



Report on the 21st EAJS Workshop for Doctoral Students

SAPIENZA University of Rome, 27–29 August 2025

The 21st EAJS Workshop for Doctoral Students was held from 27 to 29 August 2025 at SAPIENZA University of Rome, and I had the pleasure of serving as its Academic Organizer. The workshop attracted 35 applications from doctoral candidates affiliated with universities across Europe as well as from Japanese institutions, confirming the continued strong interest in this EAJS initiative and the high level of scholarly engagement among early-career researchers in Japanese Studies. Following the selection process by the EAJS Council, 20 doctoral candidates were invited to participate in the workshop.

In preparation for the event, all participants submitted written outlines of their research projects, which were shared in advance among the participants and the senior advisors in order to facilitate scholarly exchange and discussion.

The workshop was held over two full working days, with presentations organised into thematic sessions. The topics addressed included, among others, history, literature, religious studies, gender studies, political thought, international relations, and contemporary social issues. Each participant had 15 minutes for their presentation, followed by a comment from one of the senior advisors and by open discussion with the other participants. The schedule was dense, but the atmosphere throughout the workshop sessions was one of lively and constructive engagement.

I am particularly grateful to the senior advisors: Dr. Marta Fanasca (University of Bologna), Prof. Dr. Kristina Iwata-Weickgenannt (Nagoya University), Dr. Benedetta Lomi (University of Bristol), and Prof. Dr. Aaron William Moore (University of Edinburgh). Their comments offered valuable guidance not only on the conceptual and theoretical framing of the individual projects, but also on practical aspects of doctoral research, such as methodology and strategies for situating each project within broader academic debates.

Alongside the discussion sessions, shared lunches, coffee breaks, and dinners provided further opportunities for informal exchange and networking. These moments of interaction contributed significantly to the overall success of the workshop and reinforced its function as a space for both academic training and community-building within the field.



In conclusion, the 21st EAJWS Workshop for Doctoral Students successfully achieved its main objectives: to provide focused and high-quality scholarly feedback, and to support the professional development of doctoral researchers working on Japan-related topics. The high level of engagement shown by all participants confirmed once again the importance of the EAJWS workshop series as an essential forum for academic exchange and doctoral training.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the European Association for Japanese Studies for selecting SAPIENZA University of Rome as the venue for the 21st PhD Workshop, and to the Toshiba International Foundation (TIFO) for its generous financial support, which made the organisation of the event possible. My warm thanks also go to the senior advisors for their time, expertise, and dedication, as well as to all participating doctoral candidates for their enthusiasm and active contribution to the discussions. I am equally grateful to my colleagues at SAPIENZA, in particular Dr. Dario Minguzzi, whose support was essential throughout the planning and organisation of the workshop, and to our PhD students Ludovica Marincioni and Sara Morini, whose assistance was invaluable during the workshop days.

Creating a space for open discussion and witnessing the commitment and enthusiasm of all participants was the most gratifying outcome of this workshop. The quality of the exchanges made these days in Rome especially meaningful, and I very much look forward to following the future development of the research projects presented and to meeting many of the participants again in future academic settings.



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