

# Japan and the World Newsletter



*Greetings from the Chair*

Dear Alumni, Alumnae, Supporters and Partners of Japanese Studies at Cambridge,  
I am delighted to welcome you to our fourth newsletter, which completes our first year of newsletters. I hope you have enjoyed reading about the many activities that we engage in at the Faculty. Indeed, it is probably no exaggeration to state that we are far more active per faculty member than most other Japanese Studies groups across the globe. In this newsletter, you will see that Dr Kushner's project is going strong, that Dr Nilsson-Wright's expertise on Japan and Korean international relations is in more demand than ever before (no surprise given recent developments) and that even the chair gets out every now and then to deliver talks at international conferences. We hope to continue on this path of impact and engagement, but would also welcome more participation by you, our graduates and partners. One step in that direction is a new roundtable discussion with some of our former students that we will hold this month. Please stay tuned for a report in our next newsletter.

This is also the time of the year when we wish our most recent cohort good luck as they take the next step in their careers. Our fourth-year undergraduates are all busy preparing for exams, and our final-year graduate students are busy writing theses and essays. I would like to take this opportunity to wish them all the best in their future endeavours as they will join the illustrious ranks of their *senpai* Tsurugi no kai members.

As always, we would like to encourage you to contact us if you have news to share, and feel free to share the newsletter with our supporters and partners if they have not received it. We are of course on Facebook and Twitter as well. Last, but not least, allow me to wish you a pleasant and sunny summer.

Mickey Adolphson  
Keidanren Professor and Chair  
Japanese Studies  
University of Cambridge

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**May 2018**

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# Academic news

## Hiroshima Tiles go on display in FAMES

On Friday 23 March, 2018, researcher and international coordinator at Hiroshima University Mr Rebun Kayo and student research assistant Miss Nao Yamada visited the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies.

Mr Kayo is chairman of the *Association of Hiroshima University for sending an atomic-bombed roof tile*. The association donates roof tiles and bricks salvaged from Hiroshima's Motoyasa river (which runs through the centre of the city past the site of the hypocentre of the atomic bomb explosion) to foreign universities and institutions. The aim of the Association is to continue spreading awareness of the devastating effects of nuclear weapons. By providing material evidence of this destruction they hope to continue to spread the message of peace.

The tiles received by FAMES were given as a gesture of thanks to The University for a donation of books sent by the Cambridge University Library to Hiroshima University library in 1952. These books were given in response to a request from the then president Professor Tatsuo Morito. Professor Morito sent letters to institutions all over the world to request donations of books and seeds to rebuild the Hiroshima University Library, and to replant the university campus.

If you are in Cambridge please do feel free to drop by and view the display currently in the front lobby of Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies.



## John Nilsson-Wright article published in Japan Forum

Dr John Nilsson-Wright's article: 'Nuclear crisis on the Korean peninsula: strategic adaptation, the Abe administration and extended deterrence in the face of uncertainty' was published in April's Japan Forum (Volume 31). To view the the Japan Forum online please follow the link below

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/09555803.2018.1451355?journalCode=rjfo20>

## Chair delivers presentation at Tel Aviv conference.

Professor Adolphson was recently invited to deliver his talk *The Two Wings of a Bird: Buddhism and the State in Early Medieval Japan* at the **Priest and Priesthood in the Near East: Social, Intellectual and Economic Aspects** conference held at Tel Aviv University, 19 - 21 March 2018.

[To view the full programme for the conference please click here.](#)

## The Japanese Empire's Enduring Vestiges. An Interview with Sherzod Muminov

Dr Sherzod Muminov, former PhD candidate at FAMES and postdoctoral research associate on the ERC project "The Dissolution of the Japanese Empire and the Struggle for Legitimacy in Postwar East Asia" has been interviewed recently on his paper "The Japanese Empire's Enduring Vestiges: Forced Migrations, Negotiations and the Struggle for Dominance in Post-imperial East Asia, 1945-1956."

To listen to the interview follow the link below:  
<http://trafo.hypotheses.org/8783>

For more information on Dr Muminov's research [please click here.](#)

# FAMES Students at Japanese Studies Postgraduate Workshop in London

The Japanese Studies Postgraduate Workshop, co-organized by the British Association for Japanese Studies and the Japan Foundation, was held on February 16, 2018 in an important venue for Japanese Studies in Europe and the World, the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London. The event gathered 36 participants from more than 20 universities in the UK. Among them there were three students from the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies (Ko-Hang Liao, Anna Melkina and Ivan Triola), who decided to use this chance to present their own research, meet their peers and senior colleagues, and learn more about different funding opportunities and career prospects.

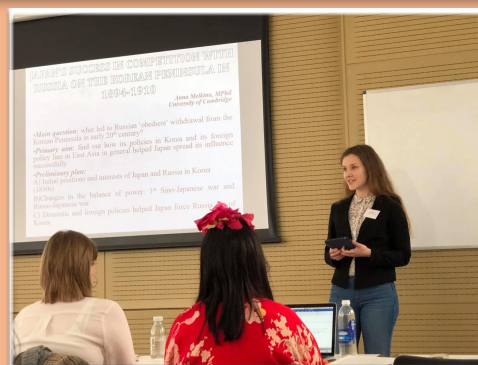
The event started off with a word of welcome from Ms Mana Takatori, Director-General of the Japan Foundation London, and Dr Christopher Hood, President of the British Association for Japanese Studies followed by the participants splitting into two groups to deliver brief presentations on their research topics and receive feedback from senior researchers.

All the participants of the workshop demonstrated very high potential, passion for academia in general and commitment to their research. The wide range of topics explored, among different disciplines, had one common denominator: Japan. Getting to know people with similar interests was one of the most useful and enjoyable parts of the event, which helped the graduate students to connect, broaden their perspectives, gain valuable feedback from their peers. Ko-Hang and Anna happened to be in the same group and made the presentations entitled 'Protector or Perpetrator? What the White Group (白団) Taught ROC Military Officers and Their Impact on Taiwan' and 'Japan's success in competition with Russia on the Korean Peninsula in 1894-1910' respectively. Ivan was in the other group and presented his research on the role of charisma in New Japanese Religions. All three of them mentioned a very high level of all presenters and a great variety of research topics.

Later, the participants had a chance to listen to some of their senior colleagues and representatives of the most preeminent Anglo-Japanese foundations. The former, informed the participants on relevant matters in the field such as ethical issues that emerge when conducting fieldwork in Japan or publishing matters when it comes to gain the attention of the Japanese academia. These presentations were followed by the representatives of the funding bodies, who dispensed their audience precious advice on securing funding for their degrees and obtaining financial support for field trips in Japan.

The event was deemed fruitful by the participants interviewed as it provided them with new contacts and fresh perspectives on their own research, which will allow them to continue their studies more smoothly and carry out their research successfully.

*Words by Anna Melkina, (MPhil in Japanese Studies)  
and Ivan Triola, (1st Year PhD in Japanese Studies)*





# Hitotsubashi University visit

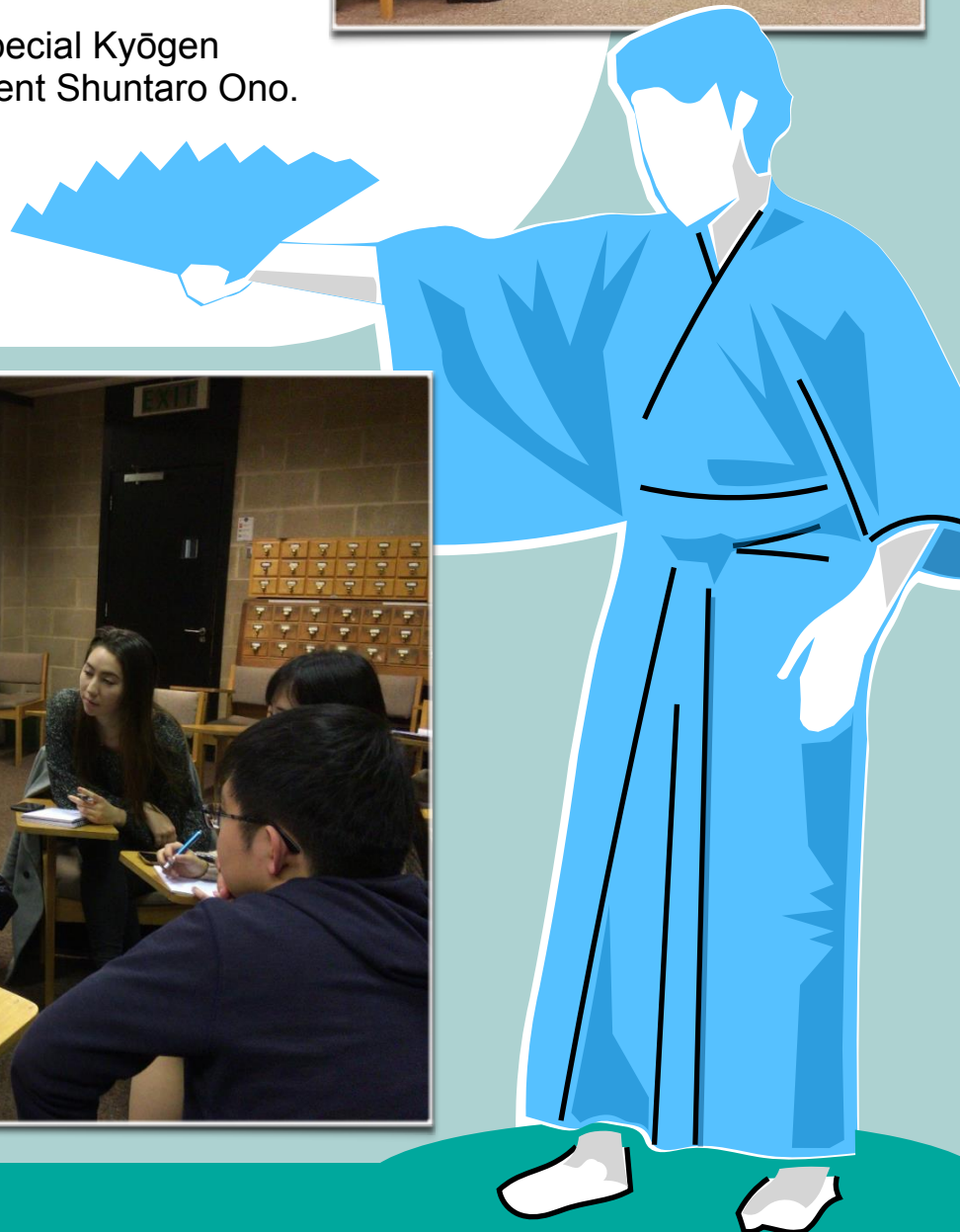
On the 31 January 2018 the Japanese Studies subject group was delighted to welcome a group of students and staff (Drs Atsushi Yamada, Maiko Ichihara, Naoko Matsumura and Kazuhiro Ōbayashi) from Hitotsubashi University.

The visiting students were greeted by undergraduate and graduate students from the Japanese Studies programme at Cambridge who accompanied them for a day of activities and cultural exchange.

In the afternoon Drs John Nilsson-Wright and Barak Kushner led a lively and engaging discussion session with the two groups of students covering such topics as contemporary geopolitics in East Asia and domestic governance in Japan.

The day was rounded off with a special Kyōgen performance by Hitotsubashi student Shuntaro Ono.

To read the Cambridge students' full report of the day please [click here](#).





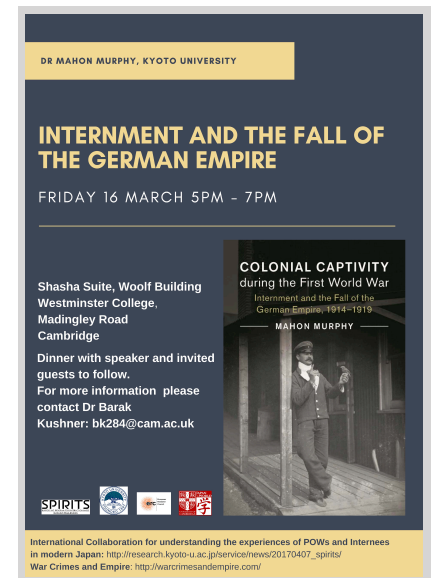
# Conferences and workshops

## Prisoners of War and Civilian Internees from the Viewpoint of East Asia

On Friday 16 March the conference *Prisoners of War and Civilian Internees from the Viewpoint of East Asia* opened with a keynote from [Dr Mahon Murphy \(Trinity College, Dublin\)](#). Dr Mahon's opening lecture emphasised the necessity of looking at the non-European theatres of war to more fully grasp the impact of how prisoners and their treatment affected the world at large and the future of warfare.

The following day, Saturday 17th March, Japanese and European scholars exchanged ideas about their research concerning prisoners and civilians in captivity during the first half of the 20th Century. [A full program and pictures from the conference can be found here.](#)

The conference was co-sponsored by [Dr Barak Kushner's ERC grant on The Dissolution of the Japanese Empire and the Struggle for legitimacy in Postwar East Asia](#), and Dr Naraoka Sochi's *Spirits* funding from Kyoto University in Japan.



## Propaganda and Journalism during/on the second Sino-Japanese War 1937-1945

March 19 - 21, 2018, Dr Barak Kushner co-managed a conference with [Professor Tsuchiya Reiko from Waseda University, Japan](#), concerning propaganda and media issues that developed during and about WWII in East Asia.

The conference, entitled: **Cambridge workshop: Propaganda and Journalism during/on the second Sino-Japanese War 1937-1945** ran over two days and saw presentations from scholars based in Japan, China and the UK. Attendees engaged in discussions in Chinese, Japanese and English concerning propaganda and media issues in East Asia. For a full programme and photos see below.

[Click here to see the full programme.](#)

