

## **Report of the Academic Organizers**

The 4<sup>th</sup> EAJIS Publication Workshop was held at Freie Universitaet Berlin, 9 years after the university had previously hosted the 1<sup>st</sup> EAJIS Publication Workshop in 2015. Since its first iteration, the EAJIS Publication Workshops have been designed to support the development of young scholars in the field of Japanese Studies by offering them the chance to present and discuss a draft of an English-language journal article with senior scholars, while gaining a deeper understanding of the publication and peer-review process in academic journals. These experiences are particularly valuable for early-career researchers in Japanese Studies, a field that increasingly demands regular publication in high-quality, peer-reviewed journals.

In addition to Prof Dr Verena Blechinger-Talcott, previous host of the 1<sup>st</sup> EAJIS Publication Workshop, the 4<sup>th</sup> EAJIS Publication Workshop was also co-organized by Prof Dr Urs Mathias Zachmann. Freie Universitaet Berlin was further supported by the local Graduate School of East Asian Studies, as well as the EAJIS Office.

In addition to the two organizers, a number of experienced scholars from the humanities and social sciences within the field of Japanese Studies have kindly accepted the invitation to serve as senior advisors for the young scholars participating in the workshop. Among them was also a number of editors for established Japanese Studies journals.

- Annegret Bergmann (Freie Universitaet Berlin)
- Rebecca Copeland (Washington University in St. Louis)
- Isaac Gagné (German Institute of Japanese Studies, DIJ)
- Sebastian Maslow (Tokyo University)
- Ra Mason (University of East Anglia)
- Chris Perkins (University of Edinburgh)

In one session of the workshop, the aforementioned journal editors were asked to introduce the focus areas and special features of their journals. They presented the entire publication process from the first submission of an article proposal to the finished publication, all from the perspective of the editorial board and the journal. The panel consisted of the following editors and journals:

- Ra Mason (chief editor, *Japan Forum*)
- Isaac Gagné (managing editor, *Contemporary Japan*)
- Sebastian Maslow (managing editor, *Social Science Japan Journal*)

The workshop participants were selected by the EAJS Council members, based on online applications which included the applicant's CV, a letter of motivation, and an abstract of the manuscript intended for publication. Based on the academic quality of the submitted application documents, 9 participants were selected from a total of 23 applicants.

- Giulia Baquè (University of Venice / Heidelberg University): "The yamamba and the Anthropocene: crossing into the heterotopic spaces of environmental disaster in two short stories by Taguchi Randy"
- Gunde Dauksyte (Heidelberg University): "The country of mysteries: Japanese depictions of the Soviet Union in prisoner-of-war debriefing reports from 1950"
- Shih-cheng Huang (SOAS): "NIPPON and Photomurals: Propaganda in Shaping Wartime Japan's Gender Dynamics"
- Ludovica Marincioni (Sapienza University of Rome): "Blending Kabuki and Nō: Metatheatrical Elements and Female Voices in Ōmura Kayoko's Midare Konparu"
- Datong Qiu (Heidelberg University): "Why Kelp Matters: Consular Jurisdiction and Treaty Revision on the Eve of the First Sino-Japanese War – A Case Study of a Kelp Purchasing Lawsuit in Hokkaido"
- Maximilien Xavier Rehm (Doshisha University): "How Have Japanese Politicians Discussed Immigration in the National Diet? A Quantitative Analysis of Post-war National Diet Records"

- Zuzana Rozwalka (Masaryk University Brno): “From Ikigai to Wabi-sabi: Decoding Japan-themed Self-Help Books and Their Orientalist Lens”
- Sayaka Saito (University College London): “Intercultural Competence and Intercultural Experiences of Japanese Teachers: Educational Challenges in Multicultural Classroom Management”
- Hui Wang (Heidelberg University): “The Avant-Garde of Flatness, Cartoon, and Toys: Global Contemporary Art Post-1989 and Metaverse of the Spectacle”

All selected participants were required to submit a full article manuscript intended for publication in an academic journal prior to the workshop. These manuscripts were distributed among the senior advisors depending on their expertise. During the workshop, each paper was discussed in a time slot of 45 minutes. The young scholars had the opportunity to briefly present their manuscripts (up to 5 min). The senior scholar acting as main discussant then commented on the main argument and evaluated the strengths and weaknesses of the draft (up to 15 min). The remaining 25 minutes were used for open discussion of the paper among all participants, at the end of which the presenter was allowed to respond to the comments received. Each session concluded with recommendations on potential journals in the field of Japanese Studies or area studies that could serve as suitable outlets for manuscript submission.

In their brief introduction, the young scholars were asked to cover the following points:

- At what stage is the manuscript?
- Where do you intend to publish the paper?
- What is the contribution the paper is making to the field? In what discussion does it intervene, what new perspective and/or findings does it offer?
- Are there any points for which productive feedback was especially welcome?

The senior scholars acting as main discussant provided input to the following points:

- Summary of the main argument.
- An assessment of the paper’s achievements:

- What is new?
- Is the argument convincing? Why? (Selection of data / sources; methodology.)
- Is it well presented and structured?
- Other strengths and weaknesses and further comments from an editorial point of view.
- Suggestions to the young scholars for (further) improvement of their paper.

The venue was one of the lecture rooms for History and Cultural Studies inside Freie Universitaet's Holzlaube building. Both advisors and participants stayed at the nearby Hotel Seminaris. The close vicinity to the workshop room allowed for an easy commute. The welcome coffee and shared meals contributed to lively discussions and a strengthening of academic ties between the participants, all of which the participants remarked positively. Additionally, all participants expressed their gratitude for the feedback and suggestions provided throughout the workshop, noting that they now have a clearer understanding of the peer-review process and the associated communication strategies.

In the name of all participants, we would like to thank the Japan Foundation and Freie Universitaet Berlin for generously providing funds for travel and accommodation for the workshop. We would also to thank the EAJS Office for its support, which was of tremendous help, and the Graduate School of East Asian Studies for its logistic support of the workshop.

Prof Dr Zachmann & Prof Dr Verena Blechinger-Talcott