

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 second year of newsletters. Last time, I somewhat boldly claimed that the Japanese Studies group at Cambridge is among the most active in the world, and reading through this edition, I think that you will find more compelling evidence for the case. Dr Moretti has kept herself busy again with the Emmanuel-Rikkyō Summer Programme as well as with the Graduate Summer School in Early Modern Japanese Palaeography, which she hosted for the fifth consecutive year. Dr Steger secured funding for ground-breaking research in Japan this fall focusing on waste, while Dr Nilsson-Wright, as always, has been busy attending conferences, while also securing a grant by Cam-Po. Dr Young spent much of her summer continuing her research on Okinawa, but still had time to appear on a radio show. I had the honour of hosting colleagues from North America, China and Japan in workshop where we discussed a new and innovative project to translate the 13th century chronicle *Azuma kagami* ("Mirror of the East"). Finally, Barak Kushner has kept busy with conferences and fundraising for his post-empire project, but most importantly, we are happy to announce that he has now been promoted to Professor of East Asian History. Many warm congratulations to Professor Kushner.

You will see as well that our student population has been quite active. This summer, our undergraduate students had the opportunity to experience internships at Japanese companies. One of the most intriguing of those companies is CRAZY, where Ms. Tess Rizzoli worked for two months. I met with the company founder and president just this past week, and he had nothing but positive things to say about the experience and would welcome more Cambridge students in the future. In addition, our recent graduate, Ms Anna Ellis-Rees, was awarded first prize of the prestigious Ivan Morris Memorial Prize for her outstanding dissertation. Well done, Anna!

I would be remiss if I did not also congratulate Dr Enrico Cream for securing a generous ERC grant for his project on the diffusion of rice and millet during the Jōmon and Yayoi periods, our Professor Emeritus Peter Kornicki for his new book, and our ally Fordham Sake Brewery for opening Europe's first Japanese-run sake brewery on 14 September. As I said, things are happening in and around Japanese Studies at Cambridge!

As we are now into the beginning of the school year, we are delighted to welcome both talented undergraduate students and a tremendous cohort of graduate students to Cambridge. You are bound to hear more about them in the near future, but for now, please refer to the brief bios in the newsletter.

Finally, I would like to thank you, our alumni and alumnae, for your continued support. This past May, we held the first ever roundtable discussion with Hannah Vassalo, Simone Cunliffe, Tony Vowles and Ruairidh Villar, who were kind enough to volunteer their time for one afternoon to share their experiences as students and in their subsequent careers. It was a highly successful event, and we hope to repeat it next year. I should also like to express our heartfelt gratitude to alumnus Brandon Ginsberg, whose endowment has made it possible to establish an undergraduate dissertation prize starting at the end of this academic year. As I am sure you are aware, funding for public universities these days is unreliable at best, and only dedicated support from donors and partners can safeguard our future and ability to educate the next generation of Japan experts. If you would like to contribute, or if you are willing to share your time with our students, or even offer internships, please do contact us. We hope to be more than a university degree and a memory of the past. So, please stay in touch, join the network of our wonderful alums and engage with us and the growing number of *kōhai*.

Mickey Adolphson
Keidanren Professor and Chair
Japanese Studies
University of Cambridge

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October 2018

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5. East Asia Seminar Series

Take a look at the programme for the Michaelmas Term East Asia seminar series

Cambridge Workshop: The Cold War and Post-War Taiwan

This workshop, hosted by Professor Barak Kushner brought together scholars from Taiwan, Japan, and Cambridge, and opened with a keynote speech by Professor Andrew Preston



(Professor of American History, University of Cambridge), entitled: From Dong Dang to Danang: America's Thirty Years' War for Asia. Over the next two days, the topic was approached from different angles by the speakers. The first day saw presentations on a variety of topics related to the US-ROC (Republic of China) security relationship; academic interaction between the two countries; and the ROC's place in the United Nations, and US support thereof. The presentations on the morning of the second day took a more inter-Asian approach, and looked at the institutionalisation of Japan-ROC ties; Beijing's views on PRC/ROC rivalry within Japan; as well as De-Japanization and decolonization in postwar Taiwan. The presentations in the afternoon dealt with a variety of topics, such as the reform of rural Taiwanese society with US guidance; the Taiwanese reaction to Beijing's Ping Pong Diplomacy and the first steps toward rapprochement between Beijing and Washington; and finally an in-depth look at the Cold War roots of the Diaoyutai/Senkaku islands dispute and the role of Taiwan therein. The consensus among the participants, brought together here for the first time to evaluate the multifaceted but under-researched topic of Taiwan's place within Cold War East Asia, was that these two days of spirited discussion should serve as the start of a continued academic exchange and collaboration, in order to bring many of the important questions raised into sharper focus.

Barak Kushner receives professorship

We would like to congratulate Barak Kushner on his new appointment to Professor of East Asian History, effective from October.

John Nilsson-Wright secures CamPo research grant

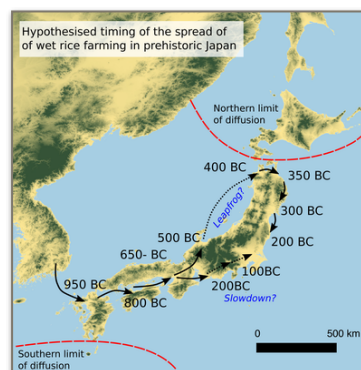
We are delighted to share the news that Dr John Nilsson-Wright has been awarded funding by CamPo, the Cambridge-Sciences Po (Paris) funding partnership. The grant will support two workshops which will enable the drafting of a detailed multi-year project.

The project, titled: **Defining the Indo-Pacific: Opportunities for a new regional security architecture in East Asia** aims to understand the potential scope and impact of a 'Free and Open Indo-Pacific'. Research will be carried out by a group of historians, political scientists, international relations and area studies specialists at Cambridge University and Science Po.

We look forward to sharing more information as the project develops.

New Japanese Archaeology Project receives ERC funding

Dr Enrico Crema, Lecturer in Computational Analysis of Long-Term Human Cultural and Biological Dynamics in the Department of Archaeology has been awarded a 1.5 Million Euro ERC Grant for The ENCOUNTER project - Demography, Cultural change, and the Diffusion of Rice and Millet during the Jomon-Yayoi transition in prehistoric Japan.



To learn more about Dr Crema's research and the aims of the ENCOUNTER project please follow the link below:

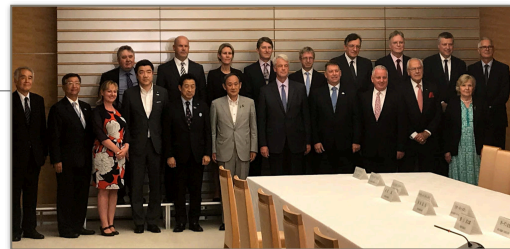
<https://www.arch.cam.ac.uk/cambridge-archaeologist-secures-20ac1-5m-erc-grant-for-japan-project>

UK-Japan 21st Century Conference

The 35th annual conference of the UK - Japan 21st Century Group took place in Kamakura, Kanagawa Prefecture from 31 August - 2 September 2018. Dr John Nilsson-Wright, representing the UK alongside Japanese representative Hitoshi Tanaka, gave a presentation on the defence and security section of the conference.

The conference covered many issues relating to the bi-lateral UK-Japan relationship. The conference attendees also met with Mr Yoshihide Suga MP, the Chief Cabinet Secretary, who noted the considerable progress in UK-Japan relations since Prime Minister May's visit in August 2017.

For more information on the UK-Japan 21st Century Group please check the Japan society website here: <https://www.japansociety.org.uk/about/uk-japan-21st-century/>



Tess Rizzoli wows at Crazy Ltd.

We would like to wish congratulations to third year undergraduate student Tess Rizzoli who has recently completed an internship with Tokyo based events planning company CRAZY Ltd.

Tess is now going on to begin her year abroad at Doshisha University in Kyoto.



Anna Ellis-Rees wins Ivan Morris Memorial Prize

We are delighted to announce that recent graduate Anna Ellis-Rees has been awarded First Prize in the Ivan Morris Memorial Prize for her outstanding dissertation in Japanese Studies. The prize is run by the British Association of Japanese Studies.

To see the official website please click here: <https://www.bajs.org.uk/funding-and-prizes/ivan-morris-memorial-prize/previous-prizewinners/>

Vicky Young Radio Interview



Dr Vicky Young recently joined award winning artist [Yamashiro Chikako](#) and singer-songwriter (and FM Naha show host) [Arakaki Hiroko](#) for a three way interview on FM Naha show ナライブサン+.

FM Naha is an Okinawa based Radio station with an international listenership. To hear the whole interview please follow the link below (youtube):

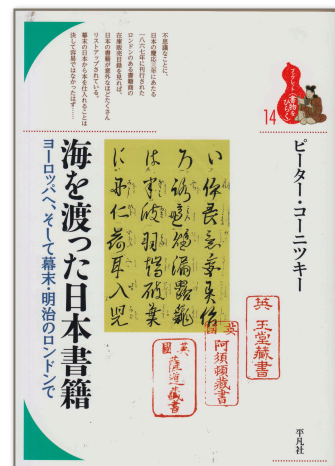
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sNYNmpG2H6o>

New book by Peter Kornicki

Emeritus Professor Peter Kornicki has just published a new book in Japanese. The book, published by Heibonsha, is a study of how Japanese books found their way to Europe before the Meiji Restoration and includes some surprising information about Japanese books on sale in London in 1867!

For more information please follow the link below to the Heibonsha webpage:

<http://www.heibonsha.co.jp/book/b372199.html>



Dojima Sake Brewery Opening

On 14 September, the UK's first authentic sake brewery, called Dojima Sake Brewery, opened at Fordham Abbey, just a short car ride from Cambridge. Professor Adolphson took part in the ribbon-cutting ceremony and said a few words. Not only are we happy to see an original Japanese business being established so close-by, but we are also delighted at the prospect for future collaborations, since the owners, the Hashimotos, also plan to add a cultural centre. Dojima benefits from 500-year old traditions of making sake, which they combine with 21st century technology.



For more information and pictures please follow the links below:

[Yahoo Japan](#)

[Sankei News](#)

For for more information about the event in English please see the Zoom Japan article here:

[Zoom Japan](#)



Traditions of Leadership: Azuma Kagami Translation Workshop

From the 9th to the 12th of August an international group of premodern historians and Japanese literary specialists gathered in Cambridge for the first Azuma Kagami Translation Project Workshop. The aim of the workshop was to officially launch the Azuma Kagami Translation Project and make some key decisions about the future of the project.



Five clusters of historians and literary scholars will work on separate elements of the text relating to their field of interest over the next five years. The hope is that the end product, a complete English translation of the Azuma Kagami, complete with accompanying essays will be available and searchable online. This project is unique not only in what it aims to accomplish, but also in its execution, working internationally with self governing groups.

Outside of the workshop attendees enjoyed a guided tour of Cambridge, and a trip to Framlingham Castle, a 13th century fortress in East Suffolk.

We look forward to sharing more information with you as the project develops.

Summer Schools

Emmanuel-Rikkyo Summer Programme

The third Emmanuel-Rikkyo Summer Programme successfully concluded on 15 September 2018. The programme is designed to welcome undergraduate students from Rikkyo University (Tokyo) for two weeks and to allow them to experience the pedagogical philosophy typical of Cambridge. This year five students from Rikkyo University worked in pairs with five second-year students of Japanese from Cambridge, who did a brilliant job as teaching assistants. Together they have explored the topic of literary translation with a focus on Japanese modern literature. Supervised by Dr Laura Moretti and our PhD student Ms Elena Follador, the students have produced fine translations of complex texts together with compelling essays that reflect upon the translation strategies they have adopted. A visit to the Fitzwilliam Museum, a day in London and two delicious formal dinners at Emmanuel College have accompanied what has been an intense and rewarding learning experience.

The Emmanuel-Rikkyo Summer Programme is run by Emmanuel College and is designed to allow one or two of our students to spend their Year Abroad at Rikkyo University. With tuition fees and dorm fees waived, our students love this programme! Theo Howe, who worked on the summer programme as teaching assistant in September 2016, has just returned from his year in Tokyo. Lara Horin and Mercedes McCambridge are now in Rikkyo. The warm support of Prof Keiko Nitta as well as the lifelong friendships developed during the Summer Programme are making every day in Tokyo a special one.

Fifth Graduate Summer School in Japanese Early-modern Palaeography

The Fifth Graduate Summer School in Japanese Early-modern Palaeography (6-18 August 2018) was a great success. We welcomed 30 participants from all around the world, including graduate students from Harvard, Princeton, Columbia, Berkeley, Moscow State University, Beijing Foreign Studies University, Oxford, Leiden and many more. Our deepest gratitude goes to Mitsubishi Corporation International (Europe) for their generous financial support. It made it possible for nine participants to come to our Summer School with a bursary and for Prof Yamabe to reside in College.

We all had a great time reading a variety of Japanese early-modern materials written in *wabun*, *sōrōbun*, and *kanbun* under the supervision of our Dr Laura Moretti and Prof Yamabe Susumu (Nishōgakusha University). The programme of these two weeks was carefully put together to allow a progression from easier materials to more challenging ones. The common thread of all these materials is the exploration of daily life in early-modern Japan: advice on sleeping, education of women, pleasure quarters, book reading, lending money, and much more!

We also had three wonderful lectures that made us aware of a variety of topics in textual scholarship and palaeography: Prof Sasaki Takahiro (Keio University), Dr Ellis Tinios (Leeds University) and Dr Alessandro Bianchi (who did his PhD with us at Cambridge and is now teaching at Haverford College).

Like every year, the sessions with the calligraphy master Yukiko Ayres proved extremely helpful to enhance abilities in reading the early-modern cursive hand. This year we also printed from an early-modern woodblock and, of course, decoded what we printed: an advertisement (in easy *sōrōbun*) for the shop called Katayanagi-ten newly opened by Niemon in what is now the Tochigi Prefecture.



Read more about the highlights of this year at: <https://wakancambridge.com/highlights-of-summer-school-2018/>.

The two-week programme ended with the completion of a special project around a very rare text: *Hitsukai onna yō bunsho* 筆海女用文書 (lit. The sea of the Brushwork: Texts for Women). The participants were divided in six groups and have transcribed and translated into English the first three half folios of this delightful little book. The passage in question follows a woman from the moment of her marriage to the care she must give to her newly-born child months after the wedding celebration. Discover more by [clicking here](#).

We also thank The Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation and the Japan Foundation for their nominal support.

Welcome to our new students

Giulia Garbagni PhD

Giulia's PhD research topic will be looking at Japan's envoy diplomacy and its role in regional conflict mediation post-1945.



Mina Marković PhD

Mina's research will look at connections between Japanese political and legal history and demographics. The research aims to show how Japan's rapid modernisation post-1868 affected the livelihood of individuals in terms of migration and reproduction. Japanese history will be examined from the perspective of state and nation building during imperial times and through government plans for reconstruction and population in post-war Japan.

Colton Runyan PhD

Colton's PhD research topic concerns the world of premodern sumo wrestling. Specifically he will be looking into the role of the sumo at court, the motivation of the wrestlers, and how sumo was viewed by its spectators. Using sources from the twelfth century onwards Colton's research will examine the rise, fall and subsequent rise again of sumo; from popularity as a court spectacle, through relative obscurity, to a cultural phenomenon of the Modern era.



Polina Serebriakova PhD

Polina's research is centred around the concept of tenka (天下 Chinese: tianxia) or the realm, that originated in Chinese Classics and has become an integral part of Japanese culture. Specifically, she will investigate how the warrior rulers interpreted this idea as a means of legitimacy and used it to justify their policies and conquests during the course of Japanese medieval history from 12th to 16th century. By juxtaposing geographical and political aspects of tenka Polina seeks to understand which higher authority the idea of the realm was connected to at each historical period in premodern Japan. Questions of sovereignty and rulership shall also be explored.



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 topics. We would also like to congratulate our new graduate students, all of whom have successfully secured funding for their studies from various sources within Cambridge and externally. For more information on our graduate programmes, and funding options (including the Japan and the World Scholarships) go to the FAMES faculty website here:

<https://www.ames.cam.ac.uk/graduates/graduate-funding>

Louise Dendy MPhil

Louise's research topic is the Kobe Incident in 1868 and its impact on Meiji period Anglo-Japanese relations.



Guy Hisaya Nakazato Pinnington MPhil

Guy's research will be on Zainichi bungaku (literature of Korean residents in Japan), focusing especially on a writer called Yang Seok-il by comparing sources in Japanese, Korean, and English.



Tadeusz Gootzen MPhil

Tadeusz's research will look at the travel writings of Kaibara Ekiken, well known for his Confucianist writings, but who also published a surprisingly large number of more varied texts. The main focus of the research will be on his account of Arima-onsen, a famous hot spring near the city of Kobe, and will examine the texts of writers such as Hayashi Razan concerning this famous spot.





Alumni / nae Roundtable 2018

Earlier this year we were delighted to be joined in the faculty by some of our esteemed Japanese Studies Alumni/nae. The four former students were invited to take part in a roundtable meeting with current graduate and undergraduate students and staff.

The aim of the event was to highlight for our undergraduates the many and varied possibilities available to Japanese Studies graduates after they leave Cambridge. With this in mind invited panel members came from a broad range of fields. The four alumni / nae who joined us (pictured above, left to right) were:

- **Hannah Vassalo**, Localisation Associate at The Pokémon Company International.
- **Simone Cunliffe** Director and Head of Corporate Access, SMBC Nikko Capital Markets
- **Tony Vowles**, former Strategic Risk and People Director at Lloyds TSB
- **Ruairidh Villar**, Journalist

The panel took it in turns to answer questions from staff and students. The topics covered during the discussion included: what the most useful aspect of studying Japanese at Cambridge had been to their careers; what they wish they had known on leaving university; and what day-to-day life in a Japanese company is like. Discussion flowed freely in the relaxed atmosphere of the meeting, and

the four graduates shared anecdotes and experiences from their lives. Since the meeting we are very happy to hear that several of our undergraduates have taken on board the advice of their senpai and made proactive steps in networking, and seeking further advice from the panel.

We would like to say a huge thank you to all of the alumni / nae who joined us, and to the students and staff who came along. Also a special Thanks to Mr Tony Vowles who has created some excellent resources for our undergraduate students to aid in planning their career paths.

The event was more successful and popular than we could have expected, as a result of which we will be organising a similar event next year. If you are a graduate of Japanese Studies at Cambridge, and would like to share your experience with today's undergraduates we would be delighted to hear from you. **We will be planning the next roundtable event early next year, if you would like to be involved please get in touch by email to fs468@cam.ac.uk**

Undergraduate dissertation prize established with generous donation from Alumnus

The Japanese Studies group would like to publicly thank Mr Brandon Ginsberg, one of our esteemed alumni, who has recently made an extremely generous donation to Japanese Studies at the University of Cambridge.



Mr Ginsberg's donation will be used for the establishment of the *Brandon Ginsberg Japanese Studies Undergraduate Dissertation Prize*.

From as early as next year, the Brandon Ginsberg Prize will be awarded each year to the student who receives the highest mark for their undergraduate dissertation.

Alumna receives Daiwa grant

We are delighted to report that Rebecca Paterson, who graduated in 2016, has been awarded a Daiwa Japanese Studies Scholarship for 2018. Rebecca is currently studying an MA in Foreign Language Acquisition and Education at Kyoto University where she will be conducting research on the role of metacognition in English language learning and acquisition in Japanese students.

East Asia Seminar Series

Michaelmas 2018

The Michaelmas Term East Asia Seminar series this year was kicked off with a fascinating talk from Dr Rosina Buckland of the National Museum of Scotland (and alumna of Japanese Studies at Cambridge) presenting her paper 'Many Meanings between Two Covers: A *shoga* album from the 1850s'

The entire *shoga* album which was discussed has been digitised and is available to view at the Edinburgh Library's Capital Collections website here: http://bit.ly/Katsumoku_roshin

Dr Buckland delivered her seminar to a full house of students, lecturers and members of the public. 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.



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| MON 8
OCT | Dr Rosina Buckland, National Museum of Scotland
Many Meanings between Two Covers: A <i>shoga</i> album from the 1850s |
| MON 15
OCT | Julius Weitzdörfer, University of Cambridge
Disaster, Law and Social Justice in Japan: The Tsunami of Debt and Homelessness |
| MON 22
OCT | Dr Amy Stanley, Northwestern University
Global History as Urban History: A View from Edo, The Greatest City in the World |
| TUE 23
OCT | *ERC talk Miura Toshiaki, Asahi Shimbun
The Heisei Period and Japan's History Issue |
| MON 29
OCT | Dr Jennifer Coats, University of East Anglia
Our Cinemas, Our Selves: Understanding Postwar Japan through Film |
| MON 5
NOV | *ERC talk Dr Huang Tzu Chin, Academia Sinica
Between Friends and Enemies: Chiang Kai-shek's triangular relationship with Japan and the Chinese Communist Party |
| MON 12
NOV | Professor Sato Yukiko, Tokyo University
Japanese early-modern playful literature (<i>gesaku</i>) and censorship |
| MON 19
NOV | Dr Hannah Shepherd, University of Cambridge
A Tale of Two Cities: Fukuoka and Pusan in the Japanese Empire |