

**European Association for Japanese Studies**

**ヨーロッパ日本研究協会**



europaean association  
for japanese studies

**Bulletin No. 88 | December 2017**

**eajs Bulletin No. 88 | December 2017**

**ISSN 0308-5139**

**Editor and Layout:**

Office of the European Association for Japanese Studies (EAJS)  
Lorenz Denninger

c/o Freie Universität Berlin  
Hittorfstr. 18  
14195 Berlin  
Germany  
Phone: +49 30 838 50929  
Fax: +49 30 838 4 50931

e-mail: [office@eajs.eu](mailto:office@eajs.eu)  
website: <http://www.eajs.eu>

## Members of the Council 2017-2020

### President

Prof Emer Dr Andrej BEKEŠ  
University of Ljubljana  
Faculty of Arts  
Department of Asian Studies  
Aškerčeva 2  
SI 1000 Ljubljana  
E-mail: [bekes@eajs.eu](mailto:bekes@eajs.eu)

### Secretary

Dr Laura MORETTI  
University of Cambridge  
Faculty of Asian and  
Middle Eastern Studies  
Sidgwick Avenue  
Cambridge CB3 9DA  
(United Kingdom)  
Phone: +44 1223 335106  
Fax: +44 1223 335110  
Email: [moretti@eajs.eu](mailto:moretti@eajs.eu)

### Treasurer

Prof Dr Verena  
BLECHINGER-TALCOTT  
Freie Universität Berlin  
Institute of East Asian Studies  
Japanese Studies  
Hittorfstr. 18  
14195 Berlin (Germany)  
Phone: +49 30 838 53599  
Fax: +49 30 838 57114  
E-mail: [blechinger-talcott@eajs.eu](mailto:blechinger-talcott@eajs.eu)

### Immediate Past President

Prof Dr Bjarke FRELLESVIG  
University of Oxford  
Oriental Institute  
Pusey Lane  
Oxford OX1 2LE (United Kingdom)  
Phone: +44 1865 278 200  
Fax: +44 1865 278 190  
E-mail: [frellesvig@eajs.eu](mailto:frellesvig@eajs.eu)

## Extended Council Members

Prof Dr Jaqueline BERNDT  
Stockholm University  
Department of Asian, Middle  
Eastern and Turkish Studies“  
Roslagsvägen 101,  
Kräfftriket hus 4 B  
Stockholm (Sweden)  
E-mail: berndt@eajs.eu

Dr Andrea DE ANTONI  
Ritsumeikan University, College of  
International Relations  
56-1 Tojiin Kitamachi, Kita, Kyoto,  
Kyoto Prefecture  
603-8577, Japan  
E-mail: deantoni@eajs.eu

Prof Dr Andrea GERMER  
Duesseldorf University  
Department of Modern  
Japanese Studies  
Universitaetsstr. 1  
40225 Duesseldorf (Germany)  
Phone: +49 211 81-15159  
Fax: +49 211 81-14714  
E-mail: germer@eajs.eu

Prof Dr Gabriele VOGT  
Hamburg University  
Institute for Asian and African  
Studies, Department for Japanese  
Language and Culture  
Edmund-Siemers-Allee 1,  
20146 Hamburg (Germany)  
Phone: +49 40 42838-4825  
Fax: +49 40 42838-6200  
E-mail: vogt@eajs.eu

Dr Till WEINGÄRTNER  
University College Cork  
School of Asian Studies  
O’Rahilly Building  
College Road  
Cork (Ireland)  
Phone: +353 21 4902410  
E-mail: weingaertner@eajs.eu

Prof Dr Urs Matthias ZACHMANN  
Freie Universität Berlin  
Institute of East Asian Studies  
Japanese Studies  
Hittorfstr. 18  
14195 Berlin (Germany)  
Phone: +49 30 838 61720  
Fax: +49 30 838 461720  
E-mail: zachmann@eajs.eu

## EAJS International Conference 2020 Local Organizer

Prof Dr Andreas NIEHAUS  
Faculty of Arts and Philosophy  
Department of Languages and  
Cultures  
Blandijnberg 2 (6de verdieping)  
9000 Gent (Belgium)  
Tel. +32 (0)9 264 41 56  
Fax. + 32 (0)9 264 41 94  
E-mail: niehaus@eajs.eu

## Honorary Members

Augustin Berque, France

Adriana Boscaro, Italy

Joy Hendry, UK

Eduard Klopfenstein, Switzerland

Josef Kreiner, Germany

Olof Lidin, Denmark

Mikolaj Melanowicz, Poland

Ian Nish, UK

Jacqueline Pigeot, France

Brian Powell, UK

Arthur Stockwin, UK

Louis Allen,  
UK, 1922–1991

Frank J. Daniels,  
UK, 1900–1983

Charles Dunn,  
UK, 1915–1995

Charles Haguenaer,  
France, 1896–1976

Wieslaw Kotanski,  
Poland, 1915–2005

Bruno Lewin,  
Germany, 1924–2012

Fosco Maraini,  
Italy, 1912–2004

Martin Ramming,  
Germany, 1899–1988

Alexander Slawik,  
Austria, 1900–1997

Frits Vos,  
The Netherlands, 1918–2000



## Contents

<b>Members of the Council 2017-2020.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Farewell Message from the Outgoing EAJS President .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Message from the New EAJS President.....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>EAJS Council Elections 2017-2020.....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>New Council Members' CVs .....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>News from the EAJS Office .....</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>15th EAJS International Conference, Lisbon, Portugal, August/September 2017 .....</b>	<b>38</b>
Conference Report by the Local Organisers	38
Section Reports	45
Travel Grant Programme	67
<b>Minutes of the EAJS General Meeting 2017.....</b>	<b>85</b>
<b>16th EAJS International Conference in 2020: Time and Venue .....</b>	<b>92</b>

<b>13th EAJS PhD Workshop, Arrábida, Portugal 27-30 August 2017.....</b>	<b>93</b>
Report by the Academic Organizer	93
Reports by the Participants	95
<b>Toshiba International Foundation Fellowships .....</b>	<b>112</b>
Reports by the 2016/17 TIFO Fellows	112
2017/18 TIFO Fellows	126
<b>News from our Members.....</b>	<b>127</b>
<b>Items Received .....</b>	<b>128</b>
<b>Change of Address Form .....</b>	<b>129</b>



## **Farewell Message from the Outgoing EAJS President**

Dear colleagues,

My term as EAJS President has come to an end with our conference in Lisbon, and I would like to take this opportunity to give you a short overview of upcoming activities and to say my farewells.

2017 has been an exciting year for our association. Most importantly, from 30 August to 2 September, the 15th EAJS International Conference took place in Lisbon. The local team in Lisbon, the section convenors and the EAJS Office in Berlin have been busy preparing this important event. As expected, we had yet another successful conference, and it was really nice meeting so many of you in Portugal. I appreciated it very much to meet up and engage with colleagues from all over the world. In addition to the academic programme, the conference has also been an important opportunity to talk informally about the future direction of our association and about our activities, and the General Meeting at the end of the conference is constitutionally an important event for our association.

During the General Meeting, one important topic has been the transition from the old to the new EAJS Council. As you are probably aware, the election by postal ballot for the next EAJS Council took place this summer. Ballots were sent by the EAJS office by mail to all our members and had to be returned by 21 July 2017. Profiles and statements of all candidates have been published at the EAJS homepage and can also be found in this issue of the EAJS Bulletin.

In the run-up to the EAJS Conference in Lisbon, the 13th EAJS Workshop for doctoral candidates took place. The reclusive convent Arrábida, located in the mountains facing the Atlantic Ocean, south of Lisbon, has served as venue for the workshop. We were delighted that former EAJS President Rein Raud took on the important role of workshop director.

The EAJS council were happy to be able to launch a new EAJS initiative in this year, the Travel Grant Programme, which aims to enable colleagues who are at the beginning of their careers to attend the conference in Lisbon and present their papers there. Thanks to the generous support and co-sponsoring of the Toshiba International Foundation (TIFO), we were able to provide 20 such travel grants. We hope to be able to continue this programme for future conferences. Conference reports by the Travel Grant Recipients can be found in this issue.

TIFO also continued to provide funding for several important EAJS activities in 2017, such as the PhD Workshop in the run-up to the conference, as well as the fellowship programme for three student members to conduct field work for the PhD projects in Japan. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Toshiba International Foundation for their continued support.

I must also express our immense gratitude to the Japan Foundation who continues to be the most significant supporter of the EAJS. Without the support of the Japan Foundation we would not be able to maintain our office, do our daily business, or hold our triennial European conferences.

It has been a privilege, and a great pleasure, to be able to contribute to the EAJS as Council member, Secretary, and over the past three years as President. Among the events and experiences of the past three years, the one that stands out the most to me is the second Japan Conference of the EAJS which took place in September 2016 at Kobe University. The conference in Kobe was a very good opportunity for our Japanese members and members in Japan to meet, and I believe that we should, and will, continue to have an EAJS conference in Japan in the year before our main European conference.

I would like thank to everyone in the EAJS Council, my colleagues and friends, and the staff at the Berlin office of the EAJS, who have all supported me during my time as EAJS President, and also to convey my best wishes to the next EAJS Council. I am confident that our association will continue to grow and to increase its importance for the development of Japanese Studies in Europe and beyond.

Yours sincerely,  
Bjarke Frellesvig

## Message from the New EAJS President

Dear Colleagues,

It is a great honour for me to have been elected the new President of the EAJS. I am grateful for the trust put in me, and I am looking forward to doing my best to serve the association in this role. At this point, I would like to express my gratitude to the outgoing members of the EAJS Council and to outgoing President Bjarke Frellesvig for their outstanding contributions. Thanks to their efforts, the EAJS has developed into an ever more vibrant association. My thanks go also to the new Council members and to all EAJS members who participated in the election of the new Council. Finally, I would like to thank the hardworking staff at the EAJS Office in Berlin. I am looking forward to us all working together during this Council's term, which will last until 2020.

During the last decade, the EAJS has evolved into the largest dedicated Japanese Studies association in the world, with 51% of more than its 1.300 members stemming from Europe, 28% from Japan, and 12% from the United States and Canada. For the future, a strengthening of our cooperation with researchers in other parts of Asia is desirable. This will require additional efforts from our side, which we will gladly invest.

The 15th EAJS International Conference that took place this summer in Lisbon, Portugal, has impressively demonstrated our association's vigour. With 1.200 attendants and 726 presentations, the association's strong growth, which was already evident in Tallinn and Ljubljana continued, proving the growing liveliness of the EAJS and Japanese Studies in Europe and the world. Detailed reports on the conference as a whole and on the conference sections appear in this Bulletin. I would like to thank again the conference organisers, Professor Alexandra Curvelo and Dr Ana Fernandes Pinto (CHAM) and their colleagues, for the superb job they did to turn the conference into such a great success. I would furthermore like to thank NomadIT for their great work in providing the professional support needed for hosting such a large event. Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to all section convenors for taking on this important work, without which an EAJS Conference could never be so successful.

With conferences held in Kyoto in 2013 and in Kobe in 2016, the EAJS has established a new tradition of also having a regular conference in Japan. Due to the great success of those conferences, the EAJS Council has decided to continue to hold EAJS Japan Conferences in the year before the triennial EAJS International Conference in Europe. Currently the council is negotiating with several candidates for the venue of the next EAJS Japan Conference, which will be held in 2019. More information on this will follow soon.

In 2018, the EAJS will continue its regular work. The 14th instalment of the prolific and popular annual EAJS PhD Workshop will take place in October at the University of Belgrade. Additionally, the EAJS has applied for funding to hold a second EAJS Publication Workshop in 2018. The EAJS Office will release more detailed information on these two workshops soon. Furthermore, the TIFO Fellowship Programme will also be offered once more in 2018. Reports by the TIFO Fellows from 2016/17 as well as from participants of the 13th EAJS PhD Workshop 2017, which took place in Lisbon, can be found in this issue of the EAJS Bulletin.

The EAJS remains immensely grateful for the continued support of the Japan Foundation and the Toshiba International Foundation, without which the association's recurrent and new programmes as well as the regular work of the EAJS Office would not be possible.

Finally, I would like to announce the venue of the next EAJS International Conference. The 16th EAJS International Conference will be held from 26 to 29 August 2020 in Ghent. I am greatly looking forward to meeting as many of you as possible in 2020, this time in Belgium.

Yours sincerely,  
Andrej Bekeš

## EAJS Council Election 2017-2020

### Procedure

As required by the EAJS constitution, the new EAJS Council was elected to serve during the period 2017–2020. EAJS members could vote for the Officers (President, Treasurer, and Secretary) and the Members of Council by postal vote.

The constitution allows each member one vote for President, one for Treasurer and one for Secretary. For the Members of the Extended Council, each EAJS member could cast up to three votes. Eligible voters (personal, institutional and student members, paid-up at least until 2017) have received a ballot sheet by postal mail.

Those members whose names appeared on the ballot sheet – and in the list below – had confirmed that they were willing to accept the nomination. Candidates could be nominated until March 2, 2017. The deadline for receiving mail-in-ballots was July 21, 2017. A total of 191 mail-in-ballots were received by the EAJS Office by then.

The candidates were as follows:

#### **President**

*Prof Dr Andrej BEKEŠ*

#### **Treasurer**

*Prof Dr Verena BLECHINGER-TACOTT*

#### **Secretary**

*Dr Laura MORETTI*

**Extended Council**

*Prof Dr Jaqueline BERNDT*  
*Dr Andrea DE ANTONI*  
*Prof Dr Andrea GERMER*  
*Dr Chiara GHIDINI*  
*Dr Gitte Marianne HANSEN*  
*Dr Riikka LÄNSISALMI*  
*Prof Dr Andreas NIEHAUS*  
*Dr Daniel F. SCHLEY*  
*Dr Jan SÝKORA*  
*Dr Nataša VISOČNIK*  
*Prof Dr Gabriele VOGT*  
*Dr Till WEINGÄRTNER*  
*Prof Dr Urs Matthias ZACHMANN*

**Results of the Election 2017****President**

Prof Dr Andrej BEKEŠ 159 votes

Prof Dr Andrej BEKEŠ is elected.

**Treasurer**

Prof Dr Verena BLECHINGER-TALCOTT 160 votes

Prof Dr Verena BLECHINGER-TALCOTT is elected.

**Secretary**

Dr Laura MORETTI 143 votes

Dr Laura MORETTI is elected.

**Candidates for the Extended Council**

Prof Dr Jaqueline BERNDT	49 Votes
Dr Andrea DE ANTONI	42 Votes
Prof Dr Andrea GERMER	56 Votes
Dr Chiara GHIDINI	38 Votes
Dr Gitte Marianne HANSEN	32 Votes
Dr Riikka LÄNSISALMI	35 Votes
Prof Dr Andreas NIEHAUS	23 Votes
Dr Daniel F. SCHLEY	17 Votes
Dr Jan SÝKORA	34 Votes
Dr Nataša VISOČNIK	40 Votes
Prof Dr Gabriele VOGT	48 Votes
Dr Till WEINGÄRTNER	50 Votes
Prof Dr Urs Matthias ZACHMANN	42 Votes

Thus, Prof Dr Jaqueline BERNDT, Dr Andrea DE ANTONI, Prof Dr Andrea GERMER, Prof Dr Gabriele VOGT, Dr Till WEINGÄRTNER, and Prof Dr Urs Matthias ZACHMANN are elected.

Number of invalid ballot sheets: 4

All those elected have accepted their election.

Profiles of the new council members can be found on the following pages and on the EAJS homepage at <http://www.eajs.eu/index.php?id=280>.

## New Council Members' CVs

### EAJS President



Prof Dr Andrej BEKEŠ  
University of Ljubljana  
(Japanese Studies)

### Curriculum Vitae

#### Education

February 1971: BS in mathematics, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Sciences and Technology.

March 1975: MS in mathematics, Osaka University, Graduate School.

March 1981: MA in Japanese Linguistics, Osaka University of Foreign Studies, Graduate School.

March 1986: Ph.D. (Bungaku Hakushi) in Linguistics, University of Tsukuba, Graduate School, Thesis title: "Tekusuto to shintakusu" (Text and Syntax).

#### Major Teaching Positions

Sep. 1988 - Mar. 1990: Assistant Professor, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana.

Apr. 1990 - Sep. 1995: Gaikokujin kyoshi (Foreign professor), University of Tsukuba.

Oc. 1995 - Oct. 2002: Associate Professor of Japanese Studies, Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana.

Nov. 2002 - 2011: Full Professor of Japanese Studies, Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana.

Sep. 2010 - Mar. 2013: Full professor, University of Tsukuba, Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences;

April 2013 - present: Full Professor of Japanese Studies, Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana.

#### Major Research Positions

Jan. 2004 - Dec. 2008: leader, Research Project "Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa", ARRS, Slovenia.

Dec. 2005 - Mar. 2006: visiting researcher, Nagoya University, GSID (Invited JSPS fellow).

Feb. 2010 - Aug. 2010: visiting researcher, Tokyo Institute of Technology (Japan Foundation Fellow).



Jan. 2015 - present: member, Research Project “Languages and Cultures of Asia”, ARRS, Slovenia.

#### Supervisor, doctoral dissertations

Supervisor: 5 completed dissertations.

Co-supervisor: 4 completed dissertations.

#### Management

Oct. 1995 - Sep. 1999: Head of the Department of Asian and African Studies, Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana.

Oct. 1999 - Dec. 2001: Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana.

Oct. 2007 - Sep. 2009: Head of the Department of Asian and African Studies, Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana.

Oct. 2013 - 2015: Head of the Department of Asian and African Studies, Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana.

Aug. 2014: Chair, local organising committee of the 14th International Conference of EAJS, Ljubljana, Aug. 27-30, 2014.

#### Decorations

Nov. 3, 2008 ‘The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette (旭日小綬章)’ (Government of Japan)

### List of Selected Publications

1. Bekeš, Andrej (2015) Bunmyaku kara mita bunmatsu hyôgen to shudai no jizoku. In ABE, Jirô et al. (eds.) Bunpô danwa kenkyû to nihongo kyôiku no setten, 243-264. Tôkyô: Kuroshio shuppan.
2. Bekeš, Andrej (2012) Possibility of content shifts as predictors of the wa-topic in Japanese narrative. In Nishina K. (ed.) Nihongo gakushuusha shien no kouchiku gengo kyouiku koopasu shisutemu kaihatsu. 157-174. Tokyo: Bonjinsha.
3. Bekeš, Andrej (2011) Images of pre-WW II: national language policies as reflected in the field of “national language studies” itself. Acta linguistica asiatica, Volume 1, No. 1: 39-51.
4. Bekeš, Andrej (2008) Text and Boundary: A Sideways Glance at Textual Phenomena in Japanese. Ljubljana: ZIFF.
5. SRDANOVIĆ, Irena, BEKEŠ, Andrej, NISHINA, Kikuko (2008) Distant collocations between suppositional adverbs and clause-final modality forms in Japanese language corpora. Large-Scale Knowledge Resources. Construction and Application. Lecture Notes in Computer Science Volume 4938, pp 252-266.

## EAJS Treasurer



Prof Dr Verena Blechinger-Talcott  
Freie Universität Berlin  
(Political Science)

## Curriculum Vitae

Verena Blechinger-Talcott (\*1966), is Professor of Japanese politics and political economy and Director of the Graduate School of East Asian Studies at Freie Universität Berlin, Germany.

Previous appointments include: Visiting Professor, Institute of Social Science, University of Tokyo (2008), Assistant Professor, Department of Government, Hamilton College, Clinton, NY (2003-2004), Advanced Research Fellow, Program on US-Japan Relations, Harvard University (2002-2003) and Research Fellow (1997-2002) and Deputy Director (2001-2002),

German Institute for Japanese Studies (DIJ), Tokyo.

At FU Berlin, she was Associate Dean (2007-2009) and Dean of the Department of History and Cultural Studies (2009-2011). Since 2009, she has been Head of the FUB's Center for Area Studies. She is a member of FUB's (extended) Academic Senate (since 2013).

She is a member of the International Editorial Advisory Board of Social Science Japan Journal (since 2013) and of the International Advisory Board of the Institute of Social Science (ISS), University of Tokyo (since 2014) and the Advisory Board of the German Institute for Japanese Studies (DIJ) (since 2017). She also is a member of the German-Japanese Forum (since 2014).

Her research interests include Japanese politics in comparative perspective, institutional change in Japanese politics, and government-business relations in both domestic politics and international relations. Her most recent research has focused on issues of corporate social responsibility and the relationship between business and society as well as on Japan's international trade and global commodity chains.

## List of Selected Publications

- Vosse, Wilhelm, Blechinger-Talcott, Verena, Drifte, Reinhard (eds.) (2014): *Governing Insecurity*

in Japan. The Domestic Discourse and Policy Response. London: Routledge.

- Blechinger-Talcott, Verena, Chiavacci, David and Christoph Brumann (eds.) (2013): Ein neues Japan? Politischer und sozialer Wandel seit den 1990er Jahren [A New Japan? Political and Social Change since the 1990s], Special Issue, Asiatische Studien/Études Asiatiques LXVII, 2/2013

- Blechinger-Talcott, Verena, Krauss, Ellis and Christopher Hughes (eds.) (2007): Managing the MedUSA: comparing the political economy of US-Japan, US-German, and US-UK relations." Special issue Pacific Review, Vol 20, No. 3

- Blechinger-Talcott, Verena, Frantz, Christiane and Mark Thomposon (eds.) (2006): Governing Japan. Political System, Reform Processes and International Relations in International Comparison ["Politik in Japan. System, Reformprozesse und Außenpolitik im internationalen Vergleich"], Frankfurt/Main: Campus

- Political Corruption in Japan: Causes, Consequences, and Reform ["Politische Korruption in Japan. Ursachen, Hintergründe und Reformversuche"], Hamburg: Institute of Asian Affairs 1998.

## EAJS Secretary



Dr Laura Moretti  
Cambridge University  
(Literary Studies)

## Curriculum Vitae

I am currently in my fifth year as Lecturer in Pre-modern Japanese Studies at the University of Cambridge (Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies), where I teach classical Japanese and pre-modern literature at both undergraduate and graduate level. I am also an Official Fellow at Emmanuel College, where I serve as Director of Studies for Asian and Middle Eastern Studies as well as a member of the Research Fellowship Committee and of the Committee for Scholarships to Harvard University. I studied Japanese Language and Culture at Università Ca' Foscari Venezia (BA and MA) and got my PhD in Japanese literature there in

2003. While doing my PhD, I was a MEXT research fellow at Tokyo University from 1999 to 2001. Before moving to the University of Cambridge in 2012, I taught at Università Ca' Foscari Venezia (2003-2010; from 2005 as Lecturer), Università degli Studi di Bergamo (2006-2010 as Adjunct Professor) and Newcastle University (2010-2012 as Lecturer in Japanese Studies). In addition, I have been Visiting Assistant Professor at the University of British Columbia (2008-09) and Visiting Scholar at Leiden University (February 2009), Keio University (November 2009), Leuven University (March 2010) and the Art Research Centre of Ritsumeikan University (2010 and 2011).

My field of research is Japanese early-modern literature. I have recently published the monograph *Recasting the Past: An Early Modern Tales of Ise for Children*. Leiden – Boston: Brill, 2016. It recreates in image and text the unresearched 1766 picture-book *Ise fūryū: Utagaruta no hajimari* (*The Fashionable Ise: The Origins of Utagaruta*). The introduction analyses Utagaruta through a discussion of the textual scholarship relating to chapbooks and *kusazōshi*. It also contextualizes this work to shed new light on the reception history of the canonical *Tales of Ise* and to position Utagaruta within the

realm of children's literature. This is followed by the full transcription and translation of *Utagaruta*, with annotations to each image. In the last three years I have presented my research project on nineteenth-century ephemera (*kobanzuke*) at major international conferences and I have been selected to give a paper on Shioya Kihei's collection of *mitate banzuke* at the prestigious *Kinsei bungaku kai* in June 2017. In the meanwhile I am finalizing the manuscript draft of my work on seventeenth-century popular literature.

In my free time I have consolidated the work initiated in 2014 in the area of early-modern palaeography. This year I will be running the fourth Graduate Summer School in Japanese Early-modern Palaeography. This is a unique programme that teaches what we call 'holistic wahan literacy', meaning all the skills (both linguistic and palaeographic) that one needs in order to access, decode and interpret Edo-period printed and handwritten materials. Every year we attract more than 30 applicants from all over the world and offer 72 hours of tuition generously supported by grants from a variety of funding bodies. We also ensure novelty in the programme form year to year and we are envisaging the creation of a series of teaching and research materials connected to the contents of the

Summer School. For details please refer to: [www.wakancambridge.com](http://www.wakancambridge.com). I have also continued to teach hentaigana and kuzushiji at the University of Pennsylvania for one week during the summer.

### **List of Selected Publications**

2016 *Recasting the Past: An Early Modern Tales of Ise for Children*. Leiden – Boston: Brill, 2016.

2016 'A Forest of Books: Seventeenth-Century Kamigata Commercial Prose'. In Haruo Shirane and Tomi Suzuki, with David Lurie (eds.), *Cambridge History of Japanese literature*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2016, pp. 573-582.

2013 'Intertextual Divertissement, Sexual Education and Entertaining Humor: The World of Onna enshi kyōkun kagami'. *Japan Review* 26 (2013), pp. 195-212.

2012 'The Japanese Early-Modern Publishing Market Unveiled: A Survey of Edo-Period Booksellers' Catalogues'. *East Asian Publishing and Society* 2 (2012), pp. 199-308.

2011 'Kanazōshi revisited: reconsidering the beginnings of Japanese popular literature in print'. *Monumenta Nipponica*, 65/2 (2011), pp. 297-356.

## Members of the Extended Council



Prof Dr Jaqueline Berndt  
Stockholm University  
(Japanese Language and Culture)

### Curriculum Vitae

#### Employment History (tenured positions only):

Since 2015 Professor in Japanese Language and Culture, Stockholm University

2009–16 Professor in Manga/ Comics Theory, Kyoto Seika University (KSU), Graduate School of Manga Studies

2001–09 Associate Professor in Art and Media Studies, Yokohama National University

1995–2001 Associate Professor in Art Sociology, Ritsumeikan University Kyoto

1994–95 Associate Professor in German, Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto

1991 Ph.D. (Dr. phil.) in Aesthetics, Humboldt University Berlin  
1987 MA (DDR-Hochschuldiplom) in Japanese Studies, Humboldt University Berlin

Member of European Association for Japanese Studies (EAJS, intermittently since 1991)

#### Ongoing Research Project:

FY2015-2018 “Manga Style”: Spread Abroad and Change (JSPS KAKENHI Grant, B), project headed by Fujimoto Yukari (Meiji University)

#### Outreach (selection):

2016 Concept and direction of world-travelling exhibition Manga Hokusai Manga:

Approaching the Master’s Compendium from the Perspective of Contemporary Comics, The Japan Foundation (2016–2020).

2011-13 member of advisory committee on overseas projects promoting the Media Arts

Awards of the Agency for Cultural Affairs, run by NHK International.

2011-16 member of advisory committee for The Japan Foundation Award for Arts and Culture.

2000-2002, 2011-2015 jury member, Tezuka Osamu Cultural Prize (Asahi Shinbun).

## List of Selected Publications

2016\_“Chapter 8 “Manga, which Manga? Publication Formats, Genres, Users,” in Japanese Civilization in the 21st Century, New York: Nova Science Publishers, ed. Andrew Targowski, Juri Abe & Hisanori Katō, pp. 121-133.

2016\_““Comfort Women’ Comics, Multi-faceted: Revisiting the 2014 Manhwa Exhibit in Angoulême from the Perspective of Manga Studies,” Proceedings from the 2016 NAJAKS Conference at Stockholm University: Japanese Studies Volume, ed. by Jaqueline Berndt & Gunnar Jinmei Linder, ORIENTALISKA STUDIER, Nr 147, December, pp. 143-169.

2015\_Manga: Media, Art, and Material, Leipzig UP.

2014\_“SKIM as GIRL: Reading a Japanese American Graphic Novel through Manga Lenses,” in: Monica Chiu, ed. Drawing New Color Lines: Transnational Asian American Graphic Narratives, Hong Kong UP, pp. 257-278.

2013\_Manga’s Cultural Crossroads, co-ed. with Bettina Kümmerling-Meibauer, New York/London: Routledge.



Dr Andrea de Antoni  
Ritsumeikan University  
(Language and Religion)

## Curriculum Vitae

I am an Associate Professor at Ritsumeikan University (College and Graduate School of International Relations), where I teach courses (in English and Japanese) and supervise Undergraduate and Postgraduate Students on topics related to anthropology and religious studies, as well as on Contemporary Japanese society, Religions in Japan and the Anthropology of Japan. I was also an Adjunct Lecturer (2013-2016) at the University of Vienna (Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology), where I taught Anthropology of Religion, and in Venice (2010), where I taught courses on Japanese Religions. My doctoral research (Ca’ Foscari University of Venice, 2007-2010) focused on places connected to

hell and the afterlife in contemporary Japan (Osorezan, Rokuhara in Kyoto, Tateyama, Hakone and Hirano Ward in Osaka). This led me to consider perceptions of places and spaces related to death, touristization, social memory and identity, in particular linked to discrimination against outcastes (burakumin) and Koreans.

After obtaining my Ph.D., I spent two years as a Postdoc (Japanese Society for the Promotion of Science) at Kyoto University, doing fieldwork on a tour of haunted places in Kyoto, starting focusing on experiences with ghosts and looking into the field of “dark tourism”. In the following years, I started teaching in Ritsumeikan and Doshisha Universities.

I am presently carrying out a comparative research on spirit/demonic possession and exorcism in contemporary Japan, Italy and Austria (JSPS Grant-in-Aid for Young Scientists, 2015-2018). I am also the coordinator of the project “The Skills of Feeling with the World: Anthropological Research on the Senses, Affect and Materiality”, based in Ritsumeikan University.

## List of Selected Publications

Death and Desire in Modern and Contemporary Japan. Venice: Ca' Foscari University Press (co-edited with Massimo Raveri, 2017 in press).

The Practices of Feeling with the World: An Anthropology of Affect, the Senses and Materiality. Special Issue of the Japanese Review of Cultural Anthropology (co-edited with Paul Dumouchel, expected 2017)

“Lust for Death: Dark Tourism, Creation and Consumption of Haunted Places in Contemporary Kyoto.” In De Antoni, A., and M. Raveri (eds.). *Death and Desire in Contemporary Japan*. Pp. 63-81. Venice: Ca' Foscari University Press. 2017 (In Press).

“The Politics of Spirits and the Legacy of the Exorcist: The Historical Construction of Discourses of Spirit Possession in Contemporary Japan and Italy.” *立命館大学人文科学研究所紀要 (Journal of Ritsumeikan Social Sciences and Humanities)* 106. 2015: 27- 69.

「死者へ接続するツアー——現代京都におけるダークツーリズムの再考」(“The Tour that Links to the Dead: Rethinking Dark Tourism in Contemporary Kyoto”)『観光学評論』(Tourism Studies Review) 1(1). 2013: 81-93 (in Japanese).

“Ghost in Translation: Non-Human Actors, Relationality and Haunted



Places in Contemporary Kyoto.”  
Japanese Review of Cultural  
Anthropology 12. 2011: 27-49.  
and I am presently working on  
rewriting my Ph.D. Dissertation.



Prof Dr Andrea Germer  
Düsseldorf University  
(Gender Studies & Visual History)

### **Curriculum Vitae**

Since 2017: Chair in Modern Japanese Studies, Düsseldorf University  
2014-2015: Visiting Professor, Heidelberg University  
2011-2017: Associate Professor at Kyushu University  
2010-2011: Japan Foundation Research Fellow, Hiroshima City University  
2007-2010: Lecturer in Japanese Studies, School of Modern Languages, Newcastle University (UK)  
2001-2007: Research Fellow, German Institute for Japanese Studies (DIJ), Tokyo  
2001: PhD in East Asian Studies (Japanese Studies), Ruhr-University Bochum

1994 Magistra Artium in Japanese Studies, Political Sciences and German Literature, Heidelberg University

### List of Selected Publications

(2017) Shared Origins, Shared Outcomes? Transcultural Trajectories of Germany and Japan During the Asia-Pacific War. In: Stolte, Carolien and Yoshi Kikuchi (eds): Eurasian Encounters: Intellectual and Cultural Exchanges, 1900-1950. Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, pp. 231-256.

(2016) [Gerumā, Andorea] アジアとの関係を中心におくこと[Ajia to no kankei o chūshin ni oku koto; Placing relations to Asia at the centre]. In: Takao, Kikue (ed.): Hibaku 70nen jendā fōramu in Hiroshima (Zenkiroku): Hiroshima to iu shiza no kanōsei wo hiraku. Hiroshima: Hiroshima Joseigaku Kenkyūjo, pp. 343-366.

(2015): Adapting Russian Constructivism and Socialist Realism: The Japanese Overseas Propaganda Photo Magazine FRONT (1942-1945). In: Zeithistorische Forschung/Studies in Contemporary History 12, 2, pp. 236-263. <<http://www.zeithistorische-forschungen.de/2-2015/id=5224>>

(2014) [with Vera Mackie and Ulrike Wöhr] Gender, Nation, and

State in Modern Japan. London; New York: Routledge Curzon.

(2014) 'Sometimes You Have to Create Your Own History': The Watermelon Woman and Historiographical Theory. In: Bulletin of the Graduate School of Social and Cultural Studies, Kyushu University 21, 1-2, pp. 47-56.



Prof Dr Gabriele Vogt  
Hamburg University  
(Social Sciences)

### Curriculum Vitae

Gabriele Vogt is Professor of Japanese Politics and Society at the University of Hamburg. In recent years, she held visiting professorships at Waseda University and Chūō University in Tokyo and at Kyūshū University in Fukuoka. She is a member of the scientific advisory boards of the Berlin Institute for Population and Development (BI) and the German Association for Asian Studies (DGA). She also serves as a liaison officer to the German Academic Merit Foundation. In addition, she is an editorial board member and “Regional Champion Europe” to the Social Science Japan Journal (SSJJ).

From 2005 to 2009, she was a senior research fellow and deputy director (2007-08) at the German

Institute for Japanese Studies (DIJ) in Tokyo, and a lecturer for political science (2006-09) at Sophia University in Tokyo. Previous appointments include postdoctoral positions at Cornell University in Ithaca, NY and at the University of the Ryūkyūs in Okinawa.

She obtained her PhD (2002) in Japanese Studies from the University of Hamburg with a thesis on the effects of Okinawa’s local protest movement onto Japan’s domestic politics and international relations in the late 1990s. The thesis was published as *Die Renaissance der Friedensbewegung in Okinawa* (2003, Iudicium). In 1998, she earned her MA degree in Japanese studies, political science and sociology from the University of Munich.

Her research interest lies with demographic change and international labor migration to Japan, trends of diversification within Japan’s domestic labor market, environmental and peace activism in Kyūshū and Okinawa, and Japan-US security relations. Her research is based in concepts of multilevel governance, policy analysis, oral history, and social movement studies.

## List of Selected Publications

Population Aging and International Health-Caregiver Migration to Japan (2017, forthcoming); Japan in der Ära Abe – eine politikwissenschaftliche Analyse (co-ed. w/ Steffen Heinrich, 2017, ludicium); Multiculturalism and trust in Japan: educational policies and schooling practices. In: Japan Forum, 2017, 29/1:77-99; Foreign workers in Japan. In: Babb, James (ed.): The SAGE Handbook of Modern Japanese Studies. SAGE, 2015, 567-582; Setting out to imagine a new community: Okinawa's reversion to Japan. In: Hein, Ina and Isabelle Prochaska-Meyer (eds.): 40 Years Since Reversion. Negotiating the Okinawa Difference in Japan Today. University of Vienna Press, 2015, 44-70.



Dr Till Weingärtner  
University College Cork  
(Language and Humor Studies)

## Curriculum Vitae

I am a lecturer within the young and small Department of Asian Studies at University College Cork (UCC) in Ireland, where I represent Japanese Studies and serve as director of the Irish Institute of Japanese Studies. Since I began teaching at UCC two years ago, I have doubled the number of weekly Japanese language classes offered to students and extended the choices of Japan-related content modules for students within our Asian Studies programmes. I studied Japanese Studies and German Literature at Freie Universität in Berlin, where I received my MA in 2006 and my PhD in Japanese Studies in 2012. Between 2006 and 2008, I

worked as a research student at Kansai University, during which time I focused on researching contemporary Japanese comedy and became part of the Japanese comedy myself by playing the stooge in the manzai duo Altbayern. These experiences greatly influenced and informed my research and my thesis. I began teaching at Freie Universität Berlin in 2008. I then spent three semesters teaching as a contemporary lecturer in Japanese Studies at the University of Manchester. I commenced my permanent lecturer position at UCC in 2015.

I have received several awards for my research, including the 2010 International Society for Humour Studies award for my graduate research, Freie Universität Berlin's 2013 Ernst Reuter Prize for outstanding PhD dissertations and the JaDe Foundation's JaDe Prize for my contribution to German-Japanese cultural and academic collaboration. My research interest continues to focus on Japanese popular culture, particularly in the area of comedy, media and performance, as well as cinema and literature. Currently, I am working on an English-language monograph on contemporary Japanese comedy that re-evaluates the findings of an earlier German publication. Contributing to cultural events

is important to me in both my professional and personal lives. I regularly organise professional rakugo-storytelling performances in Europe and actively perform as an amateur storyteller myself, performing in German, Japanese and English, most recently at the Experience Japan Festival in Dublin. As an Irish Association for Asian Studies committee member, I maintain the committee website and am organising the 2017 conference in Cork.

### List of Selected Publications

2013

Comedy-Boom in Japan: Performative und mediale Rahmung von Humor in der aktuellen Populärkultur. München: ludicium.

2014

'Performative Aspekte des Rakugo-theaters [Performative aspects of rakugo theater]'. *Bunron Zeitschrift für literaturwissenschaftliche Japanforschung* 1: 131-143.

2016

'Black cat mansion'. In: Salvador Murguia (ed). *The encyclopedia of Japanese horror films*. Lanham, Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield: 22-23.

2016

'How Japanese wallflowers turned into celebrities: Self-mockery and self-revelation of the female

comedy duo Harisenbon'. *Social Semiotics* 26(3): 283-297.

2016

'The Gods of Rakugo: Commemoration in Japanese comedy'. *Irish Journal of Asian Studies* 2: 36-46



Prof Dr Urs Matthias Zachmann  
Freie Universität Berlin  
(Culture and History of Modern Japan)

### **Curriculum Vitae**

Urs Matthias Zachmann is Professor of History and Culture of Modern Japan at Freie Universität Berlin. He received his undergraduate and graduate training in Japanese Studies (with Chinese as minor) at Heidelberg University (MA 2000, PhD 2006) and completed his Habilitation in Japanese Studies in 2010 at the University of Munich (LMU). He spent extensive research periods at Waseda University, Harvard University, and the University of Tokyo, as well as at the German Institute for Japanese Studies (DIJ) in Tokyo. Zachmann is also a trained advocate in Germany (2nd State Exam 2002). In 2006,

he became Assistant Professor at Munich University, followed by an appointment in October 2010 as Acting Full Professor at Heidelberg University. In 2011, Zachmann was appointed the inaugural Handa Chair in Japanese-Chinese Relations at the University of Edinburgh. In October 2016, he moved to Freie Universität Berlin.

Zachmann's research focuses on the intellectual and cultural history of modern and post-war Japan within the context of East Asian international relations, as well as the legal sociology and legal history of East Asia. He is particularly interested in the transfer of political ideas and cultural institutions, their strategic re-interpretation of discourses on modernization and national agency, and the practical consequences this has for the foreign relations of Japan, particularly in East Asia.

### List of Selected Publications

(ed.) (2017) *Asia After Versailles: Asian Perspectives on the Paris Peace Conference and the Interwar Order, 1919-1933*, Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2017.

(2016) "From Nanking to Hiroshima to Seoul: (Post-)Transitional Justice, Juridical Forms and the Construction of Wartime Memory",

*Journal of Modern European History* 14 (2016) 4, pp. 568-584.

(2013) *Völkerrechtsdenken und Außenpolitik in Japan, 1919-1960 (The Discourse on International Law and Foreign Policy in Japan, 1919-1960)*, Baden-Baden: Nomos, 436 pp. (Studien zur Geschichte des Völkerrechts / Series History of International Law, vol. 29)

(2012) "The Postwar Constitution and Religion", in: John Nelson and Inken Prohl (eds.), *Handbook of Contemporary Japanese Religions*, Leiden: Brill, 2012, pp. 215-240.

(2009 / 2011) *China and Japan in the Late Meiji Period: China Policy and the Japanese Discourse on National Identity, 1895-1904*. London: Routledge/Leiden Series in Modern East Asian Politics and History, 2009 (Hardcover) and 2011 (Paperback).

(2007) "Blowing Up a Double Portrait in Black and White: the Concept of Asia in the Writings of Fukuzawa Yukichi and Okakura Tenshin," in: *positions: east asia cultures critique*, vol. 15, no. 2 (fall 2007), pp. 345-368.



Prof Dr Andreas Niehaus  
University of Ghent

### Curriculum Vitae

I studied Japanese language and culture, English and German literature as well as sports history in Cologne and at Keio University in Tokyo. My research interests relate to Japanese body and questions of identity, ideas of the body in early modern Japan and - more as a personal hobby - the representation of birds in Japanese culture. I am currently supervising three externally funded postdoctoral research projects as well as three PhD projects. Since 2004, I am appointed as professor for Japanese Studies at the University of Ghent. Currently, I act as Head of the Department of Languages and Cultures (110 staff members) and Head of the International Office at the Faculty of Arts and Philosophy. I am also appointed

adjunct professor for Japanese at the University of Eastern Finland (since 2011) and collaborative professor at Kanazawa University (2015). I am member of different MEXT student and research scholarship commissions since 2006 as well as the JET program selection commission and the Belgian Japanese Speech Contest from 2006-2015.

At the Institute of Japanese Studies of Ghent University my main teaching obligations are within the field of Classical and modern Japanese, Japanese society, Japanese literature as well as research seminars on MA level on a variety of topics.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.southandeastasia.ugent.be/andreasniehaus>

### List of Selected Publications

“They should be called gluttons and be despised”: Food, Body and Ideology in Kaibara Ekiken’s *Yōjōkun* (1713). In: Niehaus, Andreas; Walravens, Tine (eds.): *Feeding Japan: Cultures and Politics of Food Identities*. London: Palgrave Macmillan 2017.

“We are children of the sea”. Swimming as Performative Tradition in Modernizing Japan.’ In: Boshung, Dieter; Busch, Alexandra W.; Versluys, Miguel, John (eds.):



Reinventing 'The Invention of Tradition'? Indigenous Pasts and the Roman Present. Paderborn: Wilhelm Fink 2015, 19-43 (=Morphomata vol. 32).

Niehaus, Andreas; Hosoi, Naoko (ed. and transl.): Nishitani Osamu: Wunderland der Unsterblichkeit. München: Iudicium 2015.

Niehaus, Andreas; Tagsold, Christian (eds.): Sport, Memory, and Nationhood in Japan: Remembering the Glory Days. Oxon, New York: Routledge 2012 (= Sport in Global Society - Contemporary Perspectives).

Niehaus, Andreas: Leben und Werk Kanô Jigorô's. Ein Beitrag zur Leibeserziehung und zum Sport in Japan. Überarbeitete Neuauflage. Würzburg: Ergon Verlag 2010 (=Sport, Kultur und Gesellschaft, 6).

## News from the EAJS Office

Dear EAJS members,

It was very good to see so many of you at the EAJS International Conference in Lisbon this year. Since the General Meeting in Lisbon, the EAJS Office has been busy implementing our members' decisions while at the same time writing grant applications for 2018 and setting up EAJS activities for the coming year. The purpose of this note to you is to inform you about some recent activities and events in the EAJS Office.

We are happy to report that the personnel situation in the office has remained stable. Lorenz Denninger continues to work as office representative and administers the day-to-day operations of the office as well as the logistics of EAJS Ph.D. workshops and conferences. Jessica Rorison and André Finger support the office as student RAs and take care of day-to-day membership management and technical administration. Alessa Peters, who has worked as a student RA in the office since 2016, is about to complete her undergraduate degree at Freie Universität Berlin and will graduate in early 2018. We are sad to see her go and wish her all the best for her future plans.

For the EAJS Office, the most remarkable event last year was of course the 15th EAJS International Conference, which took place in Lisbon from 30 August to 2 September 2017. The conference turned out to be the largest EAJS conference ever held, with 1.200 participants and 726 given presentations. We would like to express our gratitude that so many of you joined us to make this event as memorable as it has been. We are especially indebted to Professor Alexandra Curvelo and Dr Ana Fernandes Pinto as well as their team at the Universidade NOVA, who over many months have put in enormous work to make sure the conference was well prepared and enjoyable for every participant. Furthermore, we would like to thank Rohan Jackson and his team from NomadIT. Thanks to their hard and highly professional work, preparing for the Lisbon conference went smoothly from the start. It was a great pleasure to work with Rohan and his team, and we are looking forward to cooperating with them in the future. The Conference report as well as the reports by Section Convenors can be found in this Bulletin. We would also like

to use this opportunity to say thank you again to all section convenors for their kind cooperation with the EAJS Office in the process of conference preparations as well as their hard and very important work during the conference.

In summer 2017, we also held elections for the EAJS Council. Organising the process for candidate nomination and election by mail-in ballot was a major logistical effort by the EAJS Office staff. The EAJS conference in Lisbon also offered the newly elected Council members an opportunity to personally introduce themselves at the EAJS General Meeting. You can find the election results and profiles of all council members in this Bulletin. Personally, I am very grateful to have been re-elected as EAJS treasurer, and I am very much looking forward to working with the new Council to further developing our association. The newly elected Council has been registered with the Berlin Court in winter 2017.

In conjunction with the conference in Lisbon, the EAJS held its 13th EAJS Workshop for Doctoral Students in the vicinity of Lisbon in August 2017. The workshop brought together 20 doctoral students from all over Europe under the supervision of Immediate Past President of the EAJS, Professor Rein Raud (Tallinn University and Freie Universität Berlin). The participants' reports in this Bulletin attest to the unique atmosphere of an intensive academic get-together at the reclusive Convento da Arrábida set within the beautiful scenery of the mountains of Portugal on the rim of the Atlantic Ocean.

The 14th EAJS Workshop for Doctoral Students is scheduled to take place in Belgrade, Serbia, in October 2018. The EAJS expresses its gratitude to the Toshiba International Foundation and the Japan Foundation for their continuous support for the EAJS PhD Workshops.

Moreover, due to the highly positive reviews of the last EAJS Publication Workshop in Berlin in 2015, the EAJS applied to the Japan Foundation for funding for another Publication Workshop in fall 2018. We will update you in due course once we hear about the result of our application.

All EAJS activities are conducted with funding raised from external sources. As Treasurer, I am delighted and grateful that the Japan Foundation provided us with funding for 2017-18. The continuing financial support by the Japan Foundation enables us to operate the EAJS Office and to provide our members with valuable services, such as the EAJS-L mailing list or the EAJS website. At the

same time, Japan Foundation funding allows us to plan for key activities in the near future with a reasonable degree of certitude. In 2017-18, the Japan Foundation supported the EAJS PhD Workshop in Lisbon/Arrábida and also provided invaluable support for the EAJS International Conference in Lisbon. We are immensely grateful for this support.

I am also pleased and deeply grateful to announce that the Toshiba International Foundation continued to extend its generous support to the EAJS, especially with regards to the support for young scholars. Already in 2014 and 2016 respectively, Toshiba International Foundation changed the status of the Toshiba International Foundation Fellowships and the annual EAJS PhD Workshops to that of non-grant programs. This means that, for the time being, the Toshiba International Foundation will provide support for the Toshiba International Fellowship Programme, which continues to be administered by the EAJS. In summer 2017, we also started to build a network of TIFO Alumni, which is meant to link previous recipients of Toshiba International Foundation Fellowships and participants of EAJS PhD Workshops through social media. TIFO Alumni will be able to exchange information about planned research and conferences as well as fellowship and job opportunities, and they will also receive regular updates about developments within the Alumni network. The EAJS office will administer a social media group and also publish regular newsletters for the TIFO Alumni Network. At EAJS Conferences, there will also be an opportunity for alumni to meet in person and to network. We had a first, highly successful TIFO Alumni luncheon during the EAJS International Conference in Lisbon with 44 participants. Additionally, in 2017 TIFO generously funded Travel Grants which enabled 10 early career scholars to travel to Lisbon to participate in this year's EAJS Conference in Lisbon. Due to the high demand for these grants, the EAJS Council decided that the EAJS would provide funding for 10 additional Travel Grants. As always, the EAJS is immensely grateful for TIFO's generous support.

While our organisation is thus steadily growing and the range of activities are expanding, the overall funding situation required us to spend more funds from EAJS membership fees to fund staff costs at the EAJS Office and to ensure the continuation of all EAJS services for a growing membership in the future. As discussed in the EAJS General Membership Meetings in 2011 and 2014, the EAJS raised its membership fees starting January 1, 2017. This raise in membership fees was the first in more than ten years. Moreover, we believe that compared to other scholarly organisations, our memberships fees are

still very reasonable. We have since started to update and clean out our membership database. Thank you all for your understanding and for your continuing support.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact us in case of questions and inquiries.

Verena Blechinger-Talcott  
EAJS Treasurer, and the EAJS Office Team

## **15th EAJS International Conference, Lisbon, Portugal, August/September 2017**

### **Conference Report by the Local Organisers**

#### **1. Conference time**

30 August – 2 September 2017

#### **2. Conference venue**

The main activities, sections panels and presentations as well as scientific events were held at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities (FCSH), Universidade Nova de Lisboa.

All other events were held in different, emblematic places of Lisbon.

#### **3. Conference schedule**

The conference started with a keynote lecture by Professor Momoko Nakamura of Kantō Gakuin University on 30 August at Cinema de São Jorge. It was followed by a welcome reception at Museu Nacional de História Natural e Ciência.

All conference presentations and panels took place on days 2 - 4 (31 August to 2 September 2017) of the conference.

The Gala Dinner took place on 1 September at Patio Gale, Praça do Comércio.

The EAJS General Assembly was held on 2 September at Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian.

All the mentioned places were either within walking distance of the FCSH or near a metro station, close to the city centre.

## 4. Participants

Total number of participants: 1200

### 4.1. Participants' nationalities

In total, 1200 participants from 42 countries attended the conference. Most of the participants came from Japan, but other well represented countries were also the United Kingdom, Germany, the USA, France, and Italy. The distribution in percentages according to the country of the participant is shown below. It was the largest Portuguese participation ever in an EAJS Conference.

Country	No. of delegates	Share
Japan	512	43%
United Kingdom	129	11%
Germany	115	10%
USA	93	8%
France	41	3%
Italy	39	3%
Portugal	26	2%
Austria	22	2%
Spain	20	2%
Switzerland	18	2%
The Netherlands	16	1%
Finland	12	1%
Sweden	12	1%
Belgium	11	1%
Canada	11	1%
China	11	1%

Denmark	8	1%
Hungary	8	1%
Israel	8	1%
Poland	8	1%
Turkey	8	1%
Australia	7	1%
Russia	7	1%
Slovenia	7	1%
Norway	6	1%
Czech Republic	5	0%
Estonia	4	0%
Romania	4	0%
Brazil	3	0%
Ireland	3	0%
Serbia	3	0%
Vietnam	3	0%
Lithuania	2	0%
New Zealand	2	0%
Singapore	2	0%
Bosnia and Hercegovina	1	0%
Bulgaria	1	0%
Croatia	1	0%
Mexico	1	0%
Nigeria	1	0%
Taiwan	1	0%



Ukraine	1	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1200</b>	

## 4.2. Active participants

There were 139 panels comprising 361 papers, 349 individual papers and 16 poster presentation, for a total of 726 presentations.

## 5. Registration data

There were two registration periods: early bird and late registration. Registration opened on 28 February 2017. In total, 1240 delegates registered. Of these, 961 (77%) had registered within the early bird period by 31 May 2017.

## 6. Fees

The fees varied according to the date of registration as well as whether the delegate was a student and/or a member or non-member of EAJS or AJE.

### 6.1. Conference registration fees

The fees applied were the following:

Non-member: 220 / 240 (early bird / late registration)

Member: 130 / 150

Student non-member: 120 / 150

Student member: 70 / 90

## 7. Companies and institutions exhibiting at the conference

The conference was supported by the attendance of several exhibitors:

- Aprende Japonés Hoy/Verasia
- Bloomsbury Publishing
- Brill
- CHAM
- Editions Chandeigne
- Hakuho Foundation Japanese Research Fellowship
- Japan Center for Asian Historical Records, National Archives of Japan
- JPT Europe Ltd

- Kinokuniya Publications Service of London Co. Ltd.
- Monumenta Nipponica
- Nikkei Europe Limited
- Springer Japan
- T&F

## **8. Support from Portuguese institutions**

- FCSH-NOVA
- CHAM
- Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia
- BCP Milenium
- Turismo de Lisboa / Lisbon Tourism
- Câmara Municipal de Sintra / Sintra Municipality
- Câmara Municipal de Lisboa / Lisbon Municipality
- EGEAC
- Camões, Instituto da Cooperação e da Língua
- AirFrance-KLM

## **9. Scientific events related to the conference**

### a) Satellite events at FCSH venue

- “Commemorating the 900th Anniversary of Saigyō’s Birth”, organised by: Saigyō Society.
- “Japanese Studies in Japan: A New Trend?”, organised by: Tohoku University Global Japanese.
- “Funny Stories and Orality”, organised by: Toshiyuki Sadanobu, Kyoto University.
- “Legacies of Kirishitan Culture: Searching for the Origins of Five Centuries of Interaction between Japan and Europe”, organised by: International Research Center for Japanese Studies.
- “The near Future of Pre-Modern Japanese Text Research”, organised by: National Institute of Japanese Literature.
- Screening of a Japanese documentary film, “Life is Fruity” (Tokai Television Broadcasting, Ltd., 2016); in presence of the film’s director, the producer, and the narrator, Ms. KIKI Kirin, organised by: Nanzan Institute for Religion and Culture.
- Journal launch: Global perspectives on Japan, published by the Japanese Studies Association of Turkey (JAD); co-organised by the Japan Anthropology Workshop (JAWS)

- Section 6's co-convenors meeting about publication of papers on the theme: "Does Japan Need More Structural Reform?"
- b) Scientific events in other venues
  - EAJS Workshop for Doctoral Students: 27 - 30 August at Convento da Arrábida
  - Toshiba International Foundation (TIFO) Alumni reunion meeting on 31 August
- c) Other meetings
  - EAJS General Meeting
  - Association of Japanese Language Teachers in Europe, AJE, General Meeting
  - JAWS business meeting

## **10. Conference programme**

<https://www.nomadit.co.uk/eajs/eajs2017/index>

## **11. Social events**

- Welcome Reception, which was attended by approximately 700 delegates.
- Gala Dinner, held at Patio Gale in Lisbon city centre. It was an optional event. 620 delegates attended.
- EAJS General Meeting, held at Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian. Approximately 150 members attended.

## **12. Cultural events**

- Classical Concert at São Roque Church, Lisbon.
- 6 Luso-Japanese Highlights. Bibliography Exhibition at Coimbra's University Library.
- Opening ceremony of the exhibition: From the shadows of Kyoto to the light of Lisbon, Tiles by Ishii Haru, Museu Nacional do Azulejo.
- Presentation of Flower Offering, by Hananofu Shuho, followed by a talk session with the Master, Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian.

### **13. Services during the conference**

#### **13.1. Lunch and coffee breaks**

The conference fee included food for three lunch breaks and five coffee breaks. Conference participants could pick up lunch boxes and drinks during lunch breaks. Vegetarian and vegan options were available. The coffee breaks included coffee, tea, fresh soft drinks and petit fours.

#### **13.2 Babysitting**

Professional babysitting service was provided through a kindergarten within 10 minute walking distance from the conference venue. The service was eligible for children aged 2 to 7 years in two scheduling options: half-day care or full-day care, charged accordingly. Applications had to be given in advance and child-care applications on the spot could for organizational reasons not be accepted. The parents of five children applied for the service.

#### **13.3 Cultural tours**

Six excursions on various days were planned. Two excursions offered day trips outside of Lisbon. Because of the requirement of a minimum number of participants, only three of excursions could actually be carried out. In total,

83 participants applied for the excursions.

#### **13.4 Volunteers**

52 students volunteers worked throughout the four days of the conference. They were deployed at the information desk and in the seminar rooms to provide technical and other support to section convenors. They furthermore helped with logistics during lunch times and during the cultural and social events. A detailed schedule for volunteers was drawn up to match as best as possible their individual interests in the conference programme, their particular skills and their availability.

## Section Reports

### Section 1: Urban, Regional and Environmental Studies

*Convenors: Volker Elis (University of Cologne) and Evelyn Schulz (Ludwig Maximilians University Munich)*

The topic of the Urban, Regional and Environmental Studies section was 'Cultural Turn in the spatial sciences'. In our call for papers we specified this topic by emphasizing the interdisciplinary character of the section in inviting panels and individual papers which not only address urban and regional topics in general, but particularly engage with themes such as socio-cultural construction of spaces, spatial discourses, acceleration as a consequence of globalisation, and representations of memory and oblivion in space and architecture, among others. Other fields of inquiry were Japan as a post-growth society, and the impact of the 2011 triple disaster. Given the topicality of the issues and the thematic range, ageing, shrinking, and stagnation were as much in the focus as deceleration of social and economic processes and a shift to the compact and informal.

Overall, we received four proposals for panels and 44 individual paper proposals. On the basis of the quality of the proposals and their connection to the overarching theme defined in our call for papers, we selected 37 individual papers and all of the four panels proposed. Our section met for two and a half quite busy conference days. The large quantity of abstracts mirrors the rising interest in issues of urban and rural life and the challenges of the present and the future. We were especially glad to be able to select papers by scholars in all stages of their academic careers, from graduate students to full professors, and from institutions in Europe, Japan, and the USA, which facilitated networking and exchange.

The four panels referred to the section's theme from a variety of different perspectives:

- "Environmental impacts of a shrinking population in Japan: Towards a 'depopulation dividend'"
- "Fractured rurality in contemporary Japan"
- "Nature-making, sacralisation, and spatial contestation in the Ryukyu Islands"

- “Developing international tourism in Japan: perceptions of and interactions with foreign visitors”.

The individual papers covered a wide range of topics, but we could actually group them together under certain thematic headlines such as:

- “Shrinking / demographic change as a chance: spatial and social transformations”
- “Conceptualising speed and deceleration”
- “The Japanese countryside after the 3/11 disaster”
- “Heritage and history”
- “Alternative life and living arrangements” or
- “Socioeconomic change in non-metropolitan Japan”.

Given the diversity of the topics and the variety of disciplinary backgrounds, the theoretical frameworks and methodological approaches covered a wide range, including analysis of primary sources, qualitative and quantitative data, and ethnographic fieldwork.

The section was well attended throughout the conference, with the sessions having on average an audience of 15 to 30 people.

We enjoyed lively Q&A sessions following the presentations. We would like to thank the presenters as well as the audience for making the section a success.

In conclusion, the thematic and methodological diversity of the presentations could be interpreted a sign of a growing interest in spatial research.

## **Section 2: Language and Linguistics**

*Convenors: Patrick Heinrich (Ca' Foscari University of Venice) and Riikka Lämsä (University of Helsinki)*

The theme of the Language and Linguistics section (S2) was Multilingual Japan, which attracted a fair amount of interest. Contributions dealing with the following topics were solicited: the languages of Japan (Ainu, Japanese, Ryukyuan, Sign Language, Hachijoan), and their status and uses in- and outside of Japan, as well as uses of and attitudes to migrant languages in Japan, and contact between any of these languages. The section received suggestions for three panels and 55 individual papers, which were organized into two panels and twelve sessions respectively. As

the conference keynote speech on August 30th, delivered by Professor Momoko Nakamura from Kanto Gakuin University, discussed myths concerning the Japanese language, no separate keynote speaker was planned for the Language and Linguistics section this time.

Due to time limitations, many potentially fascinating papers had to be excluded. Besides the two panels, (01) 'Rethinking the world through language: the role of Esperanto in modern Japanese history' and (02) 'Construction and utilisation of the corpus of historical Japanese: Man'yōshū and Christian materials', individual papers were organized into (loosely) thematic sessions, including (03) 'Phonetics and phonology', (04) 'Syntax I', (05) 'Syntax II', (06) 'New approaches to and fields of Japanese linguistics', (07) 'Historical linguistics', (08) 'Texts and philology', (09) 'Language, technology and translation', (10) 'Language contact', (11) 'Language use', (12) 'Young speakers of Japanese', (13) 'Multilingual Japan', and (14) 'Linguistic innovation and presentations of "self"'.

The regular sessions (3) through (14) featured 36 presentations in total (excluding a couple of last-

minute cancellations), forming a truly international gathering of scholars. In these sessions, we had 17 presentations from European universities and 20 from non-European universities and research centres, mainly from Japan. Themes related to languages and language use in- and outside Japan were well represented, including papers on ellipsis strategies in Korean and Japanese, evidentiality in Sakhalin Ainu, hentaigana charts in Meiji textbooks, translanguaging, young and transsexual speakers, Hachi-joan, Japanese Sign Language, and mother tongue education in Japan, to name a few. Both modern and pre-modern stages of the represented languages and contacts were discussed.

The quality of the contributions selected for our section was generally high, and the great majority of the papers were delivered in English. As an attempt to stimulate more interaction between the presenters in each individual session, we experimented with a format in which all the papers were delivered first, after which ample time was reserved for discussion. This created confusion among some conference participants, however, many of whom were switching between our section and that on Japanese

Language Education (S10). Prior to the conference, a number of presenters kindly agreed to act as session chairs, despite the fact that they were scheduled to present their own contributions in the same session.

We are grateful to all our colleagues for fascinating contributions and discussions and to the local organizers, the EAJS Office and NomadIT staff for excellent cooperation and coordination before, during and after the conference. We look forward to the following conference in Ghent, Belgium – a European region inviting further discussions on multilingualism and the role of language in the shaping of history and society.

### Section 3a: Modern Literature

*Convenors: Simone Müller (University of Zürich) and Atsuko Ueda (Princeton University)*

The Modern Literature Section consisted of 10 organized panels and 24 individual papers (total of 51 presentation) given by scholars from a great variety of European countries as well as Japan, the United States, Israel and Taiwan.

In selecting the panels and individual papers, we have tried to generate a balance between individual papers and organized panels as well as between nationalities. We also prioritized paper proposals that explicitly addressed the special theme of this year's modern literature section: the interaction between literature and politics in modern Japan

We started with a panel on Ōe Kenzaburō ('Reading Ōe Kenzaburō's *A Political Youth Dies in the 21st Century*'), presumably the most renowned politically engaged writer of postwar and contemporary Japan. Many other panels and individual papers focused on the interaction between literature and politics, such as 'Japan, Russia and Revolution', 'The Politics of "Voice" in Japan's Nuclear Literature', 'Identity and Commitment in 1960s Japan', 'Violent Fictions: Literatures of Mobilization in Trans-War Japan and Korea', and 'Politics of Transgressive Sexualities in Modern Japanese Literature'.

In addition, the section featured panels on 'Literature and Education in Modern Japan', 'The Politics and Practice of Everyday Life in Modern Japan', 'Literary Expression Opening the Way for the Present: Focusing on Political



Incorrectness as Keyword’, and ‘The Rebirth of the Author’.

The individual papers covered a wide range of topics, but we managed to group them together under thematic headlines such as

- ‘Post-Fukushima Arts’ (treating texts by Kirino Natsuo and Takahashi Gen’ichirō)
- ‘Redefining Coloniality of modern Japan’ (addressing Okinawa literature or literature on Formosa)
- ‘Politics of Translation’, (examining works by Wakamatsu Shizuko and Itō Sei; Thomas Mann, and the Meiji novel Karyū shunwa)
- ‘Reconstructing the Past’ (engaging with modern Japanese poetry, novels of Tanizaki Jun’ichirō, as well as nostalgia in Heisei literature)
- ‘Representation of Violence’ (in works by Hayashi Fumiko, Murayama Tomoyoshi and Kuni-kida Doppo)
- ‘Postwar Japanese Literary Climate’ (taking up Japanese writers in the Soviet union and Nakajima Atsushi as a postcolonial writer)
- ‘Redefining Commuality and Landscape’ (addressing works by Suzuki Izumi, Abe Kōbō, Shōno Yoriko)

Despite the diversity of their research objects, many papers

touched upon similar politically and socially relevant issues such as colonialism and postcolonialism, gender issues as well as literary engagement.

Having set the theme as the interaction between literature and politics, participants engaged in critical dialogues over a wide range of issues throughout the three-day conference. Many participants were eager to make their scholarly work politically and socially relevant today, which was apparent through discussions that revolved around the reception of politically engaged literature in the 21st century, and the potential of literature to transport political issues and to contribute to social change.

On Thursday afternoon and Friday, the section ran in two parallel rooms. Despite this, the panels were very well attended (between 10 and 80 listeners per panel) and met with positive response, which was evident not only from the many lively Q&A sessions that followed the presentations, but also from the many participants who kindly approached us. We would like to thank the presenters as well as the audience for making the section a success. We also wish to thank the organizers for their efficient and friendly support.

### Section 3b: Pre-modern Literature

*Convenors: Maria Chiara Migliore (University of Salento) and Rajyashree Pandey (Goldsmiths, University of London)*

The pre-modern literature section consisted of ten organized panels and four sessions of individual papers, arranged for themes rather than for chronological order. All periods were well represented, especially the Edo period, in a wide generality of themes ranging from prose to poetry, with the only exception being the Nara period, on which there has not been any contribution. Attendance was good throughout, averaging between twenty and thirty participants for most sessions, with many participants attending all three days.

Day 1 was organized in two parallel sessions dealing mostly with Edo period contributions; one panel dealt with new perspectives on Murasaki Shikibu's Edo-period legacy; two panels were devoted to the subject of publishing and the history of the book. We also had one panel and three individual papers, grouped together under the thematic rubric of parody. Pre-Edo literature was also represented in the form of three individual papers grouped together

all dealing with medieval waka poetics.

Day 2 opened with two parallel sessions, the first on epic narrative and on the writing of *nō* texts; the second parallel session was composed of one panel on the representation of topographical borders between the human and non-human worlds, and the other on possible strategies and approaches to make literary classics accessible to a wider audience. This latter panel was well attended and well received, with several comments by the audience. In the afternoon, we had a panel on dream visions in pre-modern Japan, and individual papers by three scholars working independently of each other, but all dealing with medieval Sino-Japanese literature, in particular on commentaries on *Wakan rōeishū*, commentaries written in kana on Chinese classic books, and didactic works such as *Kuchizusami*.

Day 3 had no parallel sessions and began with a panel on gender and cultural space in pre-modern Japanese texts followed by a panel on *renga* poetry; the section closed with three individual papers by three young scholars working on very different themes: the first one gave new insights on the well-

know anecdote of Barlaam and Josaphat; the second explored a fictional monogatari style of the Shintōshū which could have accounted for the work's popularity in later periods; the third analysed medieval Japanese travel diaries from a geopoetic perspective.

Overall, the panel organisers felt that the pre-modern literature went well. It had good attendance and stimulating discussions, suggesting that it was a success. In the future we would pay greater attention to scheduling papers such that they avoided clashing with other panels dealing with similar themes in related sections such as medieval religion and history.

#### **Section 4a: Visual Arts**

*Convenors: Jaqueline Berndt (Stockholm University) and Khanh Trinh (Museum Rietberg Zürich)*

The subject area of Nihon bijutsu has traditionally formed the core of the Visual Arts subsection at the EAJS, but this area has seen significant shifts in recent years. In order to attract contributions on various genres and notions of visual art, we issued a Call for Papers related

to “Materialities of Visual Art.” The suggested focus on materiality resulted in a multitude of papers which considered old and new mediums, technologies, sites (such as literary salons or contemporary art festivals), circulation channels, and discursive contexts in a way that differs from the social-science emphasis predominant in the Media Studies section, for example, by acknowledging the performative agency of texts and objects beyond representation. Many papers foregrounded visibility, not rarely in relation to multisensory perception and the body, and investigated intercultural exchange (in East Asia, in particular) as well transnational networks of both creators and audiences. The majority of papers addressed visual arts from the early modern, modern and contemporary periods, stretching from painting and woodcut prints to photography, modern graphic and industrial design, cinema and animation. Unfortunately, the proposals related, for example, to contemporary popular art forms such as comics were the weakest with regards to methodology and therefore could not be considered.

From the 14 panel proposals and 34 individual paper proposals that were submitted, we selected ten individual papers and eight panels

for presentation during the conference. In view of the fact that the Visual Arts section does usually attract specialists rather than a larger audience, we opted against parallel sessions. Due to their consistency and high level especially the panels sessions were well received, namely 'On Paper and Beyond' (Misato Ido, Haruko Wakabayashi, Melanie Trede with Seishi Namiki), 'Ruling Momoyama Arts' (Nora Usanov-Geissler, Annegret Bergmann with Anton Schweizer), 'The Role of Art and Literature Salons in 18-19th Cent. Japan' (Andrew Gerstle, Akiko Yano, Nobuo Nakatani), 'Materialities of Japanese Culture in the 19th Century' (Tomoe Steineck, Wibke Schrape, Rosina Buckland), 'Print Matters: Visuality, Materiality, and the Afterlife of the Image in Japanese Art' (Julie Nelsen, Davis, Erin Schonveld, Ewa Machotka), and the excellent papers by up-and-coming researchers Kelly McCormick, Maggie Mustard, and Carrie Cushman in 'The Materials of Postwar Japanese Photography' (with Jonathan Reynolds). An exceptional attempt at interdisciplinarity between visual and performing arts as well as anthropology and philosophy was undertaken in 'Materiality and Process in Japanese Art Festivals' (Gunhild Borggreen, Anemone Platz, Katherine Mezur, Emil Bach

Sørensen), and the presentations on 'Chromophobia and Chromophilia in Japanese Cinema' (David Pinho Barros, Miguel Patricio, Luis Mendonça with Sabrina D. Marques) drew attention to yet another kind of interdisciplinarity, that between Film Studies and Japan Studies expertise.

In view of future EAJS conferences, participants expressed the wish to improve the following: (1) cross-sectional communication between convenors with respect to the programming of similar presentations, especially in the sections of Visuals Arts, Performing Arts, and Literature; (2) organization of trans-disciplinary methodologically informed panels outside of the sectional time frame (for example, related to performativity, representation, mediation and post-media, queering, narratology); (3) encouraging admitted speakers to deliver their paper via Skype or Facetime instead of cancelling participation.

Finally, the convenors would like to thank all organizers — i.e., our colleagues at Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Faculdade de Ciências Sociais e Humanas, the EAJS council and NomadIT — as well as all the presenters, discussants, and audience participants for making the conference in general and the Visual Arts section in

particular an extraordinary site of critical stimulation and interpersonal exchange.

### **Section 4b: Performing Arts**

*Convenors: Barbara Geilhorn (University of Manchester) and Andreas Regelsberger (Trier University)*

The performing arts section was co-convened by Dr. Barbara Geilhorn (University of Manchester) and Prof. Andreas Regelsberger (University of Trier). Our Call for Papers invited scholars to address the theme of 'Theatre and Community' in relation to their current research. The theme attracted considerable attention and was a focus of discussion during the conference. We had a good response to the call and we were able to place more than half of the papers. Compared to the conference in Ljubljana in 2014 we observed an increase of 30% in regard to panel applications and 100% in individual paper applications.

#### Number of presentations

The section had a full program of papers comprising: 13 sessions in 11 slots (only two parallel

sessions) with 15 single presentations and 8 panels (with 23 presenters), there was a total of 38 presentations. (This indicates to a growth of 23% compared to 2014.) This turned out to be a good and very balanced mix of Japanese, European and American (and other) presenters of both, young and upcoming scholars with exciting new ideas and approaches as well as well-established experts in academia.

#### Attendance

The section was well attended. Having only two breakout sessions meant that panellists could attend almost all sessions and respond to the themes addressed over the days of the conference. Individual sessions had on average an audience of 15-40 people.

#### Themes

The papers addressed all fields of Japanese performing arts including classical nō drama, kabuki, bunraku, rakugo and contemporary theatre, performance and music. Almost all of the papers reflected on the panel theme of 'Theatre and Community', a theme that included studies of theatre histories, production, performance analysis and studies

of theatre in the wider context of cultural history.

### Panel Highlights

The papers were all of a high standard and many drew on scholars' current research in the field. Themed panels were particularly successful in exploring the wider issues of research topics from various interrelating perspectives.

- S4b\_01 Kabuki and Its Spectators: The Theatrical Experience in Edo- and Meiji Period Japan

Convenors: Tove Bjoerk (Saitama University); Hiroko Goto (Tezukayama University); Takayuki Hioki (Shirayuri University)

Chair & discussant: Kyozo Takei (National Institute of Japanese Literature)

- S4b\_02 The world of Noh: three aspects of its socioeconomic structure

Convenors: Reiko Yamanaka (Hosei University); Diego Pellicchia (Kyoto Sangyo University); Keizo Miyamoto (Hosei University)

- S4b\_03 Performance of History and Memory: Extratextual Dimensions of the Tale of the Heike, Japan's Iconic War Tale

Convenor: Elizabeth Oyler (University of Pittsburgh)

Chair: Michael Watson (Meiji Gakuin University)

Discussant: Susan Matisoff (University of California, Berkeley)

- S4b\_04 Actor-Audience Relationships in Japanese Comic Storytelling (Rakugo)

Convenors: Sarah Stark (University of Ghent); Till Weingärtner (University College Cork); Bernhard Seidl (Vienna University)

- S4b\_06 Staging Christian Insurrection in Medieval Japan, and in Early-Modern Japanese and European Memory

Convenor: Patrick Schwemmer (Musashi University)

- S4b\_08 Noh and Society: Performance Contexts, Performers and Images

Convenor: Eike Grossmann (University of Hamburg)

Overall, we were able to enjoy a smooth running and richly discursive program. We thank our hosts for their excellent work and extend a special thanks to the volunteer helpers who worked so hard to make sure that everything went smoothly.

## Section 5a: Anthropology and Sociology

*Convenors: Andrea de Antoni (Ritsumeikan University) and Emma Cook (Hokkaido University)*

The Section of anthropology and sociology (5a) took place from the 30th of August to the 2nd of September 2017 in the “Bloco 1” at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Universidade NOVA of Lisbon. Through the Call for Papers, the Section theme was set as ‘Feeling (in) Japan: Affective, Sensory and Material Entanglements in the Field’. This was an attempt to promote the application, discussion and re-framing of affect theory, the anthropology of the senses, and theories on materiality through the use of ethnographic cases related to Japan.

We received a high number of submissions (16 panels and 43 individual presentations), that we selected on the basis of their innovativeness, methodological soundness and promising quality. As a result of the selection, the Section featured 14 panels and 30 individual presentations. Roughly half of them were related to the Section theme, and approached it by focusing on diverse ethnographic cases and angles: mobility, work and education, ageing and the

end of life, affective and sensory research methods, music and dance, as well as material spaces of nostalgia and subcultures. The other panels and presentations looked into a variety of topics, ranging from, for instance, Tohoku studies, homophobia, gender and sexuality studies, attitudes to death, food and globalization, to the anthropology of organizations and employment.

We organized the panels and presentations into three parallel sessions on the first two days of the Conference and two on the last, arranging individual presentations into 10 thematic “panels”. While attempting to keep some consistency in the flow of each parallel session, we grouped all the presentations related to the Section theme into session 1 and distributed the others into sessions 2 and 3, trying to avoid having panels on relatively related topics in the same time slot, in order to avoid competition. Because of budget restrictions, we decided not to have any Section Keynote Speaker or Panel, a choice that was also aiming at keeping equality with the panels and individual presentations not related to the Section topic. Nevertheless, we did set a Wrapping-up Round Table – which we chaired – on the theme, as a single session at the

end of the Conference in order to give all participants the opportunity to attend and to take part in discussion.

The roundtable discussion was rather lively, in spite of the diversity of the topics of each presentations. We started the discussion by explaining our standpoints and trying to stimulate collaboration through elaborating a theoretical approach that includes feelings and bodily perceptions – including the ethnographers’ – in the field. Several participants elaborated on their own research experiences while sharing remarkably interesting theoretical ideas. In spite of some obvious differences in approaches or stances towards affect theory and the anthropology of the senses, our general feeling was of a general interest towards the opportunities that the theme has to offer to contribute to the anthropology/sociology of Japan, as well as of positive attitude towards theoretical challenges that bring the specificities of Japan-based cases into the broader anthropological theoretical debate and, possibly, in the direction of comparison. Currently, we are considering the idea of collecting some of the papers and publishing them as a special issue in a Journal in anthropology or

Japanese studies, or as an edited volume.

This session was followed by the screening of the ethnographic documentary ‘Hierarchies of a Japanese Festival’, by Natalie Close. The documentary screening, which was followed by a discussion, was very successful even though it was the last session of the final day. This, in our view, opens up new possibilities for the inclusion of new and more creative formats of presentations, which get away from the “traditional” speech form which are maybe supported by PowerPoint slides, and involve the use of audiovisual media as a means not only for presenting research results, but also for ethnographic investigation itself. The high degree of participation in this last section, including the discussion, also showed an existing interest in the opportunities that visual anthropology can offer, both in general, and within the anthropology/sociology of Japan.

In spite of some presenters who did not show up or cancelled at the last moment, and some minor technical problems related to the Internet connection during two presentations on Skype, the Section witnessed a high degree of active participation and attend-



ance. Overall, all the contributions in our Section had a quality generally above average, and every presentation was followed by interesting and stimulating discussions. In our opinion, therefore, the meeting was a doubtless success. This was due not only to the proactive attitudes of presenters and attendants, but also to the great job of the local organizers, staff and volunteers, who were always present and extremely helpful.

### **Section 5b: Media Studies**

*Convenors: Dr. Blai Guarné (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain) and Dr. Ronald Saladin (DIJ – German Institute for Japanese Studies, Japan)*

This was the second time that a section on Japanese media studies was convened at an EAJS conference, after our first conference in Ljubljana 2014. For that reason, we also wanted to place an open call for papers to welcome scholars of all levels working on any aspect of Japanese media. As convenors, we were very happy to see once again the interest aroused by the section and, due to the high number of quality proposals received in the

call for papers, we were glad to schedule parallel sessions during the three days of the conference. This allowed us to program a great variety of presentations that covered a wide range of topics such as film theory and TV dramas, videogames and popular culture, queer and gender representations, press freedom and journalism, governance and social media, negotiations of risk and history, sound and music industries, and script and media politics.

The keynote panel '(Mis)reading pop culture texts in Japan and beyond' was convened by Mark McLelland (University of Wollongong), chaired by James Welker (Kanagawa University), and included presentations by Mark McLelland (University of Wollongong), Alisa Freedman (University of Oregon), and Debra Occhi (Miyazaki International College), which were discussed by James Welker (Kanagawa University). The pre-organized panels focused on the following topics: 'Press freedom and identity politics in contemporary Japan', convenor: Jeff Kingston (Temple University Japan); 'Negotiations of hegemonic gender norms in Japanese media spaces: analyses of women's media and female audiences', convenor: Hiromi Tanaka (Meiji University); 'The Golden Age

revisited: labour, society, gender and politics in 1950s Japanese film', convenors: Mats Karlsson (The University of Sydney) and Alexander Jacoby (Oxford Brookes University); 'Beyond the label of commerciality: approaching narrative complexity in contemporary light novels, anime and gēmu', convenor: Antonio Loriguillo-López (Universitat Jaume I, Spain); 'The representations of nuclear energy in Japanese mass media and popular culture: The Daigo Fukuryū Maru incident and its aftermath', convenors: Tino Bruno (Ritsumeikan University and Lyon 3 University), Maika Nakao (Ritsumeikan University), and Akihiro Yamamoto (Kobe City University of Foreign Studies); and 'Writing and script in Japanese media', convenor: Naoko Hosokawa (EHES). The individual papers were presented under the following thematic rubrics: 'Journalism in Japan', 'Governance through the media', 'Japanese media and the negotiation of risk', 'Social media in Japan', 'Media and social development', 'Negotiations of history and the media', 'Facets of movie productions in Japan', 'Japanese morning dramas', and 'Sound and music as medium'. The closing panel focused on 'Queering and gendering popular culture in Japan: manga, anime, and

TV drama'. It was convened by Andrea Germer (Heinrich-Heine-University), chaired by Ulrike Woehr (Hiroshima City University), who also acted as discussant, and it included presentations by Andrea Germer (Heinrich-Heine-University), Rafael Vinícius Martins (Kyushu University), Tianqi Zhang (Kyushu University), and Jasmin Rückert (University of Vienna). All the sessions were of a high scholarly standard and most of them will give rise to edited books and journal publications. The section was very well attended throughout the conference, and we enjoyed excellent presentations and very productive discussions.

The numbers of the section clearly show its consolidation in this conference. All in all, we ran eight pre-organized panels and eleven sessions of individual papers in two parallel sessions, which included fifty-five presentations in total. Presenters came from all regions of Europe (Austria, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, UK), as well as from Australia, Canada, USA and, of course, Japan. We had far more submissions than we could accommodate, and it was an extraordinary successful conference for the Media Studies section.

The convenors want to express their deepest gratitude to the presenters and the audience for taking part in the section and making possible its exciting and vibrant sessions, as well as to the EAJS staff and the local organizers, specially our hosts for their excellent work, and the people of NomadIT, and to extend this special thanks to the volunteers for their great job to make sure that everything went smoothly. We are looking forward to another successful section in Ghent in 2020!

### **Section 6: Economics, Business and Political Economy**

*Convenors: Hugh Whittaker (University of Oxford) and Sébastien Lechevalier (École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales)*

We organized Section 6 this year under the umbrella of a call for papers on 'Does Japan Need More Structural Reform?'. The CfP attracted a large number of panels (eight) and papers that we organized into nine panels, making a total of 17 panels. Some addressed structural reform, and some did not.

As a whole, Section 6 went well, with coherent panels, interesting topics and interdisciplinary contributions from economists, political scientists, political economists and sociologists. This point should be underlined: the Section attracted a number of interdisciplinary contributions that contributed fittingly to the topic we set out. It was particularly visible in a number of panels (arguably five out of nine) and individual contributions that dealt with the issue of Womenomics and Women's Advancement in Japan, but also in the other panels as well, which ranged from law and legal reform to financial markets, brand management and social security.

It was pleasing that there were very few last minute cancellations, and for those few cases, the reasons were convincing. Presenters largely kept to their allotted times. Having the sessions in two rooms (extended to a third in one case because of a computer issue) saved a lot of time for participants, and made it easier for the convenors. We would like to acknowledge the support of the volunteers, who made a big difference to sorting out problems when they arose, so as to minimize disruptions (with air conditioning, etc.). They did a great job, and as

we found, were often knowledgeable on the subjects themselves.

One (deep) regret by the convenors but also by some of the participants in our Section was the enforcement of the rule that does not allow convenors to present their own paper. It made the organization of a post-conference publication more difficult. (Even though there was an opportunity to have a session on a post-conference publication, the restriction made it rather abstract, and diminished the motivation of the convenors). It does not make the position of convenor very attractive, and may well make it more difficult to convince colleagues to play this role in the future. We suggest that this restriction be lifted.

## Section 7: History

*Convenors: Mikael Adolphson (University of Cambridge) and Mark Pendleton (University of Sheffield)*

### Summary of Section's Activities

This is the third successive EAJS conference in which History has had a dedicated disciplinary section, separate from its previous colocation with Politics & Interna-

tional Relations. However, in an attempt to address the historical division between modern and premodern scholarship, we issued a call for papers under the title 'Bridging Divides in Japanese History: Troubling Periodization and Methodological Rigidity'.

The theme attracted a very large number of proposals - some 35 panel proposals, including two double panels, and 70 individual paper proposals. This signals significant growth compared to 2014, in which 13 panel and 51 individual paper proposals were received. We were generally encouraged by the high quality of proposals, accepting approximately two-thirds of proposals, which allowed us to run 3.5 concurrent panels throughout the conference.

Despite this healthy growth, we remain concerned about a few elements of these proposals, particularly in terms of diversity. Nine of the 35 proposed panels (26%) were all-male, with none consisting of only women. Several panels contained contributions from only one country, and a couple only involved presenters from one institution. While we attempted to address this imbalance in our selection of individual papers, which included more

women and people from less well-represented regions and institutions, the section continues to have a skew towards male presenters. This is an area of concern looking forward to EAJS 2020 (see comments below). We also call on our fellow men working in Japanese history to be conscious of these issues and actively seek to ensure inclusion of women, junior scholars and colleagues from less 'established' institutions in future proposals.

Geographical spread also remains an area of some concern. As in previous years, the Anglophone and German academic systems remain heavily represented, including continued growth in interest from colleagues in North America. There were a good number of applications from Japan, although these were not always well-integrated with European colleagues. Colleagues from Southern and Eastern Europe were less well-represented. The growth in interest in EAJS internationally is a cause for celebration, but we do want to ensure that there remains a strong focus on including the diversity of scholarship on Japanese history across Europe.

In terms of sub-disciplinary spread, we were particularly pleased

to see a strong representation of medieval and early modern proposals. In the end, about one-third of papers represented pre-Meiji historical scholarship. There was also a good range of interdisciplinarity, including papers from heritage studies, film and literary history. Proposals were also accepted from archaeologist and archivist colleagues, who have tended to not easily fit within the EAJS section divisions.

#### Structure and Organization of Conference

While our preparations were well supported by colleagues in the central EAJS office and the contracted conference organisers, lines of communication were often confused, with information coming to convenors in a partial, delayed or contradictory fashion. A much clearer process should be put in place for 2020 to ensure that volunteer convenors are well-supported in organising their sections. In particular, a clearer timeline both for section convenors and for potential delegates would be advantageous.

#### Future Suggestions

- Strengthen the language around diversity to contribute to the building of pan-European

collaboration and prevent the reinforcement of existing hierarchies

- consider language similar to the Association for Asian Studies, which specifies as a key selection criteria 'Diversity in Gender, ethnicity, and institutional balance with a combination of junior and senior scholars.' We would suggest adding 'and scholars working in different European countries and beyond.' We accordingly propose that diversity is added and expressly noted as a selection criteria.

- The instruction around participation in more than one session should be clarified more clearly. We had extended discussions with some proposers about serving as presenter and discussant. In principle, we believe participants should only be allowed one official appearance to ensure fair and equal access to the conference, but regardless, the rules need to be clarified.

- Clarification needed on rules around whether people are allowed to nominate both for panels and individual papers - 'double-dipping' increases convenors' workloads, and are hard to detect when reading through over 200 paper proposals. From our perspective, we have a preference for not allowing doubling up like this.

- Include statement around inability to always accommodate scheduling requests: 'If applying for this conference the assumption is that you will be available to present at any stage during the conference dates. Convenors will try to accommodate reasonable scheduling requests, but this is not guaranteed.'

- Consider how to attract colleagues working in less well-represented parts of Europe.

- Consider renaming the section 'History and Archaeology' to attract greater interest from colleagues in archaeology.

- The growth of the History section is a very positive sign for the EAJS, but it also means that the custom of having the convenors chair all panels (we had four concomitant panels at times) is impossible. Thus, we suggest that EAJS adopt a practice in which a panel organiser can serve as chair, and individual paper-panels can be chaired by the convenors, or specially assigned chairs. Anecdotal evidence does suggest that panels with convenors presiding are indeed run more smoothly than those without, so we would suggest a process by which additional convenors can be recruited.

## Section 8a: Religion and Religious Thought

*Convenors: Lucia Dolce (SOAS University of London) and Erica Baffelli (University of Manchester)*

The section 'Religion and Religious Thought' received a high number of proposal for this year's conference, most of very high quality: more than 20 panels and 18 individual papers for a total of 81 papers and 95 participants, including panel chairs and discussants. We were eventually able to accommodate 18 panels and 9 individual papers, organised in two parallel sections. It is the first time for the section to hold sessions, and we were grateful to the conference board for their willingness to afford us more space.

We had no dedicated theme for this year's conference but requested the presenters to reflect on how religion in Japan has been studied and present new research, in terms of either sources or methodologies. The panels and papers that followed each other in the three days of meetings in Lisbon discussed the methodological challenges that the study of religion in Japan poses today and reconsidered researchers' contribution to the current developments in the field.

The section showcased a very good mix of topics, exploring both modern and premodern material, and touching on a variety of religious traditions. For instance, we discussed topics such as materiality of the sacred, Confucianism, constitutional revision, Shinto and Globalization, definition of new religions, spirituality, Shugendō, history of Christianity in Japan.

Our delegates were a good mix of nationalities, coming from various European countries, the US and Japan. Noticeable was the growing participation of Japanese scholars, who this year accounted for roughly a quarter of the panelists. Several panels were in Japanese, but abstracts in English and discussants who facilitated the questions from the audience allowed the section to carry out the works smoothly.

Equally, we had a good mix of contributions in terms of gender and seniority, with several panels including early career scholars and doctoral students alongside more senior scholars.

Nearly all sessions were quite well attended and for some panels there was not sufficient room to sit down. The new research produced in the field shows an increase in cross-disciplinary approaches in

the study of religion in Japan, while the number and quality of applications and the busy and stimulating days spent in Lisbon are witness to the vitality of the field.

### **Section 8b: Intellectual History and Philosophy**

*Convenors: Rein Raud (Tallinn University) and Raji Steineck (University of Zürich)*

The section received 9 panel proposals and 27 individual paper proposals, of which 4 panels and 16 papers made it to the final programme (including some individual papers from the rejected panels), making the overall acceptance rate 52%. The presenters ranged from established scholars to PhD students. Unfortunately, several presenters did not manage to secure funding and had to withdraw as a result. Nonetheless, the section provided a selection of high-quality research papers covering a broad range of topics and all periods of Japanese thought from early history to the present. At best, the allocated room was full with around 40 participants, but there were also a few less-attended sessions, where specific topics gathered an audience below 10 participants. In

terms of subjects, topics related to the history of knowledge or the history of political ideas appeared to draw larger audiences than those covering religious topics. Even so, the conversation was lively and in most cases had to be cut short in order to keep with time.

All in all, the section has proven its vitality and necessity and is likely to grow in popularity over the next conferences.

### **Section 9: Politics and International Relations**

*Convenors: Paul O'Shea (Aarhus University) and Karl Gustafsson (Swedish Institute of International Affairs)*

The Politics and International Relations section consisted of eleven panels, on a wide range of topics, from local politics to international security, and with presenters from Europe and Japan. Rather than summarise the panels here, we take the liberty of outlining some of our own reflections and feedback from the participants. The section had no parallel sessions, and this seemed to be generally popular, there were no complaints (then again,



everyone had been accepted . . . !). There was also a good attendance at all panels. Having parallel sessions would have allowed us to accept a larger number of papers, and we did receive a very large number of submissions, but on balance it seems to have worked better without parallel sessions. If the EAJS wants to open up to more participants, it might want to consider splitting the section into one Politics and one International Relations section.

As was discussed at the EAJS General Meeting, allowing participants to assume multiple roles, at least in terms of discussants and chairs, was generally considered a good idea. Some participants suggested that we require the papers to be uploaded in advance, and all panels should have discussants to ensure that all participants get at least some feedback on their papers. However, others said that participants would not keep to this rule, and besides, the purpose of this particular conference was to be exposed to a wide range of Japanese Studies research. There was no consensus on this issue.

A number of participants suggested that in future, the section should accept less theoretical pieces and more Japan-focused pieces. They complained

that in some presentations, Japan seemed to be incidental to theory. The issue of the relationship between Political Science and Area Studies is unresolved and sometimes controversial, but the point is taken. In addition, two participants not only failed to show, but did not make contact, meaning that one participant had an entire session to herself. While this did allow for a more in-depth presentation, there was a question as to whether those who drop out without any warning should face some kind of penalty, given the disruption this causes (and also, that we could have accepted two other participants had they let us know).

Having said all that, overall, the section was a great success, thanks to the participants, the organisers, and the local staff. We were very pleased, and are already looking forward to the next conference in Ghent!

## Section 10: Japanese Language Education

*Convenors: Marcella Maria Mariotti (Ca'Foscari University of Venice) and Noriko Iwasaki (SOAS University of London)*

Section 10 (Japanese Language Education) was organised by the Association of Japanese Language Teachers, e.V. (AJE). The theme of Section 10 was 'Learning and teaching Japanese in Europe. Why? – Voices from the field –'

We had one keynote (Prof. Christian Galan, INALCO, Students, teachers, language, method, new media – where should Japanese language education be anchored? Some reflections from the field) and one invited panel on day 2 (On teaching Japanese in wider Europe: the status quo and prospects in Central Asia, Bosnia and Hercegovina, Denmark, and Portugal). We invited specialists, who are currently engaged in Japanese language education in these regions (Ms Yumi Onishi [Kazakh National University], Ms. Nozomi Miyanoaya [University of Sarajevo], Mr Jiro Tomioka [Aarhus University], and Ms Keiko Amakasu [University of Porto]) to discuss their situations and future prospects (focusing on

how networking with AJE can contribute.)

Section 10 had a large number of presentations in parallel sessions in three venues. We received more than 100 proposals and accepted 13 panels and 56 individual presentations, including oral and poster presentations. All proposals were blind-peer-reviewed by three reviewers. Many of the presentations were co-authored, and the actual number of presenters was above 130. All presentations were almost fully attended. We sought feedback from participants and had positive feedback.

We greatly appreciated the support from NomadIT and Rohan Jackson, who was very helpful and was accommodating to AJE members requests! Since we had some problems in synchronizing registrations / applications / English and (AJE) Japanese version of the program, we agreed that in 2020 AJE would consult with Rohan regarding peer review and registration processes.

Last, but not the least, we are extremely grateful for the EAJS, who let us join such an important event, and we are looking forward to the next 2020 EAJS International conference!

## Travel Grant Programme

In 2017, the EAJS awarded for the first time 20 travel grants that aimed to enable junior scholars, who often lack funding for conference travel, to participate in the Lisbon conference. 10 travel grants were provided by TIFO, the remaining 10 were paid by the EAJS itself. The EAJS is very grateful for TIFO's generous support.

### Conference Reports by Travel Grant Recipients

I learned a lot from attending the 15th International Conference of the European Association for Japanese Studies (EAJS) in Lisbon. It was my first time attending a Japan Studies conference in Europe. The conference gave me invaluable experience, new insights as well as opportunities for making new friends.

Since I am a student of Sociology, I attended many panels organized by the Sociology and Anthropology section. I was very much impressed by the level of sophistication of many presentations both theoretically and empirically. The sessions' common theme on emo-

tion and affection was interesting and revealing, too. I also received a number of good comments and suggestions on my research from the attendees.

Networking opportunities were the most fruitful part of my participation in this conference. At the conference and JAWS events, I made acquaintance with people who I had only known from reading their works. It was very interesting to listen to their current project. I also made friends among colleagues from European universities, who I would not have been able to meet had I not come here. The group of people I came to know in this conference will be an invaluable asset for my academic career.

Without the support from EAJS, I would not have been able to attend the conference. Therefore, I am thankful for the support from EAJS. I also would like to thank the conference organizing team and the students who volunteered on site.

*Yuki Asahina*  
*University of Hawaii at Manoa,*  
*USA*

+++

I would like to thank the EAJS for having given to me the opportunity, through its grant, to join such a vibrant and multidisciplinary conference. Notwithstanding my participation both as a speaker and as a member of the audience in 12 academic conferences during my PhD, the 15th EAJS International Conference in Lisbon was with no doubt the most prestigious and articulated event I have joined so far. The logistic support provided by the EAJS in collaboration with Universidade Nova of Lisbon was impressive, all the information was provided in advance and I did not experience any problem in moving around the city and in the conference venues.

The program was extremely variegated, offering to the audience the possibility of freely moving among several areas of interest and to join diverse discussions. Due to the high number of renowned scholars who participated in the role of speakers and public, all the panels offered extremely interesting sparks for discussion and food for thought. At the same time, the presence of early career researchers added new twists to established fields of study and offered brand new areas of knowledge, inspiring for all the participants.

I personally attended mostly the socio-anthropological panels and the gender and sexuality related discussions, which provided me with an enhanced knowledge on the topics faced during the interventions, which I considered extremely helpful also towards the development of my own thesis. I was also selected as a speaker, and this gave me the matchless opportunity to present my research in front of prominent scholars and peers who provided me with extremely useful feedback and suggestions about my work. Thanks to the visibility obtained during the conference, I was able to further expand my working network and to establish collaborations with academics from other universities, which will eventually lead me to join or co-organize events in the field of Japanese Studies.

*Marta Fanasca*  
*The University of Manchester, UK*

+++

I was excited to know that I was awarded by EAJS with the travel grant for the 2017 conference in Lisbon, where I presented a talk about Japanese law in Panel S6\_17, with the title: "The consequences of the reform of Japanese Private International law". Without this grant, I would not have been able to attend

the conference, since my Ph.D. scholarship ended last year. This grant has been indeed a great help for the covering of the flight and accommodation expenses.

This conference was very important to me and attending it has been an significant opportunity for my career, since it was one of the first times I had the chance to talk in such an important international conference.

I found the conference well-organized and in a beautiful location. The social welcome party was enchanting.

However, the most important thing is that my panel was interesting and full of incredible people, who attended our talk and discussed with us. I would like to thank the panel convenor and all the other scholars who listened and gave me their feedback. It was an incredible experience.

I am really grateful for this opportunity.

*Chiara Gallese  
Ca' Foscari University of Venice,  
Italy*

+++

I have participated in the 15th EAJS International Conference 2017 thanks to the EAJS travel grant. I was the convenor of the panel S5b\_09 "Writing and Script in Japanese Media" as part of which I also presented my paper "From Japan to the World: Japanese words in katakana and national identity in contemporary media". Professor Blai Guarné of Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona kindly chaired the panel and we had the pleasure to welcome Professor James Stanlaw of Illinois State University as the discussant. In the panel, we examined various reasons and effects of the use of katakana in contemporary Japanese media. I looked at cases in which katakana is used for Japanese names, words, and expressions, arguing that the use of katakana can be a way to manifest Japanese identity to the world, taking the perspective of looking at Japan from abroad. After my presentation, Veronica De Pieri presented her analysis of the use of katakana for net-poetry. At the end of the panel, we had an insightful discussion with Professor Guarné and Professor Stanlaw about how the choice of script influences the meaning and effect of the language. The discussion was so thought-provoking that we have also talked about the possibility of a collaborative project to publish a book or a special issue based on this panel, which I

hope to can be realised in the near future. I also attended a number of other presentations and it was truly a valuable experience for my academic career as an early-stage scholar and I very much appreciate the EAJS for the generous support.

*Naoko Hosokawa*

*European University Institute, Italy*

+++

It was my first experience to participate in an EAJS conference. I presented a paper titled “We are kitainai people! Being one with the dirt and growing one’s own food in the Japanese countryside” in the panel “Sensory Ethnographies in Spaces of Co-Production: The Quest for Alternative Immersive Experiences” in the Sociology/Anthropology section. This panel was a continuation of an academic collaboration we started in Sapporo in 2016 at an EAAA meeting. Although two of four presenters could not do it to the conference due to sudden illness and visa issues, the remaining two presenters, myself and Ksenia Golovina, accomplished to give successful presentations. We shared our research with the informed audience as well as got fruitful comments from our discussant Beata Switek. Another benefit of our participation in the conference was the section itself with the

umbrella topic – affect – that was elaborated in many panels. In the wrap-up meeting of the Sociology/Anthropology section, a discussion was held about affect theory and its implications for research about Japan. It was interesting to hear both positive views and criticism of affect theory.

Overall, my experience of participation in EAJS was ambivalent. On one hand, it is so exciting to take part in such a big event with many participants and panels with thriving discussions. On the other hand, networking events for early career scholars are lacking, so there are almost no institutionalized opportunities for academic networking.

My future plans include submitting my presentation with accommodated comments/suggestions from the conference as a paper for publication in an academic journal. Additionally, I will aim at continuing to collaborate with other colleagues to come up with a new panel for the upcoming conferences.

Sponsorship through travel grant made my participation possible and I want to express my gratitude to the organizers.

*Ksenia Kurochkina*

*Waseda University, Japan*

+++

As expected, the 15th EAJS International Conference 2017 in Lisbon was a highly memorable and informative event. Due to my early arrival, I was able to participate in the pre-conference event “Japanese Studies in Japan: A New Trend?”, organized by the Tohoku University Global Japanese Studies Initiative. I was also invited to attend a couple of alumni events, such as the EAJS/TIFO Alumni Lunch at Hotel Sana Malhoa, generously hosted by Toshiba Foundation, and the DIJ Alumni dinner. Since my panel “Attitudes toward Death, Dying and Funerary Customs in Japan – Past, Present and Future” took place during the first panel session, I was able to visit the other presentations of the conference without any stage fright. I joined panels mostly in the sections S1: Urban, Regional and Environmental Studies, S5a: Anthropology and Sociology and S5b: Media Studies. There, I heard talks that broadened my perspective on Japanese Studies, met new interesting scholars and got to catch up with old acquaintances. My personal highlight was panel S5b\_19 “Governance through the media”, where only a handful of people joined, but the host moderated wonderfully, and the talks were so interesting that we had the liveliest discussion I experienced in

the whole conference.

There was enough space to get together and debate, catch up or make future plans with colleagues. I really liked the conference venue for the spacious courtyard that allowed us to refresh after each session. It was also helpful that there were booths of publishers where we could negotiate prospective publications.

I would hereby like to thank the EAJS Council for providing me with the opportunity to participate in this conference by selecting me for a travel grant. I am already looking forward to the next EAJS conference in 2020.

*Dorothea Mladenova*  
*University of Leipzig, Germany*

+++

It was a great opportunity for me as a Ph.D., Candidate to present my paper and attend the EAJS conference in Lisbon, Portugal. I was able to experience and learn things that I could not have learned at conferences in Japan (such as the Japanese Association for Religious Studies or Association of Japanese Intellectual History conferences). By attending the various panels and listening to many presentations, I gained a better

understanding of what constitutes a well-organized panel, and of what a good presentation looks and sounds like at an international conference. I became keenly aware that I need to develop better presentation skills and prepare better handouts and PowerPoint slides. I also greatly appreciated the helpful feedback that was provided to me by European scholars when I gave my presentation.

Among the panels that I attended, S8a-08 “Christians in Kansai 1827-29” was the best organized. Three scholars focused on the well-known Christian incident and trial in 1829—the so-called Keihan Christian incident—investigated by Oshio Heihachirou, the Osaka machibugyosho yoriki who is also well known as the ringleader of a famous uprising (known as “the uprising of Oshio Heihachirou”大塩平八郎の乱). Using official documents and other sources, and revealing much about the politics of gender and religion in this period, the presenters showed us new dimensions in research.

The first presenter, Prof. Mark Teeuwen (University of Oslo), explained the brief story of what the Keihan Christian incident was, how previous researchers described this incident and what information remained from the official docu-

ments. His presentation enabled the audience to gain a good understanding of the historical conditions surrounding the Keihan Christian incidents.

The second presenter, Prof. Kate Nakai (Sophia University), using judicial documents about the Keihan Christian incidents, explained the Tokugawa investigation system and the government’s stance toward heterodox religious groups. From her presentation, we could figure out how investigators thought about the hidden Christians and how they went about investigating the religious group that we now refer to as the “Keihan Christians”. The final presenter, Prof. Fumiko Miyazaki (Keisen University), focused on the gender aspect of the Keihan Christian Incident, using the same official documents which other presenters also used. She showed us how female principals were described in the investigation records as opposed to the male principals. She furthermore demonstrated how serious women were about their religious practices at that time, in spite of the scorn and prejudice they had to experienced, and which is reflected in the official documents.

In sum, the panel was extremely edifying and nicely structured; it provided me with an exemplary model worth emulating in the future,



when I will organize panels myself.

*Eiko Namiki  
International Christian University,  
Japan*

+++

I was delighted to receive the EAJS travel grant that enabled my participation in the EAJS conference in Lisbon, since my university could not support my travel. As a PhD student, it was very important to be able to attend this milestone event. I was the chair of our panel, which was about parodic representations of so-called irogonomi characters in classical Japanese literature, and therefore closely related to my PhD research. Unfortunately, one of us had to cancel his participation, but on the other hand, we were thus able to have a longer discussion and to discuss more freely. The other panelist was Stina Jelbring from Stockholm University. It was good to meet her and after the panel we talked about possibilities to continue and strengthen the co-operation between our universities in the form of translation workshops, for instance.

It was also great to meet many other colleagues and hear such various kinds of presentations. I was able to have inspiring discussions with some researchers, whose books

and papers I have been reading during many years, wishing to have an opportunity to contact them directly. Furthermore, the presentation about peer-reviewed articles of publishers was very informative. It was also nice to meet familiar scholars from Hosei University where I used to study a few years before. And of course, it was great to have the opportunity to visit such an inspiring city as Lisbon is.

*Raisa Porrasmaa  
Helsinki University, Finland*

+++

My heartfelt thanks go to the EAJS for the generous travel grant supporting my participation in the 15th International Conference of the European Association for Japanese Studies in Lisbon in August and September 2017.

I nearly spent all of my time at the EAJS conference at the section 4a Visual Arts with its focus on „Materialities of Visual Arts.” The convenors, Jaqueline Berndt (Stockholm University, Sweden) and Khanh Trinh (Museum Rietberg Zürich, Switzerland), put together a very strong program rich in variety. The exchange on ongoing research projects conducted at universities and museums across Europe with inspiring side-glances from the

United States and Japan was highly productive. The convenors of the section did a great job in balancing the strict time frame and facilitating an open-minded and prolific atmosphere for profound discussions and networking.

I am also very thankful for the encouraging and helpful comments and questions on my own paper on “A Material Glimpse at Edo’s Visual Culture” in the panel “Materialities of Japanese Visual Cultures in the Nineteenth Century.” The talks of my co-panelists Rosina Buckland (National Museum of Scotland) and Tomoë Steineck (University of Tübingen) and my own contribution introduced case studies and complemented each other to an impressive picture of the understudied field of Japanese visual cultures in the nineteenth century and its collection history in European institutions. Moreover, notions and questions of our research also emerged in other panels of the section such as “The Role of Art and Literature Salons in 18th and 19th Century Japan.” Thus, there were many opportunities to start and deepen ongoing discussions. A visit to the Museu do Oriente with colleagues was another source of learning and exchanging opinions after the daily conference program.

I was also eager to attend more

presentations in other sections such as Pre-modern Literature and Performing Arts, but it was difficult to choose between simultaneous panels. This is a common phenomenon at large-scale conferences, but the frequent overlap of similar topics in different sections such as book cultures, Edo period cultures, or Momoyama cultures was especially notable and regrettable at this year’s conference.

Apart from these organizational trifles, I experienced the conference as a very intense scholarly exchange with colleagues from across Europe. As I spent so much time in one section, I was all the more eager to join the general events of the conference such as the opening reception and the TIFO alumni reunion lunch reception. Especially the TIFO alumni reunion reception was a great opportunity to catch up with scholars and fellow students not majoring in Art History. Therefore, I am very thankful to the EAJS not only for supporting my participation in the conference with a travel grant but also for facilitating a conference promoting scholarly exchange for junior scientists.

*Wibke Schrape  
Museum of Asian Art, Berlin,  
Germany*

+++

The 15th International EAJS Conference was the biggest, well-organized and internationally reputable Japanese conference in Europe. As a doctoral researcher, I gained tremendous academic experience specifically for Japanese and Japanese related studies. This was an important conference for my academic career.

The conference gave me an opportunity to learn from other diverse scholars who could give me new insights for my own research and publications projects. At the reception, I met with other fellow doctoral researchers (and TIFO alumni), senior researchers from around the world and editors from peer-reviewed journals. As a final year PhD, I am poised to enter a highly competitive job market. The EAJS conference allowed me to expand my networks for potential post-doc and collaborative research opportunities throughout EU, East Asia and beyond.

As a junior faculty, I am pursuing a highly significant topic involving the role and impact of Japanese multinational practices in Southeast Asia. The presented paper aims to further our understanding of Japanese business internationalisation practices and their influence on employment relations in Southeast Asia where the EU and Japan have

strategic interests. At the presentation sessions, I was able to engage in discussions with the convenor and audiences collegially. I furthermore became involved in discussions with European scholars about their own research projects. I regarded this as a great opportunity to make an essential step in developing collaborative research between EU and Southeast Asia. Through this discussion, I was also able to gain some new networks and also advice from senior academics on how to get access to data collection.

Overall, the international EAJS conference was very important for academia and I am very grateful to both the conference organizers and the EAJS. Thank you!

*Joey Soehardjo*  
*University of Warwick, UK*

+++

The 15th EAJS International Conference in Lisbon was the first EAJS conference for me to attend as graduated scholar. It was the first time altogether that I presented as a historian specialised in early modern East Asian history to such a large group of colleagues and seniors trained in Japanese Studies. In short, I appreciated the opportunity as a very rewarding experience.

rience.

I was immediately intrigued by the programme; yet at the same time I found the number of parallel sessions and painful overlaps of personal interest to be stressful. In the end, I attended mostly panels in history. In retrospect, that was a real shame because the conference offers such a rare opportunity to engage with colleagues from other disciplines yet working in the same area.

My panel on early modern Japanese foreign trading passes, where I presented alongside two Japanese and one Chinese early modern historian, was a great success thanks to a large audience, very coherent papers and a stimulating discussion afterwards. That said, I regard the EAJS history section as one of the best formats to engage in discussions with the potential to actually advance research. Unlike at other history conferences or workshops, I felt that we all shared a very profound understanding of both general Japanese history and theories, as well as the major debates and state of the art dominating the field. This specific setup is a great starting point for in-depth conceptual considerations. A further plus was that the scholarship presented at EAJS events seems to be taken seriously among Japa-

nese scholars who attended in astonishing numbers.

On a slightly critical note, the venue was not ideal. While I think that Lisbon was a great choice as host city, the conference venue did not offer the necessary facilities. Acoustics were not great, some rooms were too small and information about availability of Wi-Fi was insufficient.

*Birgit Tremml-Werner  
University of Zurich, Switzerland*

+++

I had the honour and pleasure of taking part in the 15th International Conference of the European Association for Japanese Studies, in Lisbon, from August 30th to September 2nd, 2017.

During this time, I enjoyed the opportunity to meet numerous colleagues, familiarize myself with matters of interest in various scientific research centres across the world, and hear many reports on topics pertaining to my interests. Seeing how I was mostly concerned with the subjects of Japanese linguistics and Japanese language education, I had spent the majority of my time attending presentations by members of Section 10. One of the presentations was given by me, along with Prof. Ljiljana Markovic,

PhD, Dean of the Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade, and founder of the 40-year-old Department of Japanese language, literature and culture at the Faculty. The presentation, entitled *Opening the Borders of the Japanese Language – Discovering and Answering the Needs of Students of Japanese in Serbia*, sought to explain the methodological postulates which serve as the basis of our work which is evident, among other things, through a Japanese language textbook written in Serbian, the first of its kind not only in the country, but a broader language region as well. Becoming acquainted with new publications through various publishers' presentations was crucial too, seeing how such works are still not readily available in Serbia.

The first time that I attended an EAJS Conference was in 2014, in Ljubljana. I am pleased to say that the Conference has grown in the short time since then, and attracted numerous visitors. I appreciated that all of this year's Conference venues were in the same part of the city and easy to find. For the first time this year, I followed the work of the Association's Assembly and became interested in the general organization of the Association. I hope that the Conference will be held in Belgrade at some point. Until that time, I am certain we will

continue to further our collaboration with the goal of advancing Japanese studies across the world.

*Divna Trickovic*  
*University of Belgrade, Serbia*

+++

From the 29 August to 3 September 2017, I flew to Lisbon from London Gatwick Airport to attend and give a presentation at the 15th EAJS International Conference. On 31 August, I gave my presentation for the panel (S3a\_04) titled 'The Politics and Practice of Everyday Life in Modern Japanese Literature' (Bungaku-kara-Nichijyo-o-tou) with Professor Linda Flores (Oxford) and Professor Stephen Dodd (SOAS). Approximately 50 participants attended, and towards the end, we had a lively discussion with the participants. Even after the presentation, such as during the dinner, I received a lot of positive feedback, such as from Professor Keith Vincent (Boston University) and Professor Reiko Abe Auestad (Oslo University), Professor Saeko Kimura (Tsuda College, Tokyo) and Professor Anne Bayard-Sakai (INALCO, Paris) all of which was very encouraging for me as an early-career researcher.

I participated in numerous panels for Modern Literature and

Language learning and teaching sections. For example, (S3a\_03) 'Reading Ōe Kenzaburō's a political youth dies in the 21st century', was a highlight of my participation, to see presentations by Professor Komori Yoichi, Professor Narita Ryuichi and Professor Tsuboi Hideto. In addition, since recent jobs in Japanese literature require some language teaching, I joined panels on Japanese language teaching. I found them fascinating, particularly on research on language teacher training for teaching Japanese to students with dyslexia.

The book exhibit was very helpful: I met the editor Ms. Stephanie Roger from Routledge, and she encouraged me to send my book proposal to them by the end of the year, to develop my PhD thesis into a monograph.

Overall, EAJS participation was a valuable experience for me as a young researcher, it gave me confidence to keep researching in what I believe is significant, and getting feedback from the top scholars in the field was such an honourable affirmation. The job market at the moment is very tough, but with this funding, networking with top scholars was a significant boon and has become an asset for my research. I greatly appreciate the EAJS for funding this trip, and I hope I can

contribute to the Association with my research in the future.

*Nozomi Uematsu*  
*Queen Mary University of London,*  
*UK*

+++

The opportunity to take part in the 2017 EAJS conference in Lisbon has been a very big help for my research. I would not have been able to attend this conference, if it were not for the EAJS travel grant, and I would hereby like to express my deep gratitude to the EAJS. It is truly wonderful that the EAJS gives such an opportunity to young scholars, and I hope this program continues so that others might benefit from attending this wonderful conference in the future.

During this conference, I have presented a paper entitled "Eastern Altaic languages" as a language area in the Linguistics section. Thanks to that, I have met other researchers that deal with similar topics and had the opportunity to talk to them. I also received some interesting questions that helped me stir my research to some new areas. The possibility to attend many other interesting presentations also considerably broadened my horizons. That does not include only the panel I was a part of, but also many

other panels. My only regret was that it was physically impossible to attend them all. Still, I was able to attend many presentations on linguistics and pre-modern literature, areas I am deeply interested in.

*Vít Ulman  
Charles University / Palacky Uni-  
versity, Czech Republic*

+++

I am very grateful for the travel fund to attend the EAJS conference in Lisbon in 2017. I first attended the EAJS conference in Ljubljana three years ago, which I felt provided for a relatively intimate, connected and stimulating conference setting: I am very glad that the Lisbon conference confirmed in me this sense. I find the conference provides a distinct and rich opportunity to deepen and widen my academic network. In part this comes from attending events during the conference (e.g. the conference dinner, JAWS meeting and dinner) that provide a means to meet new people, as well as a forum in which to reconnect (such as attending the Toshiba Foundation reunion meeting). I find this allows me to connect and reconnect with scholars working on closely related domains as well as more far off topics and approaches, yet still related to Japan. This breadth is important in stimulating

lines of enquiry to pursue and reflection on findings.

Furthermore, I appreciate that the conference draws scholars from Europe, Japan, Australia, and other Asian countries, as my own network of scholars has a similar geographic spread. Furthermore, the commonality of interests, as compared to much larger conference settings, makes for engaging sessions: there is more debate and discussion, which includes scholars that are close to the research topic presented but not limited to just specialists in that area. Indeed, for my own presentation, I received valuable feedback that will shape my research. Thus, I find the conference addresses several important aspects of my academic career and I look forward to the next edition.

*Hiroko Umegaki  
University of Cambridge, UK*

+++

My first EAJS International Conference was truly remarkable. Initially, I was nervous knowing that some of the big names in Japanese Studies, including people I follow in my area, International Relations (IR), were attending. The jitters did not disappear until the end, but the combination of Lisbon weather

and passionate scholars created a comfortable atmosphere for thinking, listening and conversing.

I got to meet scholars with critical and imaginative perspectives in IR. I was inspiring to see them in action – debating and exchanging ideas with the intention of helping each other improve their work. Being part of a graduate student panel, my fellow panelists and I were amazed with the kind of support and invaluable feedback we got from the audience. Established scholars were especially both scrupulous and generous with their comments.

I also sat in panels from other disciplines such as literature, history and philosophy. Listening to presenters made me see a single issue through a variety of angles, and their insights inspired me to further examine Japan beyond orthodox disciplinary scope. I especially liked the sessions on 20th century modernization history, an era that resonates deeply in post-war Japan's domestic and international politics.

Having a Japanese studies conference in Lisbon was also great way to explore intersections between the East and West. The conference organizers made sure that participants get to see Japan and Portugal's shared historical and cultural experiences through performance

and visual arts. Lisboa A Capella's performance in the Church of São Roque was enthralling and the nanban art exhibit at Museu Nacional de Arte Antiga was amazing. Truly, to be part of a conference packed with brilliant minds was overwhelming.

The EAJS 2017 was not just a great way to see the faces behind the academic papers you read. It was also a great opportunity to learn from other Japanese studies scholars. Disciplinary boundaries may have separated us in many ways, but thanks to this extraordinary triennial event, we were banded together in our common commitment to understanding Japan.

*Carmina Yu Untalan  
Osaka University, Japan*

+++

I have previously attended a post-graduate workshop in Edinburgh and a conference in Kobe organised by the European Association for Japanese Studies; I have always been impressed by the high level of organisation and intellectual atmosphere presented at the events. I was not disappointed this time either. The number and diversity of panels and papers was impressive and I enjoyed many good talks and panels during the confer-



ence. The general organisation of the conference from the registration process and communication prior to the event, to the academic sessions and social events during the conference seemed to run smoothly and I thoroughly enjoyed myself in Lisbon.

As this was the first time me and my colleagues have proposed a panel for a conference, we could not have asked for a more suitable venue and audience for our talks, enabling us to also make new contacts with other researchers working in the same field. The discussion and comments on our papers were extremely helpful and enabled us to fine tune our approach further. The number of 3/11 related panels provided an opportunity to familiarise myself with other research carried out on the disaster.

One of my favourite aspects of the events hosted by the European Association for Japanese Studies has always been the encouraging and welcoming atmosphere for post-graduate researchers, and the support and feedback I have always received in these events has been instrumental in propelling my own research forward. The events always enable me to reconnect with peers and colleagues across the continent and Japan, and some of the most lasting and meaningful

contacts have been forged at EAJS events. For young researchers such an inclusive atmosphere is crucial in fostering their confidence and motivation.

This welcoming atmosphere extends to the financial support offered to PhD students and I would like to thank once more for the assistance you offered to me to be able to attend the event.

*Anna Vainio*  
*University of Sheffield*

+++

I was very fortunate to receive a travel grant for the EAJS conference in Lisbon. Participating in the conference was a fruitful experience for me. It reminded me of the extraordinarily broad scope of Japanese Studies. I jumped a lot between sections in order to get an overview of what topics are currently of interest in other areas of research than my own. Among my personal favourites was the panel "Northeast Asian History Wars: Competing National Narratives in Japanese, Korean, and Chinese Museums" which encouraged researchers to question the simple dichotomy of "perpetrator-victim" that characterizes the narrative of many national museums dedicated to the Second World War. The pan-

el's comparative approach, which avoided the isolation or stigmatization of Japan by employing the same critical methods with regard to revisionist tendencies and selective perceptions of history in Korea and China, worked very well and showed the way toward a common understanding of the more recent past in Northeast Asia.

The conference also gave me the opportunity to meet many researchers who are active in my field and discuss my work with them. I received important feedback for my own paper "Situating Sakuhin-ron within the International Discourse on Mythological Studies" in the panel "Sakuhin-ron – a Viable Approach to Kojiki and Nihon Shoki Myths?" The conclusion we reached at the end of our panel was that while the text-oriented sakuhin approach, which has come to dominate Japanese scholarship on the ancient myths in recent decades, offers significant new insights, it should be complemented by other ethnology- or history-inspired approaches to broaden the scope of Japanese mythological studies and connect them to the international discourse on methodology in studies of myth. All in all, I thoroughly enjoyed my stay in Lisbon and received new inspiration for future projects.

*David Weiss*  
*University of Tuebingen, Germany*

+++

I had the privilege to attend the 15th International EAJS Conference in Lisbon thanks to the generous support of the EAJS Travel Grant. I found the conference highly successful and had the chance to re-meet many fellow scholars while also making a number of new connections that will be helpful for my future research and career. I mainly attended panels in the fields of "Anthropology and Sociology" and "Economics, Business and Political Economy" but also caught a few papers in other sessions that I found particularly relevant and relatable. Listening to a broad variety of papers and engaging in discussions helped to situate my own work better and detect some trends in Japanese Studies.

Presenting on a panel in the early morning of the first full day is always difficult, but I was positively surprised by the outcome and especially the fruitful and lively discussion that followed our papers. I was able to take away some suggestions and comments that do not only help me improve my paper for publication but also added new perspectives I will apply to my further research. Another highlight

was the JAWS business meeting and dinner, where I was able to get together with both early career and highly established anthropologists and learn about their research and ideas in a relaxed atmosphere.

I particularly appreciate how the EAJS offers a number of spaces and moments to connect with fellow scholars outside of the panels for instance during refreshments and lunch. In these breaks I was able to catch up with many others whose panels I had been unable to attend, and was also introduced to a number of scholars I hope to work with in the future. Overall the conference was a great success, not only by providing academic stimuli but also by increasing my scholarly network.

*Silke Werth*  
*East Asia Center of the University*  
*of California, Santa Barbara, USA*

+++

I am very grateful to the EAJS for providing me with the opportunity to attend their 15th international conference, which took place in Lisbon (Portugal), from the 30th of August to the 2nd of September 2017. Organized by the Faculty of Social Science and Humanities of the Universidade Nova, the conference was subdivided in 14 thematic ses-

sions, for a total of approximately 1200 participants and 250 panels.

Being a scholar of religions, I spent most of my time in section S8a, for which I organized a panel (“Early Modern Jesuit Roads to Salvation in Japan”) and presented a paper (“Jesuit soteriological preoccupations in the early modern mission in Japan”). Some topics that I found particularly engaging in this section were Dr M. Lourenço’s talk on the narratives created in Europe and Asia around the early modern Christian martyrs of Japan, and the considerations of Prof. K. Paramore on the nature of “religion,” and if Confucianism can be considered a religion.

Another section that was particularly interesting for me was the History one, especially the numerous panels on the Sengoku and Tokugawa periods, which included both talks on specific aspects of Japanese culture, and on the relationships with Western countries, their religions and cultures. A panel I found very engaging was Dr M. Petrucci’s “Jesuit Religious Interaction in Sixteenth and Early Seventeenth Century Japan”.

The excellent organization of conference could be seen especially in its many and rich satellite events. On the one hand, the Opening

Reception, the Gala Dinner, and the concert in the Church of Sao Roque all represented good occasions to mingle with fellow scholars and network in a more relaxed manner. On the other, the events that preceded the conference itself touched upon many different topics; I attended the one organized by Nichibunken on “The Legacies of Kirishitan Culture,” which offered a window on the state of the studies on Christianity mostly from a Japanese point of view.

Overall, attending this conference was engaging and satisfying as I was hoping, and I am looking forward to build on the networks that I was able to create there.

*Linda Zampol D’Ortia*  
*University of Otago, New Zealand*

## Minutes of the EAJS General Meeting 2017

**Time: 2 September 2017, 16:00-18:00**

**Venue: Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Auditorium no. 2, Lisbon, Portugal**

Moderation by Bjarke Frellesvig, outgoing EAJS President

The outgoing EAJS President Bjarke Frellesvig (hereafter BF) welcomed the EAJS members.

### **(1) Report by the EAJS President: Report on activities of the association (BF)**

The outgoing President gave a detailed report on the activities promoted and organized by the EAJS in the last three years (2015-17).

#### *1. Triannual EAJS conference in Europe*

BF reported that the 2017 conference in Lisbon was the largest EAJS conference so far. Approximately 40% of all participants came from Japan. 29 participants were from Portugal. BF thanked the Japan Foundation (JF) and the Toshiba International Foundation (TIFO) for their important support which had helped significantly to make this conference possible.

#### *2. EAJS PhD Workshops*

BF reported on the EAJS workshops for doctoral students, which run every year and are funded by TIFO. The last workshops took place in Edinburgh in 2015, in Paris in 2016, and in Lisbon in 2017.

#### *3. TIFO Fellowship*

The Toshiba International Foundation also funds short-term scholarships to Japan that run on an annual basis. One of these three scholarships is always awarded to an applicant from a European country with fewer scholarship opportunities in the field of Japanese Studies (e.g. Eastern Europe countries). From next year, the EAJS will use the association's own funds to award an additional scholarship that will also be dedicated to an applicant from a country with fewer scholarship opportunities.

#### *4. Travel Grants*

For the first time, in 2017 the EAJS awarded 20 travel grants that aimed to enable junior scholars, who often lack funding for conference travel, to participate in the Lisbon conference. 10 travel grants were provided by TIFO, the remaining 10 were paid by the EAJS itself. The EAJS wishes to continue and possibly

extend the travel grant programme in the future.

### 5. EAJS Office

The EAJS runs an office in Berlin (where the association is registered) that takes care of all organizational matters. Currently, one Council assistant and two student assistants are working in the EAJS office.

### 6. Publication workshops

The EAJS has initiated a publication workshop with experienced publishers and scholars who meet with young scholars to advise them about how to submit successful publications and research proposals. The first publication workshop took place in 2015 in Berlin. The next workshop is scheduled for 2018. The venue has yet to be confirmed.

### 7. EAJS Japan Conference

The EAJS conference that is organized in Japan was initiated in 2011 by former EAJS President Harald Fues. The first EAJS Japan Conference took place in 2013 in Kyoto. The second Japan Conference was organized at Kobe University in 2016. It has proven a fruitful activity which the EAJS wishes to continue also on a triannual basis.

### 8. New Constitution

The EAJS constitution was changed in 2015 and the EAJS was registered with the district court in Berlin. The new constitution was approved by EAJS members in April 2015 at an extraordinary general meeting. These changes were implemented to adhere to tax law in Germany, where the association is based. The original text of the constitution is German. Both this and an English translation can be found at the EAJS website (<https://www.eajs.eu/index.php?id=278>).

### **(2) Report by the EAJS Treasurer: membership development, financial report and budget (VBT)**

In her report, EAJS Treasurer Verena Blechinger-Talcott (VBT) reported on the following points.

#### 1. EAJS membership development

VBT reported that the EAJS membership continues to grow. VBT explained a slight change in the rules for EAJS membership under the new constitution. The old EAJS constitution allowed that members could pause their membership for up to three years. This meant that during that period they could keep their membership despite pausing on paying their membership fees. Since the new EAJS constitution does not allow pausing one's mem-

bership anymore, all members who have not paid-up for the running membership period will be reminded to pay, and if they fail to respond to two reminders will lose membership status. Even after clearing those non-active members from the membership database, EAJS membership has remained at a constantly high number of around 1000 members. By the time of this year's conference, EAJS membership has risen to more than 1300 active members, which is a record high.

Concerning the composition of EAJS members, 78% are personal members with a salary and 20% are student members. The remaining 2% are either honorary or institutional members (1% each). While most members are Europeans (51%), a closer look reveals that the EAJS still has far more members in Western Europe than in Eastern Europe (43% vs. 8%). 28% of EAJS members are Japanese, 12% are from the Americas. The remaining members stem from other parts of Asia (3%), Russia (3%) and Oceania (2%).

VBT confirmed that it remains the intention of the EAJS Council to work hard on the promotion of Japanese Studies in Eastern Europe.

## 2. EAJS financial situation

VBT explained that the EAJS finances stem from three sources of funding: Japan Foundation (JF, main sponsor of the EAJS), Toshiba International Foundation (TIFO) and membership fees. The JF provides funding for running the EAJS office, for a part of the EAJS International Conference (usually the salary for 6 months for a member of the local organizing team and travel expenses of the keynote speaker from Japan), and for part of the annual PhD Workshop (travel expenses of senior advisors).

TIFO is the main donor for the annual PhD Workshops, for alumni networking activities, for three TIFO short-term Fellowships per year, for 10 travel grants for participation in the EAJS International Conference, and for one part-time student assistant in the EAJS office.

The EAJS uses membership fees to pay for the salary of one full-time student assistant (41 hours/month), banking and legal fees, tax audits (every three years), travel grants for conference participation (10) as well as travel expenses (up to 500 EUR), accommodation (4 nights) and conference registration fee waivers for the section convenors to the conference and EAJS Council members.

The support from JF has continued to decrease slightly in recent years. However, JF remains the EAJS' main donor, for which VBT expressed the EAJS' immense gratitude.

To the EAJS' delight, TIFO's financial support has constantly increased in the last four years and has reached 48.000 EUR in 2017 (up from 15.000 EUR in FY 2013/14). For that, VBT expressed the EAJS' immense gratitude towards TIFO.

The membership account has developed very healthy in the last years, thanks to the increase in members' numbers and the 50% raise of membership fees in the beginning of 2017.

VBT further reports the introduction of the option to pay membership fees online via PayPal since June 2017.

Finally, VBT explains the intention of improving and modernizing the EAJS website and the electronic database system. The main aim is to include more convenient systems for online membership registration and payment of fees.

### **(3) Outcome of Council elections, farewell to outgoing Council members and welcoming of incoming Council members**

An EAJS member from the floor, Ian Neary, expressed thanks from the members for successfully organizing the Lisbon conference and put forward a motion to confirm that the old Council has no residual work to be done and is now free from any duty. He asked to formally dismiss the old Council and to welcome the new Council. The motion was accepted by the general meeting.

For their service to the association, the outgoing president expressed the EAJS' gratitude to the outgoing Council members. BF then welcomed the new members of the EAJS extended Council: Andrea De Antoni, Jaqueline Berndt, Andrea Germer, Gabriele Vogt, Till Weingärtner, Urs Matthias Zachmann. BF furthermore welcomed the new / re-elected EAJS officers Laura Moretti (Secretary), Verena Blechinger-Talcott (Treasurer) and Andrej Bekeš (President).

Usually, at this point the new EAJS President takes over the task of chairing the remaining general meeting. However, due his health situation the new EAJS President asked the outgoing President to continue chairing the meeting.



BF reported that the EAJS has been informed that there were a few cases where the postal ballots did not reach members. BF explained that the wording of the EAJS constitution does not allow an electronic vote, but promised that the Council will examine possibilities with the district court in Berlin whether an electronic vote might nevertheless be possible for next Council elections.

BF mentioned that the newly elected members are mainly of German nationality. He encouraged more participation from other geographical constituencies.

Comments from the floor were solicited. No comments were made.

The new EAJS President, Andrej Bekeš, thanked the outgoing President for his excellent presidency over the course of the last three years. The outgoing President was co-opted by the Council to remain a member of the Council as Immediate Past President.

#### **(4) Nomination of a new honorary member**

The Council proposed Joy Hendry to be elected as honorary member. The audience applauded this decision and Joy Hendry was con-

firmed as new honorary member of the EAJS.

#### **(5) EAJS conferences**

BF thanked all parties that submitted bids. He then announced the venue of the 16th EAJS International Conference in 2020. The next EAJS conference will take place at Ghent University. One member of the local organizing team will be co-opted to the EAJS extended council. The EAJS Office will be asked to contact the local organizing team to find out who will represent the next conference organizer on the council.

The timing of the next conference will have to take into consideration the running of the 2020 Olympics in Japan. The Paralympics will be held at the same time the EAJS conference usually takes place.

There followed the reports by Section Convenors (convenor who reported)

Section 1 (Volker Elis)

Section 2 (Patrick Heinrich)

Section 3a (Atsuko Ueda)

Section 3b (Rajyashree Pandey)

Section 4a (Jaqueline Berndt)

Section 4b (Andreas Regelsberger)

Section 5a (Emma Cook)

Section 5b (Blai Guarné Cabello)

Section 6 (Sébastien Lechevalier/

Hugh Whittaker, excused)  
 Section 7 (Mark Pendleton)  
 Section 8a (Lucia Dolce and Erica Baffelli)  
 Section 8b (Rein Raud)  
 Section 9 (Paul O'Shea)  
 Section 10 (Marcella Maria Mariotti)

### **(6) Matters arising from Council discussions**

The Council explained that a fair amount of overlap was perceived by the participants. The Council proposed to set up a Programme Committee for the next EAJS International Conference which will have the tasks of preventing unnecessary overlap and improving coordination between sections and panels.

So far the EAJS had a rule of one presentation by each participant to prevent any participant from monopolizing the conference. This time the wording was 'participants can only have one role in the conference', and that was admittedly too strict. The Council will discuss this issue and possible solutions in the next preparatory meeting.

### **(7) Any other business**

Comments and questions were invited from the floor.

The Council was requested to consider an interdisciplinary section in the next conference. The Council promised that this issue will be discussed in the next conference preparatory meeting. The Council was further requested to consider a comparative or transnational section. The Council promised that this issue will also be discussed in the next conference preparatory meeting. A comment was raised against having discussants. The Council replied that it should be left to section convenors to decide whether having discussants in their sections. One member expressed that presentations given in Japanese and in a Japanese manner are often difficult to follow and thus problematic. The Council explained that EAJS guidelines make it clear that if presentations are given in Japanese, they should be supported adequately with English materials (e.g. Powerpoint slides, handouts, etc.). Lastly, a request was voiced to make the bids for the next conference site public and to let EAJS members decide on the next conference venue with a vote. The EAJS Council responded that, firstly, bidders would often like to remain anonymous if not selected; and secondly, decisions with big financial implications to the association should only be taken by the Council.

The Council and the audience thanked NomadIT. The Council noted that NomadIT will be asked to work again for the organisation of the next conference.

The Council and the audience thanked the local organizers for their tremendous work.

The new President thanked the Council, the local organizers, the convenors, the sponsors and all the participants. He pronounced the conference closed.

The General Meeting closed at 17.45.

Lisbon, 2 September 2017

*Laura Moretti*  
*EAJS Secretary*

## 16th EAJS International Conference in 2020: Time and Venue

By the deadline of 30 June 2017 four bids were received to host the 16th EAJS International Conference in 2020. All bidders presented their bid to the EAJS Council during the conference in Lisbon. There was a number of very strong bids, but the Council eventually decided on Ghent, Belgium, as the venue of the next conference, after carefully scrutinizing and discussing each of the bids. The 16th EAJS International Conference will be held in **Ghent from 26 to 29 August 2020**.

## 13th EAJS PhD Workshop, Arrábida, Portugal 27-30 August 2017

### Report by the Academic Organizer

The PhD workshops organized by the EAJS are becoming more popular each time, and the 13th workshop in the series, which took place in Arrábida (Portugal) on 27-30 August 2017 again drew a record number of applicants - 93 eligible students from all parts of Europe. While on earlier occasions each application has been reviewed by all members of the council, this time the workload was divided so that each applicant was reviewed by two council members except the academic organizer, who had his say on selection among applicants with near-equal results. All in all, the procedure worked well, because the chosen applicants presented work of superb quality and created, for the academic advisors, an atmosphere of a conference rather than a seminar in class. We were also pleased to note that quite a few among the successful applicants had also been accepted as participants in several sections of the EAJS conference itself. Most participants of the workshop took advantage of the possibility to attend the conference and were seen

during sessions and breaks, talking to their more advanced colleagues and thus broadening considerably their scholarly network. Quite a few of them also expressed the wish to remain in contact after the event.

All 20 students submitted a report of 5000 words and presented on their topics during 8 sessions, with 2-3 participants each time. These reports had been made available to all participants online and we were again pleased to note that quite a few among them had made use of the opportunity and acquainted themselves with the work of others.

The academic advisors to the workshop included:

- Prof emer Joy Hendry, Oxford Brookes University / St Antony's College, University of Oxford
- Dr Rajashree Pandey, Goldsmith College, University of London
- Prof Rein Raud, Tallinn University, academic organizer
- Prof Verena Blechinger-Talcott, Freie Universität Berlin
- Prof Urs Matthias Zachmann, Freie Universität Berlin

Each academic advisor thus had the task to discuss the work of 4-6 participants, according to their respective fields of research. The range of topics among the selected participants was indeed broad, even if not as broad as during some of the previous workshops, including linguistics, anthropology, modern and classical literature, philosophy, religious studies, social and political issues as well as history of ideas. Fortunately many of the issues addressed in the participants' dissertations were not too far from each other, thus the discussions were always lively and continued after the sessions.

The participants of the workshop gathered at the Lisbon airport on the afternoon of 27 August and were driven by bus to the workshop venue, the Arrábida Convento. During the drive and in the evening, participants had the first opportunity to get to know each other and to learn about the other participants' projects.

The following two days were filled with presentations and intense discussions of the PhD projects. The convent provided a great working atmosphere and encouraged lively discussions during and after the work-intensive sessions.

Both days, after a joint breakfast, the participants met from 9.15 am

to 6.10 pm. Each day, 10 candidates presented, grouped into four panels of 2 or 3, with lunch and coffee breaks in between. Each candidate was given 20 minutes to present, with additional 20 minutes for the advisor to comment and a general discussion.

On 30 August, after a last breakfast together, participants were driven back to Lisbon. Fortunately, the EAJS Conference, which began the same day, provided many opportunities to see and talk to each other during the next days.

We are very grateful for the organizers of the Lisbon conference for assisting us with finding the location for the workshop. The Arrábida convent in the mountains near Lisbon, a site as beautiful as it was isolated, provided a splendid ambiance for the event as well as breathtaking views during our travels there and back. Last but not least, we would once again like to thank the Toshiba International Foundation for its generous support, without which none of this would have been possible.

On behalf of the organizers,

*Rein Raud*  
*Academic Organizer*

## Reports by the Participants

The 13th EAJS Workshop for Doctoral Students took place in the Arrábida convent. Located in the middle of a quiet forest, the venue favored attention and tranquillity to a level that is hard to find in an urban environment. A significant advantage, considering that the experience was very intense: We carefully followed and discussed 20 dissertation reports in two days. The scheduling was adequate, nonetheless. One day would not have been enough to share time and ideas together and get to know one another well. One day more would have been too exhausting.

I appreciate that the organisers tried to bring together a wide variety of topics and disciplines. Comments were very constructive, respectful, and truly in the spirit of helping to improve each participants work. For me, the sharing of ideas and comments in the workshop was inspiring and helpful for my work even beyond the time span of my presentation.

In sum, for me the event was an opportune time to discuss ideas in my field, and also to expand my horizon beyond the limits of specialisation. At least for researchers in the incipient field of Japanese Philosophy Studies in Western languages,

chances like this are as scarce as valuable.

I am thankful to the EAJS for letting me participate. All participants and invited experts, especially Prof Rein Raud, gave me critical comments, advice, and questions. I was finishing my dissertation, but the feedback I received was useful for assessing my progress. Last but not least, I thank the Fundação Oriente for allowing us to occupy their venue and for all the excellent attention we received there.

*Carlos Barbosa Cepeda  
Pompeu Fabra University, Italy*

+++

When I applied for the 13th EAJS Doctoral Workshop, I was only hoping to gain some feedback from senior scholars and peers involved in Japanese studies, but this workshop gave me much more. Of course, it was useful to highlight both strengths and weaknesses, receiving productive comments that helped me question and re-think many aspects of my research.

Besides, each of us came from different backgrounds, working in different fields, so that maintaining a high level of attention during the presentations was easy, and it pushed and challenged us to ex-

plain the very core of our research using simple terminology and making it accessible to everyone.

As I am currently enrolled in the second year of my PhD course, for me it has also been the perfect opportunity to reorganise my findings and preliminary conclusions summarising them while also focusing on aspects such as the theoretical framework and some problems I am currently facing.

The environment was extremely friendly and supportive, and it allowed us to live this experience without feeling judged or criticized. The chosen location of this year was a monastery far away from the city of Lisbon, and we were given even more chances to bond, spending plenty of time together, and sharing our comments and academic experiences over dinner and during the evenings.

I would like to thank Prof Raud, Dr Pandey and all the senior scholars for their helpful comments and insights. I would also like to thank the EAJS and the Toshiba International Foundation for having given me this extraordinary chance and I strongly recommend any PhD fellow involved in Japanese studies to apply for participation in the next workshops.

*Corinne D'Antonio*  
*Sapienza University of Rome*

+++

I decided to apply for the 13th EAJS Workshop for Doctoral Students after I had heard the enthusiastic account of a colleague who had just returned from the past event in Paris.

In my PhD dissertation I intend to prove how the anthropomorphism of foods in premodern Japanese literature was a device used not only to entertain readers, but also to convey different types of knowledge and ideas in a more humorous way. I also aim to highlight how the relationship established by these texts not only with food itself, but also with contemporaneous literary genres (especially with epic war tales) changed significantly through the centuries. All the scholars who commented on my project (and, in particular, my advisor Dr Rajyashree Pandey and Prof Rein Raud) provided me with invaluable critical feedback on the tentative framework of my dissertation and gave me further suggestions on how to improve it.

Despite the intense and intellectually compelling program, the atmosphere was one of relaxed conviviality, where everyone felt free



to share opinions and snippets of knowledge. And as often happens when scholars in different fields dialogue together, the discussions that followed the individual presentations provided us with unusual and challenging insights on our topics. The workshop was not only a good opportunity to take stock on our own ongoing work, to reflect upon it from different perspectives and to practise our presentation skills. It was also a unique chance to meet other students from around the world and enlarge our academic (and personal) network in a nicely informal environment. It was an overall great formative experience that I will undoubtedly recommend to my fellow colleagues.

*Elena Follador*  
*University of Cambridge, UK*

+++

What does it mean to think through “Japanese Studies”? This was one of the significant questions that the participation to the workshop, as a consequence, gave me the chance to reflect on.

I was initially both excited and daunted by the idea of discussing my research with the group of fellow Ph.D. researchers and senior scholars in the field; I neither have a background in Japanese Studies

or currently belong to Area Studies at my home institution. However, I quickly became fascinated by how the interdisciplinary nature of the workshop enabled us to have multi-layered discussions through the common intellectual and geographical framework of “Japan.” In other words, the diverse disciplinary perspectives of the participants and discussants shed lights on unexpected commonalities among us, gradually shaping what it might mean to think through “Japanese Studies” today.

Feedbacks from scholars and fellow students of the same discipline as myself, i.e., intellectual history, was also immensely valuable. Given the fact that their methodological and theoretical approaches to the subject were different from what I had been familiar with, I was able to re-assess my proposal from other perspectives I would have otherwise overlooked.

Apart from these invaluable academic insights, meeting and getting to know an international cohort of Ph.D. researchers and senior scholars of Japan was truly an indispensable experience. The relaxed, intimate, and isolated setting of the workshop at a former convent in the beautiful mountains of Arrábida certainly facilitated the friendly environment for both col-

laborative learning and pleasure day and night.

Such intellectual perceptions and friendships I have gained through the workshop have already left me with lasting impacts. One is that now I feel I am part of a supportive network of Japan scholars among the cohort of fellow Ph.D. students. Another is the wealth of relevant references I have been advised to look at by the senior scholars; they broadened the contexts in which I can be approaching my research now and in the future. I am deeply grateful to have been part of this precious opportunity.

*Eiko Honda*  
*University of Oxford, UK*

+++

I had the great pleasure of being selected to participate in the doctoral workshop in Lisbon, at the Arrábida convent 27-30th of August 2017. The program was very tightly packed, but as there were a certain number of papers to be discussed, and only two days for doing that, it could not be helped. The grouping of papers was well balanced to counteract the effects of their sheer number. There was a variety of subjects, but also topics that resonated with each other, so that a certain amount of recurring

notions, themes and methodological issues brought about the feeling of a shared set of problems which helped to deal with the wide variety of topics. The structure of the sessions and the amount of time given to a single paper was well-structured and allowed enough time to make sense of each topic. A lengthier presentation would risk not sticking to the essentials, and discussions might branch out too far from the feedback most necessary. As the days are as long as they are intense, I do not think one could not take in any more than two full days.

The surroundings, the convent and the staff were all superb. One really did not have to worry about provisions or anything except the papers. The feedback from the supervising senior academics was extremely helpful and the overall aftereffects of the workshop are those of renewed inspiration, insight and determination. I would like to thank all persons involved in making this possible.

*Aleksi Järvelä*  
*Helsinki University, Finland*

+++

I was delighted to have been selected to take part in the PhD workshop preceding the 15th EAJS Conference in Lisbon this year. It

was a positive and enriching moment for my research, as well as a valuable personal experience.

First, I am glad I had the chance to present my project to an audience of Japanese Studies specialists and get their helpful feedback. Especially as I am at an early stage of my research, the comments and suggestions from my advisor, Prof Zachmann, and from the other participants, will surely be beneficial to the development of my ideas. Beyond having the chance to discuss my research with the fellow PhD students, I could also broaden my knowledge of Japanese Studies, enjoying the presentations and the papers of my colleagues. Finally, looking at the work in progress of second and third year PhD students provided a good occasion to self-evaluate the progress and timing of my own thesis. The informal setting and relaxed atmosphere of the workshop were great for discussing our works, networking and socialising in a constructive and encouraging environment.

I definitely recommend this experience to other PhD students from any area in Japanese Studies, and at any stage of their research. In this spirit, I would like to thank the organisers, the advisors' committee, and the Toshiba International Foundation, which made this event possible. I would also like to ex-

press gratitude to the EAJS Office staff that managed all our applications and inquiries, and the personnel at the Convento da Arrábida that made us feel most welcome at the enchanting location of the Arrábida Natural Park.

*Thea Karagiolidis  
Durham University, UK*

+++

The 13th EAJS Workshop for Doctoral Students coincided with the scheduled completion of a 12-month period of fieldwork that I was undertaking in Japan. The workshop provided me with an excellent opportunity to reflect on my experience in the field, test my ideas and receive feedback from senior scholars and peers on the preliminary findings and analysis of the data collected during fieldwork. It allowed me to test the provisional structure and emerging argument of my thesis, as well as to identify the strengths and weaknesses of my argument in preparation for the post-fieldwork process of writing.

Furthermore, the event served as an excellent networking opportunity to connect with fellow PhD researchers and gain an insight into the range of methodologies and topics emerging in the field of Japan-related research. Engaging

with the peers and senior scholars representing a range of disciplinary perspectives challenged me to consider my research project from alternative angles, whilst their questions and curiosity proved both encouraging and enriching. At the same time, learning about new topics and modes of inquiry used in linguistics, philosophy, literary studies, law and history among others, was both grounding and illuminating.

The friendly and informal atmosphere of the workshop, coupled with beautiful scenery surrounding the monastery where we stayed, allowed for intellectual exchange, not only during the sessions, but also in informal conversations outside of them. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the funders and organisers for this opportunity; and to the supervisors (Prof Verena Blechinger-Talcott, Prof emer Joy Hendry, Dr Rajyashree Pandey, Prof Rain Raud, and Prof Urs Matthias Zachmann) and to all the participants for this extremely enjoyable and enlightening intellectual gathering. I hope that the friendships and connections made at the workshop will continue in our professional careers and future personal endeavours.

*Paulina Kolata*  
*The University of Manchester, UK*

+++

I was very happy for having been accepted to participate in the 13th EAJS PhD Workshop. The workshop was very productive for the following two reasons. First, it was a great opportunity for me to interact and network with other Japanese Studies scholars in Europe, and not just in the UK. I was very pleased to meet leading professors in the field and immerse myself in a network of young scholars. Especially because very few PhD students in my department pay attention to Japanese politics, this workshop helped me develop my network within the field of Japanese studies. Second, I appreciated the very productive feedback from the senior advisors on the matter of my theoretical framework. It was very challenging, but at the same time a great opportunity to assess my arguments and theoretical framework based on their comments.

The themes of the presentations were, however, a bit too broad for me. It was a great opportunity to listen to other young researchers' work in different subjects such as literature and history, but I wish I could meet more researchers from political science, economics and international relations. As a suggestion for any future workshops,

it would be more fruitful if sub-sessions can be set up depending on research field. Such a structure could provide more in-depth conversations among peers who share the similar academic interests.

*Kimiko Kuga*  
*University of Oxford, UK*

+++

I am happy to report that the EAJS Workshop was a rewarding and inspiring experience, on every possible level. I will highlight what made it so precious to me, and try to add some constructive observations.

Logistics (pickup, transportation, location, food and drinks) were flawless. I would only have wished for a slightly looser schedule to enjoy the place a little longer, and to have more time for freeform conversation with the participants.

I found the feedback from the advisors extremely helpful, and the intellectual and personal bonding with fellow PhD students very meaningful – academically, but also in a personal sense: I dare say that everyone of us came back from the workshop with a renewed enthusiasm and sense of academic community.

Spreading 20 presentations on two

days, with 40 minutes for each presentation and ensuing discussion, was, however, physically taxing. Everybody was very attentive and engaged to the very end, but also tired. Also, while the discussion of the projects was the core of the experience, and very precious to me, I wonder if by cutting a few minutes of every presentation, or making the projects circulate in written form and be directly discussed, could have left a free afternoon for group activities, focus groups, a round-table-style discussion of common topics. On the same note, given the sheer brilliance of the participants, even some group assignment before or during the workshop would have been a very enriching experience, at least for me personally.

I can also stress that the main EAJS conference became much more rewarding through the participation in the prior workshop, since our attendance was already that of a group – so that we could share notes of parallel panels, suggest to each other relevant speakers, and introduce to other people our own academic contacts. There remained an extremely positive spirit.

*Lorenzo Marinucci*  
*University of Rome Tor Vergata,*  
*Italy*

+++

I had the privilege to be chosen as one of the participants of the 13th EAJS PhD Workshop right at the end of my first year of PhD research. The site of the Workshop – the Convento da Arrábida outside of Lisbon, Portugal – was phenomenal, the ambience and the food were excellent, and both the participants and our senior academic supervisors were open and extremely generous with their observations.

My research topic is Edo Period Japanese Confucianism through the lens of comparative philosophy. The workshop allowed me to present my work and receive valuable feedback at a time when I had just hit a rough patch in my research and was beginning to doubt the direction in which I was headed. The academic supervisors' and other participants' favourable comments helped me stop overthinking things and get back on track. I found it of great value to be able to present my work to researchers from different fields and I believe the multi-disciplinary approach is one of the great strengths of the workshop. As intense as the workshop was, I feel it could even have been a day longer.

This workshop was an important experience for me. It provided me with an opportunity to rethink my approach and to find ways to im-

prove my work. It also helped me build new contacts with future colleagues. I would like to express my gratitude to the Toshiba International Foundation, the EAJS, our senior academic supervisors, all other participants and anyone else, who made it all possible.

*Marko Ogrizek*  
*University of Ljubljana, Slovenia*

+++

*“Happy the dwellers in this holy  
house;  
For surely never worldly thoughts  
intrude  
On this retreat, this sacred solitude  
[...]”*

Even though Robert Southey's words might be over 220 years old, the accuracy of his description still matches my feelings as I attended the 13th EAJS Workshop for Doctoral Students at the Convento da Arrábida in Portugal.

Worldly thoughts of the participants were lost on the way to the retreat, just as the bus driver lost his way on unpaved roads in the midst of olive groves. Hence, the workshop was all about carefree academic discussions, vivid exchanges of ideas and open-minded communication, surrounded by mountains, cliffs and wilderness, overlooking

the Atlantic Ocean. From the first words at dawn, mumbled over a cup of coffee, throughout rich panels of presentations, to the last spirited argumentations long after midnight, the senior advisors Rein Raud, Verena Blechinger-Talcott, Joy Hendry, Rajashree Pandey and Urs Matthias Zachmann endeavoured to provide feedback, critique and help to us doctoral candidates. Furthermore, the discussions with fellow students were also enlightening and inspiring moments, strengthening ties for future networks and academic collaborations.

Finally, I would like to thank the participants and advisors for four days of intensive cogitation on various aspects of Japanese studies in a friendly, supportive environment, far from the hostile commodified academic institutions of our days. But maybe, even in the former days of Robert Southey, Convento da Arrábida was a rare example of a carefree place:

*“[...] To have no cares that eat the heart,  
no wants that to the earth chain  
the reluctant spirit,  
to be freed from forced communion  
with the selfish tribe who worship  
Mammon”*

*Florian Purkarthofer*

*University of Vienna, Austria*

+++

First of all, I would like to express my deepest gratitude for having been selected to present my dissertation as a work in progress at the 13th EAJS PhD workshop in Lisbon. It was an engaging and thoroughly exciting experience, which helped me develop my research further and allowed me to interact with other PhD students in a highly stimulating multidisciplinary environment.

This workshop gave me the opportunity to discuss my research with scholars from different fields and participants at different stages in their career. Before attending the workshop, I spent one year doing fieldwork in Japan where I mainly focused on philological and textual analysis of primary sources. Thus, I was hoping to receive feedback about the structure of my dissertation and the theoretical framework in order to broaden my research focus. For this reason, I really enjoyed presenting my work within an intimate and supportive environment. All the comments and suggestions by the expert scholars and other participants from different research areas helped me think about my research in a new and fresh perspective. I also found

the discussions that followed each presentation very fruitful, since the comments addressed to other presenters helped me identify similar issues in my own project. I particularly appreciated the multidisciplinary character of the workshop, as it allowed me to get an overview of the current state of research in the Japanese Studies field from the next generation of researchers.

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to my supervisor, Prof Rein Raud, for the invaluable feedback I received on my PhD project and to all the advisers who shared their experience and knowledge. Lastly, I would like to extend my sincerest thanks to the Toshiba International Foundation and the Japan Foundation for making this workshop possible and fostering intellectual exchange at different academic levels

*Marta Sanvido*  
*Ca'Foscari University of Venice,*  
*Italy*

+++

I would like to express my gratitude for having been able to attend the 13th EAJS Workshop for Doctoral Students 2017 at the wonderful Arábida Monastery in Portugal. At the time I was in the starting phase of writing my thesis, in which I aim to delineate the formative phase of

the New Religion Tenrikyō in the Meiji period until its official recognition in 1908, amidst ongoing negotiation of the concepts 'religion' and 'superstition'.

At that point in time, my life was governed by two big questions: "Can I pull my thesis off well?" and "What's next?" While I have had the opportunities to study in Japan and to reach out to Japanese scholars, this had largely prevented me from attending European forums of scholarly exchange. Being chosen for the workshop in itself gave me a lot of much needed encouragement for my project. Furthermore, the workshop, its organizers and participants receive my full appreciation and gratitude for the following two reasons.

First, it truly is a rare forum, where younger and senior scholars get together for a meaningful exchange. It was not only an opportunity to obtain in-depth comments on one's research by scholars, who had read the full report and had prepared immensely to give each participant useful commentary. It also showed the full potential of the (oftentimes questioned usefulness of the) humanities, proving how a scholar can apply their specialised knowledge to many different topics, and how viewpoints differ based on the discipline one is most accustomed



to. Even more so, advisors and students alike used all of the time at the marvellous monastery, from breakfast until way after midnight, to discuss virtually anything and everything. I would like to mention especially Prof Rein Raud for his exceptionally warm and welcoming ways, which played a huge part in creating an open atmosphere of free exchange.

The second unique opportunity the EAJS workshop offered was the possibility to connect with other PhD students over a time of two days, which not only gave room for much needed bickering about the difficulties of being a PhD student and our future prospects, but also broadened my horizon concerning different institutional realities, workshop opportunities, work experiences and personal motivations. I look forward to seeing everybody again sometime somewhere, even though we can hardly hope to get such highly delicious food as we had at Arrábida!

*Franziska Steffen  
Martin-Luther University Halle-  
Wittenberg, Germany*

+++

I am really grateful for having been accepted as a participant for the 13th EAJS Workshop for Doctoral

Students. As a DPhil student entering the final writing-up stage of my doctoral degree, I cannot thank the EAJS and the Toshiba International Foundation enough for such a valuable opportunity to receive critical feedback on my work, and to understand specifics of current academic discourse in Japanese Studies in Europe through communication with academics and other postgraduate participants.

My research on perception and expression of time and space concepts in modern Japanese is primarily focused on analysis of experimental data, which I obtained through three sets of surveys with Japanese native speaking participants: a free word association experiment and two spontaneous speech experiments: one on spatial description strategies and one on temporal description strategies. The feedback received from the senior academics and discussion of my presentation during the workshop was particularly helpful in identifying problems and gaps of my approach to the language material, analysis and presentation of the research findings. I really appreciated all questions and advice from both senior academics and other doctoral students.

The EAJS Workshop for Doctoral Students was also a wonderful chance for me to meet other doc-

toral students involved in a variety of fields of Japanese Studies. The diversity of the topics presented and discussed during the workshop gave me a unique opportunity to learn about different and unfamiliar approaches and methods in a friendly atmosphere.

I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to the organizers of the workshop for choosing a venue surrounded by the breath-taking views of the Nature Park of Arrábida

*Maria Telegina*  
*University of Oxford, UK*

+++

I am very grateful to have been accepted to participate in the 13th EAJS PhD Workshop that was held at the Convento da Arrábida in Portugal. Overall, it was a unique opportunity to reflect on and further develop my research, and to interact with senior scholars and PhD candidates from in and outside of Europe.

As a first year PhD student, it was my first ever opportunity to present my research outside of my home university. Although my progress is limited, I was optimistic to partake in this interdisciplinary workshop. When listening to other PhD stu-

dents present their research that already had a definite form and advanced progress, at first I sort of lost confidence in my project. However, the informal context of the workshop, which promoted a friendly atmosphere, and the comments that resulted from it, restored my confidence and prompted me to look at my project from a different perspective and to think outside of the box.

This informal atmosphere resulted in comments and discussions that did not criticize one's project, but helped you realize which parts you can still improve. This alongside the pleasant and inspiring talks during breakfast, lunch, dinner and coffee breaks, this workshop was the perfect opportunity for reflection and intellectual exchange. The location of the workshop was breath taking and provided the ideal scenery to network and interact with professors and fellow graduate students. Listening to their experiences as PhD students – the ups and downs – also encouraged me not to lose faith in my ongoing research project.

I want to extend my deepest gratitude to the EAJS and to Prof Zachmann, for the instructive feedback that I received on my PhD project. Finally, my gratitude also goes to the Toshiba International Founda-

tion, the Japan Foundation and to the participating members who introduced me to new perspectives and research fields that I was previously unfamiliar with. Therefore, I strongly recommend the EAJS PhD workshop to all PhD students in Japanese Studies, no matter in which field or year they are.

*Freya Terryn  
KU Leuven, Belgium*

+++

Even though I have received feedback for my project from my supervisor and other assessors during the last two years, this was the first time I had the chance to present my work to a group of people working specifically in the field of Japanese Studies. It was extremely stimulating to be able to discuss my dissertation with scholars at such varied levels in their academic careers and with such varied interests and backgrounds. I feel like I got valuable criticisms and encouragement on equal measure, both after my presentation and, more informally, during the lunches and dinners we all shared.

The other sessions were equally informative; having the opportunity to learn about projects so different from my own in their stages of inception, and seeing the way

in which they were commented on and judged, allowed me to derive practical insights on academic production. At the same time, it was particularly pleasant for me to be able to meet with other Ph.D. students working in some capacity on medieval Japan, which is not a widely popular subject in my home institution. I trust this workshop will prove not only useful for the development of my thesis throughout the next year, but also in the long run, as it has opened possibilities of academic collaboration, and widened my intellectual and personal network.

I would like to thank both the organizers and the participants for a very enriching experience, as well as the staff at the Convento da Arrábida, who made sure our stay was memorable in the best possible way.

*Iris Tomé Valencia  
University of Oxford, UK*

+++

Thanks to the European Association for Japanese Studies and its generous sponsors, I was able to participate in the 13th EAJS Workshop for Doctoral Students. I feel extremely grateful to the organisers of this event, the committee who selected my paper and to the other

participants for their enthusiasm, friendship, and support. My dissertation will benefit greatly from the thoughtful comments and the lively debates we had during these three memorable days.

This workshop was the first opportunity to present the current state of my research in English and it put me in the position to rethink my Ph.D. project as a whole by giving it a systematic and palatable structure. I spent my second year as a visiting student in Japan, where I focused on very specific case studies from a more 'textual' point of view. In the meantime, the interdisciplinary character of this event forced me to balance such a narrow philological approach with broader methodological issues in order to render my work intelligible to a wider audience. In this sense, I believe it constituted an invaluable chance not only to improve form and contents of my on-going research but also to enhance my self-confidence in public speaking.

I would like to express here my deepest gratitude to Dr Rein Raud and Dr Rajyashree Pandey for their wise advice and encouragement. Other supervisors had to leave the venue right before my session, but we enjoyed informal interaction and fruitful discussion during the coffee breaks, at lunch and in the

evenings. Finally yet importantly, I was delighted to meet brilliant colleagues from all over the world and enjoy together the amazing atmosphere, food, and location of Arrábida monastery. I truly hope that our paths will cross again someday in the future.

*Pier Carlo Tommasi  
Ca' Foscari University of Venice,  
Italy*

+++

The 13th EAJS PhD Workshop was a pleasant yet intense four days of presentations and discussions, meeting fascinating people and enjoying the peace and quiet of a remote convent overlooking the beautiful Portuguese mountains and ocean.

To start, I very much appreciated the friendly atmosphere between students and professors, which allowed for stress-free and honest conversations. In different places, the customs regulating student-professor relationships demand different attitudes. The care and effort to integrate PhD students in academia by EAJS and this workshop is most remarkable and I cannot stress enough how valuable it has been to me. The thorough feedback after the presentations, the sharing of personal experienc-

es, insights and tips, the informal chats all made it possible to gather a wealth of information otherwise hard to get by.

Since I am based at a Japanese university, the workshop was a great opportunity to find out what Japan-related research is currently being done in Europe. I was surprised to see a large number of projects focusing on pre-modern literature, religion and philosophy. It was stimulating and most insightful to learn about the various methodologies and sources employed by colleagues in different fields from my own. In addition, I was encouraged to place my own research in a larger, international context, which has provided me with a new impetus to develop my study.

Attending the workshop, in combination with presenting at the 15th EAJS International Conference itself, resulted in an intense week that offered me the critical feedback, intellectual stimuli and a new network that I needed to improve and expand my research. I would like to extend my thanks to all workshop participants, the EAJS and the Toshiba International Foundation for making this unique event possible.

*Pieter Van Lommel  
Tsukuba University, Japan*

+++

From the 27th to the 30th of August, I had the privilege and pleasure of participating in the EAJS Ph.D. workshop in Portugal. It was held at the Arrábida Monastery, about a two-hour drive by bus from Lisbon, and it was a truly inspiring setting for me on a personal level, as my own research project is centred on religion and cultural heritage.

The workshop itself was incredibly useful to me in a number of ways. It was humbling to receive such insightful and constructive feedback from the fellow participants and Joy Hendry, my discussant for the workshop. Joy, who was incredibly kind and engaging, took the time to talk to me about my project at length even outside of the workshop hours. My fellow participants and I also had plenty of chances over meals and in the evenings to discuss our research with one another in more detail. It was a truly enlightening experience overall and an invaluable opportunity to meet other young scholars in the field of Japanese Studies. This last point was of particular importance to me, as I am currently the only Ph.D. in Japanese Studies at my department; a fact that occasionally makes my work a relatively lonely endeavour. The most precious part of the EAJS workshop experience

for myself, therefore, was the ability to make friends and useful contacts among my fellow peers.

The two full days on the 28th and 29th were, in truth, very long with a lot of information to absorb in such a short amount of time. However, it was well worth the long days and the beautiful meals we were served certainly helped us cope! My only regret is that we did not have more time to enjoy the beautiful surroundings.

*Morgaine Theresa Wood  
University of Oslo, Norway*

+++

This year's EAJS PhD Workshop was a melting pot of different people with a common affection for studying aspects of Japan. We were located in the most amazing surroundings, up in the mountains outside of Lisbon, and the short few days helped to form bonds between us that allowed us to discuss everyone's topics more frankly and constructively.

The opportunity to present my work to other scholars of different fields was both a daunting process and a positive one. It allowed me to think about my project and how I wanted to convey the ideas contained in it to other people. Receiving feed-

back from senior academics was also a great factor. Their experience allowed them to offer feedback from alternative angles. In my case, I felt that this was helpful in really focusing me on what was important to my project, as well as reassuring me that I was confident enough in my knowledge to explain my rationale and findings.

In some ways, though, the most rewarding aspect of the time in Lisbon was outside of the presentation room. Although we all had our chances to speak there, time was often limited because of the number of people participating. In many cases the most productive and interesting discussions transpired naturally between people in the breaks, especially at lunchtime and over dinner. Several of these conversations revealed common themes and ideas between diverse fields that maybe I would not have thought about before. It also inspired those of us who study pre-Edo Japan to think about how to better approach representing this area of study in the wider European picture. I would like to thank the EAJS for offering me the opportunity to participate in this great experience.

*Elesabeth Woolley  
School of Oriental and African  
Studies, UK*

## Toshiba International Foundation Fellowships Reports by the 2016/17 TIFO Fellows

**Report by Kristýna Vojtisková,  
Charles University**

### **Time, Space, and Ethics in Watsuji Tetsurō's Thought**

*My research project*

The dissertation project is mainly focused on a critical evaluation of Watsuji Tetsurō's (1889-1960) moral philosophy. This work is based on a qualitative textual analysis of philosophical treatises *Climate (Fūdo)* and *Ethics (Rinrigaku)*. In these major studies, Watsuji conceived an original ethical system which drew on Asian schools of thoughts and Western philosophy. The dissertation is divided into three major parts.

(1) The first chapters discuss the sources of intellectual influences which considerably contributed to an articulation of Watsuji's ethical system (i.e. Heidegger, Nishida, Mahāyāna Buddhism). In part one, my aim is to untangle an intricate background of Watsuji's philosophy in order to read his thoughts through the lens of these influences, which disclose the limits and possibilities of his systematic ethics.

(2) The second part of the dissertation is dedicated to Watsuji's ethical perspective on space-time. The very basis of my interpretation lies in a description of his transition from climatic space to "betweenness" (*aidagara*) as the essence of social being in Ethics on one hand, and transition from time as a climatic feature to a subjective time of human being as explained in Ethics. The aim of the second part is to define and examine Watsuji's systematic ethics based on the notion of emptiness as a dynamic unity of individuality and totality as well as subject and object.

(3) The third major part re-evaluates Watsuji's ethical thought in order to demonstrate its applicability in disciplines such as phenomenology of natural science, environmental ethics or social psychology. Principally, I focus on the relationship between the individual, society, as well as the natural environment. In this part, I attempt to examine the extent to which Watsuji's ethical system contributes to contemporary discourses in the global society as well as the potential for future research.

### *Stay in Japan*

I arrived in Tōkyō on the 17th of December 2016. Unfortunately, my two-month stay in Japan was overshadowed by a severe illness. Right on Monday 19th, I was invited to the Tōshiba headquarters in Hamamatsu-chō to meet the representatives of the Toshiba International Foundation, TIFO President Ōmori Keisuke, and Ms. Kuwayama Mariko. My initial plan back then was to attend the meeting and head for Ōsaka immediately to start my research activities. However, right after my arrival in Tokyo, unfortunately I fell ill with acute tonsillitis. Regrettably, on my third day in Japan I collapsed due to high fever and had to be hospitalized for a short time. In hospital, I was prescribed antibiotics. Adding to my bad luck, after an initial improvement of my health, I suffered an illness relapse shortly after my arrival in Ōsaka. Overall it took almost a month to fully recover from the illness. I should mention here that during this whole period Tōshiba International Foundation's Senior Program Officer Ms. Kuwayama stayed in touch with me, helped me with gathering materials needed to get reimbursement for medical treatment from my insurance company and even translated a medical report to English for me so that I did not have to worry about arrang-

ing officially verified translation.

After the difficult beginnings, almost in mid-January, I was finally able to pursue my research. The range of research activities I could do during the illness period was limited to reading books, articles, and notes I gathered at conferences I participated in the previous year. Therefore, as soon as I was done with materials I had at my disposal, I ordered plenty of books from Book-offs, which turned out to be a treasure chest of works on Watsuji. In mid-January, I started researching in Ōsaka University libraries, focusing myself entirely on the structure and content of my dissertation thesis.

At first, I did not perceive any problems considering my dissertation's basic assumptions, as I had formulated them before my stay in Japan. However, the more I was immersed in my resources, the more I was aware of a need to re-evaluate my approach to Watsuji's notion of space-time and go back to the very roots of Watsuji's existential spatio-temporality Fūdo. Watsuji criticizes Heidegger for not conceiving a persuasive analysis of human spatiality. Watsuji's perspective on existential spatiality, which was developed from this critique, was based on an assumption of a subjective approach to space-time. For



Watsuji, space-time is a structure of human being that does not serve as a passive framework for being in the world.

I was struggling with Watsuji's holistic assumptions on space-time manifested in concrete human being, because I understood that I naturally tend to separate time, space, and human being, and view them as a "stage" and a "performer". In addition, I underestimated the importance of Watsuji's critique of Heidegger for my understanding of his concept of *aidagara* and *fūdo*.

However, when I was almost on the brink of giving up, a groundbreaking recognition occurred to me. It was at the beginning of February when I visited Saihōji (Kokedera) in Kyōto. As a part of the Saihōji experience, I attended *sūtra* chanting. As I and other visitors were chanting the Heart Sūtra (*Maka hannya haramita shingyō*), I felt an urgent feeling of finding myself not in space-time itself, but more in place and history, in *fūdo*, both shaping it and being shaped by it. Later I realized that what I was experiencing there was, in Watsujian sense, me contextualizing myself in the transient relational structure of existential space-time which interactively operated in the subjective, concrete, everyday being.

Encouraged by this occurrence, I returned back to the beginning of my research, went through everything I had written on Watsujian space-time and emptiness so far. Ultimately, I realized that precisely because I am immersed in *aidagara* and *fūdo*, I am able to objectify it as a background of my being in common understanding, to distinguish time and history, space and place, and ask myself questions such as "how I dwell?" Right there, clearly, *aidagara*, *fūdo*, and emptiness showed its substantiality in everyday life. To put it simply, we are born into the world already immersed in the relational network of *aidagara* as an existential limit. Therefore, we are *aidagara*-making entities, we cannot help but perform our being as such because we are never divorced from the shared world that we were born into. To sum this up, *aidagara* correlates and unifies subject and object. Such a process precedes every human behaviour and no subsequent division of subject and object in objective cognition would be possible without it. In this sense, ethics appears to be *fūdo*-transforming mutual interaction of dualistic subjects within *aidagara* as a structure of human being manifested in specific social structures and human behavior.

In the light of the above-mentioned recognition, during the second month of my research in Japan, I tried to look at the second part of my dissertation from a different perspective. I found out that the whole time I was dealing with Watsuji, the actual problem of spatial and temporal emplacement of ethics appeared to be only ontological. The whole time I spent on Watsuji I did not see what was right before my very eyes. Naturally, this will have a considerable impact not only on part two and three of my dissertation but also on its entire structure. I hope that following this direction will throw a new light on sub-chapters of my work I was not satisfied with so far.

On the 18th of February, I returned to Tōkyō. My second meeting with Tōshiba International Foundation representatives was scheduled for Monday 20th. Ms. Kuwayama suggested an informal lunch. Over a bowl of delicious kani chāhan, we discussed my experience in Japan in a friendly atmosphere of a restaurant in Hamamatsu-chō. After the lunch, Ms. Kuwayama gave me a three-volume manga series *Kono Sekai no Katasumi ni*, which I perceive as a token of Ms. Kuwayama's warm-heartedness and kindness and I am deeply thankful for this beautiful present.

I departed from Narita next day, on the 21st of February with my luggage stuffed with books, and my head stuffed with impressions and good memories. Although, for the sake of a prolonged disease, I did not manage to achieve everything I had initially planned, the overall experience of my stay in Japan was very important for me on many levels. First of all, I managed to go through most of the important materials I needed to scrutinize for my research, which would be impossible with my busy schedule here in Prague. Second, I was given the privilege to focus almost entirely on the structure and content of my dissertation, and to take a more detached view. Third, being continuously exposed to the Japanese environment on a daily basis, many times I found myself realizing that what I observed here was to a certain extent what I had read in Watsuji's works before. Such a recognition cast a new and fresh light on my general insight into the entire problem of ethics and space-time and hopefully provided me with an ability to see different angles of my research topic.

#### *Acknowledgement*

First of all, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Tōshiba International Foundation for giving me the opportunity to accom-

plish my research in Japan and for the generous funding I obtained. In particular, I would like to thank Tōshiba International Foundation's President Ōmori Keisuke, and Ms. Kuwayama Mariko, for supporting me from the tough beginnings in Tōkyō during the whole period of my study stay. I would especially like to thank Ms. Kuwayama for her friendly and compassionate attitude and for lending me a helping hand when I needed it most. Ms. Kuwayama has kept in touch even after my return to the Czech Republic, and I hope we will have another chance to meet, either in Japan or in Europe. I am also grateful to the European Association for Japanese Studies for supporting my application for the Toshiba International Foundation Scholarship and smooth communication regarding formal requirements before, during and after my stay. Last but not least, I am thankful to my supervisor doc. Ing. Jan Sýkora, M.A., Ph.D. for encouraging me to apply for the Tōshiba International Foundation Fellowship.

## **Report by Lewis Bremner, University of Oxford**

### **Magic Lanterns in Japan: The Making of a Public Communication Technology, from the Late Eighteenth to the Early Twentieth Century**

#### *Project Outline*

My research looks at the history of the magic lantern in Japan, examining its development as a public communication technology from the late eighteenth to the early twentieth century. In plain technical terms, the magic lantern is a relatively simple apparatus which enables pictures to be projected from glass slides onto a screen using a boxed light source, a mirror, and carefully aligned lenses. Yet, what it made possible for the Japanese of this period was the creation of unique enclosed worlds in which the attention of large audiences could be focused on particular messages, ideas, and images. This is a topic which has received very little attention from historians, partly because there has been a tendency to view the magic lantern as merely one minor artefact amongst a deluge of Western commodities flowing into Japan during this period. However, my research argues not only that the usage of the magic lantern had an especially signifi-

cant social and cultural impact in Japan, but also that the scope and manner of this impact was chiefly determined by the Japanese themselves.

In comparative research prior to my trip to Japan, I explored the history of magic lanterns in other Asian countries, and found none which developed or utilised the technology to anywhere near the same extent that the Japanese did in the nineteenth century. The device was not recorded in China until the mid-1890s, for example, nor did it reach Korea, Malaysia, or Taiwan until the same decade. In most countries that I looked at, the period between the introduction of the magic lantern and the establishment of cinema was so brief that the former technology barely made a mark. Moreover, there are extremely few examples of magic lantern production or usage among local populations. Instead, it was often Western missionaries, or occasionally, in the cases of Taiwan and Korea, Japanese colonialists who imported and utilised the device. The only instance of a local population using and innovating with magic lantern technology in this period on a level even slightly comparable with Japan was in India, where a form of magic lantern show known as *shambarik kharolika* gained considerable and lasting popularity be-

ginning in the 1890s. Yet, the first appearance of the device in India was around 1880, a full century after the Japanese began using it.

To explain why the history of the magic lantern in Japan is so much more extensive and varied than elsewhere in Asia, a fundamental shift in approach is necessary. Rather than viewing the magic lantern as simply another instance of Western influence on Japan, my research looks at the influence of Japan on the magic lantern. Why did certain people in Japan want to obtain the device, who were those people, and what were their aims for its application? What were the factors within Japanese society which brought about its early introduction into the country, and which facilitated or shaped its subsequent development in the country?

#### *Archival Research*

I wrote in the original project outline which I submitted to the EAJS that I was interested in the ways in which the spectacle of magic lantern shows was “underpinned by innovations made by Japanese manufacturers [and] exploited by Japanese educators, entertainers, religious groups, politicians, labour activists, and many others.” My time in the archives here in Japan has predominantly been spent try-

ing to uncover new information about these overlooked Japanese men and women, to understand first of all their motivations for using the magic lantern, and secondly how those motivations might be connected both to changes in the technology over time and to the impact that it had on audiences and society at large. Some of the most substantial written sources which I have collected or consulted so far include:

- The papers of Tejima Seiichi, a government official in the Meiji era who was not only a prominent advocate of the utilisation of the magic lantern for educational purposes, but also responsible for introducing to Japan in the mid-1870s a model which could show photographic slides. (Earlier models could show only painted or engraved slides.)
- The published books of Kitensai Shōichi, a showman and magician who was one of the earliest popular adopters of the new model of magic lantern introduced by Tejima Seiichi. Alongside Kitensai's own writings, newspapers sources have also helped me to flesh out the details of this little-known performer's involvement with the magic lantern. His well-attended events, which he staged across Japan, could last up to seven hours, and involved not only spectral illusions and conjur-

ing tricks using the magic lantern, but also what were described as "civilisation spectacles" – parts of the show in which illustrative slides were used to convey to the audience the progress being made across Japan in disease prevention, political reform, urban planning, and so forth.

- Narration booklets and related materials from some of the most widely seen magic lanterns campaigns of the Meiji era. Many of these campaigns were organised and run by state officials, and comprised of instructive lessons on matters such as hygiene, morals, or developments in agriculture and technology. In addition, though, I have also been able to study a significant number of sources from campaigns which were directed by private organisations or individuals, particularly those which used magic lantern events to raise funds for the victims of natural disasters or for war relief during the Sino-Japanese and Russo-Japanese Wars.
- The public and private writings of Ishiguro Tadanori, the Surgeon General of the Japanese Army, whose nationwide promotional magic lantern tour in the early 1890s was a major factor in the growth of the Japanese Red Cross Society. The surviving material from this campaign includes not

only narration booklets and scripts but also replicas the original magic lantern slides.

- The works of Nagaoka Tsuruzō, a socialist and union organiser who in 1903, influenced by other left-wing activists such as Katayama Sen and Nishikawa Mitsujirō, began the magic lantern to communicate his ideas to largely illiterate audiences of labourers. Until 1907, he was chiefly based at the Ashio Copper Mine. The magic lantern lectures which he presented during this time, despite often taking place within the limited confines of the mineworker's dormitories, attracted huge crowds and may have contributed significantly the growth of the labour movement at Ashio.

- Magic lantern manuals and handbooks published by Toraku Ikeda, a notable producer of magic lanterns and magic lantern slides in the nineteenth and early twentieth century. Toraku's business was started by his father, Toraku Miyakoya, who first began manufacturing magic lanterns in 1804, making it almost certainly the longest continuous producer of magic lanterns in Japan.

As well as the sources listed above, there are three other groups of material which have been a significant part of my research in Japan.

1) I have sought out the very earliest references to the device in Japan across a wide range of written sources, most of which were accessed in the National Diet Library either as physical resources or on microfilm. These include local guidebooks, such as Hamamatsu Utakuni's *Settsuyō kikan* ("Wonders of Settsu Province"); foreign-word dictionaries such as Morishima Chūryō's *Bango-sen* ("Language of the Barbarians"); books of magic tricks, such as Hirase Tessai's *Tengutsū* ("The Goblin's Nose"); satirical social commentaries such as Jippen-sha Ikku's *Oranda kage-e otsuriki* ("Dutch Shadow Pictures: What Fun!") and Koikawa Harumachi's *Muda iki* ("Useless Records"); and studies of Western culture such as Sugita Genpaku's *Rangaku kotohajime* ("The Beginnings of Dutch Studies") and Ōtsuki Gentaku's *Ransetsu benwaku* ("Misunderstandings About The Dutch").

2) The main sources which I have turned to for descriptions of audience experiences at magic lantern shows have been contemporary newspapers and magazines. In addition, though, many writers who grew up in the Meiji era, such as Terada Torahiko, Kimura Shōshū, and Oka Onitarō, would later recall their childhood experiences of

attending magic lanterns shows, depicting an atmosphere of excitement, surprise, and sensorial immersion among the often-enormous gatherings at these events.

3) Finally, I have also located, viewed, and copied sets of the magic lantern slides themselves. Waseda University's Tsubouchi Memorial Theatre Museum has perhaps the largest collections of Japanese glass slides, numbering over 3,000, as well as a collection of magic lantern projectors. Elsewhere, I have also managed to view physical slides from the Tokugawa and Meiji eras in the collections of the Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography and the National Museum of Science and Nature. I had originally planned a trip to the Hyogo Prefectural Museum of History in Kobe, but was able to secure digital copies of the slides which I had hoped to view, and so was able to instead spend that time fruitfully in Tokyo. This change in schedule also allowed me the time to make a quick visit in early March to the Yokohama Archives of History, which also has a small collection of magic lantern slides from the Meiji period, most of them intended as souvenirs for foreign visitors and tourists.

The amount of transcribed, copied, photographed, and scanned material which I have accumulated is

already considerable, with much more to be added to the pile over my remaining weeks in Japan. This is, therefore, only the beginning of a long process of translation, analysis, and writing-up, and as a result I am hesitant to pronounce any firm findings or conclusions at this stage. Nonetheless, I can say that these few months have been more productive and rewarding than I could have hoped, not least because of the kindness and gracious assistance which I have encountered so often during my visit.

#### *Acknowledgements*

My profound gratitude goes to the Toshiba International Foundation for their generosity in making this research possible. In particular, I would like to thank Ms. Kuwayama Mariko and Mr. Ōmori Keisuke for welcoming me to Japan and for their support throughout my time here. Ms. Kuwayama was able to arrange a visit to the Toshiba Science Museum, and I extend my thanks to its Deputy General Manager, Mr. Taniguchi Toshiyuki, for a wonderful tour.

At the European Association for Japanese Studies, my deepest thanks go to Mr. Tim Herbort, who first gave me information and guidance on the TIFO Fellowship when I contacted him way back in the

spring of 2015, and to his successor Lorenz Denninger, as well as to Professor Verena Blechinger-Talcott. Their tremendous support at every stage has been invaluable. I would also like to express my gratefulness to Professor Shitaro Shinichi at Meiji University and to his wife Chizuko for their generous welcome and abundance of friendly advice while I have been in Tokyo. Lastly, I must extend my appreciation to my supervisor, Professor Sho Konishi, for his patience and constant support.

### **Report by Sigfrid Östberg, University of Oxford**

#### **Diplomatic praxis and culture in Japanese–Korean relations, 1811–1876**

My current thesis project is concerned with diplomatic praxis and diplomatic culture in nineteenth-century Japanese–Korean relations. I aim to trace both continuities and changes in the relations between the two countries from the perspective of diplomats engaged in direct negotiations on the frontier. By moving the focus from the capitals and centres, I hope to enrich the common narrative that emphasises decline in the first half of the century, instead framing it as a period of innovative reconfiguration, thus shedding light on the options available and the many choices made. In extension, I am asking what working-level diplomacy in East Asia consisted of and what it meant to those who practised it.

The traditional historiography of early-modern Japanese–Korean relations, often mirroring that of early-modern Japan and Korea in general, generally follows a narrative of recovery and consolidation in the first half of the seventeenth century, an apogean period of rich cultural exchange and flourishing trade towards the end of the sev-



enteenth century and in the early eighteenth century, and gradual decline into the nineteenth century, culminating in the breakdown of diplomacy in the Taewŏn'gun years and finally in the Kanghwa Island Treaty of 1876, foreshadowing Japanese imperial domination of Korea.

With such a narrative in mind, the early and mid-nineteenth century naturally appears as little more than a transitional period that transports us from the heyday of Japanese–Korean exchange to the emergence of Japanese expansionism. Yet, this narrative prompts two important questions. Firstly, how can we explain the historical change that so fundamentally turned on its head the amicable relations of the early eighteenth century? Indeed, the congenial atmosphere that surrounded the 1811 embassy stands in sharp contrast with the rise of the seikanron during the early Meiji period. Secondly, does this emphasis on rupture not obfuscate the very real circumstances of the people living through those times as they sought to adapt to changing situations without any knowledge of what was to come? The second question relates especially to those living and working in Tongnae County, the Ch'oryang Japan House, and Tsushima.

There is no doubt that the nineteenth century was transformative, leaving East Asia profoundly different, but what was the nature of those changes? The periodisation that separates the pre-modern from the modern—even when leaving out the perennial problem of how to define modernity—is helpful insofar as it highlights the manifold and interlinked changes that did occur, but a periodisation that juxtaposes 'pre-modern' against 'modern' can be equally befuddling when it is allowed to stress rupture at the expense of continuity. I approach the diplomacy of Korean–Japanese relations in the nineteenth century as a field of innovative reconfiguration of tradition. Innovation and tradition were not necessarily at odds, and continuity was very real even if not so apparent.

I trace these continuities, changes, and innovative reconfigurations over a long period of time, from the end of what may be termed a long eighteenth century to the dawn of what we know as the modern era. I also move between different levels of diplomatic interaction, from the inter-state events that were the Communication Embassies to the routine meetings of local officials and anonymous dealings of smugglers. Throughout, I emphasise the role of individuals as agents of innovation, whose deeds and choic-

es explored the limits of what was possible in their worlds.

### *Research in Japan*

I arrived in Tokyo on 15 November, 2016, and took up residence at a dormitory in Komaba, Meguro Ward, belonging to the University of Tokyo. This was thanks to the Institute of Advanced Studies on Asia, University of Tokyo, having granted me affiliation as a visiting researcher. This has also been very helpful since it gave me access to libraries at both the Hongō and the Komaba campuses. Since I will remain in Japan until mid-May, this is only an interim report, but hopefully it will give some idea of my work.

The bulk of primary sources that I have consulted whilst in Tokyo are held by the National Diet Library in Chiyoda Ward. I did not view the documents in original since they are available on microfilm. They are easily accessible in the Rare Books and Old Materials Room. The library has made a vast amount of documents available online, but many of those I am interested are missing, so visiting the library in person was essential. The most important source at the National Diet Library are the Kanshu nikki館守日記, that is, the diaries kept by the Japan House Masters. These were meticulously kept throughout the

Tokugawa period and we have extant volumes until the Meiji period. The Japan House Master was the top Japanese official supervising activities at the Ch'oryang Japan House, including diplomatic ceremony, trade, and preserving order. The diary is invaluable as a resource for understanding daily life at the Japan House, a space that existed between Tongnae County and Tsushima Domain. It is especially precious as a source for the Japan House in the mid-nineteenth century, because that is a period when one can no longer rely on official compilations of cases and precedents, such as the Pyölye chibyo邊例集要 or the Bunrui kiji taikō分類紀事大綱 as they stopped being updated around that time. One example of an innovative negotiating tactic that does not seem to appear in other sources is the Japan House Master's decision in 1864 to routinely hinder Korean interpreters from leaving the Japan House compound as a way to protest incomplete deliveries of rice.

One event that I have looked into is the 'Defection Incident' of 1836. It is known as such because it started with a Korean man calling himself Nam P'ilsön asking that the Japan House take him in and grant him passage to Japan. The reason, he claimed, was that he had acquired information about Korean plans to

launch a military attack against Japan. What is interesting about this event is how the Japan House and the Tsushima leadership finally decided to resolve it, and how it demonstrates the semi-independent agency possessed by the various parties involved as they interacted with each other. The Japan House Master exhibited a definite ability to make decisions on his own as the matter was handled swiftly. Based on a calculation of risk and return, it was decided that harbouring Nam P'ilsön would carry little merit, also in the event that the Japan House turned into a war zone. If so, it was more important to appease the Koreans in case the man was lying. Between the uncertainty of a possible Korean attack and the desire to maintain the status quo, they chose to garner favour from the Korean authorities by handing over Nam. In the end, he was convicted and executed for treason in Korea. At the same time, Tsushima consistently sought to control information to keep the bakufu from misunderstanding the situation. The incident was finally concluded when Tsushima dispatched a new kind of diplomatic mission to Tongnae—known as the *taijōshi* 体情使—so as to innovatively fit the affair into the existing framework of diplomatic intercourse.

I also had the opportunity to visit

the University of Tsukuba Library, where I read the *Taiyū nikki* 対遊日記 by Neo-Confucian scholar Takatsu (Higuchi) Shisen (included in the *Tenkarō sōsho* 天香楼叢書, vol. 76). The diary details Shisen's journey to Tsushima as part of the group of receptionary Confucian scholars who welcomed the Korean embassy of 1811 to that island domain. This was to become the final Communication Embassy to Japan, but to its participants it was more of a new start, the beginning of a new chapter of Japanese–Korean high-level diplomacy. Shisen's diary reveals aspects of the Japanese preparations for the embassy not seen elsewhere. Notable, it details how Koga Seiri's group—of which Shisen was part—practised 'brush conversation' (writing in literary Chinese was the easiest way for Japanese and Korean scholars to directly communicate with each other) on their way to Tsushima. It shows their efforts to show off the very best of Japanese learning, whilst they were equally full of respect for Korean scholarship. The eighteenth and nineteenth centuries had seen growing ethnocentrism in East Asia, a development that would have great ramifications, but we also need to acknowledge the efforts that were made both in Japan and Korea to further better understanding and mutual respect.

### *Acknowledgements*

Firstly, I would like to express my sincere appreciation and thanks to the Toshiba International Foundation for generously awarding me this fellowship, thus allowing me to spend time in Tokyo. I am especially grateful to President Ōmori Keisuke and Ms Kuwayama Mariko, with whom I had the pleasure of meeting on several occasions and who always were a great support. I would also like to thank Mr Taniguchi Toshiyuki who showed us around the Toshiba Science Museum.

Secondly, I am also grateful to the European Association for Japanese Studies who supported my application and have been of valuable assistance on many other occasions as well. I thank Mr Tim Herbort and Mr Lorenz Denninger for their email correspondence and help in organising this research trip.

During my time in Japan I have also received the support and help of many fellow researchers and friends. I would like to express special thanks to Prof. Manabe Yūko who hosted me at the Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia, University of Tokyo. I also thank Prof. Tsuruta Kei at the Historiographical Institute, University of Tokyo, for sharing his expertise on Japa-

nese–Korean interactions in the Tokugawa period and for introducing the sources available at the Historiographical Institute. My thanks similarly go to the library staff at the National Diet Library, the University of Tsukuba Library, and the various libraries at the University of Tokyo. Finally, I wish to thank my supervisor, Dr James Lewis, for his constant patience and for always offering wise words of support and guidance.

## **Toshiba International Foundation Fellowships 2017 TIFO Fellows**

Application for the 2017 TIFO Fellowships opened on 16 January 2017 and closed on 15 May 2017. After a careful evaluation of the 23 applications that the EAJS has received this year, the EAJS Council has selected the following three PhD candidates as recipients of the 2017 TIFO Fellowships:

### **Eiko Honda (University of Oxford, UK)**

- Dissertation title: “The Emergence of Anarchist Nature in Modern Japan: Minakata Kumagusu (1867—1941) and the Politics of Planetary Knowledge”

### **Hana Kloutvorova (Palacky University Olomouc, Czech Republic)**

- Dissertation title: “Personal deixis in the speech of characters in shōjo manga”

### **Daniel Wollnik (Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany)**

- Dissertation title: “The Ministry of Communications and the development of telecommunications in modern Japan (1885-1949)”

## News from our Members

**Backhouse, Tony** (2016): *Using Japanese synonyms*, Cambridge University Press.

**Bytheway, Simon James; Metzler, Mark** (2016): *Central banks and gold: How Tokyo, London and New York shaped the modern world*, Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

Garnier, Pierre; Garnier, Ilse (2016): *Japon: textes choisis, établis et présentés par Marianne Simon-Oikawa*, Paris: L'herbe qui tremble.

**Godart, G. Clinton** (2017): *Darwin, Dharma, and the Divine: Evolutionary Theory and Religion in Modern Japan*, University of Hawaii Press.

**Hendry, Joy** (2016): *An anthropological lifetime in Japan*, BRILL.

*Prof. Dr. Joy Hendry is an honorary member of the EAJS.*

**Moretti, Laura** (2016): *Recasting the Past: An Early Modern Tales of Ise for Children*, BRILL.

*Dr. Laura Moretti is the secretary of the EAJS.*

**Niehaus, Andreas; Walravens, Tine** (eds.) (2017): *Feeding Japan: The Cultural and Political Issues of Dependency and Risk*, London: Palgrave Macmillan.

*Prof. Dr. Andreas Niehaus is the local organizer of the 2020 EAJS International Conference.*

**Papp, Melinda** (2016): *Shichigosan: Change and Continuity of a Family Ritual in Contemporary Urban Japan*, Palgrave Macmillan US.

Saito, Naomi (2017): *Ishibumi: A memorial to the atomic annihilation of 321 students of Hiroshima Second Middle School*, translated by **Yasuko Claremont** and **Roman Rosenbaum**, Poplar Publishing CO.

**Tinello, Marco** (ed.) (2017): *Sekaishi kara mita Ryūkyū shobun* [The Ryūkyū shobun seen from world history], Ryūkyū sōsho 30, Ginowan: Yōju shorin.

## Items Received

*Between January 2017 and December 2017, the EAJS office received the following items. Please contact the EAJS office in Berlin for further information.*

**Akademischer Arbeitskreis Japan (ed.):** *Minikomi*, vol. 86 (2017).

**Boardroom (ed.):** *The Importance of Leaving A Legacy*. 2017.

**Eschbach-Szabo, Viktoria; Buck-Albulet, Heidi (ed.):** *Kulturwissenschaften und Frauenstudien. Aktuelle Arbeiten und Vorträge an der Fakultät für Kulturwissenschaften der Universität Tübingen*, vol 2 (2007).

**Hakuho Foundation:** *13th Hakuho Foundation Japanese Research Fellowship*. 2017.

**Hōsei daigaku kokusai nihongaku kenkyūjo** 法政大学国際日本学研究所 (ed.): *Kokusai nihongaku*. Dai 14 gō. Kenkyū seika hōkokusho. 『国際日本学』第14号.研究成果報告書. 2017.

**Japan Association of Translators (JAT):** *Translator Perspectives 2017*.

**Japanese Centre of International Theatre Institute (ed.):** *Theatre Yearbook 2017. Theatre in japan* (2017).

**Japanese National Diet Library (ed.):** *NDL Research Report No.16. Super-aged Society and Libraries. From Building “Ikigai” to Supporting Dementia*. 2017.

**Japanisch-Deutsches Zentrum Berlin:** *jdzb echo*, vols. 118 (March 2017) through 121 (December 2017).

**The Japan Foundation:** *Kulturprogramm November Dezember 2017*.

## Change of Address Form

Please use this as a sample and return by mail or e-mail to:  
 European Association for Japanese Studies (EAJS)  
 c/o Freie Universitaet Berlin - Japanologie  
 Hittorfstr. 18  
 14195 Berlin, Germany

### **Old address**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### **New address**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Private address**

(Please indicate where you would like to receive your mail)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Office address**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Effective date:** \_\_\_\_\_





