



EUROPE



JAPAN

TOSHIBA
INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION



EIJS
THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTE
OF JAPANESE STUDIES



EUROPEAN JAPAN ADVANCED RESEARCH NETWORK

EJARN Conference 2026

"Japan and Europe in a Disorderly World"

9–10 June 2026 · Darwin College, Cambridge University

Day 1 — Tuesday 9 June 2026

Morning *Overseas participants arrive; check-in at college / hotel*

12:00 **Registration and sandwich lunch**
Darwin College (Hall or Bradfield Court)

13:00–14:00 **Opening Keynote**
"UK relations with Japan and the Indopacific: Managing Insecurity"
John Nilsson-Wright, Cambridge University
Bradfield Court

14:30–16:00 **Session 1 – Japan's Defence Transformation and Strategic Posture**
Chair: Paul O'Shea, Lund University · Discussant: Michal Kolmaš, Metropolitan University Prague · Bradfield Court
The Japan Air Self-Defence Force (ASDF) and Defence Transformation: From Defensive Counter Air (DCA) to 'Airpower'
Chris Hughes, University of Warwick
Japan's Grand Strategy: Anchoring in a Hierarchical Alliance
Paul O'Shea, Lund University
Japan's Strategic Autonomy in Historical and Contemporary Contexts
Beata Bochorodycz, Adam Mickiewicz University

16:00–16:30 *Coffee*

16:30–18:00 **Session 2 – Europe, Japan, and the Indo-Pacific Security Order**
Chair: Marie Söderberg, EIJS · Discussant: Bart Gaens, Finnish Institute of International Affairs · Bradfield Court
European Naval Deployments to the Indo-Pacific – From Distant Bystander to Protagonist
Axel Berkofsky, University of Pavia
Japan and Europe in a Disorderly World: Japan Searching for a New Free and Open Indo-Pacific Order
Garren Mulloy, Daito Bunka University
Japan's Security Alignment Policy in the Post-Abe Era: Building Networks of Capability
Bart Gaens & Elena Atanassova-Cornelis

18:30 *Drinks reception*

19:00 *Conference dinner, Richard King Room*

Day 2 — Wednesday 10 June 2026

09:00–10:30	<p>Session 3 – Economic Security, Strategic Autonomy, and Industrial Policy</p> <p>Chair: John Nilsson-Wright, Cambridge University · Discussant: Takahiro Kamisuna, IISS · The Old Library</p> <p><i>Geopolitical Tensions and The Shift to Renewable Energy: Why Japan is Falling Behind While Europe is Forging Ahead</i> Paul Midford, Meiji Gakuin University</p> <p><i>Revitalising Japan’s Semiconductor Industry for Economic Security</i> Åsa Malmström Rognes, EIJS</p> <p><i>The Dynamics of EU-Japan Relations in the Indo-Pacific [EJARN Book]</i> Michal Kolmaš, Metropolitan University Prague</p>
10:30–11:00	Coffee
11:00–12:30	<p>Session 4 – Technology, AI, and Strategic Connectivity</p> <p>Chair: Patrik Ström, EIJS · Discussant: Markus Heckel, EIJS · The Old Library</p> <p><i>Space as Hidden but Strategic Connectivity Layer in EU-Japan Relations</i> Eva Lias, EIJS</p> <p><i>The Role of Japan and Europe in Protecting the Liberal World Order from the Negative Effects of AI Deployment</i> Wilhelm Vosse, International Christian University & King's College</p> <p><i>EU-Okinawa Paradiplomacy: Decentering Regional Engagement Initiatives</i> Ra Mason, University of East Anglia Norwich</p>
12:30–13:45	Lunch
13:45–14:30	<p>Second Keynote</p> <p>Marta Szilagyí, EU External Action Service (EEAS)</p> <p>The Old Library</p>
14:30–15:00	Coffee
15:00–16:00	<p>Session 5 – Sustainability, Energy, and Corporate Governance</p> <p>Chair: Giulia Garbagni, Fitzwilliam College · Discussant: Paul Midford · The Old Library</p> <p><i>Sustainable Consumption and Marketing Strategies: Corporate Perspectives from Germany and Japan</i> Markus Heckel, EIJS</p> <p><i>Japan’s Digital Preparedness for Society 5.0 – A European Perspective</i> Richard Nakamura, Patrik Ström & Peter Popovics</p>
16:00–16:30	Concluding Session and Next-Steps Discussion
16:30–16:45	Short break
16:45–17:30	EJARN Members’ Meeting
Evening	<i>Optional networking dinner at a local restaurant or pub (self-funded)</i>