

Japan and the World

Newsletter



Greetings from the Chair

Dear Alumni, Alumnae, and Supporters of Japanese Studies at Cambridge,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to our third and final newsletter of this academic year. It is also my fourth year since arriving at Cambridge, and while many, many exciting things have happened since then, I think the last six months are among the most successful we have had. As you will see in this issue, in March, we created partnerships with two Japanese companies to fund graduate students for three and six years respectively. Not only are such arrangements new for Japanese Studies at Cambridge, but they are in fact unique among Japanese Studies programmes worldwide. What also makes us unique right now, at least in the European setting, is a recent purchase of twenty original medieval documents, most of them dating to the thirteenth century. It goes without saying that the medievalist in our group (that would be me) is extremely excited about this acquisition, but so are our graduate students. We hope to feature some of these documents in an exhibit next year at the University Library, which I hope you will visit.

Three of our talented students in the expanding graduate programme have been similarly successful in securing Japan Foundation Fellowships. It is fabulous to even have one but to have three is truly extraordinary, and we want to congratulate the deserving recipients as they embark on research in Japan. Ria Roy, our ever-active second-year Gates graduate student, has been entrusted with the chief editor duties of the Gates magazine, reflecting again the increasing presence and reputation of our programmes at Cambridge.

Our staff have also been active as we continue to garner attention. Dr Young's many presentations stand out as does Dr Steger's launching of her role as a PI in Cambridge's waste management project, which has brought young postdoctoral researchers to our faculty. Barak Kushner's ERC project, which has been going strong for six years came to its end, and I would encourage you to take a look at the tremendous accomplishments achieved during that time both in this newsletter and on the project website. Dr Laura Moretti achieved a teaching grand slam in bringing home a prestigious Pilkington Teaching Prize (as the only one from the School of Arts and Humanities) as well as a student-led Undergraduate Supervisor award.

This is also the time to say goodbye to our graduating fourth-year students and congratulate them on their degrees. It is a large cohort and we have enjoyed having each one of you. Our special congratulations of course to our first Brandon Ginsberg Japanese Undergraduate Dissertation Prize winner Ms Sophie Grant. We hope that all of you will stay in touch and come back some time as four of our former students did in our second alumnae/alumni roundtable event in early May. Our students and staff very much enjoyed hearing from Mr Gideon Franklin, Dr Emily Barrass Chapman, Mr David Pegg and our own Dr Vicky Young about their experiences both at Cambridge and afterwards. Thanks to all for coming and enriching our programme. This event is very important to our students in showing the many options available to them upon graduation but also to us in having a chance to catch up with our former students. I hope that we can continue on this track and build strong relationships with all of you. Our students need you and so do we, so feel free to contact us at any point.

Mickey Adolphson
Keidanren Professor and Chair
Japanese Studies
University of Cambridge

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June 2019

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Report and pictures from the fifth annual Cambridge Hitotsubashi Joint Seminar

4. UL acquires medieval Japanese documents

Prof Adolphson and graduate students get a first look at the UL's exciting new Japanese acquisitions

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Report from this year's Alumnae / ni Roundtable



Farewell to our graduating students

The Japanese Studies section wishes a fond farewell to our undergraduate cohort who have now completed four years of Japanese Studies. Well done on completing your exams. We will follow your future careers with interest, and hope to see you all again, perhaps at future Alumnae/ni Roundtable events!



We would also like to wish congratulations and farewell to our graduating MPhil and PhD students. One such student, Dr Maria Bungo has successfully completed her PhD research. Her PhD dissertation, titled "Shunpon: Intertextuality, Humour, and Sexual Education in Early-modern Japan", analysed sexually-explicit rewritings of earlier, renowned literature, including shunpon versions of works such as The Tale of Genji and The Pillow Book.

Inaugural Brandon Ginsberg Japanese Studies Undergraduate Dissertation Prize awarded to Ms Sophie Grant

Special congratulations to Sophie Grant on becoming the first recipient of the Brandon Ginsberg Japanese Studies Undergraduate Dissertation Prize. The title of Sophie's dissertation is **Politicising Women's Bodies: Eugenics, Reproduction and the Politics of Blood, 1940-1965**.

The Brandon Ginsberg Prize, established in 2018, is supported by the kind donation of Japanese studies alumnus Mr Brandon Ginsberg. The prize is awarded annually to the Japanese Studies student who receives the highest mark for their final year dissertation.

PhD students awarded Japan Foundation Fellowships

The Japanese Studies group congratulates PhD candidates Mikwi Cho, Ko-hang Liu and Ivan Triola, who have been awarded prestigious Japan Foundation Fellowships for 2019-20. The three PhD candidates will spend the next academic year in Japan working on their research. The fellowship programme provides outstanding scholars, researchers and PhD candidates in the fields of Japanese Studies, the humanities and the social sciences with opportunities to conduct research in Japan.

Mikwi Cho



Research title:

Koreans across the Sea: Migration to the Metropole, 1910-1953

Supervisor:

Prof. Toyomi Asano

Institution:

Waseda University

Ivan Triola



Research title:

Media and Religion: Community Building and Charisma in Modern Japan

Supervisor:

Emeritus Prof. Inoue Nobutaka

Institution:

Kokugakuin University

Ko-hang Liu



Research title:

Rethinking Defeat: Japan, Chiang Kai-shek and the 'White Group' in Taiwan, 1949-1969

Supervisor:

Prof. Yasuhiro Matsuda

Institution:

University of Tokyo



Dr Laura Moretti receives student-led teaching award

In May Dr Laura Moretti received the student-led teaching award in the category of Undergraduate Supervisor (School of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences). The award ceremony took place at St Paul's Church on Hills Road and was a great occasion to celebrate excellent teaching at Cambridge. First-year student Chiara Ferrari-Braun was among the students who shared this happy moment.



We also congratulate Dr Moretti on being awarded the Pilkington Prize for teaching. The ceremony for which will take place in June. To learn more about the Pilkington Prize please follow the link below:

<https://www.cctl.cam.ac.uk/pilkington-prize>

Ms Ria Roy, Editor of Gates Cambridge 'Scholar' magazine

FAMES PhD candidate Ria Roy has taken up the role of Editor-in-Chief of Gates Cambridge's magazine 'Scholar' for 2019.

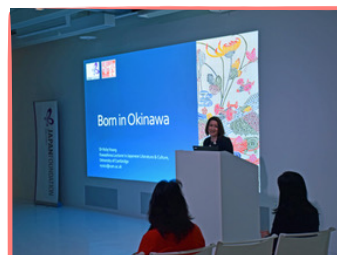
The annual magazine provides an overview of the research being conducted by current Gates Scholars. Articles in the magazine are connected by a common theme, this year: *The past and the present: looking back and moving forward*.

As well as acting as editor Ria has also contributed an article to this year's magazine, 'Finding the missing piece of the puzzle: On comprehending North Korea'

[To read the magazine please click here](#)

Dr Vicky Young Lent and Easter Term lectures

Throughout Lent and Easter Term Dr Vicky Young has been representing Japanese Studies at Cambridge in a series of panels and lectures.



First, as part of the Japanese Embassy's Season of Culture, Dr Young led an Okinawa Event organised by the Japan Foundation. The evening opened with a talk by Dr Young on Okinawan history, culture and language titled 'Born in Okinawa'. Later the audience were treated to live performances from the Okinawa Sanshinkai, showcasing traditional Okinawan music and dance.

Following hot on the heels of the Japan Foundation Okinawa Event Dr Young chaired a panel at *Japan Now 2019: Translation Day* in late February. The panel featured literary translators Ginny Tapley Takemori and Morgan Giles 'explor[ing] the brilliant new generation of women authors and the challenges of translating their subversive work'.



Finally, with winter fading and Easter Term fast approaching Dr Young gave a Japan Society lecture: "Like Bombs": Narrative, Memory, and Linguistic Terrorism in Contemporary Okinawan Fiction".

A Young's Eye View on Japan

As well as numerous lectures throughout Lent and Easter Term Dr Vicky Young has also been contributing to the Asahi News' new Magazine feature: 'A Young's Eye View on Japan' - short articles on current events aimed at Japanese speakers learning English. Find out more here: <https://webzine.asahipress.com/posts/1957>



ケンブリッジ大学ヤング博士の
A Young's Eye View on Japan



Two new graduate scholarships secured

We are delighted to announce the official signing of two new graduate scholarship agreements. In March Keidanren Chair of Japanese Studies, Professor Mickey Adolphson, met with Wano Tsutomu of Quick co. and Nakagawa Hiroyuki of NGA in Osaka and Tokyo respectively to officially sign the agreements.



Founded in 1951, the NGA Group specialises in vocational colleges, driving schools and real-estate leasing across Japan. **The Hiroyuki Nakagawa Graduate Scholarship in Japanese Studies** will provide a new source of funding for top-flight PhD applicants. It will be administered in collaboration with the Cambridge Trust and the Japanese Studies Section of the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies to cover tuition fees and maintenance for two graduate students, one starting in 2019 and one in 2022.

The Quick Group provides human resources-related services including recruitment, HR consulting, education and training. It is also active in information technology and publishing. Quick has operations across the globe and its goal is to become the 'Human resources Department for the World'. In collaboration with the Cambridge Trust **The Quick Japan and the World Graduate Scholarship** will co-fund a programme of PhD scholarships for students of Japanese Studies at Cambridge, starting in 2020. The aim of the scholarship is to stimulate world class research concerning the study of Japan or considering Japan in the larger context of the world.



Small to medium sized enterprise and businesses make up the vast majority of companies operating in Japan today, and support roughly 70% of the nation's workforce. They also represent the most diverse and vibrant sector of Japan's business community. Forging connections with visionary companies such as Quick and NGA is helping to push our Japan and the World graduate programme from strength to strength and scholarships such as these allow us to continue to recruit to Cambridge the very best graduate students from around the world.

PDRA joins Dr Brigitte Steger's waste management project

A new research associate has joined FAMES to work on Dr Brigitte Steger's project titled [Cleanliness, convenience and propriety: Plastic and waste in consumer societies](#).

This is part of the 'Centre for Circular Economy Approaches to Eliminate Plastic Waste (CirPlas),' funded by the UKRI until July 2020.

Dr Teresa Perez recently returned to the UK after eight years in South Africa. For her PhD she worked as a 'waste picker,' alongside a group who made a livelihood by selling items reclaimed from household bins, in the affluent suburbs of Cape Town. Her work will provide a comparative case study for sites in Uruguay, which also has a substantial informal waste management sector (undertaken by Dr Patrick O'Hare), and Japan.

Her proposed research is concerned with recycling in the context of post-apartheid social dynamics, with a focus on beach plastic in Cape Town. She will therefore be representing CirPlas at forthcoming forums convened to tackle ocean plastic.

Based on her research into stigma, she has contributed to debates about research ethics. She is currently working on developing procedures for ethics at FAMES to better cater to the increasing number of students carrying out fieldwork in difficult settings.

Her previous fellowship researched stakeholders' experiences of an intervention designed to enable climate change adaptation in semi-arid regions ([ASSAR](#)). Building on this, she will be developing mechanisms to evaluate the impact of CirPlas on different groups. She is also helping to organise 'The Social Life of Plastic' workshop, being held at The Needham Research Institute on 7-8th November 2019.



Professor Barak Kushner's ERC project: Final Gathering

23 February 2019

This final gathering, organized under the banner of the ERC project, came one week before its closure. The moment provided an excellent opportunity to gather together 15 academics who have been involved with the project over the last six years, and through five presentations we were offered an overview of the group's many activities and achievements.

First, Dr. Sherzod Muminov (University of East Anglia) introduced his current research, which involves a large amount of collaboration with academics in both the East and West. Perhaps, most importantly, he is working on the final revisions for his monograph, entitled: *Eleven Winters of Discontent: The Siberian Internment and the Making of the New Japan, 1945-1956*, which is forthcoming from Harvard University Press in 2020.

Second, Dr. Andrew Levidis (University of Central Lancashire) gave us an insight into his vision for how the history of de-imperialization in East Asia should be approached, and especially how his research is informed by a need to view the post-World War II Japanese conservative hegemony and the vehicle of that hegemony - the Liberal Democratic Party - as an essentially post-imperial political order.

Third, Dr. Casper Wits (University of Cambridge) introduced his on-going book project, which deals with the role of Chinese and Japanese journalists within the broader context of Sino-Japanese relations in the decades after 1945. Due to the central role of journalists in influencing bilateral views and opinions during the Cold War, his investigation serves as an important angle from which to understand why the success of rapprochement came with the failure of reconciliation, and therefore why the legacy of empire still haunts the region today.

Fourth, Ria Roy (University of Cambridge) gave us a thorough overview of the Park Yu-ha translation project and its importance. While the project was a group effort of the entire research team, Ria has been central to it on the Korean testimony translation angle and hopefully we will soon see the publication of this important work about the Korean comfort women and the debate surrounding this issue in South Korea.

Last, Professor Barak Kushner (University of Cambridge) rounded up the discussion by going over the many achievements of the 6-year ERC project. Over the life of the grant he was able to host 6 postdocs; 3 graduate students (formally); and more than 9 visiting scholars. He and his research team produced 5 monographs; 18 journal articles; 13 book reviews; 5 edited books; and 21 chapters in edited volumes. Central to the effort of bringing together like-minded scholars from East and West during these years has been the organization of 12 international conferences, as well as 51 workshops, and around 75 talks delivered by Professor Kushner all over the world. The grant has enabled the creation of a space at the University of Cambridge for debating the legacies of the Japanese empire in East Asia and the adjudication of war crimes in the postwar era, a debate that is pivotal for understanding the volatile state of international relations in the region today. All those who were able to participate in this gathering, as well as other activities of the project in the last six years, will hopefully continue to pursue the multifaceted historical questions raised, thereby making the project a base for continuing inquiry into the postwar reverberations of the Japanese empire in East Asia.



3

Graduate students

9

Visiting scholars

5

Monographs

18

Journal articles

13

Book reviews

5

Edited books

21

Chapters in edited volumes

12

International conferences

51

Workshops

75

Talks (UK and international)



Fifth annual Cambridge - Hitotsubashi joint seminar and signing of new MoU

4 February 2019

This year's meeting stands out as it marked the beginning of a new exchange agreement between our two institutions. The exchange agreement MoU, signed by Professors Adolphson and Bennison of FAMES and Professor Tadenuma Koichi, president of Hitotsubashi University, will allow one undergraduate from FAMES to study at Hitotsubashi University for one academic year, and one graduate student from HU to come to FAMES.

The day of joint activities began with Cambridge students and staff welcoming our Hitotsubashi guests to the faculty. This year we were delighted to welcome our largest cohort yet with 23 students and 3 members of staff. After the introductions the Cambridge students took groups of Hitotsubashi students on a tour of Cambridge, showing them the various colleges and University buildings, as well as the town centre and market. The groups gathered again for lunch at the University Centre on Mill Lane, before returning to the faculty for the afternoon's activities.

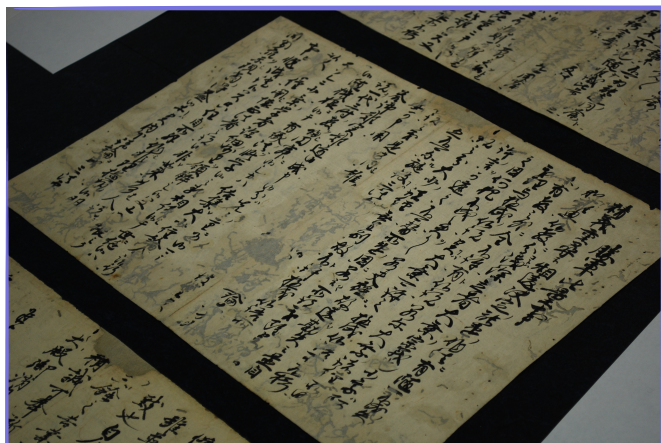
During the first part of the afternoon the students split into groups for the presentations by the Cambridge students. The Cambridge 2nd years presented in Japanese on the topic 'The current affairs of my country', which was followed by Q&A. The 4th years split into two groups to present and answer questions on their dissertation topics. For the second part of the afternoon the groups rejoined for the Hitotsubashi students' English presentations, also followed by Q&A. All those presenting spoke well and confidently, answering questions thoughtfully in their target language.

To mark 5 years of fruitful exchange, and celebrate the signing of the new exchange agreement, all students and staff were invite to a dinner in the evening at Trinity College, hosted by Professor Mickey Adolphson. The meal was a terrific success, and a fitting way to celebrate the hard work of the students and teachers involved.

This annual event has grown from humble beginnings and with the signing of this new exchange agreement we look forward to many more years of exchange and cooperation.



UL acquires medieval Japanese documents



We are extremely proud to announce that the Cambridge University Library has purchased a unique collection of documents related to one of the greatest and most powerful Buddhist temples in medieval Japan---Kōfukuji.

These original medieval documents have survived because as paper was a rare commodity, the reverse was used to write something else, in this case Buddhist treatises. What makes this collection special is that Kōfukuji's vast collection of documents mostly perished in various fires, so very few of them are available at all in Japan or elsewhere.

The collection consists of twenty documents ranging from private letters to land-related edicts, all from the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. Among them, we find possibly the oldest examples of notes of credit issued in Japan (mid-thirteenth century) and a directive signed by the powerful noble Kujō Michiie in 1233. The importance of having such a collection at Cambridge cannot be overestimated. Only a couple of universities outside Japan have medieval Japanese documents in their possession and even fewer have historians who can use them. Cambridge is now the only university in Europe to have both. Not only will they attract scholars to Cambridge for research, but these documents will also be used to teach young scholars how to decipher original, hand-written documents, a skill that is taught mainly at Japanese universities.

We wish to express our deepest gratitude to Dr Kristin Williams, head of the Japanese and Korean Sections at the University Library for locating the collection and to the Cambridge UL for supporting the purchase.



Alumnae/ni Roundtable 2019

On May 6th we were joined in the faculty by four former students for the second annual Alumnae/ni Roundtable. This year we were pleased to welcome: **Mr Gideon Franklin, Dr Emily Barrass Chapman, Mr David Pegg and Dr Victoria Young** (pictured above, left to right.) Many of you will recognise Dr Young as the faculty's Kawashima Lecturer in Modern Japanese Literature and Culture. The meeting this year was chaired by Professor Barak Kushner and began with the four panelists introducing themselves and their careers. Below are a couple of examples of the questions and answers that came out of the meeting.

Q

Can you really plot a career? What role does chance play?

The panel members explained how their own career trajectories had affected their lives. The students were advised to stay literate to the possibilities available to them and to the skills they possess; to do their research when applying for opportunities, but ultimately not to worry if things don't appear to be going to plan. Inevitably both opportunities and difficulties will present themselves, perseverance and adaptability are key to navigating the difficulties.

Q

How did your dissertation work help to inform your future?

The panel drew comparisons between aspects of dissertation work and projects in the workplace. The practice of exploring a subject and crafting it into something which you can explain effectively to others is an essential skill. In addition, having something which you can talk about in detail in Japanese is invaluable – it gives a unique approach to Japan which is totally different to most foreign residents. The point was also made that Japanese is a very difficult language for English speakers to get to grips with, so the process of learning in itself is a valuable instruction in how to go through something very difficult, and see it out to the end (love it or hate it!).

The purpose of the alumnae/ni roundtable event is to demonstrate to our undergraduate students the broad range of careers that are open to them once they leave Cambridge, and to provide an opportunity meet their senpai. If you are a former student of Japanese Studies and would like to get involved in one of our alumni events we would be delighted to hear from you. For more information please contact: fs468@cam.ac.uk