

Reports by the participants of the 19th EAJS Workshop for Doctoral Students

I was encouraged to apply for the workshop by my supervisor, who had participated in a past EAJS workshop herself. The application process was straight-forward and communication with the organizers went smoothly. Although I was initially worried that I might not be able to give or receive ample feedback since there were no participants from my field, this worry turned out to be completely unwarranted. Not only was it intellectually stimulating to listen to the other speakers and try to make constructive comments, but I also received many valuable suggestions that could only come from outside my field. Discussions usually continued well into the coffee breaks and the hours after the daily program had ended – which speaks for itself. Although the program was very intensive with presentations from morning till evening, there was also time to recuperate and explore the city of Leuven or just spend some time relaxing on the compound of the Irish College, where we were accommodated and where the workshop sessions also took place.

The organizers and advisors made every effort to ensure a professional, yet informal and welcoming environment for all participants. Every Ph.D. candidate had a scheduled consultation with their appointed advisor. But even beyond that, there was ample opportunity to get advice on anything from research to working at a university to life as an academic in general. All in all, the workshop was a valuable experience and I will make sure to recommend it to my colleagues and to students who also wish to pursue an academic career in Japanese Studies.

I would like to express my gratitude to the organizers, the advisors, and the other participants who managed to create a stimulating and productive environment and I am looking forward to meeting again at the next opportunity.

*Stefan Aichholzer
Osaka University, Japan*

The EAJS Workshop in Leuven has truly been a unique experience. I have had numerous international experiences, but I never experienced similar opportunities as offered by this event. During the workshop, we presented our research and received precious feedback from both the senior advisors and our fellow Ph.D. students. The atmosphere was polite and friendly, and we all supported each other. I personally found the feedback I was given extremely useful, and the advice and suggestions I received will surely guide my further work.

An important aspect of the workshop was the opportunity to learn about the current research trends in the field of Japanese Studies and to reflect one's own research against the backdrop of these trends. Moreover, getting to know the work of other students helped me improve my knowledge and develop new perspectives on Japan, which will help me define my own research. An important part of the workshop was the one-on-one consultation with one's assigned advisor. This provided me with the opportunity to discuss my research extensively with an expert, which I found very useful.

Moreover, I had the chance to visit a wonderful city (Leuven) that I would not have visited otherwise. I was amazed by the architecture, the quiet streets, and the excellent food. I appreciate the decision of the EAJS to organize this workshop every year in a different country and also in smaller cities, which I think showcases the beauty of Europe and at the same time enriches one's knowledge of Japan. Furthermore, the workshop provided the opportunity to make new friends from all over the world and from different universities, and to share multiple research approaches. Finally, the workshop enriches one's curriculum and life experience, also thanks to the excellent organization behind its realization.

Mariangela Carpinteri
University of California, Santa Barbara

The 19th EAJS Workshop for Doctoral Students took place at KU Leuven from 14 to 17 August 2023. As one of the 20 selected Ph.D. students who attended the workshop, I had the opportunity to discuss my ongoing project with the (working) title *The development of female photography in Japan from the 1970s to contemporary times* with the other participants. My presentation took place on 16 August as part of Session 8 and was commented by Prof. Dr. Fujisawa Murasaki (Kokugakuin University), with whom I had an insightful individual consultation later the same day.

As I am currently in the second year of a Ph.D. program in Archaeological, Historical and Historical-Artistic Sciences at the University of Turin (Italy), I have just started presenting my project at international events; therefore, participating in the workshop provided me with a precious opportunity to discuss my research with a multidisciplinary group of international senior scholars and fellow Ph.D. candidates. The questions raised, both during the session and afterwards, were all extremely well thought out and insightful. Moreover, the workshop has given us the opportunity to compare our own projects with those of the other participants and to discuss the different methodologies and future developments of our individual research. At the workshop, everything was excellently organized by Professor Jan Schmidt and his team of motivated and brilliant students, who made sure that the participants had a smooth and inclusive experience. In conclusion, the workshop, together with my presentation of a different paper at the ensuing EAJS 2023 conference, has been a very fruitful experience.

Federica Cavazzuti
University of Turin, Italy

I had the privilege of participating in the 19th European Association for Japanese Studies (EAJS) Ph.D. Workshop—an intellectually invigorating event that provided a platform for emerging scholars in the field of Japanese Studies to refine their research objectives. The workshop, held from 14 to 17 August 2023, proved to be a stimulating confluence of ideas and perspectives.

The heart of the workshop lay in the series of captivating presentations delivered by fellow participants, unveiling cutting-edge research on various facets of Japanese society, culture, and history. These discussions were not only intellectually stimulating but also catalyzed my own thinking by offering fresh perspectives and methodological insights.

Against this backdrop, I contextualized my research on East Asian art cinemas within the landscape of Japanese Studies, elucidating the significance of my work in the field. Interacting with scholars from diverse backgrounds further illuminated the multifaceted nature of Japanese Studies and fostered a deeper appreciation for its interdisciplinary character.

Equally instrumental was the guidance and feedback I received from my assigned advisor and fellow participants during the workshop. Their incisive comments not only honed the focus of my research, but also charted a course for its future development. This feedback underscored the ethos of collaborative scholarship that this workshop embodies.

My participation in the 19th EAJS Workshop will last as an memorable chapter in my academic journey. The exposure to diverse viewpoints, interaction with accomplished academics such as Professor Fujisawa Murasaki and Professor Daniel Poch, receiving and guidance from my advisor, Professor Marta Fanasca, collectively fortified my scholarly pursuits. As I depart from this workshop, I am filled with a renewed zeal to contribute to the vibrant field of Japanese Studies.

Ziru Chen
University of Oxford, Great Britain

It was an absolute pleasure to attend the 19th EAJS Ph.D. Workshop in Leuven, Belgium. Overall, it was an enriching and engaging experience which offered an invaluable opportunity to connect with fellow scholars in Japanese Studies. The number of Ph.D. students was low enough for being able to create a tight-knit group of colleagues and peers, while also being large enough to showcase people's diverse backgrounds and perspectives. In future workshops as well, I think keeping the group between 15 and 20 students would be ideal.

Before I describe more of the many positive aspects of my participation in the workshop, I would like to mention the only major downside—a shortage of time. For twenty doctoral presentations, two days were not sufficient to both listen to research projects and engage in a productive discussion. It was an unfortunate consequence of the limited time that, by the time we got to the second half of the final presentation day, most people were mentally fatigued (and perhaps physically exhausted too due to lack of sleep!).

In the future, it would be fantastic if we could spread the presentations out over a period of three days, allowing us to discuss individual projects in more detail and to network more with each other. I suppose a silver lining to the rigorous, strict scheduling of the workshop was that the schedule for the general EAJS conference felt much more flexible in comparison and we were already primed for the types of academic interactions we would have at the conference venue in Ghent.

Despite the tight schedule, I really enjoyed the chance to talk about my research with academics at different stages in their careers and especially appreciated the insights of the mentors assigned to my project. I hope to incorporate their suggestions and advice in not just future presentations, but

potential paper publications. I wholeheartedly recommend this workshop to any Ph.D. students in Japanese Studies who are seeking an environment which can challenge them academically and help them connect on a more meaningful level with fellow academics across various fields.

Peyton Cherry
University of Oxford, Great Britain

I had the honor to be selected to participate in the 19th EAJIS Ph.D. Workshop, held in Leuven from 14-17 August 2023.

It was a wonderful experience and especially useful for my professional training, as it was the first time I presented my entire dissertation project in public in English. In particular, I feel that the positive feedback from both the advisors and my peers really boosted my confidence in public speaking in my second language. Furthermore, the input I received from Professor Poch during my individual consultation helped me pinpoint some areas of my dissertation that could be further expanded and some others that would work better as background chapters.

I am very glad to have found such a stimulating environment during the workshop. Even though all the Ph.D. candidates were specializing in something unique and different from each other, their insights and suggestions helped me look at my research from a different perspective. At the same time, it was very interesting to talk about our research interests in a more informal way with people who are in the same position.

I also found my accommodation at the Irish College in Leuven to be perfect – the organization and the service were flawless.

I would like to thank the EAJIS and the Toshiba Foundation for organizing and sponsoring the workshop and the selection committee for giving me this incredible opportunity. I would also like to thank Prof. Jan Schmidt, who guided us through the workshop, and the senior advisors: Dr. Fanasca, Prof. Fujisawa, Prof. Poch, and Prof. Shimizu.

Giulia Colelli
University of Bologna

I was lucky to be selected as one of the participants of the 19th EAJIS Ph.D. Workshop which was held at KU Leuven from 14-17 August 2023. The workshop allowed me to connect with Ph.D. students from other universities and disciplinary fields, which not only helped me to expand my network, but also my understanding of the diversity of fields of Japanese Studies.

The workshop format with paired presentations followed by questions from the group as well as individual consultations with the respective senior advisor provided me with a wide range of feedback from my peers as well as the opportunity for a more in-depth discussion with a senior researcher. I would like to use this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude to Professor Shimizu for his valuable feedback.

The consultation with Professor Shimizu allowed me to gain some clarity on my further approach to my research, especially the part that I will pursue during my six-month stay in Japan. Professor Shimizu kindly pointed out some important stakeholders related to my project who I will attempt

to contact for interviews.

While the exchange with other researchers may have been at the center of attention, a successful workshop needs more than scientific input. The workshop venue at the Irish College in Leuven was perfectly chosen and the social program made my time at the 2023 EAJS Ph.D. Workshop a great experience.

Katharina Dreßen
Heinrich-Heine University, Germany

My participation in the 19th EAJS Ph.D. Workshop was an invaluable experience that significantly contributed to my academic growth and networking within the field of Japanese Studies. Having attended several similar workshops in the past, I can confidently say that this one stood out as exceptionally helpful.

The workshop's sophisticated format and extended duration allowed for in-depth discussions and a thorough understanding of each participant's research. I had the opportunity to engage with peers whose work aligned with my academic interests, as well as those whose research fields were more diverse, broadening my perspective.

The individual consultation session was a brilliant component of the workshop. It not only provided me with further guidance for my doctoral research, but also for my academic career. I am particularly grateful to Professor Jan Schmidt, who patiently addressed my methodological confusion, although it is regrettable that the consultation time could not be longer. I would also like to thank Manabe-sensei and Shimizu-sensei for giving insightful suggestions, and even generously sharing their personal experiences related to my research, which greatly enriched my understanding of my own topic.

While the formal workshop sessions were undoubtedly inspiring, the after-parties and *nomikai* held a unique value. These gatherings offered opportunities for deeper discussions with fellow participants. An unexpected highlight was getting to know another PhD student of my supervisor, whom I did not have chance to meet back in my home institution because of our separate degree program. In a talk back to our accommodation we discovered a surprising connection between our seemingly unrelated research topics – 1920s Japan and 1950s China –, which gave me new perspectives on how to read some of the first-handed documents that I currently hold in hand.

The subsequent EAJS Conference in Ghent provided us workshop participants with the opportunity to deepen our friendships and expanded our academic networks. Through a fellow Ph.D. workshop participant, I was introduced to a professor from Italy who specialized in Hino Ashihei, one of my research subjects. This serendipitous encounter was especially significant, as Hino Ashihei is a relatively obscure research topic in the field of Japanese Studies.

Even after the completion of the workshop, its legacy continues to influence my academic path. I am currently in Tokyo conducting research for my dissertation, and I recently had the opportunity to meet one of the advisors from the EAJS Ph.D. workshop, Prof. Daniel Poch, at a conference. Additionally, several of our workshop peers who are also conducting fieldwork in Tokyo have

expressed interest in meeting. The connections and friendships formed during the EAJS Ph.D. Workshop have proven to be lasting and impactful.

Yingzi Feng
University of Edinburgh, Ireland

I had the pleasure of being invited to the 19th EAJS Ph.D. Workshop in Leuven, which took place at the Irish College of KU Leuven. It was a highly rewarding experience to engage in debates and exchange ideas with peers involved in Japanese Studies from all across Europe. The organization of the workshop was impeccable, exhibiting considerable flexibility for participants traveling from abroad. Additionally, the organizers took great care to address personal needs, including dietary restrictions.

Furthermore, the allocated time for each presentation was sufficient to provide a comprehensive overview of each research project and foster productive discussions during the subsequent Q&A sessions. The senior scholars demonstrated a strong commitment to offering personalized feedback to each participant. In some instances, the areas of expertise of the advisors did not seem to align precisely with those of the Ph.D. students, resulting in feedback that may have seemed somewhat generic. Nonetheless, even in such cases, the senior advisors showed an enthusiastic and supportive attitude, offering valuable insights and guidance based on their experience. I am deeply grateful for their advice, as it played a pivotal role in establishing a friendly and mutually supportive environment from the outset.

I would highly recommend this workshop to any Ph.D. student engaged in Japanese Studies. The atmosphere is vibrant, and the discussions that transpire during the event days are indispensable for every student seeking growth as a scholar and as an individual. Special recognition is due to Professor Jan Schmidt both for the passion with which he pursues his job and for the dedication in organizing these exceptionally fruitful events.

Matteo Giacchè
Newcastle University, Great Britain

I am extremely grateful to the EAJS, the Toshiba International Foundation, and the Japan Foundation for organizing and supporting this workshop. There are not many Ph.D. students conducting research on Japan at my university, so the workshop enabled me to build a network of scholars across Europe who are in a similar situation as me. Without a doubt, I will get in touch with the other participants in the future to organize panels, collaborate on projects, and so forth.

Professor Jan Schmidt did an excellent job of managing time during the workshop (which was extremely tightly scheduled). The facilities, the scheduled breaks, the refreshments, and internet access – everything worked flawlessly.

The advisors and special guests were also a valuable addition to the workshop. The advisor specifically appointed to read my work and comment on my project (Dr. Marta Fanasca) gave me practical, concrete feedback. She also encouraged me to reach out to her in the future should I need support or have any questions—an extremely valuable outcome of the workshop. The other advisors also proved to be good resources. I was able to speak with many of them during the breaks.

Although they were not “assigned” to my work, we discovered that our research overlapped in many productive ways.

I was happy with the variety of research backgrounds of the other participants. I felt like both my research approach and research topic aligned well with the others, so we could have fruitful discussions and give good advice to each other. Since the other participants are either in Europe or Japan, there is a very good chance that we will meet and collaborate again. For example, if there is a conference, seminar, or workshop here at the University of Oslo, I will try to form a panel with the other workshop participants. Also, when I am in Japan for fieldwork, I will likely contact the participants and advisors who are from or are currently in Japan.

Ben Grafstrom
University of Oslo, IKOS

I wish to express my deep appreciation to workshop director Prof. Jan Schmidt, EAJS office representative Mr. Lorenz Denninger, and the entire team behind the organization of the workshop at KU Leuven. I am honored to have had the privilege to take part in the 19th EAJS Workshop for Doctoral Candidates.

This workshop immersed me in a dynamic academic milieu, encompassing various disciplines such as arts, literature, history, sociology, linguistics, and politics. The spectrum of methodologies discussed ranged from extended participant observation to textual analysis, providing a holistic view of diverse academic approaches.

Throughout the workshop, the 20 participants, along with senior scholars, engaged in meaningful dialogues, shared doubts, and fostered genuine personal and professional connections. Conversations revolving around my doctoral project offered me fresh perspectives and revitalized my research interests. Particularly illuminating were the discussions on academic uncertainties and global opportunities, seamlessly interweaving personal experiences with institutional perspectives. This left an enduring impression on my overall workshop experience.

Beyond its role as a knowledge-sharing platform, the workshop offered an intimate ambience characterized by much appreciated support and camaraderie. My gratitude extends to Dr. Marta Fanasca, Prof. Dr. Daniel Poch, and Prof. Dr. Shimizu Yuichirō for their pivotal roles in facilitating this event. Special thanks go to Prof. Dr. Fujisawa Murasaki for her insightful feedback on my project and the invaluable guidance during our private consultation., which I consider an important step towards the successful completion of my project.

I would also like to highlight the discussions that unfolded over shared meals outside the formal workshop sessions., which served as fertile ground for academic discourse. The friendly atmosphere, mutual respect, and support that I encountered among all participants fortified my belief that academia can be a tight-knit community.

Finally, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the EAJS, the Japan Foundation, the Toshiba International Foundation, and all those involved in organizing this remarkable event.

I eagerly look forward to future opportunities to reconnect with all participants.

Shih-cheng Huang
SOAS University of London, Great Britain

My three-day experience in Leuven was full of thought-provoking discussions on various aspects of Japanese culture and academia. Not only did I learn a great deal about Japanese photography and art (past and present), international marriage, modern literature, politics, religion, etc., but I also refined my understanding of research methodology and bettered my presenting skills.

What stood out was the enthusiasm and interest that participants from diverse fields showed in my research, despite their areas of expertise being quite distinct from my own. Presenting my project to an audience outside my narrow field of Japanese historical linguistics was a truly enriching experience. It allowed me to view my study from entirely different angles, including those of literary studies and computer science. Moreover, it taught me how to explain complex linguistic issues in a way that is accessible to scholars from various backgrounds. I am determined to integrate these lessons into my ongoing project.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the EAJS and TIFO for making this workshop possible. I would like to offer special thanks to the dedicated organizers, Dr. Jan Schmidt, Lorenz Denninger, and Jorinde Wels, whose meticulous planning and hard work ensured the success of the event. I must also express my appreciation to Dr. Daniel Poch, my advisor during the workshop, for generously sharing his expertise and recommending relevant monographs for my research. Last but not least, I would like to thank the Japanese Studies students and workshop observers at KU Leuven, who went above and beyond to make our time in Leuven and Ghent truly unforgettable.

Artemii Kuznetsov
University of Oxford, Great Britain

The 19th EAJS Workshop for Doctoral Students was held in Leuven over two days, featuring an intensive and comprehensive schedule. I greatly appreciate the opportunity to attend the workshop in person in Leuven. The diverse backgrounds of the senior scholars and participants at the workshop provided me with fresh perspectives on my doctoral research project.

The workshop took place at the historic Irish College, a venue that facilitated easy access to meeting rooms and encouraged research discussions in the garden. Despite the intensive workshop schedule, we were allotted an appropriate amount of time for Q&A sessions, utilizing online documents that allowed every participant to contribute to the discussions, overcoming time restrictions. I am thankful for this workshop for providing the opportunity to connect with Ph.D. students from various cities and study diverse subjects.

I would like to extend special thanks to the organizer, Prof. Jan Schmidt, who was also assigned as my adviser and offered constructive feedback and guidance. My host, Prof. Akashi Tomonori, generously shared additional resources with me. Both of their valuable advice has sparked new and unique ideas that will significantly benefit my future research. I am also grateful to the senior scholars who generously devoted their time to sharing valuable research insights and their academic

experiences. I extend my gratitude to the organizers, Mr. Lorenz Denninger and the KU Leuven students, for their efforts in making this workshop possible.

I would also like to thank the EAJS for kindly offering us the opportunity to attend the EAJS conference in Ghent. Lastly, I appreciate the support of the Japan Foundation and the Toshiba International Foundation. Their support enabled me and my fellow doctoral students to engage in such a valuable exchange opportunity.

Wen-Wei Lan

Japan Center, University of Munich (LMU), Germany

I had the great honor to be part of the 19th EAJS Ph.D. Workshop held at Leuven, Belgium. It was my first time to be in Belgium and the city of Leuven welcomed me with its splendid cityscape and cozy atmosphere. The combination of excellent organization, helpful and friendly advisors, participants and observers, as well as the great service and accommodations of the Irish College was the formula for a wonderful and fruitful workshop.

Throughout the three days of intensive presentations and discussions, I was intrigued and fascinated by the various topics other Ph.D. students pursue and their passion behind it.

Especially the comments from the advisors (in my case, Professor Shimizu) and the individual consultation with him were so valuable and really helped me to push my research forward. I found it fascinating how the advisors with their vast experience looked at our project, which motivated me to gear my mind towards their mindset. Aside from the in-depth schedule, it was a great experience to talk to the other participants about my and their research and to talk to like-minded people. I also liked the opportunity to meet Ph.D. students from Japan and to hear their perspectives on our topics.

I would like to thank the EAJS, the Toshiba International Foundation, and the Japan Foundation for facilitating and sponsoring the workshop. My immense gratitude goes to Prof. Dr. Jan Schmidt for organizing and hosting the workshop as well as the senior advisors Dr. Marta Fanasca, Prof. Dr. Fujisawa Murasaki, Prof. Dr. Daniel Poch, and Prof. Dr. Shimizu Yuichirō for creating a constructive and fruitful environment for us. I was able to connect with many wonderful people, and the experience I gained from this workshop is invaluable.

Sai Kiet Niki Lau

Heidelberg University, Germany

The 19th Doctoral Workshop organized by the European Association of Japanese Studies held in August 2023 at KU Leuven proved to be a transformative and invaluable experience for me as a young researcher. The workshop, spanning three intense days, offered a platform to present and discuss my research while providing a wealth of guidance and insights for my academic journey.

The workshop's rigorous schedule was demanding, but ultimately worthwhile. It enabled me to display my research within an international community of emerging scholars and accomplished researchers. The diverse array of presentations by fellow participants was captivating and enriched my understanding of Japanese Studies across various dimensions.

One of the most enriching aspects of the workshop was the post-presentation discussion sessions. These sessions fostered an atmosphere of lively intellectual exchange, allowing participants and assigned tutors to share ideas, ask questions, and offer valuable feedback. These interactions were instrumental in refining my research and broadening my academic horizons.

However, the highlight of the workshop was undoubtedly the one-on-one tutoring sessions. My personalized session provided me with invaluable feedback from a senior scholar (Prof. Dr. Daniel Poch), enabling me to explore new directions for my research and refine my future plans. The external perspective offered by my tutor proved to be immensely insightful and opened up exciting avenues for my research.

Beyond the academic benefits, the workshop provided a unique opportunity to connect with peers and colleagues from all corners of the world. The friendships forged during this event were as enriching on a personal level as on a professional one. Every person I encountered contributed something meaningful to my academic and personal development.

In conclusion, the 19th EAJS Doctoral Workshop was an enriching and transformative experience. It provided a rewarding platform for academic growth, encouraged intellectual exchange, and facilitated valuable connections within the field of Japanese Studies. I am immensely grateful for this opportunity and look forward to applying the knowledge and insights gained from this workshop to my future research.

Ludovica Marincioni
Sapienza University of Rome, Italy

It was a profound honor to participate in the 19th EAJS Workshop for Doctoral Students held in beautiful Leuven, Belgium. Through discussions with fellow doctoral students and advisors from various fields, the workshop allowed me to further deepen the historical, social, and political contextualization of my Ph.D. project. In particular, Professor Murasaki Fujisawa provided me with valuable feedback and an individual consultation after my presentation. I also gained valuable insights from the presentations of other participants, which covered a wide range of subjects, including history, sociology, linguistics, literature, and visual culture.

The friendly atmosphere of the workshop fostered not only academic debates, but also informal, yet very helpful, conversations among my peers during breakfast, lunch, coffee breaks, dinner, and *nijikai*. I found these occasions to be essential aspects of the workshop as they enabled us to establish a mutually supportive network. This was especially valuable as pursuing a Ph.D., especially as an international student, can sometimes lead to feelings of isolation and being overwhelmed. I genuinely hope that the EAJS Workshop for Doctoral Students will continue to be held in an in-person format.

Although I specialize in Japanese art history, I am not pursuing a degree in Japanese studies, so I had some initial doubts about whether I could benefit from the event. However, as soon as I arrived in Leuven, I realized that these concerns were completely unnecessary. I wholeheartedly recommend this workshop to all Ph.D. students working on Japan-related topics.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to the workshop director Professor Jan Schmidt, the advisors, the observers, the EAJJS, the Toshiba International Foundation, and the Japan Foundation for making this excellent workshop possible. I am eagerly looking forward to meeting everyone again at future EAJJS events.

Kimibiko Nakamura
Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg, Germany

Attending the 19th EAJJS Ph.D. Workshop in Leuven held from 14 to 17 August 2023 was a fantastic opportunity for me to share my research, engage in intellectual debates, and expand my network amongst an enthusiastic group of young and established researchers. I had a fruitful time at the Ph.D. Workshop, where for three intensive days, we exchanged ideas across a vast range of academic disciplines – all of which fall within the field of Japanese Studies. With participants deeply involved in studies of history, anthropology, literature, and many more, I found myself intensely exposed to all the various disciplines of Japanese studies. The intensive but productive discussions helped me to broaden my academic horizons. Coming originally from the field of anthropology, some of the projects were difficult for me to grasp. Therefore, I am grateful for the opportunity to be exposed to this wide range of disciplines, and even more thankful for everyone's patience and enthusiasm in sharing their projects and offering feedback beyond their own disciplines.

I particularly enjoyed having individually-assigned advisors. My advisor, Professor Shimizu Yuichirō offered invaluable insights and advice, not only regarding my dissertation project and presentation at the workshop, but also for the further development of my career and wellbeing beyond the constraints of a Ph.D. project. In view of all of the great comments and constructive time I had at the three-day workshop, I am eternally grateful to the EAJJS for such an opportunity. I thank everyone who has taken the time to read about my project and give me their wonderful feedback, questions and comments. This has helped us all to develop our individual projects. It was undoubtedly a very demanding and intense workshop, but the rewards are immeasurable and will go a long way.

Lin Yu Ng
Freie Universitaet Berlin, Germany

My experience at the 19th EAJJS Ph.D. Workshop exceeded my expectations. As a final-year Ph.D. student, I hesitated to apply for the workshop, as it seemed more suitable for those who had recently started their Ph.D. and were seeking assistance in planning upcoming fieldwork or research. However, contrary to my expectations, the workshop proved to be an excellent opportunity to review my work thus far and seek early-career advice. The preparation for the workshop presentation was notably valuable, providing a structured framework that prompted us to re-evaluate our research in a broader context and to find ways to engage diverse audiences across disciplines.

I also deeply appreciated the senior advisory structure that both supported and challenged me during my presentation. The intimate personal consultation allowed me to engage in a conversation with an established scholar in the field of Japanese Studies, focusing on questions related to my future career choices and planning. Professor Jan Schmidt was exceptionally forthcoming in addressing my inquiries, for which I am immensely grateful.

I encountered numerous uncertainties regarding the structure of my thesis and the positioning of my research within the field. Instead of being provided with a definitive answer, I was guided towards seeking solutions to these uncertainties independently. This approach encouraged critical thinking and self-discovery.

Lastly, my interactions with fellow participants at the workshop were thoroughly enjoyable. The presentations were of exceptional quality and informativeness, and our discussions were intellectually stimulating, centred around our mutual interests in each other's work. I am certain that this experience will play a pivotal role in shaping both my academic and professional journey.

Yao Sun
University of Oxford, Great Britain

From 14 to 17 August 2023, the 19th EAJS Workshop for Doctoral students was held at KU Leuven, Belgium, right before the 2023 EAJS International Conference in Ghent. I was among the 20 participating Ph.D. students who presented their projects to their peers, senior advisors, and observers.

Since we only had two actual days of workshop (Tuesday and Wednesday), our schedule was tightly packed with ten presentations a day. Having only ten minutes to introduce my project proved to be quite the challenge, but it was a great exercise in sticking to the essentials. The workshop participants came from a wide range of disciplines, so our topics were quite diverse as well. This provided the basis for lively and stimulating discussions, as everyone had a unique perspective and way of approaching a topic. Thanks to my peers and advisors, I left the workshop with a plethora of new ideas and aspects to think about. Moreover, the workshop offered many opportunities to get to know everyone and forge new friendships. I look forward to seeing everyone again at future conferences or other academic events – or just meeting somewhere in the world.

I am very happy that I was part of the 2023 workshop and would like to thank Prof. Jan Schmidt and his team for organizing this fantastic get-together. Likewise, my gratitude goes out to all other participants, advisors, and observers. Everyone in their own way contributed to a terrific experience. And, last but not least, I would like to express heartfelt thanks to the EAJS for hosting these workshops and for choosing me as one of the participants for this year's workshop.

Marie Ulrich
Kanazawa University, Japan

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