



Faculty of Humanities

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OPEN CALL

Traces of the Past, Horizons of the Future: Exploring Japan at the Crossroads of Humanities, Technology and Global Dialogue

International Conference Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of Japanese Studies at the Juraj Dobrila University of Pula

Pula, Croatia | November 14–16, 2025

Thanks to the generous support of the **Toshiba International Foundation**, The **Department of Asian Studies at the Juraj Dobrila University of Pula** is delighted to announce an international conference marking **the 10th anniversary of Japanese Studies in Pula**. This milestone celebration will bring together voices from across disciplines, regions, and generations to reflect on the past, interrogate the present, and envision the future of Japanese studies—both locally and globally.

Conference Theme and Scope

The central aim of this conference is to foster dialogue on Japanese language, culture, society, and history, especially within the evolving landscape of global academic collaboration. We particularly welcome contributions that explore intersections of **humanities, technology, and global dialogue**—from digital humanities and artificial intelligence to nation-building, language politics, and cultural heritage.

Proposed areas/topics include, but are not limited to:

- How Japanese language and society are redefined through interaction with global cultural trends (e.g., popular culture, fashion, cuisine, well-being);
- The application of technology/AI in preserving traditional Japanese art forms, literature, historical sites, and artifacts, as well as in promoting cultural heritage;
- Technology/AI and corpus-based studies of Japanese and East Asian languages;
- Teaching Japanese and developing learning materials through novel approaches;
- The impact of globalization on the development of the Japanese language (e.g., slang, language adaptation);
- The role of the humanities in ensuring an ethical approach to the development of artificial intelligence in Japan and beyond;
- How global inclusivity trends impact gender roles and identities in Japan;
- Japanese and broader Asian responses to contemporary challenges, crises, global conflicts, and migration;
- How digital propaganda and media manipulation shape public discourse and societal trust;
- The impact of technology on interpersonal relationships and social distancing in Japan and East Asia;
- Comparative perspectives between Japan and the global context;
- Other topics in history, anthropology, sociology, linguistics, literature, philosophy, and art, with a focus on Japan, Asia, and their global connections.

The conference programme will include **three keynote speakers**:

- **Prof. Emerita Joy Hendry**, Oxford Brookes University
Anthropology of Japan in a Global Context: Beyond the East West Dichotomy
- **Prof. Emeritus/Director Maekawa Kikuo**, National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics
Prospects and Challenges for the Study of the Japanese Language in Japan: Social Change, AI, and Beyond
- **Prof. Emeritus Andrej Bekeš**, University of Ljubljana
Nation Building, Minority Languages and Multiethnicity in the Global World: Japan and a South Slavic Context Compared

In addition to **individual presentations**, the conference will feature **panel sessions** (grouped three or four presentations on related topics), **interactive workshops** (one hour or extended). It is also possible to suggest events like book launches, round tables, film screenings or art projects. An **exhibition** marking the 10th anniversary of Japanese Studies in Pula will accompany the conference. We welcome suggestions for contributions such as photographs, posters, student or alumni projects, artworks, or other materials.

The conference will take place at the [Juraj Dobrila University of Pula](#), Faculty of Humanities ([Aldo Negri Street 6 /UI. Alda Negrija 6, Pula](#), Croatia). The official language of the symposium is English but proposals in Japanese are also possible. The participant's presentation time is 20 minutes + questions. The duration of a workshop is one hour or extended (3-4 hours), while a panel session is up to 60 minutes. A limited number of online sessions will be available.

The deadline for submission of **applications with an abstract** (200 words in English or 500 characters in Japanese) is **July 29, 2025** (extended date) via **Google Forms** ([link](#)). Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their submission by **August 31, 2025**.

Participants are also encouraged to submit their full papers for the **Edited Volume** (*planned to be published in [ALA journal](#) (thematic number, A1 journal - in Scopus, ERIH Plus, DOAJ etc.) that will be published by July 31, 2026*). The deadline for submission of papers is **February 28, 2026**.

The conference fee is 60 EUR (early-bird application, by **September 15, 2025**), 70 EUR (later applications), and for students is free of charge. The fee includes all sessions, symposium materials, coffee breaks, lunch, certificate of participation, administrative and tax costs.

Researchers affiliated with the Juraj Dobrila University of Pula may participate free of charge, while researchers from partner institutions have a 50% discount. To support the participation of students, alumni and scholars from low-income countries, a limited number of participants will be offered financial assistance, including free accommodation and exemption from the participation fee.

Further details are available on the conference [website](#).

For questions or more information, contact us at ffpu-azijskistudiji@unipu.hr (subject: [Conf2025]).

Conference Chair: Prof. Irena Srdanović

Conference Coordinator: Matea Radaković, Assistant