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JAPAN

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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 in Cambridge; 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: Bart Gaens, Finnish Institute of International Affairs & Centre for Defence & Security · 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

*Alliance-Embedded Agency: The Evolution of Japan's Strategic Autonomy, 1952–2026*  
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, European Institute of Japanese Studies (EIJS), Stockholm School of Economics · Discussant: Paul O'Shea, Lund University · Bradfield Court

*European Naval Deployments to the Indo-Pacific – From Distant Bystander to Protagonist with a (Naval) Punch?*  
Axel Berkofsky, University of Pavia

*Japan and Europe in a Disorderly World: Japan Searching for a New Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP) Order*  
Garren Mulloy, Daito Bunka University

*Japan's Security Alignment Policy in the Post-Abe Era: Building Networks of Capability*  
Bart Gaens, Finnish Institute of International Affairs & Centre for Defence & Security, and Elena Atanassova-Cornelis, Catholic University of Lille

18:30 *Drinks reception*

19:00 *Conference dinner, Richard King Room*

## Day 2 — Wednesday 10 June 2026

09:00–10:30	<p><b>Session 3 – Economic Security, Strategic Autonomy, and Industrial Policy</b></p> <p>Chair: John Nilsson-Wright, Cambridge University · Discussant: Takahiro Kamisuna, International Institute for Strategic Studies · 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 Semi-Conductor Industry for Economic Security</i> Åsa Malmström Rognes, European Institute of Japanese Studies, Stockholm School of Economics</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><b>Session 4 – Technology, AI, and Strategic Connectivity</b></p> <p>Chair: Patrik Ström, EIJS, Stockholm School of Economics · Discussant: Markus Heckel, EIJS, Stockholm School of Economics · The Old Library</p> <p><i>Space as hidden but strategic connectivity layer in EU-Japan relations</i> Eva Liias, European Institute of Japanese Studies, Stockholm School of Economics</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 and 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><b>Second Keynote</b></p> <p>Marta Szilagyi, EU External Action Service (EEAS)</p> <p>The Old Library</p>
14:30–15:00	Coffee
15:00–16:00	<p><b>Session 5 – Sustainability, Energy, and Corporate Governance</b></p> <p>Chair: Giulia Garbagni, Fitzwilliam College · Discussant: Paul Midford, Meiji Gakuin University · The Old Library</p> <p><i>Sustainability and Sustainable Consumption: Perspectives from (Germany) and Japan</i> Markus Heckel, European Institute of Japanese Studies, Stockholm School of Economics</p> <p><i>Japan's Digital Preparedness for Society 5.0 – A European Perspective</i> Richard Nakamura, University of Gothenburg; Patrik Ström, European Institute of Japanese Studies, Stockholm School of Economics; and Peter Popovics, Copenhagen Business School</p>
16:00–16:30	<b>Concluding Session and Next-Steps Discussion</b>
16:30–16:45	Short break
16:45–17:30	<b>EJARN Members' Meeting</b>
Evening	<i>Optional networking dinner at a local restaurant or pub (self-funded)</i>

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