, journals, audio-visual materials, electronic and multimedia items on Japan and ranging over the social and political sciences as well as humanities.

The Library houses over 1.2 million volumes at the SOAS libraries for the study of Africa, Asia and the Middle East, which attracts scholars from all over the world to conduct research.

The Japan Section holds books in Western, significant archival holdings, special collections and a growing digital network of electronic resources.

- The Library collects books, journals, audio-visual materials, electronic and multimedia items on Japan and ranging over the social and political sciences as well as humanities.
- The Library houses over 1.2 million volumes at the SOAS libraries for the study of Africa, Asia and the Middle East, which attracts scholars from all over the world to conduct research.

For more information:

www.soas.ac.uk/admissions/pg/subject

Honorary Appointments

Sept 2011-Aug 2012

Professorial Research Associates

Professor Gina BARNES

Professor Neil JACKSON

Professor Peter KORBICKI

Professor Ian NISH

Professor Evgeny STEINER

Professor Yuriko TAKAHASHI

Research Associates

Dr John BREEN

Dr John CARPENTER

Dr Timothy CLARK

Dr Penelope FRANKS

Dr Christine GUTH

Dr Monika HINKEL

Dr David W HUGHES

Dr Olga KHOHENKO

Dr Barak KUSHNER

Dr Nicola LISCUTIN

Dr Jonathan MACKINTOSH

Professor Akiko MIKASA

Professor Mami MIZUTORI

Dr Rajasekhara PANDEY

Professor Sarah TEASLEY

Dr Ellis TIMIOS

Dr Carla TRONU

Dr Stephen TURNBULL

Dr Akiko YANO

Dr MEGUMI SAKAMOTO

Dr Peter KORNICKI

JAPAN IN THE SOAS LIBRARY

SOAS Library is one of the world's most important academic libraries for the study of Africa, Asia and the Middle East, which attracts scholars from all over the world to conduct research. The Library houses over 1.2 million volumes at the SOAS libraries for the study of Africa, Asia and the Middle East, which attracts scholars from all over the world to conduct research.

For more information:

Tel: 020-7898-4174 E-mail: fk2@soas.ac.uk

Librarian for Japan/Korea Studies

Law books in Western Languages are located in the

Main focus is on the humanities & social sciences.

The Japan Section holds books in Western, significant archival holdings, special collections and a growing digital network of electronic resources.

- The Library collects books, journals, audio-visual materials, electronic and multimedia items on Japan and ranging over the social and political sciences as well as humanities.
- The Library houses over 1.2 million volumes at the SOAS libraries for the study of Africa, Asia and the Middle East, which attracts scholars from all over the world to conduct research.

For more information:

www.soas.ac.uk/admissions/pg/subject

A Student Perspective

It's a melting pot of languages and cultures where your eyes open to new things you might have never heard about on a daily basis. I really think it is amazing."

Antonio Stoddart

“London is amazing. It is a big city, there is always something going on, always something interesting to do. Also, you can move around easily and fast. It is a frenetic life, but it is just part of the fun.”

Florida Carabasso

2011 JAPAN SOCIETY AWARD

DAVID HUGHES

David Hughes, who recently retired from the Department of Music at SOAS, has received the Japan Society Award for 2011.

The Japan Society Awards are presented each year to mark significant work in the field of UK-Japan relations which has not otherwise been recognised. These annual awards, usually made to one Japanese and one non-Japanese national for outstanding contributions to Anglo-Japanese relations and understanding. The 2011 Awards were announced and presented at the Society’s Annual Dinner on 6 December.

David had hugely enriched the experience of numerous students and faculty over the years with his profound knowledge and infectious enthusiasm for music from Japan and around the world and award recognises his long-term significant contribution to knowledge and understanding of Japan and Japanese music traditions and practice.

“I couldn’t feel more honoured,” said Hughes. “To me, being involved in facilitating music events, even in retirement, is a way of repaying Japan for all these wonderful years of researching Japanese music and 10 years of living there.”
Christine Guth leads the Asian specialization in the Royal College of Art and Victoria and Albert Museum's postgraduate design history and material culture programme.

Evgeny Steiner

During the last academic year Evgeny Steiner continued to work on his commented full edition of Hokusai Manga. Besides the text, he continued to prepare for publication a book of articles based on papers delivered at the conference ‘Orientalism/Occidentalism: Languages of Cultures vs. Languages of Description’ which he organized and chaired in September 2010. The book has been published in June. It consists of 21 articles in English and 10 in Russian: ‘Orientalism/Occidentalism: Languages of Cultures vs. Languages of Description’. Moscow: Nauka, 2011, 181 pp. (Ed and intro. by Evgeny Steiner).


In September Evgeny participated in the symposium in honor of Prof. William Lauffer (University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia); in October was invited to deliver a lecture at the Symposium Hokusai in Context, Berlin (‘Hokusai Manga: Its Genre and Composition’) and in November and February he gave five lectures about his work on Manga in Japan Foundation in Moscow and in universities in Moscow and Jerusalem and for the ‘Academia Programme’ on the Russian TV. In April ‘Japan Foundation’ organized his lecture ‘Suikemon: Pictures for the Inner Circle and the Culture of Absurdity in Japanese prints’. In addition, he was invited to speak in public lectures and conversations at the Cheltenham Literary Festival, the Japan Foundation, the Victoria and Albert Museum, the London Design Festival and on Radio 4, on the future of very small cars.

Stephen Turnbull

Stephen Turnbull is currently working on two major research projects that involve his long-standing interests in Japanese military history and religious studies. The first, on the use of Japanese memories in modern Japan, was the subject of a lecture tour to Thailand, Burma and Cambodia in January 2012, funded by the Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation, where he presented his preliminary findings to an international conference on Southeast Asian studies at Pannacasta University of Cambodia in Siem Reap. As part of the Sasakawa lecture programme for the Siam Society in Bangkok, in February he contributed to SOAS’s lecture programme with a progress report on his other project, a long-term study of Japan’s so-called ‘ghaliicシャル’-Sho. Over a period of years he has been engaged in mapping and visiting these places, which are often well-concealed yet number well over 1,000, and classifying them according to the identity of the enshrined kami and the function provided by the sexual symbolism, with an emphasis on female as well as male. Many are located in Tokaiu, where he hopes to visit every example by the end of 2013. In April his latest book was published, a light-hearted work for young people entitled ‘The Unofficial Training Manual in an innovative series by Thanes and Hudson that already includes initiation training manuals for gladiators and medieval knights. The samurai version takes tips from a young warrior for topics such as the tea ceremony, how to choose a suit of armour and what to do in battle.

PUBLICATIONS


Shoue Hui Gan

Shoue Hui Gan specializes in Japanese animation, including TV animation, feature-length animation, and short animations. She completed her PhD from the University of London (now King’s College London) in 2008 at Kyoto University. Her research focuses on the cultural, historical, and political aspects and contemporary usage of the term ‘limited animation’ in the Japanese context. Her research framework for categorizing modes of motion in animation and proposed the term ‘selective animation’ to replace limited animation’ in order to shift the focus from the economics of production to the creative possibilities of the process. Her case studies include the first TV anime series in Japan Titusiuw Atomu (1953) and the anime series of short animations by various directors.

From 2008 to 2010, she held a post-doc fellowship from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) at Kyoto University. Several of her papers have been published in Animation Studies (vol 3, 2008, vol 4, 2009 and vol 6, 2011), which deal with unconventional forms of Japanese animation (2008); essential issues surrounding labeling and projection of ‘image between ‘Japanese anime’ and ‘Japanese animation’ // The Principles Within Japan and outside Japan (2009); and the fascination towards perpetual youth and cuteness shown in anime (2011). She was Visiting Researcher at the Kyote Seka University from 2010 to 2012 and Visiting Scholar at the Japan Subculture Studies since 2010, a project funded by the JSPS (http://www.japan-subculture.com/top.html). During her stay at Seka University, she was involved in various projects that look at the relationship of manga and anime, involved in the Japanese Fight and Japanese Creative Centre Singapore, and also the chairman of the anthology Mangas Crossroads to be published by Routledge at the end of 2012. She also participated in the Narita Manga Conference since 2011, where she explores the connections of Japanese manga and anime in the works of Southeast Asian artists.

At the Sainsbury Institute, she is working on a book project that includes interviews with filmmakers and with several major animation creators (such as Kawamoto Kihachiro, Yutaka Ryo, and Masaaki etc.) and essays on contemporary Japanese animation. From late summer of 2012 she will assume her position as Visiting Fellow at the Japanese Studies Department at the National University of Singapore.

Gwyenon Kimm

Gwyennon Kim specializes in modern and contemporary art of Japan and Korea. She completed her PhD in Art History in 2010 from McGill University, and held a post-doctoral fellowship in Japan-Korean studies from History of Art and Architecture and Asian Studies Center at University of Pittsburgh.

Her work centers on visual media and the politics of knowledge and representation in modern Japan and Korea. Her essay on colonial photography and archives in Japan and Korea has been published in positions, east asia cultures critique (1, Spring, 2010). During her fellowship period at the Sainsbury Institute, Gwyennon was working on her book manuscript, Registering the Real: Photography and Historic Sites in Late Nineteenth Century Japan. Part of her book project will be published in the journal Representations (Fall, 2012) under the title of ‘Tracing the Emperor: Photography, Famous Places, and the Imperial Progresses in Pre-War Japan’. She also organized the workshop on rumours and secrets in Japanese art and visual culture with the support of the Sainsbury Institute (June, 2012). Gwyennon was recently appointed as an assistant professor in the Welch School of Art and Design at Georgia State University, where she will be teaching East Asia Art from the upcoming year.

ABOUT SISIAC

The mission of the Sainsbury Institute to be an active source of and conduit for innovative research: positioning revealing the art, culture and history of the Japanese archipelago from the present to the past in regional, European and global contexts.

Werner Steinhaus

During studying Japanese archaeology at Osaka University Graduate School under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Werner Steinhaus, Hiroshi from 1992 to 1996 and finishing his Master’s degree, he studied medieval history, prehistoric and early historic archaeology at Albert-Ludwigs University Freiburg, Germany. Werner Steinhaus received a doctoral scholarship from the German Government Scholarship, Montukakusapo; German Academic Exchange Service, DAAD to research mainly about the Kofun period (3rd to 7th century AD).

During his time in Osaka he developed an archaeological exhibition project ‘Die Zeit der Momente’ (The time of dawn)’, until now the biggest exhibition about Japanese archaeology outside Japan with 1600 objects, which were shown in the Reiss-Engelhorn-Museum, Mannheim, Germany and the Martin-Gropius-Bau exhibition hall in Berlin in 2004 and 2005. He devoted nearly ten years as the head of the scientific staff, the project manager, the German-Japanese coordinator as well as the editor of the two exhibition volumes to this project. Thereafter, Werner published a dictionary of Japanese archaeological terms (Japanese-German) in 2010.

At the Sainsbury Institute he is continuing this dictionary project and working on a new multilingual comprehensive Japanese-English-German dictionary of Japanese archaeological terms in an edited volume. Based on the Japanese-German dictionary a new attempt to create a dictionary of Japanese archaeological terms for European languages was started in cooperation with Dr. Simon Kaner from the Sainsbury Institute. Material for the English section was collected and acquired during the stay. This process was successfully completed and first sections of the dictionary were published by the Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties and are undergoing revisions. His projects in cooperation with the Sainsbury Institute are focused mainly on the internationalisation of Japanese archaeology and the Sainsbury Institute. Besides two major projects are an English textbook on Japanese archaeology in cooperation with Dr. Simon Kaner and and illustrated edition of Werner Steinhaus’ book ‘Hokusai: the Japanese archipelago which is based on the catalogue of the exhibition “Zeit der Momente” in Germany.

SISJAC News

Honorary Appointments News
Jingu for supporting his research.

to the presentation of research results. Radu
Periods’.

This was followed by a participation in the
(otogi-zoshi) in the collection of the New

directly with the works on display. Radu
in the field of visual narrative, and engage

courtesy of John Carpenter. It was an
‘Storytelling in Japanese Art’ exhibition

century Japan’.

Beautiful Women and Liminal Spaces in 17th
culture and death are conceived upon the

Japanese law.

concerning transplantation in Japan.

describes the emergence of patients
advocacy groups and their role in the
approval and reform of the law. Moreover,
Alessia discusses the phenomenon of
transplant travels towards Western
countries, uncovering important issues
regarding the Japanese national health
system and of the global economy of
transplantation.

Finally, Alessia looks at how
organ scarcity is produced and whether it could be alleviated by examining the organ
procurement process.

 Casting the question wider, she then asks how personhood and death are
constructed throughout such a process, thus linking the analysis on organ donation to the
issue of end of life treatment in the hope of contributing ethnographic and
comparative knowledge to a problem of great relevance in contemporary society.

As anthropological research, this project draws on the findings of ethnographic
fieldwork she conducted from September 2011 to October 2012 in Tokyo. This
could have not been possible without
the generous support of Atsuko Izumi, who
provided her with the opportunity to
work in Japan and collect the data on which the thesis will be
based. For this reason, she would like to
express her gratitude to Meiji Jingu for supporting her research.

Alessia COSTA

Meiji Jingu Japanese Studies Research Scholarship Recipient 2012-13

Working title of the project: Translation as a Means to Promote Plurilingual and Pluricultural Competence

Outline of the project:

Elko’s research aims at examining how translation practice going beyond the consolidation of grammar promotes plurilingual and pluricultural competence for elementary and intermediate learners of Japanese.

Introduction to the research:

Language has long been used in many Japanese language classrooms (e.g. Wada 2007) despite criticism of its over-focus on lexic and grammatical structures in isolated, de-contextualized sentences (G. Cook 2010). However, as suggested by translation studies, translation also involves active confrontation of semantic, socio-cultural, and pragmatic factors (Bassnett 2002) and choice of language may itself convey some symbolic meaning (Kramsch & Wheatsile 2008). Elko will examine how translation practice going beyond the consolidation of grammar promotes plurilingual and pluricultural competence for elementary and intermediate learners of Japanese.

This study is intended to contribute to the fields of applied linguistics and Japanese language pedagogy, looking specifically at the role of the learner’s first language (L1). Although use of L1 has been discouraged for political, cultural and pluricultural competence, which encourages learners to act as linguistic and cultural mediators and mediates (Coste et al. 2009:10). This research project addresses anthropological relevant questions concerning the use of the human body in medical technology by looking at the case of organ transplantation in Japan.

Introduction:

From September 2011 to October 2012 Alessia has been conducting ethnographic fieldwork in Tokyo as exchange researcher at Waseda University. She has been taking part to numerous activities related to transplant, while also conducting interviews with a range of different research participants.

She has been investigating the transplant patients and activists who guided the movement for the law reform, with the aim of collecting first-hand information about a unique case of political lobby on medical issues.

She also met with several families of young patients who either applied for or received a transplant in a foreign country. The stories they generously shared with me are the point of entry to analyse one of the most complex aspects concerning transplantation in Japan – the scarcity of organs from pediatric donors. Furthermore, today, their accounts offer invaluable insights on the phenomenon of transplant travels, with regards to the relationships between national and medical systems, on the role of the transplant coordinators and medical doctors and transplant coordinators.

The information they provided me with are a unique perspective on the problem of organ scarcity, as well as on issues concerning patients’ rights and end of life care in modern Japan. Through a careful work Alessia aims at providing ethnographic knowledge on issues regarding the implications of medical technologies are dealt with in contemporary Japan.

Alessia COSTA

Tsuda Bursary Recipient 2012-13


Outline:

This research project addresses anthropological relevant questions concerning the use of the human body in medical technology by looking at the case of organ transplantation in Japan.

Final Report:

Alessia COSTA

Tsuda Bursary Recipient 2011-12

Working title: Introduction to the research:

Materiality and the body has been a central theme in the contemporary medical practices. It is all about the patient’s body. The distinction between ‘organ’ and ‘body’ is fundamental in Japanese society.

In this project Alessia explores the role of the body in transplantation of organs.

Introduction:

This research project addresses anthropological relevant questions concerning the use of the human body in medical technology by looking at the case of organ transplantation in Japan.

Final Report:

Alessia COSTA

Tsuda Bursary Recipient 2011-12


Outline:

This research project addresses anthropological relevant questions concerning the use of the human body in medical technology by looking at the case of organ transplantation in Japan.

Final Report:

Alessia COSTA

Tsuda Bursary Recipient 2011-12


Outline:

This research project addresses anthropological relevant questions concerning the use of the human body in medical technology by looking at the case of organ transplantation in Japan.

Final Report:

Alessia COSTA

Tsuda Bursary Recipient 2011-12


Outline:

This research project addresses anthropological relevant questions concerning the use of the human body in medical technology by looking at the case of organ transplantation in Japan.

Final Report:

Alessia COSTA

Tsuda Bursary Recipient 2011-12


Outline:

This research project addresses anthropological relevant questions concerning the use of the human body in medical technology by looking at the case of organ transplantation in Japan.

Final Report:

Alessia COSTA

Tsuda Bursary Recipient 2011-12


Outline:

This research project addresses anthropological relevant questions concerning the use of the human body in medical technology by looking at the case of organ transplantation in Japan.

Final Report:

Alessia COSTA

Tsuda Bursary Recipient 2011-12


Outline:

This research project addresses anthropological relevant questions concerning the use of the human body in medical technology by looking at the case of organ transplantation in Japan.

Final Report:

Alessia COSTA

Tsuda Bursary Recipient 2011-12


Outline:

This research project addresses anthropological relevant questions concerning the use of the human body in medical technology by looking at the case of organ transplantation in Japan.

Final Report:

Alessia COSTA

Tsuda Bursary Recipient 2011-12


Outline:

This research project addresses anthropological relevant questions concerning the use of the human body in medical technology by looking at the case of organ transplantation in Japan.

Final Report:

Alessia COSTA

Tsuda Bursary Recipient 2011-12


Outline:

This research project addresses anthropological relevant questions concerning the use of the human body in medical technology by looking at the case of organ transplantation in Japan.

Final Report:

Alessia COSTA

Tsuda Bursary Recipient 2011-12


Outline:
Awards & Bursaries

MEIJI JINGU JAPANESE STUDIES RESEARCH GRANTS RECIPIENTS 2011-2012

Name: Dr Christopher GERTIE
Project Title: Manufacturing Memories: The intersection of Fiduciary Duty and Social Responsibility in Contemporary Japan
Project Outline: The Meiji Jingu grant will support eight weeks of field research during which I will interview staff and collect archival materials for a new book project examining the construction of industrial heritage in contemporary Japan. I will investigate local efforts to re-construct public memory of industrial regions as a means of turning their ‘rust belt’ heritage into regional tourist industries. While the sources will impose their own logic, I am speculating that the commodification of local history as a heritage tourism product is at odds with the not-for-profit organization’s social and fiduciary responsibilities as defined by custom and law.
Amount Awarded: £1,000

Name: Dr Norko IWASAKI
Project Title: Images of Japan: Japanese learners’ images of Japanese society, people and language before and after studying abroad in Japan
Project Outline: This research project aims to uncover how SOAS students studying Japanese have formed their images of Japan (nihon-kan) and whether and how their experience in studying in Japan changes their images. I collaborate with three other researchers affiliated with INALCO-PLIDAM (Pluralité des Langues et des Identités en Didactique: Acquisition, Méditations), France. I interviewed 8 SOAS students in May/June 2011; the same students will be asked to participate in interviews upon their return to SOAS. The data, transcribed by the assistance made possible by the small grant, will be used to plan a long-term collaborative research project for which we will seek substantive funding.
Amount Awarded: £300

MEIJI JINGU SCHOLARSHIPS 2013 - 14

Two awards are offered annually, either for PhD students at SOAS, or newly enrolling full-time MPhil students, who have been accepted by SOAS.
Students may be registered in any department, and be of any nationality, but must be working on some aspect of Japanese Studies. PhD candidates must be resident in SOAS: the award cannot be used elsewhere.
Studentships are worth £7,000, and carry a 20% reduction of fees (EU or Overseas).

Closing Date
Friday, 24 May 2013

How to Apply
More information can be obtained from:
www.soas.ac.uk/registry/scholarships
Email: scholarships@soas.ac.uk

SCHOLARSHIPS 2013 - 14

MEIJI JINGU JAPANESE STUDIES RESEARCH GRANTS FOR SOAS STAFF

Grants are offered to assist full-time academic staff members of the JRC, SOAS, to promote Japanese Studies. Funds may be used for personal research, conferences, etc, or to purchase research-level books for the SOAS Library. Group projects are acceptable, but should be submitted in the name of one representative individual.
Amount Awarded: £1,000

Closing Date
First closing date for applications will be Friday, 24 May 2013.
If not all funds have been allocated, a second round will be held, with a closing date in late October, 2013.

How to Apply
The application form is available to download from the JRC website, or email Jane Savory, js64@soas.ac.uk

www.soas.ac.uk/jrc/awards-and-grants

SEVENTH ANNUAL KYAKO TSUDA BURSARY 2012-2013

The Japan Research Centre is pleased to invite applications to the bursary created through the generosity of Ms Kayoko Tsuda.

Applicants may be of any nationality and in need of the bursary to fund completion of their thesis. The bursary will be awarded to students writing up their PhD dissertations at SOAS in either their third or fourth year during the academic session 2012/13. Those working on any aspect of Japanese studies are eligible.

One bursary is offered per year, carrying a value of £7,000 (untaxed).

Closing Date
Friday, 24 May 2013

How to Apply
More information can be obtained from:
www.soas.ac.uk/registry/scholarships
Email: scholarships@soas.ac.uk

Japanese Roof 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 (Tosyu Fukum), an Honorary Fellow of the School, on 13 November 2001. It provides an area away from the noise and bustle of London streets, where visitors can relax and meditate.

The garden is dedicated to Forgiveness, which is the meaning of the Kanji character engraved on the garden’s granite water basin.

Peter Swift, a designer with experience of adapting Japanese garden design principles to the British environment and climate, conceived the garden as a place of quiet contemplation and meditation as well as a functional space complementary to the Gallery and its artistic activities.

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 (Tosyu Fukum), an Honorary Fellow of the School, on 13 November 2001. It provides an area away from the noise and bustle of London streets, where visitors can relax and meditate.

The garden is dedicated to Forgiveness, which is the meaning of the Kanji character engraved on the garden’s granite water basin.

Peter Swift, a designer with experience of adapting Japanese garden design principles to the British environment and climate, conceived the garden as a place of quiet contemplation and meditation as well as a functional space complementary to the Gallery and its artistic activities.

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 (Tosyu Fukum), an Honorary Fellow of the School, on 13 November 2001. It provides an area away from the noise and bustle of London streets, where visitors can relax and meditate.

The garden is dedicated to Forgiveness, which is the meaning of the Kanji character engraved on the garden’s granite water basin.

Peter Swift, a designer with experience of adapting Japanese garden design principles to the British environment and climate, conceived the garden as a place of quiet contemplation and meditation as well as a functional space complementary to the Gallery and its artistic activities.

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 (Tosyu Fukum), an Honorary Fellow of the School, on 13 November 2001. It provides an area away from the noise and bustle of London streets, where visitors can relax and meditate.

The garden is dedicated to Forgiveness, which is the meaning of the Kanji character engraved on the garden’s granite water basin.

Peter Swift, a designer with experience of adapting Japanese garden design principles to the British environment and climate, conceived the garden as a place of quiet contemplation and meditation as well as a functional space complementary to the Gallery and its artistic activities.

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 (Tosyu Fukum), an Honorary Fellow of the School, on 13 November 2001. It provides an area away from the noise and bustle of London streets, where visitors can relax and meditate.

The garden is dedicated to Forgiveness, which is the meaning of the Kanji character engraved on the garden’s granite water basin.

Peter Swift, a designer with experience of adapting Japanese garden design principles to the British environment and climate, conceived the garden as a place of quiet contemplation and meditation as well as a functional space complementary to the Gallery and its artistic activities.
The SOAS Brunei Gallery ran a fan design competition to accompany the exhibition ‘Traditions Revised: Japanese Fans from the Ishizumi Family Collection’ (23 January – 24 March 2012).

SOAS student Valentine Bottari (BA Japanese and Korean) won the competition and will have her winning fan design exhibited in the Brunei Gallery. Runners up in the competition, John Swarbrick (2nd) and fellow SOAS student Kyle Whittington (3rd) will also have their fan designs displayed.

The fans were exhibited in June before being auctioned for the Tōhaku Earthquake Disaster Fund. A further two copies of each fan were made, with one being preserved in SOAS’ Collections and the other given to the competition winners as part of their prize.

All three finalists impressed the judges with their vibrant and original designs. Brunei Gallery manager John Hollingworth was on the judging panel. “We were looking for originality, technical ability, detail, technique and of course whether the design would translate well into a fan when it was reproduced,” he said. ‘Valentina’s fan was graphically very striking with its use of rich reds, golds and yellows. John and Kyle’s designs were also firm favourites that stood out.”

The Ishizumi family has been making hand-crafted fans in Kyoto since 1881. Patronized by Japanese and British Royalty alike, their work is at the pinnacle of the industry and steeped in over a century of tradition. Mr Kanji Ishizumi was so impressed with the response to the competition and the high standard of all the entries, that he has agreed to make it an annual competition.

The winners were announced at the Annual JRC Tsuda Lecture on 22nd February.

Runners up included H. Buli, Maisy Hatchard, Hannah Peaches and Richard Purvis, all of whom were highly commended for their excellent designs.

For more on the Japanese fans from the Ishizumi Family Collection, visit www.soas.ac.uk/gallery/traditionsrevised/