

Japan and the World

Newsletter



Greetings from the Chair

Dear Alumni, Supporters and Partners of Japanese Studies at Cambridge, Ten months ago, we launched our Japan and the World initiative to better connect with those who are part of our community: colleagues, current and former students, staff, donors, partners and supporters throughout the world. Today, we launch this newsletter as a crucial step towards fulfilling that pledge. We plan to share news about Japanese Studies at Cambridge, highlight the kind of exciting research that we do, invite you to seminars and other events that we think will be of interest. However, we also hope that the newsletter may serve as a venue for alumni and partners to share with us news about what is happening in your neck of the woods.

In this first issue, we are introducing one of our alumni, Ms. Kendra Evans, and our new colleague, Dr. Vicky Young, who joins us as our Kawashima Lecturer in Japanese Literature and Culture. You will also see what our colleagues are up to over the summer, and be reminded of local Japan events.

We hope that you will use this forum to stay in touch with us and enjoy the news we share. As always, you can also find us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), and of course on our [Japan and the World website](#).

Mickey Adolphson
Keidanren Professor and Chair
Japanese Studies
University of Cambridge

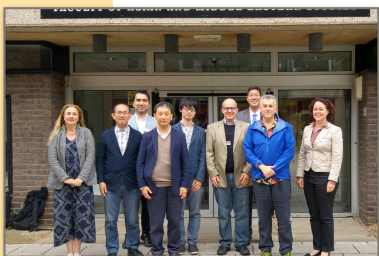
In this Issue



New appointment / Farewell

The Japanese Study group welcomes Dr Vicky Young to Cambridge

[Read further](#)



Summer conferences

Japanese Studies Group academics take part in and host a wide range of International academic conferences over the summer

[Read further](#)



Alumni profile

We take a look at what one of our 2016 graduates is doing a year on from leaving Cambridge

[Read further](#)



Events

A look at what exciting Japanese events will be taking place this summer

[Read further](#)

**October 2017
Japan and the
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Newsletter**

What's next?

If you are an alumni, or current student of the faculty, and would like to contribute a story, or suggest an event to be highlighted in the October newsletter please do so! Contact details below, [click here](#)

New Appointment



The Japanese Studies Group is delighted to welcome Dr Vicky Young, newly-appointed Kawashima Lecturer in Japanese Literature and Culture from September 2017.

Vicky completed her undergraduate degree at Cambridge, holds an MA in Japanese Cultural Studies from Birkbeck College, University of London, and received her Ph.D from the University of Leeds in 2016.

Vicky's doctoral thesis focuses on the writings of Sakiyama Tami, Yi Yang-ji, and Tawada Yōko: three writers whose work represents her broader interests in Okinawan, resident Korean, and 'transborder' literature respectively. Her research methodology draws on theories of gender, postcoloniality, and translation in order to explore how such literature engages with questions of language, identity, and memory.

Vicky has taught Japanese literature at the University of Leeds, the University of Sheffield, and Newcastle University, where she also taught a module on contemporary popular culture.

She greatly enjoys translating literature, and has worked as an interpreter inside the Nissan car battery plant in Sunderland. Although she still holds dear her undergraduate college, Trinity Hall, Vicky is also excited this time to be taking up a Fellowship at Selwyn College.

Farewell

As we welcome a new member to the team, we are sorry to be bidding farewell to another in Dr Matthew Shores, University Lecturer in Japanese.

Matthew will be moving to The United States to start an exciting new appointment as Visiting Assistant Professor of Japanese in the Department of Asian Languages and Civilizations at the University of Colorado, Boulder.

We would like to wish Matthew all the very best of luck for the future.



Summer conferences



Dr Barak Kushner, Reader in Japanese History (Associate Professor) gave opening remarks and delivered a presentation at the “International Symposium on China’s War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression.”

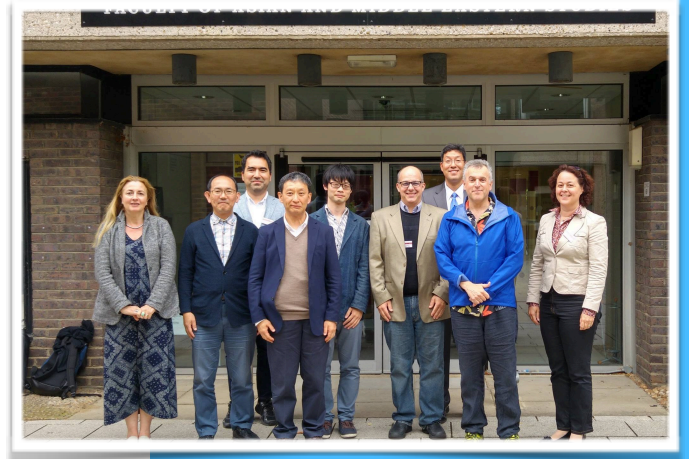
The event was held in Chinese in Beijing from 8-9 July, 2017, and saw 120 scholars gather from Japan, Taiwan, Russia, China and several from Europe.

Please see the link below for further information:

http://jds.cass.cn/xwkw/zxxx/201707/t20170712_3577266.shtml

Dr Barak Kushner Hosts International Conference: Digital Media and Charting the Geography of Power in East Asia

This international conference was held from the 28-30 June at the Faculty of Classics, across the courtyard, because the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies is undergoing reconstruction. For several days invited guests, participants, and observers from Cambridge, the University of Heidelberg, the University of East Anglia, Lafayette College (USA), Keio University, Waseda University and Kyoto University (Japan) discussed their individual and group efforts at website creation, database management, and digital preservation. Over three days the group presented six individual talks on digital humanities projects at their various institutions, methodologies for linking international projects, as well as digital "best practices" and tools for upgrading interoperability and software development. In addition, Huw Jones and Hal Blackburn of the Cambridge University Digital Humanities Unit also delivered talks on the current state of the digital humanities field in general, concerns with how to maintain sites and construct budgets or proposals, and offered insight on the implementation of past and present projects at Cambridge. Over several working lunches and dinners the group continued to engage in conversation about how to link our sites and expand on exchanging further information and datasets to meet new short and long term goals.



Dr Laura Moretti will be hosting the Fourth Graduate Summer School in Japanese Early-Modern Palaeography, 7-19 August 2017

Once again this year Cambridge is at the forefront of work on early-modern palaeography, hosting the fourth Graduate Summer School that teaches all the skills needed in order to access, decode and interpret Edo-period printed and handwritten materials. **Dr**

Laura Moretti, Prof Yamabe Susumu (Nishogakusha University) and London-based calligraphy master Yukiko Ayres are welcoming 28 trainees this year, including graduate students, librarians, museum curators and scholars from ten countries and from a variety of institutions including Ivy-league universities.



The programme focusses on primary sources that deal with daily-life in Edo-period Japan, teaching how to read cursive early-modern Japanese and much more. This year the programme also features two lectures by scholars who work on Western palaeography at the University of Cambridge (**Prof Paul Russell** and **Dr Teresa Webber**) as well one by **Dr Ellis Tinios** on the relationship between manuscripts and printed texts in the Tokugawa period, with a view to foster creative thinking around research projects in the area of Japanese early-modern palaeography. The participants will also work on the transcription and translation of selected materials kept at the Cambridge University Library. The results of this special project will be made widely available on the webpage of the Japanese Digital Collection of the University Library. For more details about the Fourth Graduate Summer School please visit: www.wakan.cambridge.com.

Jewelled pages: the art of the book in Persia and Japan (24 July - 4 August 2017)

Jewelled pages: the art of the book in Persia and Japan (24 July - 4 August 2017)

This course, part of those offered by the Institute of Continuing Education at the University of Cambridge, offers a fresh perspective on the history of the book in Japan. **Dr Laura Moretti** and **Dr Christine van Ruymbeke** think about book-making traditions in Japan and Persia respectively. In ten sessions, which combine lectures, seminars and hands-on session at the Cambridge University Library, the participants will develop awareness, appreciation and understanding of two highly literate and artistic traditions of the East, discovering similarities in manuscripts and printed texts produced by two cultures generally considered very distant. A great course for book lovers and anyone interested in discovering jewelled pages around the world! For more information please visit: <https://www.ice.cam.ac.uk/course/jewelled-pages-art-book-persia-and-japan>.

Alumni profile

Kendra Evans
Graduated 2016
Yamanashi, Japan
JET Programme,
Coordinator for International
Relations



A desire to go back to Japan after my degree

When I came back from my year abroad study in Kyoto and returned to study at Cambridge for my final year, I realized two things: that I had learnt and consolidated so much from my time in Japan, and that if I wanted to reach a level where I could call myself fluent, I would need to go back again. I also had not been able to see, do and experience all that Japan had to offer. While I was interested in continuing in academia, I was also keen to work beforehand, and put my skills to use.

How studying at Cambridge made all this possible

If it wasn't for Cambridge, I'm not sure I would have been able to take on this role. I might not even have known about the CIR position - I signed up for the Careers Service, and discovered this programme while looking for positions related to Japan. However, Cambridge also prepared me in many ways I didn't even realise until I began the job. Cambridge has a strong language focus during the first year, which many students find challenging – but it secures the foundations of the language early on in your studies, building on top of them for easier understanding and consolidation in second year. I set out to Kyoto in my third year with a good grasp of the language – enough that I could navigate, but still at a level where I could take full advantage of immersion. I cannot stress the importance of the year abroad enough. If I had not lived in Japan before working as a CIR, I would have found it incredibly difficult. The year abroad doesn't just let you use and learn the language in a real setting. By living in Japan, you learn first hand about Japanese life, its culture and the people. I had so many opportunities, sitting the JLPT N2 and working several part-time jobs, which gave me both the hard qualifications for my JET application and the experience of working in Japan. And separate from the course itself, my teachers at Cambridge were all extremely helpful, supportive and considerate, particularly when it came to my application and my interview. Dr Kawabata, the Senior Language Teaching Officer in Japanese took time out of her schedule to do practice interviews with me, which was probably the best preparation I could have had. I am incredibly grateful that I was able to study on such an excellent course, with such fantastic teachers.

To read more about Kendra's experience as a graduate, and stories from other alumni take a look at the [Success Stories](#) page on the website. To learn a little bit about life in Yamanashi, why not take a look at the [Yamanashi Grapevine](#), a bi-annual magazine which Kendra edits.

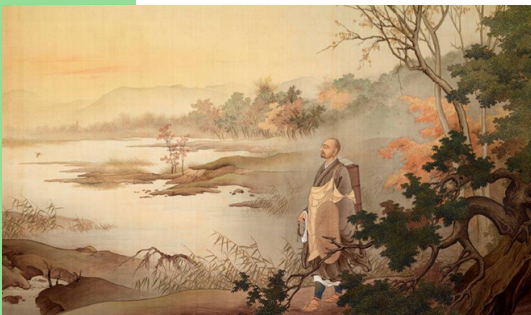
Events this summer



The Japanese Garden Society Anthony Austin Memorial Conference and AGM

Organised and run by the [Japanese Garden Society](#), this major event at the [Kaetsu Centre](#), Murray Edwards College, University of Cambridge features world-class speakers from the UK, USA and Japan, including Kendall Brown and Marc Peter Keane.

For more information go to the Japanese Garden Society website: <http://www.jgs.org.uk/annual-conference/>



International Workshop on Reflective Transitions of Politics in Japanese Art

Conference at the University of East Anglia on 24th August 2017 where our own Ms Zhiyuan Pan, PhD student in the Department of East Asian Studies, will be speaking.

For booking and further information please follow this link: <https://tinyurl.com/y79dop6b>

What's next?



Is there something you would like to see in the **Japan and the World** October newsletter?

If you are a current student, or a Japanese studies alumni we welcome your suggestions for the autumn newsletter. This could be a short piece on a matter relating to Japanese studies, information about an upcoming event, or maybe you want to fill us in on what you are up to now you have graduated.

Please feel free to email Freddie Semple, administrator to the Japanese Studies Subject Group, who will review suggestions and compile October's newsletter.

fs468@cam.ac.uk

Or message us on [Facebook](#)