

Japan and the World

Newsletter



Greetings from the Chair

Dear Alumni, Supporters and Partners of Japanese Studies at Cambridge, I am delighted to welcome you to our second newsletter, which contains even more news and exciting developments than last time. As you will note, our scholars have been very busy and heavily engaged in numerous international venues. I travelled to Tokyo for a week full of meetings in September, and am happy to report that there is great interest among Japanese organisations and companies to strengthen ties with Cambridge. Dr Barak Kushner organised and ran yet another superb conference, Dr Nilsson-Wright has been busy commenting in media about the North Korea crisis, and Dr Moretti ran the second Emmanuel-Rikkyo Summer Programme. We also feature a report on a special presentation given by Dr Suzuki Norio from Aichi University and a wonderful story about one of our very special alumni, Professor Richard Bowring, the first holder of the Keidanren Chair of Japanese Studies.

Finally, do note our fantastic speaker series, which kicked off on 9 October, and which will continue throughout the semester. We cover a range of fascinating topics, so do feel free to stop by if you are in the Cambridge area.

Please do 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. As always, you can also find us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), and of course on our [Japan and the World website](#). But above all, do not forget our upcoming alumni event, the Tsurugi-no-kai reception at the Royal Society on the evening of 24 November.

Mickey Adolphson
Keidanren Professor and Chair
Japanese Studies

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October 2017

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6. Alumni Profile + Alumni Event

Emeritus Professor Richard Bowring's alumni profile looks back to the very beginning of Japanese Studies at the University of Cambridge.

Alumni Event information

Welcome to our new students

The Japanese Studies subject group is delighted to welcome all our new and returning graduate and undergraduate students. Below is an introduction to some of our new graduate students and their research areas.



Mi Kwi Cho

PhD in Japanese Studies

Research topic:

My research interest lies in the study of the Japanese minority groups, with a focus on the zainichi Korean community. The period of my research is the end of the Meiji era to the beginning of the Taisho era where the migration of zainichi Koreans to Japan became apparent.

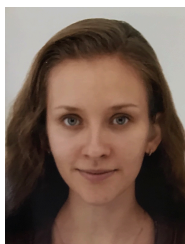


Jade Heyman

MPhil in Japanese Studies

Research topic:

The Import of Japanese Contemporary Literature in Western publishings

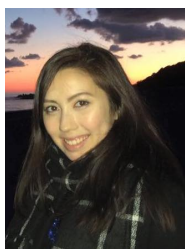


Anna Melkina

MPhil in Japanese Studies

Research topic (subject to minor changes):

Contradictions Between Korea and Japan on the Interpretation of History: the Perks and Drawbacks of the Colonial Rule



Jennifer Rose-Miller

MPhil in Japanese Studies

Research topic:

The Evolving Security Relations of Japan and the United Kingdom (looking at the trajectory of security relations between Japan and the UK in the 21st century, in the context of Japan's evolving security strategy)



Ria Roy

PhD in Japanese Studies

Research topic:

As a Gates Cambridge scholar and a PhD candidate in Korean history with a broader academic interest in Japan and East Asia, I am eager to delve deeper into the question of the manufacture of charisma in North Korea and to trace its transformation from a state committed to Marxist-Leninist views to one that propagates a semi-mystical view of leadership.



Ivan Triola

PhD in Japanese Studies

Research topic:

My PhD research focuses on the role of charisma in the development of New Japanese Religions, especially on Oomotokyo's off-shoot movements, under the supervision of Prof. Mikael Adolphson.

Academic News

University Library Emeritus Librarian Noboru Koyama Publishes New Book

ケンブリッジ大学図書館と近代日本研究：国学から日本学へ

(Modern Japanese Studies and Cambridge University Library: from Kokugaku to Japanology)

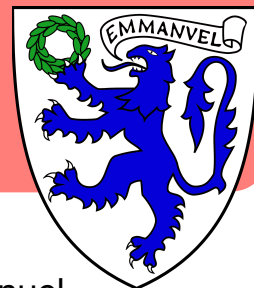
“In my book, I have traced a path of Japanese studies which may be described as “from Kokugaku to Japanology and then Japanese Studies” through the “Aston, Satow and Siebold Collections“ at Cambridge University Library. In particular, I focus on the relationship between Satow’s and Aston’s studies and those of Kokugaku. The comparatively smaller Siebold Collection is less relevant, as it contains mainly visual-oriented early Japanese books. The reason for this was that Heinrich could not read Japanese, and his understanding of Japanese studies most resembles his father’s.”

Read more about [Koyama-san’s book here](#). The book is available to purchase on [Amazon](#)



Emmanuel-Rikkyo Summer Programme

3-17 September 2017
Cambridge



For the second consecutive year, Emmanuel College and the Japanese Studies Group welcomed ten students from Rikkyo University (Tokyo) with an intensive two-week programme focussing, this year, on the topic of translation studies. The programme combined students of Japanese literature with students of English literature who study in Japan offering them the opportunity to experience the unique Cambridge pedagogical system of supervisions. The programme included lectures by [Dr Corinna Russell](#) and [Prof Peter Burke](#), seminars and supervisions. Ms Elena Follador, second-year PhD student at Cambridge, supervised the progress on essay-writing and the Japanese students were helped by four Cambridge undergraduates, fresh from their first year with us, who acted as teaching assistants. The end of the programme was crowned by a presentation in English made by the participants on the basis of their essay-writing. In September Rikkyo University welcomed the first student from Cambridge on his third-year Year Abroad (Mr Theo Howe, Fitzwilliam College).

European Association for Japanese Studies 15th International Conference

30 Aug - 2 September 2017,
Lisbon

Congratulations to Dr Laura Moretti on her re-election this year as EAJS Council secretary.

Japanese Studies at the University of Cambridge was well represented at this year's EAJS conference with three members of academic staff in attendance. Professor Mickey Adolphson, Chair of Japanese Studies, convened a number of panels on [pre-modern Japanese History](#).

Dr Laura Moretti convened a panel titled: [Multimodality in Early-modern Books: Enhancing Texts Through Images](#) where she presented her paper *Re-imagining words and pictures. From illustrated books to picture-books in Edo-period Japan*.

For more information on the EAJS, or to view the programme for EAJS17 follow the link below:

<https://www.nomadit.co.uk/eajs/eajs2017/index.shtml>



“The shifting landscape from imperial to postwar East Asia: War Crimes, Trials, and the Geography of Power”

21 September – 25 September 2017,
Cambridge

Funded by a Cambridge Humanities Research Grant, Dr. Barak Kushner (University of Cambridge) hosted Dr. Chang Chihyun (Shanghai Jiaotong University), Professor Kishi Toshihiko (Kyoto University) and GIS specialist Ms He Jiawei (Feng Chia University Taiwan), along with graduate students from Shanghai Jiaotong University, Leeds and Bristol Universities over several days to complete the basic stages of creating a new database and analytical website of the geography and statistics of Japanese war crimes in China.

Emerging from Dr. Kushner's ERC project on the dissolution of the Japanese empire, this new project aims to chart and evaluate the spread and shape of justice in postwar East Asia. After these initial steps, the team hopes to gain further funding for expansion of the database and computer modeling to finalize the website and include supportive media and other elements to establish a holistic platform for visualizing the geography and resolution of violence in wartime and postwar East Asia.

戦後革命の実相

The Reality of Postwar Revolution: A View of the Tokyo Preventive Center and Asian Marxism

Dr Suzuki Norio, Aichi University, Japan

20 September 2017

How did the leadership of the Japanese Communist Party, which had been ruthlessly oppressed since the late-1920s, emerge suddenly after defeat in 1945 to become one of the most organized and powerful political groups in post-imperial Japan?

In a guest seminar, Professor Suzuki Norio of Aichi University presented his latest research on the postwar Japan Communist Party and the idea of postwar revolution. Suzuki began with a discussion of the state of archival material on the Japan Communist Party, as well as ongoing efforts of Japanese historians to document party activities during the early-Cold War. In particular, Suzuki's presentation broke new historical ground by focusing on the hitherto neglected role of the Tokyo

Preventive Detention Center as the wartime crucible of the banned Communist Party, from where party leaders and affiliated members debated the shape of the postwar world, the future role of the emperor system, as well as objective conditions for revolution in Japan and East Asia. Through the lives of postwar Japanese Communist Party leaders, such as Tokuda Kyuichi, Nosaka Sanzo, and Ito Ritsu, this presentation revealed the way individual lives and political careers rose and fell with shifts in political and ideological alignments between Moscow and Peking. Bringing together the strands of the wartime and postwar Japanese Communist Party, Suzuki provided a powerful demonstration of the need to see late-imperial and postwar Japanese political history as international history. (The talk and discussion were held in Japanese)



Speaker: Professor 鈴木 規夫
SUZUKI NORIO
AICHI UNIVERSITY

戦後革命の実相
東京予防拘禁所と
アジア的マルクス主義の一断面

sep 20, 2017
(Wed.) 4:45pm

ROOM 7,
Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern
Studies, Sidgwick Avenue

The Reality of Postwar Revolution
A View of the Tokyo Preventive Detention Center and Asian Marxism

★ Dinner with speaker and invited guests to follow
★ The whole event (including Q&A) will be held in Japanese with no translation



New Partnerships

In September, Professor Mickey Adolphson, Chair of Japanese Studies, spent one week in Tokyo to strengthen ties with existing partners and to establish new ones.

After four very busy days with more than 20 meetings, Japanese Studies can now proudly count some ten companies as new partners that will be offering internships to our students. These partners include both established companies, and new start-ups that are already very successful. We expect that we will gradually increase our company partnerships, and we welcome those interested in being part of this network to contact us. For a list of our company-partners, please visit our [Internships page](#). In addition, Professor Adolphson met with two representatives of the governing party: Mr. Wada Munemasa (House of Councillors) and Mr. Yasuhide Nakayama (House of Representatives).

The most exciting part of the trip, however, was a chance to visit the Prime Minister's residence and meet with Japan's first lady, Mrs. Abe Akie, when Professor Adolphson took the opportunity to present a Cambridge gift (see photo). In these various meetings, Professor Adolphson discussed the current state of Japanese Studies in the UK and the Japan and the World campaign. There was much interest in our initiative, and we look forward to continuing a dialogue with partners in Japan over the next couple of years to strengthen the relationship between researchers, students and companies in Japan and Cambridge.



From top: Professor Adolphson meets with Mr Wada Munemasa; First Lady, Mrs Abe Akie, becomes the proud owner of a Cambridge University sweater

Japanese Studies offers new scholarship in partnership with the Toshiba Foundation



The signing ceremony: seated from the left, Mr. Keisuke Omori, president of Toshiba International Foundation, Mickey Adolphson, Keidanren Professor and Chair, Japanese Studies, University of Cambridge, and Helen Pennant, Director, the Cambridge Trust.

On 4 September 2017, Mr. Keisuke OMORI, president of Toshiba International Foundation, visited Cambridge to sign an agreement with the Cambridge Trust and the Japanese Studies section of the University of Cambridge to establish the **Toshiba Cambridge Japan and the World Graduate Scholarship**. Offering full funding (fees and maintenance) for three years, one scholarship will be awarded to an incoming PhD student in 2018 and another in 2020. The scholarship is open to any applicant who has been offered admission to the PhD programme in Asian & Middle Eastern Studies (Japanese Studies) at the University of Cambridge. Applications will be judged on the merit of their research plans, and preference will be given to those whose research aims to place Japan within the larger context of the world, either in its multilateral focus or through its disciplinary impact.

[For more information visit our Funding pages](#)



North Korea Crisis Coverage

Regional developments in Northeast Asia have kept John Nilsson-Wright busy commenting at length in the UK and international media.

Dr John Nilsson-Wright, University Senior Lecturer in Modern Japanese Politics and International Relations, has been in high demand for analysis of the dangers associated with North Korea in the wake of Pyongyang's missile and nuclear tests, and in addition to his online commentary was asked to testify to the [House of Commons Defence Committee on the implications of the crisis for the UK.](#)

The North Korean crisis continues to have major implications for the United States and its two key allies, South Korea and Japan - two countries that have had to tackle major political challenges not only in their foreign policy, but also domestically - in the case of South Korea, the dramatic impeachment of President Park Geun-hye and the election of a new progressive government under President Moon Jae-in; in the case of Japan, the challenge of responding North Korea's two threatening missile launches

over Japan and most recently Prime Minister Abe's snap [election call which risks undermining the dominance of the country's governing Liberal Democratic Party.](#)

Dr Nilsson-Wright's articles have explored these themes and others and have also been complemented with the publication of a major research paper exploring Japan's new mini-lateral security partnerships with Australia and India - two vibrant democracies that share many of the geopolitical concerns of Japan. [To read more click here.](#)

Japan's increased activism in foreign policy also poses new opportunities for closer collaboration between Britain and Japan and Dr Nilsson-Wright has been closely involved in a number of initiatives to strengthen ties between the two countries both through his membership (as a director) of the UK-Japan 21st Century Group which met recently in Cambridge at Churchill College and through a five-year major grant project which he leads at Chatham House and which culminated recently in a final fifth year conference in London in September. [Further details can be found here.](#)

To read more from Dr Nilsson-Wright on the current North Korean Crisis go to our [Japan and the World Website for a full list of articles and media appearances.](#) For regular updates check the News section of the [Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies web-page.](#)

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Park Geun-hye:
How identity
politics fuelled
South Korean
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North Korea:
What can the
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North Korea
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North Korea
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North Korea's
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How should
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North Korea:
How real is
Seoul's
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North Korea:
Where is the
war of words
with US
heading?

East Asia Seminar Series

Michaelmas 2017

The Michaelmas Term East Asia Seminar series this year was kicked off with a fascinating talk from Professor Jennifer Lind of Dartmouth College presenting her paper (co-authored with Chikako Ueki of Waseda University) 'Is Nationalism on the Rise in Japan?'

Professor Lind delivered her seminar to a full house of students, lecturers, members of the public and press. The talk was followed by half an hour of Q&A and a glass of wine and chance to chat.

For more information on upcoming talks go to the [Faculty of Asia and Middle Eastern Studies website](#)

All talks in the East Asia Seminar Series are free to attend, and open to the all. Unless otherwise stated all talks take place 5 - 7pm in Rooms 8/9 of at the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Sidgwick Avenue, Cambridge CB3 9DA

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



MON 9 OCT	Is Nationalism on the Rise in Japan? Prof. Jennifer Lind, Dartmouth College
MON 16 OCT	Mettle of Honor: Shaping the Rules of War in Early Medieval Japan Prof. Karl Friday, Saitama University
MON 30 OCT	The Rise and Fall of Modern Japanese Literature: The Fall Prof. John Whittier Treat, Yale University
MON 13 NOV	Diversity of Jomon Life-ways Dr Enrico Crema, University of Cambridge
MON 20 NOV	Live Rakugo Performance with Live Subtitling Rakugo Master Yanagiya Kyōtarō
TUES 21 NOV	Female Actors in Kabuki: Retrieving a Forgotten Tradition Prof. Sato Katsura, Aoyama Gakuin
MON 27 NOV	On the Transnational Destruction of Cities: What Japan and the U.S. Learned from the Bombing of Britain and Germany in World War II Prof. Sheldon Garon, Princeton University

Richard Bowring
Graduated 1968
Cambridge, UK
Emeritus Professor of
Japanese Studies
University of Cambridge

To gain some idea of what it was like studying Japanese at Cambridge in the late 1960s you can do no better than read '[Fifty Years of Japanese at Cambridge](#)'



Japan was still so far away (a week on the trans-Siberian) there was no access to contemporary material, and no way of copying anything. There were zero students ahead of us and zero behind, so we felt like lonely pioneers...

Still, I count myself fortunate in my wild choice (for it was considered close to madness at the time), because the study of the language and culture has absorbed my energies for a lifetime.

After graduation, I tried airline management with Cathay Pacific for two years and quickly realised that I was not cut out for business. Back to Cambridge for a three-year PhD on Mori Ōgai (I was the only graduate student), and Tokyo University (another lonely place!) followed by my first academic job at Monash University in Melbourne, another world altogether where

Japanese was already being taught to large classes at Junior School level. From there I went to Columbia, then Princeton, and then finally back to Cambridge in 1985, where there was a big job to do, putting the subject back on its feet after a series of savage cuts. Believe it or not, there was serious talk of closing Japanese Studies down completely in the mid 1980s.

Not many students want to go into academia these days. I am not sure why, but I hope it is not that we have been bad role models. It is not for everyone, of course, but I would still recommend it for the few who are brave enough, or perhaps foolhardy enough, to trust that a job might possibly be forthcoming after years struggling through all that barbed wire, as someone once said to me, trying to describe what Japanese looked like to the uninitiated.

This and other graduate stories are available to read on the [Success Stories](#) page of the faculty website. If you have a story to tell please let us know, we would love to hear it!

剣の会

Japanese Studies Alumni Event 2017

24 November 2017 // 18:00 - 22:00 // The Royal Society

The evening will be a celebration of the many wonderful students who have come through and enriched the department, and a chance to (re)connect with classmates, friends, faculty and supporters. We will also be sharing some exciting news about the future of Japanese Studies at Cambridge.

We would love to get as many of our Japanese Studies alumni as possible involved - if you have studied Japanese at Cambridge but haven't already received an invitation, and would like to attend please email Freddie Semple, Japanese studies admin assistant at fs468@cam.ac.uk.

We look forward to seeing you there!