

Tenth EAJIS PhD Workshop
University of Ljubljana, Slovenia
August 23 - 26, 2014

Reports by the EAJIS PhD Workshop Participants

I was fortunate to be selected for the 10th EAJIS PhD Workshop in Ljubljana. It was a unique opportunity both to develop my research, and to interact with colleagues with similar interests.

At the end of my first year as a PhD student, I had narrowed down my research questions, and given my dissertation project a direction that was satisfactorily definite, for that stage. However, I had never confronted the state of my research as a whole outside of my home University. I found such an opportunity at the workshop, where I was able to discuss my project in general with other students and faculty members from across the world. Rather than being at a conference, or at an examination where a presenter needs to deal with the uneasiness of having his/her work criticized, the workshop had in fact a friendly atmosphere, where the professors' and the students' comments were mainly aimed at giving advice on how to improve the dissertation. Personally, I found it very helpful, because it was an important chance to confront the solidity of my project against a board of competent academics and students. I received very useful feedback, which prompted me with renovated energy and confidence in the validity of my dissertation.

From the point of view of human relations, the workshop was a fun experience. At first, I was a little skeptic at the idea of having to spend three days in a very close community up in the Slovenian mountains. However, I found good friends from across the world (an astonishing three other fellow countrymen from Italy!), with whom I shared doubts and hopes about the future, but also fun nights playing games or eating together. That applies also to faculty members, who always welcomed a private chat on our topics and encouraged us to pursue our interests while coping with the difficulties of PhD life – a stage in their life they still remembered vividly. All along, the environment was always of an informal tone, which promoted free discussion and a degree of comradeship.

All of this took place in the beautiful scenery of the Slovenian countryside, where we could take nice walks to see breathtaking views, and obviously enjoy the good local food.

In conclusion, the 10th EAJIS PhD Workshop was a very well-organized experience. Not only did it give me a valuable opportunity to gain confidence about my work and envision ways to improve it, but it also helped me build good contacts with future colleagues in my chosen field of research. My gratitude therefore goes to the Toshiba Foundation, EAJIS, the faculty

members and to all who took part in the workshop and made it possible. I recommend it strongly to all PhD students in Japanese Studies.

Filippo Cervelli
University of Oxford, UK

My doctoral research is on the history of military medicine in Japan at the turn of the twentieth century, and I feel very fortunate to have been selected to present my dissertation at the 10th EAJIS Workshop for Doctoral Students in Ljubljana on 23-26 August 2014. This was a great opportunity to discuss my research outside the usual context of cultural historians at my home institution, who do not necessarily possess much background context in Japanese history. It was a stimulating experience for me to shape my thoughts in dialogue with the current debates and research at the forefront of Japanese Studies.

The most valuable features of the Workshop were its interdisciplinary nature and international environment. Participants from several universities in and outside of Europe delivered presentations on a wide range from diverse viewpoints, while also reflecting different national traditions of Japanese studies.

Another nice feature of the workshop were the joint breakfasts, lunches and dinners that provided invaluable opportunities to exchange ideas and opinions about each other's research projects in a more detailed manner. Away from the noise of the city center, the working atmosphere was most inspiring and the forum of discussions was highly supportive for my ongoing research process.

I want to express my deepest thanks and appreciation to the EAJIS, especially Prof. David Chiavacci, for organizing this workshop, and to Dr. Helen Macnaughtan - my supervisor - for the instructive feedback that I received on the methodological framework of my PhD project. Finally, I wish to extend my gratitude to the Toshiba International Foundation and the Japan Foundation, whose generous support made this workshop possible.

Ken Daimaru
Paris West University Nanterre La Défense, France

The 10th EAJIS PhD Workshop was a great opportunity for me to reflect on my dissertation project. Through insightful feedback from my supervisor, Prof. Dr. Fabian Schäfer, other academic supervisors and participants, I could clearly see what kind of problems my research had and how I could improve my research. Getting involved with others' dissertation projects through reading their papers and listening to their presentations was also a useful experience which helped me to objectively understand what stage my dissertation project was at. Furthermore, the multi-disciplinary setting offered me a chance to reconsider how I could

effectively present my research to different kinds of audiences, and how I could link up with other research in different disciplines.

I also enjoyed the informal occasions during the three days we spent together. It was very exciting to share and exchange our knowledge and experience as PhD students in the field of Japanese studies. Moreover, since the venue was in the mountain area far away from the city area of Ljubljana, we could spend whole days together. Such an environment, surely, was useful for us to have 'dense' communication with each other and to get a closer and more relaxed atmosphere among the participants. We were saying with a laugh that this was like "Gasshuku (Japanese summer camp)".

Lastly, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the organizers, Prof. Dr. David Chiavacci and the University of Ljubljana. I am extremely grateful to my supervisor, Prof. Dr. Fabian Schäfer for his very insightful comments on my research and to the other academic supervisors. I also deeply thank all sponsors of the workshop, the Toshiba International Foundation and the Japan Foundation.

Rie Fuse
University of Tampere, Finland

Attending the 10th EAJIS PhD Workshop in Ljubljana was a wonderful formative opportunity and a great experience. I appreciated and treasured the feedback received by the three expert scholars who supervised the whole event, especially because they each came from a different research area than my own. This assured a multiplicity of points of view and fresh takes on a topic that, given every PhD student's high level of specialization, risks to become solipsistic.

I also appreciated the format of the workshop, which allowed all participants ample time to present their research and receive a number of comments from peers and senior scholars. Because I found it both physically and intellectually demanding, I think that such an event should not last longer than three days and that such an amount of time is appropriate when considering the sort of commitment required of all parties involved. The time spent with other PhD students (at close quarters!) was sufficient to establish an initial relationship (not unlike that of camaraderie) with excellent young researchers from the most disparate fields of inquiry. Here lies, in my opinion, the most valuable aspect of the EAJIS PhD Workshop: as well as being a great opportunity for networking, in fact, this event opens up a lively intellectual space for discussion and provides each participant the chance to look back at his or her work from fresh, new perspectives.

On yet another level, I found it very illuminating to get to know what a sample of the next generation of researchers on Japan is currently working on: in a way, this provides each participant with an ample overview of what is going on in their common, brother field of studies, over a large number of disciplines and across the whole of Europe and beyond.

In sum, I am extremely thankful to the EAJs and the Toshiba Foundation for giving me the opportunity to attend this wonderful event, and I would recommend all PhD students, especially those at an intermediary stage of their research, to try to take part in it, as it is bound to become a rare occasion to foster fruitful thinking, fruitful working and fruitful fun.

Andrea Giolai

Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Italy and Leiden University, Netherlands

The 10th EAJs Workshop for Doctoral Students provided me with a fruitful, stimulating and enjoyable opportunity to interact with scholars and students from different branches of Japanese Studies.

First of all, the constructive feedback I received from Prof. Andrej Bekeš as well as other senior lecturers and participants (both formally and informally) was thought-provoking, encouraging and definitely helpful for the further progress of my study. Furthermore, I was grateful that this workshop gave me a challenging but valuable experience in communicating my on-going research to an audience from various disciplines.

I also found the presentations of other participants very stimulating and inspiring because of the workshop's interdisciplinary nature. Their presentations and discussions helped me to gain knowledge about various theories, methodologies and approaches in different disciplines, including history, religion, art, literature, media, and anthropology. Furthermore, they also made me take a step back and contextualise my study from a broader perspective. Our lively discussions and exchanges of ideas continued until late at night over delicious meals in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

I am very grateful that I was given this precious opportunity to participate in this workshop, and I would like to thank all the organisers for organising this wonderful workshop for us. I would also like to express my gratitude to the Toshiba International Foundation for generously funding this workshop and making it possible.

Eiko Gyogi

University of London, UK

I was delighted when my application for the 10th EAJs PhD workshop was accepted – although I do have to admit that I did not quite know what to expect! This quickly changed when we were given the task to sum up our research projects and exchange our reports with other applicants prior to the actual workshop. I was amazed at the variety of research conducted by PhD students in Europe, and although only a few projects were related to my own research interests (linguistics and translation studies), I really enjoyed reading about what are no doubt going to be valuable contributions to the scientific discourse in Japanese Studies.

The research projects presented during this workshop included a wide range of topics from all areas of Japanese Studies, such as politics, religion, culture, literature, linguistics and translation studies. This presented a great opportunity for PhD students studying at relatively small departments who may not have peers in related areas of research at their home universities. I was positively surprised that research projects from the very early up to the final stages were included, which provided an excellent basis for feedback and discussion among peers.

For me personally, the most important and helpful part of the workshop was the session with our mentors, who were professors from universities all over Europe with related research interests. My personal mentor, Prof. Andrej Bekeš from the University of Ljubljana, provided me with detailed feedback, constructive criticism and invaluable data sources for my research project.

And last but not least, I have nothing but praise for the location of the workshop: a lovely little farm high in the mountains of Slovenia, where we could watch the sun rise over green valleys covered in mist while enjoying homemade food and freshly brewed coffee. All in all, a thoroughly enjoyable and academically challenging experience that I would wholeheartedly recommend to all PhD students working on research projects in Japanese Studies and related fields.

Mareike Hamann
University of Manchester, UK

I was very glad to have the opportunity to participate in the 10th EAJS PhD Workshop outside of Ljubljana, Slovenia. Since there are few scholars working on Japanese history in Sweden where I study, the workshop was a particularly valuable opportunity for me to present my research to experts and fellow graduate students in the field of Japanese studies. I am very grateful for the helpful feedback as well as the encouragement I received. The peaceful rolling hills around the farm where we stayed provided a perfect environment for reflection and intellectual exchange.

Perhaps more important still was the chance to get to know other PhD students in Japanese studies from around Europe. The multidisciplinary character of the workshop exposed me to new perspectives and research fields that I was previously unfamiliar with. Establishing relationships with other junior scholars from Europe will also undoubtedly prove important when I apply for research funding in the future, as European Union multinational grants and international exchange programs come to play an increasingly important role at European universities. More personally, I am grateful for the friendships with other PhD students that began at the workshop. I have already been able to visit two of the workshop participants in the UK while I was there for another conference and look forward to meeting others from the group at events in the future. Japanese studies is still relatively small compared with many

other fields in Europe and I think that the EAJIS PhD workshops play an important role in drawing together this community.

Lastly, I am grateful for the workshop's partial sponsorship of my participation in the EAJIS conference that was held directly afterward in Ljubljana. I consider the opportunity to present my research to senior scholars and learn more about cutting-edge research in my field at that conference to have been an important step in my career. I would like to express my gratitude to the Toshiba Foundation, the administrators at the EAJIS office and the senior scholars who served as commentators at the workshop for making this possible.

*John Hennessey
Linnaeus University, Sweden*

I would like to express, first of all, my gratitude to the EAJIS for giving me an opportunity to present my thesis at the PhD workshop in Ljubljana. For my research focuses on the intersection between 'area studies' scholarship, the conditions of knowledge, and the horizons of political imagery, and therefore not necessarily qualifies as 'Japanese studies,' the workshop was one that I found exciting and simultaneously very challenging. Yet I believe that this alone exemplifies the magnanimity of the EAJIS in accommodating diverse research interests that cut across disciplinary boundaries and slightly unusual interlocutors like myself.

The feedback and suggestions I received from the supervisors had helped me immensely to put things into perspective, and at the same time to go outside the box. I am particular grateful to Professor David Chiavacci for giving me constructive advice on the structure of my thesis, and to Professor Fabian Schäfer for his comment on the philosophical and theoretical underpinnings of the thesis. Other participants of the workshop engaged me in thought provoking debates, and their comments have never failed to be stimulating and challenging. I am certain that many of us will remain friends throughout our careers.

I believe that we, PhD students, benefit greatly from interdisciplinary discussions with scholars and students working in different fields, for those provide us with an opportunity to reflect upon concepts, theories, categories, and data that we otherwise assume as axioms. As one whose interest revolves rather around theoretical questions, discussions with area specialists certainly encouraged me to reconsider the importance of the empirical, and to question what I hitherto never questioned.

I would like to express once again my appreciation to the EAJIS, the supervisors, and the participants, all of whom provided me with an intellectually stimulating environment. I have learnt more than I expected to learn during this unique yet valuable workshop.

*Aya Hino
University of London, UK*

I would like to thank the organisers and sponsors very much for holding the 2014 EAJs PhD Workshop, as it was a really beneficial experience for me. The location of the workshop was excellent, and the event was well organised, rewarding and very enjoyable. I was pleased to meet so many interesting and engaging people at the EAJs Workshop, both senior scholars and PhD candidates. Through the disciplinary diversity of workshop participants' topics I learnt a lot about the broader scope of Japanese studies from the other presentations. PhD candidates were also afforded a useful opportunity to write for, and present to, a general Japanese studies audience, rather than an audience that was specific to our individual fields. This was useful as the variety of disciplinary backgrounds provided questions from a different 'lens' with which to view our own subject and study.

I was grateful to the senior scholars (Fabian Schäfer, Erica Baffelli, Helen Macnaughtan, David Chiavacci, Andrej Bekeš and Jordi Mas-López) who had clearly spent time considering our advance-reports, and the feedback I received was thorough, insightful and constructive. Following the workshop, David Chiavacci kindly gave me contact information for a useful scholar relevant to my topic.

Attending the EAJs Workshop gave me an excellent and unique opportunity to meet with other Japanese studies PhD candidates from across Europe. Both during the workshop sessions and in the evenings I enjoyed the opportunity to discuss ideas related to Japan in a stimulating atmosphere with candidates and senior scholars. The friendships and connections made at the workshop continued during the EAJs Conference in Ljubljana following the workshop, and since, with regular updates to our 2014 EAJs Workshop Facebook group.

Overall the 2014 EAJs Workshop was an invaluable experience for me.

Robert Horn
University of Sheffield

The 10th EAJs PhD Workshop in Slovenia was a valuable opportunity to meet doctoral students and experts working on a large range of topics within the Japanese Studies field. The mountains around Ljubljana provided an ideal setting for focusing on each research project. I got a better understanding of how my own research topic relates to the broader field of Japanese Studies, learned about the subject matter that the other PhD students are working on, and built networks with them as well as established researchers in the field. I am now entering the final stage of my PhD project, and focusing on the feedback from the other participants, be it students or scholars, really helped solving the last issues I was struggling with.

I am very grateful to the EAJs for organizing the workshop and I thank the staff from Berlin and from Ljubljana University. I am also very grateful to the scholars and the other students for their positive energy and useful insights. I highly recommend to any PhD student in Japanese Studies to apply to the workshop in the future.

Isabelle Lavelle
Paris Diderot University, France

I was very happy to be accepted to the 10th EAJs PhD workshop in Ljubljana. I particularly enjoyed the opportunity to present my project to senior scholars and fellow PhD students and to hear their critical remarks. Not only did they comment on my theoretical and methodological approach, but I also got a lot of new ideas from various fields such as political sciences and linguistics that I hadn't previously thought about. What I liked most was that discussions did not end with the presentations, but continued during the breaks, the meals and in the evenings, where academic topics and casual conversations merged to create a highly inspiring atmosphere. Being accommodated on a farm in the mountains turned out great for the group's coherence and I enjoyed the company of people in similar situations and with similar interests. As the PhD process can at times be quite isolating, it was great how supportive the senior scholars and the students were with each other. I am glad I made many new friends that I hope to meet again at similar events or maybe even work with later on.

I would like to thank the EAJs for this great opportunity, the Toshiba Foundation for the generous funding of the workshop, the organizers at Ljubljana University who made everything possible, the senior scholars for the time and effort they took to give us feedback, and the hosts at Davčén farm for the wonderful meals and their hospitality.

Dorothea Mladenova
University of Leipzig, Germany

It was a great pleasure for me to participate in the 10th EAJs Workshop for Doctoral Students. It was an intense and challenging experience, surely one of the most useful I have had during my PhD.

The workshop format allowed everyone to have enough time to discuss his or her own project in a friendly atmosphere and a supportive and stimulating environment. Moreover, the complete isolation in the beautiful setting of the Slovenian mountains proved to be the absolutely perfect element for an inspiring workshop.

I believe that the opportunity to share my ideas and the progress of my work in such a multidisciplinary environment has been invaluable: the comments and questions coming from people with diverse backgrounds and interests made me reconsider aspects of my research and see it from different perspectives.

From a personal point of view, I am really grateful for the opportunity to meet other doctoral students, to share with them experiences, dreams as well as doubts and preoccupations and to create (hopefully) lasting friendships. This gave me extra strength and certainly improved my morale and motivation.

I would like to thank the EAJIS and the Toshiba International Foundation for funding and organizing such a valuable workshop, all the participants, the organizers and commentators and, especially, Dr. Erica Baffelli, for her insightful comments and constructive advice.

Silvia Rivadossi

Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Italy

I am very thankful for the opportunity to join the 10th EAJIS PhD Workshop in Ljubljana in August 2014. The whole workshop was very well organized, starting with the precise information regarding the application documents and the preparatory requirements for the workshop. In fact, the application was a great opportunity for me to rethink my PhD project in its overall structure, my methodical approach, and my research goals. I also took the required report for the workshop as an opportunity to write a first draft of my introduction, thus starting to assemble previous text fragments and conference papers into a pre-script of my thesis.

Although Japanese studies served as the overarching frame of the workshop, it was fascinating to notice that everybody was actually socialized in a somewhat different scholarly community due to their local roots and subject-specific direction towards different fields like economy, sociology, literary studies, or art history as in my case. In this regard, the workshop helped me to train presenting my research to an interested, professional, but non-specialized audience and to think about it from various angles. Looking at the different projects presented during the workshop was very inspiring and I gained lots of methodical and practical knowledge. It was also interesting to learn much about the divergent requirements of working on a PhD as well as publishing a PhD thesis not only in the different fields of Japanese Studies, but also in different European countries. This helped me to reflect my own demands concerning my PhD project in relation to the norms of the field of East Asian Art History.

The general atmosphere of the workshop was very encouraging—I very much appreciated the comments of all senior scholars as well as the ongoing scholarly exchange between the student participants. I am looking forward to see the participants again in the course of future conferences and projects.

Wibke Schrape

Free University of Berlin, Germany

The 10th EAJS Workshop for Doctoral Candidates in Ljubljana, Slovenia, was a truly interesting and motivating experience.

As I am writing my PhD thesis in Japanese, it was a great opportunity, and I may say also a challenge for me, to try to transfer the core part of the paper into English, and to present it to a non-Japanese audience. I found that many things have to be explained in more detail and that writing in English gives you a clearer picture of your own ideas and arguments. After the presentation, I received valuable insight into the methodology, structure and approach of my paper, as well as helpful suggestions and comments that allowed me to gain a new, western, perspective on the main focuses of my paper.

I owe a debt of gratitude to the organizers who gave me this opportunity and offer my sincere thanks to Dr. Erica Baffelli, my supervisor, the other academic advisors, EAJS and Toshiba International Foundation. I would also like to thank my fellow participants for generously sharing their projects and experiences, for the advice, insight, and interesting conversations along the workshop.

I would highly encourage PhD students researching on Japan to apply for the next workshop. It is an excellent opportunity to interact with researchers from around the world in a stimulating and welcoming environment.

Mihaela Sighinas
Osaka University, Japan

First of all, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the organizers of this workshop and to the Toshiba International Foundation for making it possible for PhD students from Europe and Japan to present their research projects, make contact with other researchers, and to discuss different approaches and methodologies. I am grateful to have been invited to participate in the 10th EAJS PhD workshop in Ljubljana. I especially would like to thank Prof. David Chiavacci for his efforts in organizing this event and Prof. Fabian Schäfer for his detailed and supportive comments.

It was very helpful for me to receive constructive feedback on my research project from senior scholars. It was informative and encouraging. Also, the comments by other researchers gave me additional information and broadened my view of the topic.

The interdisciplinarity of the workshop offered a stimulating forum for discussions on a wide range of topics and involving different methodological approaches. Prior access to the texts of the research projects gave all participants an opportunity to get acquainted with the details of other research topics and questions beforehand. The fact that the presentations were grouped according to their area of research was helpful for finding connections between research topics and establishing contacts for possible joint projects in the future.

The workshop offered an exchange of knowledge not only regarding research topics, but also regarding scholarships and further work opportunities in Europe and Japan, which is an important issue for doctoral students.

The friendly and informal atmosphere of the workshop allowed for intellectual exchange not only during the sessions, but also in informal conversations outside of them, which I really appreciated.

*Anastasiya Skavysh
Free University of Berlin, Germany*

The 10th EAJIS PhD Workshop has been an excellent opportunity to interact with senior scholars and fellow students specializing in Japanese studies, all of them a great inspiration for their passion, knowledge and determination. It was also a chance to review my research technique, and I am grateful for the valuable feedback and corrections that I have received from Professor Jordi Mas-López and Professor Erica Baffelli, and for suggestions regarding my method and topic both during and after the workshop from my fellow students.

I have felt that the workshop, through its diversity of subjects, many of them multidisciplinary approaches to a given topic, provided a chance to expand my knowledge in areas I had little familiarity with, but that proved to be exciting and worthwhile for further personal investigation. I was lucky to find inspiration and subjects that had a certain relevance to aspects of my own thesis and that I could make use of in my PhD project.

The workshop's location was marvelously chosen away from the busy city, a beautiful place where students could feel relaxed while focusing on their research and exchanging ideas and experience. Coming from an university located in Japan, it was interesting discussing different European PhD programs and the best chance for me to expand my network of peers in Europe as well.

I would like to express my gratitude to the European Association of Japanese Studies, the Japan Foundation and the Toshiba Foundation for their generous sponsorship and for organizing this academic event. As well, I believe that the workshop's success is greatly due to Prof. David Chiavacchi's diligence in organizing it and to the senior scholar's broad perspective on Japanese language and culture, and their interest in our research.

*Monica Tamas
Osaka University, Japan*

I am very glad I was given the opportunity to participate to the 10th PhD Workshop in Slovenia. As I hoped – or actually more than I had hoped – it has been an opportunity to receive inspiring comments on my research, but also to meet future colleagues in the field of Japanese Studies.

What I have especially appreciated on this occasion was the decompartmentalizing effect: though Japanese studies is a limited field in each national context, occasions for exchange with scholars from other countries tend to be very scarce, especially for young scholars. Getting to know colleagues from other European countries was indeed very enriching, both on the intellectual and the personal level.

Finally, the isolated location of the workshop ended up being a very positive factor: it helped maintaining an intellectually concentrated atmosphere during the two days of the workshop, but it also provided many daily occasions for getting to know each other. I believe this edition of the workshop to have been particularly rich in this last regard.

All in all, I think the EAJIS PhD workshop is a very precious research and networking opportunity for young researchers, and I do hope many other PhD students might benefit from it in the future.

Sarah Terrail-Lormel

Institut national des langues et civilisations orientales (INALCO), France

The 10th EAJIS PhD dissertation workshop in Slovenia provided us a great experience to present and discuss our PhD projects, in particular from three perspectives.

First, an academic diversity of participants provided breadth of discussions. Participants came from diverse disciplines including history, literature, political science, anthropology and so forth. Thus a great benefit of the workshop was to invite us to think carefully about our topics from different perspectives, but still focused on the Japanese context. I found discussing various topics stimulated me to think of my own topic from different angles and possible approaches which I would not otherwise have thought of.

Second, I was very grateful to receive the feedbacks from the faculty involved in the workshop. The comments and feedback I received during my individual tutoring were not only useful but also inspiring.

Third, meeting and spending four whole days together with PhD students and faculty from various universities in different countries was truly enjoyable and a great contribution to broadening and deepening our academic networks. Staying at a mountain farm was a precious experience!

Lastly, I would like to express all my gratitude to the sponsors for their support of the workshop and all the faculty involved, in particular to the organizer Professor David Chiavacci, and to the PhD participants for the wonderful time together. I do hope that our network stays connected for many years ahead. Thank you very much.

Hiroko Umegaki

University of Cambridge, UK

We had a privileged encounter where everyone was eager to know everyone else. It had the feeling of a trial, an experiment, and so it felt safe to talk more plainly. We were encouraged to be more honest about what's wrong - allow you inside my ivory tower. And honesty flowed, like confessions, like chats with the aunts and uncles we miss. Taking turns in being teachers and students and advisors – the interchangeability of those roles became apparent. Academia is created out of micro-communities such as this one: a heterotopia superimposing a micro-European community, a Japan evoked like a family member, and a specific village in Slovenia. A sharehouse. The wine was cheap, the food was great and you could see where it had been reaped from – green hills all around, below the sea of clouds. We were above – a particularly pure form of retreat, pilgrimage, chrysalides; a necessary disconnection since we are Internet addicts, and sceptical of complete meanings. The bald-headed phantom of discourse hovers above – how do we frame ourselves – whose words do we borrow? Everything is online, but it's changing as we speak. The remedy to the vacuum of immediacy is opening up and sharing. I mime my thoughts hoping that you guess what I mean. I push through discourse to a place where I say what I mean. Meaning was never fixed and we should enjoy that, everything is negotiated. We are translators carrying meaning for a certain stretch of the road – we like to have our pockets full – until we deliver it to someone curious. Telling stories by the fireside, nomadic ideas traveling from one mind to the next.

Radu Alexandru Leca
SOAS, University of London, UK
