

# Japan and the World

## Newsletter



### *Greetings from the Chair*

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

I am delighted to share with you our first newsletter of the 2019-20 academic year and to welcome new students and staff to Japanese Studies at Cambridge. To begin with, allow me to share some fantastic news. On 2 October, Ms Seijyu Kahou signed a donation to fund two consecutive three-year postdoctoral grants starting in the fall of 2020. Named the *Cambridge Kahou Postdoctoral Scholar Fellowship in Japanese Studies*, the fellowships will allow us to broaden our expertise while also strengthening our teaching provision. If you know of recent or soon-to-be PhDs in any discipline of Japanese Studies, then please tell them about this unique opportunity, which will be advertised early next year.

One of the most exciting things about this fall is the many new and exciting arrivals in our section. In September, Dr Joshua Batts joined us for three years as a Japan and the World Postdoctoral Fellow. A specialist in early modern Japanese history, Dr Batts, who received his doctoral degree from Columbia University, will continue to pursue his research and complete a manuscript on trade in the early seventeenth century, embark on a new project and help us with our teaching provision. We are also very pleased to be able to welcome a record size cohort of MPhil and PhD students to Japanese Studies this year. It is a testament to the excellent research conducted by our academic staff, but also to the success of our fundraising efforts, that we have increased the number of applicants and admissions for the third consecutive year. One prime example of our new, and very successful, collaboration with Japanese companies is the Hiroyuki Nakagawa Graduate Scholarship in Japanese Studies, which we inaugurated this fall and celebrated at a dinner on 17 October. The inaugural recipient of this prestigious scholarship is Mr Guy Pinnington. Finally, we are very happy to welcome a new cohort of first-year undergraduate students to our Tripos. It is a great group of eleven curious and bright students, and we very much look forward to having you in our classes and to following on your journey to Japan, and through its language and culture.

Our faculty members have, as always, been extremely busy over the summer. In fact, I am amazed at how much is being accomplished over such a short time span. Professor Kushner had yet another book published (co-edited with Dr Sherzod Muminov), and also managed to give a series of lectures in East Asia. Above all, he was honoured with the 15th Nakasone Yasuhiro Award, an honour which is hard to get and yet is the second one for our section. Dr Nilsson-Wright, who is our other awardee of that prize, has been as busy as ever with all that is going on in the international relations of East Asia, and his presence in international media, be it TV, radio or in newspapers, never ceases to impress. Dr Steger's co-edited books *Cool Japanese Men* and *Manga Girl Seeks Herbivore Boy* continue to receive attention and she is now heavily involved in her new project on plastic recycling. Dr Laura Moretti continues her busy research agenda, but still manages to run a very successful Summer Graduate School in Japanese Early-Modern Palaeography, which attracts students and scholars from around the world; if you are interested in knowing more, please do check out the videos linked in this newsletter. Dr Vicky Young is currently enjoying a well-deserved sabbatical in Los Angeles, but she will be back in the new year and we look forward to having her back with plenty of new ideas. Allow me also to mention one more highpoint this summer, which was my meeting with eight members of Japan's House of Councillors, who came to Cambridge only to see us. We had an inspiring discussion about the role that Japan and Japanese Studies can, and perhaps should, play in promoting more collaborative research in a global setting. I look forward to hearing from them again in the near future.

I would be remiss if I did not state how proud we are of the success of our students and alumni/ae. Ms Sophie Grant ('19) won the Ivan Morris Dissertation Prize, and those of you who enjoy this newsletter will recall that another student won it last year, so that makes two in a row. On top of that, two of our graduate students, Mr Colton Runyan and Ms Mi Kwi Cho, have received Aoi Scholarships for short-term research in Japan. Finally, one of our alumni, Mr Gideon Franklin, has been kind enough to host two of our recent students as interns in his company, while we have also increased the number of opportunities for internships both in Japan and in the UK. In short, Japanese Studies at Cambridge is hot! Stay tuned for further news and enjoy this fall's newsletter.

Mickey Adolphson  
Keidanren Professor and Chair  
Japanese Studies  
University of Cambridge



# In this issue

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Issue 8  
October 2019

## 1. News + Alum-news

News from the Japanese Studies Subject Group including recent research, summer schools and publications. We also welcome a new member of staff and check in with some of our recent graduates.

## 2. Welcome to our new students

With Michaelmas Term and the new academic year already upon us we wish a warm welcome to all our new undergraduate and graduate students.

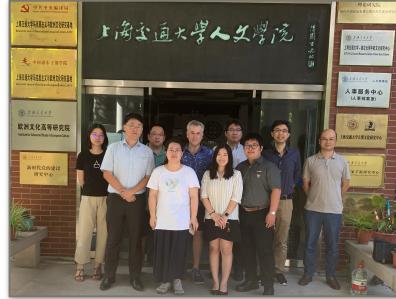
## 3. East Asia Seminar Series

A look ahead at the exciting talks taking place this term in the East Asia Seminar Series.



## Professor Kushner leads summer courses and workshops in East Asia

As well as being a visiting professor and teaching a summer course at Waseda University Professor Barak Kushner spent a busy summer leading workshops and delivering lectures at various institutions in East Asia including at Hitotsubashi University in Japan and at the International Summer School on East Asian International Relations in Maritime History, Shanghai Jiaotong University.



Following that, from 30 July to 1 August, Prof Kushner and Dr Kuan-Jen Chen managed an international workshop with Dr Chang Chihyun (Shanghai Jiaotong University) in Shanghai. The workshop was based on Prof Kushner's Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation project: Charting the Geography of Power: Visualizing the Shifting Landscape from Imperial to Postwar East Asia through War Crimes Trials.

Prof Kushner, Dr Chang, and Dr Chen introduced the progress made in designing and building the war crimes mapping GIS website. Miss Ho Chia-Wei and Mr Chang Hsiu-Jui (Feng Chia University, Taiwan) demonstrated the updates to the website and new tools that will be usable upon completion for statistical evaluation and geo-mapping. Prof Kawashima Shin (University of Tokyo) offered feedback concerning how to improve the website when adding the new data from the CCP trials and other datasets in the future. Dr Lan Shi-Chi (National Chengchi University, Taiwan), Dr Yan Haijian (Nanjing Normal University), and Miss Sun Yi (Shanghai Jiaotong University) presented their current research projects about war criminals and postwar East Asia. Plans were laid to hold the 2<sup>nd</sup> conference in either Taiwan or mainland China.

## Continued success for *Cool Japanese Men* and *Manga Girl Seeks Herbivore Boy*



The two volumes of Cambridge Japanese Studies students' research, edited by Drs Brigitte Steger and Angelika Koch, have continued to receive positive reviews, most recently in the [Asia Pacific Business Review](#). Both books are also cited in Joy Hendry's recently published latest edition of *Understanding Japanese Society*. *Manga Girls* is also recommended further reading in the Gender section of the *Routledge Handbook of Modern Japanese History*.

## New co-edited volume from Professor Kushner and Dr Muminov (UEA)

The new volume, *Overcoming Empire in Post-Imperial East Asia: Repatriation, Redress and Rebuilding*, brings together an international team of scholars who explore the post-imperial history of the region. From international aid to postwar cinema to chemical warfare, the essays in this collection focus on the aftermath of Japan's aggressive warfare and the international strategies which Japan, China, Taiwan, North and South Korea utilised following the end of the war and the collapse of Japan's empire.

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Overcoming-Empire-Post-Imperial-Studies-Contemporary/dp/1350127051>

## Members of Japanese House of Councillors visit FAMES



On Wednesday 4th September Professor Mickey Adolphson had the pleasure of welcoming 8 members of the Japanese House of Councillors (参議院) to the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies.

The delegation, visiting the UK in order to further ties with the UK government, met with several MPs and members of the House of Lords before departing London for a visit to Cambridge. Accompanied by members of embassy staff, the delegation took in a tour of Cambridge, including colleges and University buildings, before joining us in FAMES in the afternoon for a meeting with Professor Adolphson.

During the meeting the delegates were keen to discuss the state of Japanese Studies in the UK and at Cambridge. Professor Adolphson detailed some of the world-leading research taking place in the faculty, and outlined our vision for the future of Japanese Studies at Cambridge.



## Six Year Post-doc Funding Agreement

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October Keidanren Chair of Japanese Studies, Professor Mickey Adolphson, signed a new funding agreement with Chief Director of Pan Asian Association (PAA), Ms Seijyu Kahou. The *Cambridge Kahou Postdoctoral Scholar Fellowship in Japanese Studies* will provide funding for two consecutive postdoctoral research positions over the next six years. This will be a great asset to Japanese Studies at Cambridge, raising our already excellent research profile, and potentially introducing a new field of expertise into the faculty.

The Pan Asia Association, established in 2016, is an NGO which aims to further international understanding of Japanese traditional culture and art. PAA is a member of the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

## Dr Laura Moretti hosts sixth Graduate Summer School in Japanese Early-modern Palaeography

For the sixth successive year Dr Laura Moretti hosted the popular and successful Graduate Summer School in Japanese Early-modern Palaeography at Emmanuel College, Cambridge.



The Summer School, which took place from 5<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> August, saw over 30 participants from all around the world congregate in Cambridge to expand their knowledge in reading early-modern archival materials in their original format. As in previous years participants were joined by master calligrapher Yukiko Ayres who focussed on 女筆 (nyohitsu) "The woman's brush".

[Please click here to view two short films about the Summer School](#) (links to Japan and the World website)

## Dr John Nilsson-Wright recent comment and analysis in international media

Following on from the release in May of the Chatham House report on UK - Japan relations ([The UK and Japan: Forging a Global and Proactive Partnership](#)) Dr Nilsson-Wright has been kept busy this summer providing analysis and comment on politics and international relations in the East Asian region, most recently publishing an article in the East Asia Forum Quarterly. This article examines Abe's premiership through the lens of Japan's international diplomacy, and the possible challenges that lay ahead with respect to the US and South Korea: [Abe's unfinished political legacy](#)

And for those of you who read French a 6000 word essay on democracy and the risk of populism in Japan, prompted in part by the recent rise in ROK-Japan tensions: [Japon - une démocratie aux pieds d'argile ?](#)

## Professor Kushner receives Nakasone Award

On 2nd July, 2019, Prof. Barak Kushner received the 15<sup>th</sup> Nakasone Yasuhiro Award. He follows in the footsteps of his colleague, John Nilsson-Wright, who was the recipient of the 10<sup>th</sup> Award.



Since its foundation in 1988, Nakasone Peace Institute (NPI) has conducted independent research on a wide range of issues, convened international conferences featuring presentations and discussions by leading experts from Japan and overseas, and fostered cooperative research and exchange with foremost research institutes around the world.

For more information please go to:

<https://www.ames.cam.ac.uk/news/barak-kushner-receives-15th-nakasone-yasuhiro-award>





## Japanese Studies subject group welcomes new teaching postdoc, Dr Joshua Batts

The Japanese Studies subject group would like to wish a warm welcome to our newest member of teaching staff, Dr Joshua Batts, who will be joining us from the beginning of Michaelmas Term in the role of teaching postdoc.

Dr. Batts' research explores the dynamics between early modern Japanese and world history. His current research project examines Tokugawa Japan's attempts to establish direct, trans-Pacific trade with Spanish America in the early seventeenth century. Drawing on archives in Europe and Japan, the project uses this little-known case study to reevaluate the nature of diplomacy and the various frictions inhibiting encounter in the early modern world. Dr. Batts is also developing a project on mining and minting in Tokugawa Japan and its connection to contemporary narratives of industrial, national, and global heritage.



## Aoi scholarship winners announced

Two Japanese Studies PhD students, Ms Mi Kwi Cho and Mr Colton Runyan have been awarded the Aoi Scholarship to conduct research in Japan. We would like to congratulate them on this achievement and express our gratitude to Aoi for their sustained support of our graduate programme.

To learn more about the Aoi Scholarship programme please visit the faculty website here: <https://www.ames.cam.ac.uk/research/research-region/east-asia/japan/aoi-scholarships>

## Hiroyuki Nakagawa Cambridge Graduate Scholarship Celebration Dinner



On Thursday 17th October We were delighted to welcome Mr Hiroyuki Nakagawa to Cambridge for a celebratory dinner to mark the first *Hiroyuki Nakagawa Cambridge Graduate Scholarship in Japanese Studies*.

The first recipient of this scholarship, Mr Guy Pinnington, begins his PhD study this term with research looking into Zainichi literature.

## Sophie Grant awarded Ivan Morris Dissertation Prize

Congratulations to recent graduate Ms Sophie Grant who has been awarded First Prize in the Ivan Morris Memorial Prize for her outstanding dissertation in Japanese Studies. Sophie was also the first recipient of the 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 Ivan Morris prize is run by the British Association of Japanese Studies. In the last 5 years we have had three prize winners from the department, highlighting the excellent quality of research being conducted by our undergraduates.

## Students summer interns at Gideon Franklin

Over the summer one recent graduate and one third year Japanese Studies student took internship positions at Gideon Franklin, a corporate finance advisory firm based in London. Mr Gideon Franklin, CEO of Gideon Franklin, is an alumni of Japanese Studies at Cambridge, and joined us for the Alumni/nae roundtable event earlier this year.

*It was a pleasure to have the students with us as interns. Our company offers an unusual opportunity to specialise in Japanese investment banking based in London. During their time here they participated in a number of projects and could learn about this industry, hopefully helping with considerations about a future career path. (Gideon Franklin)*

We would like to say thank you to Mr Franklin for providing this generous opportunity. To find out more about Gideon Franklin please follow the link below: <https://www.gideonfranklin.com/>

# Welcome to our new students

## Helen Magowan PhD



Helen is investigating women's writing in premodern Japan. Japanese writing, its calligraphic scripts, letterforms, vocabulary and expression, had gendered aspects which affected - and continue to affect - the manner and form in which people express themselves. My research focusses on manuals published in the 17<sup>th</sup> century teaching women how to write in a 'feminine' mode, asking what they tell us about femininities in the early-modern period.

## Guy Pinnington PhD



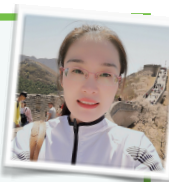
Welcome back Guy Pinnington, who has progressed from MPhil to PhD. Guy's research uses literature to address attitudes to *Zainichi* Koreans in postwar Japan; paying particular attention to 2nd generation *Zainichi* author Yang Seok-il. In his PhD Guy will expand on this and examine the interrelationship between three writers: Yang Seok-il, Kim Sok-pom, and Yi Hoesong, and scrutinise the ways in which they have come to create the canon of *Zainichi* Korean literature through writings.

## Chui-Jun Tham PhD



Jun's project aims to interrogate how routes to power are represented in popular narratives in early modern East Asia. The investigation has two objectives. The first is to understand how people were thought to obtain power, power being defined as extraordinary influence over events. The second is to discover what role and meaning religious elements had in narratives where people obtained power. It is hoped that investigating these questions will contribute to scholarly discourse on two broader questions: what is the relationship between religion and power in early modern East Asia, and how does this change the way in which we understand religion as a universal analytical concept?

## Jie Yang PhD



Jie's research explores whether morality plays a role in state interaction with one another in the East Asian region; and if it does, what are the specific moral principles and whether they are different with moral principles discussed in conventional (Western) International Relation Theory.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish a warm welcome to our new undergraduate Japanese Studies cohort. With eleven students this is the largest cohort we have had in recent years. Welcome to the world of Japanese Studies at Cambridge!



## Masanori Kono MPhil



Masanori's research will look at contemporary Japanese foreign policy towards East Asian regions (China, Korean Peninsula, ASEAN, plus the US)

## Rebecca O'Leary MPhil



Rebecca's research topic will look at the use of assisted reproductive technologies (ART) in Japan and how they are influencing Japanese views on parenthood.

## Yi-Hsuan Kuo MPhil



Yi-Hsuan's research title is: Negotiating Traumatic Narratives: Japanese Popular Cultural Products after the 2011 Tōhoku Earthquake and Tsunami.

## Irie Kona MPhil



Irie's research aims to analyse the ways in which issues of sexual violence are interacted with in Japanese society, both in legal and social capacities.

## Kiana Tomita MPhil



Kiana's research topic is gender performance in Japanese classical manuscripts in Edo period, particularly looking at *nyohitsu* (woman's writing) and *hentaigana*.



# East Asia Seminar Series

## Michaelmas 2019



This term's East Asia Seminar Series kicked off on Monday 14th October with a well attended talk from Professor Katarzyna Cwiertka of Leiden University. Prof Cwiertka's talk explored the historical transformation of *ekiben* packaging and how it fits within the context of Japan's policies towards sustainability and recycling.

It was a pleasure to see so many new and familiar faces, and we hope to see many of you at the other exciting talks we have coming up this term. For more information on the seminar series please go to the 'What's on' section of the Faculty website here: <https://www.ames.cam.ac.uk/whats-on>

**MONDAY 21  
OCTOBER**

**DR DAVID SPAFFORD**  
*University of Pennsylvania*  
ILLICIT SEX AND VENDETTAS:  
SELF-REDRESS, LAW, AND  
POWER IN MEDIEVAL JAPAN



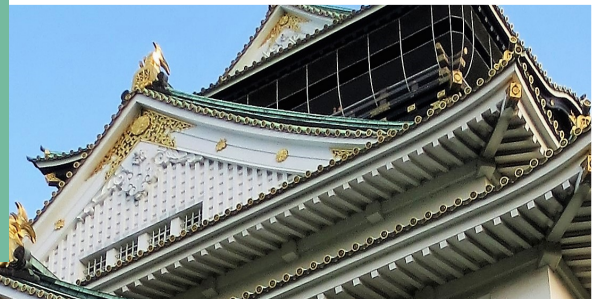
**MONDAY 28  
OCTOBER**

**DR BARBARA WALL**  
*University of Copenhagen*  
A DIGITAL APPROACH TO  
VISUALISING THE STORY  
UNIVERSE OF *THE JOURNEY TO  
THE WEST*



**MONDAY 25  
NOVEMBER**

**DR OLEG BENESCH**  
*University of York*  
JAPAN'S CASTLES: CITADELS OF  
MODERNITY IN WAR AND PEACE



Unless otherwise stated all talks will take place:

**17:00 - 19:00 in rooms 8/9 in the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies.**

All talks are free to attend and open to everybody. Please come along, and join us afterwards for a chance to chat.

The Japanese Studies Group gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation towards this seminar series

