

JAPANESE STUDIES AT OXFORD



Welcome

to the latest issue of the Oxford University Japanese Studies Newsletter

オックスフォード日本研究ニュースレター

Not long after I arrived in here fifteen years ago, in response to some complaint of mine, a colleague told me to remember that hardly a decade goes by without some change taking place at Oxford University. And indeed, much of the time the pace of change in this university can seem glacial with discussions circling around endlessly, taking years to arrive at any conclusion. But while I have been here we have made some quite important innovations in Japanese studies. The undergraduate programme has been completely revised and continues to attract excellent students. Just over ten years ago we started the masters programmes which now attract applications from more well-qualified students from across the world than we have space to teach. We revised its content a couple of years ago to increase the profile of humanities courses. Many of our graduates on these programmes go on to do doctoral work either here or elsewhere.

Most recently last summer the Nissan Institute re-modelled its ground floor, improving and up-grading the seminar room while at the same time creating more space for students and academic visitors in the areas previously occupied by the bed-sit. Three colleagues from the Oriental Institute will move into the building this summer bringing all eight of us on to the same site for the first time. Finally (and most importantly for the writer of this piece) the current professor of the politics of Japan will move into retirement.

The study of Japan here is more vibrant than ever. As you will read in the following pages research here by colleagues old and new is developing our understanding of the newest phenomena we encounter and some of its oldest. Renewal based on existing strengths is the key to our development strategy. I look forward to seeing how Japanese studies continues to evolve over the coming years.

Ian Neary

July 2019

Newsletters 1–10

Electronic versions of all our previous newsletters can be found on our website.

www.nissan.ox.ac.uk/publications/japanese-studies-oxford

Faculty teaching about Japan and doing research on Japan in the University of Oxford

Alessandro Bianchi (BA, MA Ca' Foscari, PhD Cambridge)

Bodleian Japanese Librarian

Inge Daniels (BA Leuven, MA Nara, PhD UCL)

Associate Professor in Social Anthropology

Natalia Doan (BA Vassar College, MSc Oxford)

Okinaga Junior Research Fellow in Japanese Studies at Wadham College

Linda Flores (MA Washington, PhD UCLA)

Associate Professor in Japanese (Modern Japanese literature)

Bjarke Frellesvig (MA, PhD Copenhagen)

Professor of Japanese Linguistics and Director of the University's Research Centre for Japanese Language and Linguistics

Lena Fritsch (MA, PhD Bonn)

Curator, Modern and Contemporary Art at the Ashmolean Museum (Modern and contemporary Japanese art and photography)

Roger Goodman (BA Durham, DPhil Oxford)

Nissan Professor of Modern Japanese Studies and Warden, St Antony's college

Philip Grover (MA Dundee, MSc Oxford)

Assistant Curator, Photograph and Manuscript Collections, Pitt Rivers Museum

Jennifer Guest (MA Waseda, MA/PhD Columbia)

Associate Professor in Japanese (Classical Japanese literature)

Junko Hagiwara (MA Ealing College of Higher Education)

Senior Instructor in Japanese

Hiroe Kaji (MA Ulster, MA Brookes University)

Instructor in Japanese Language

Takehiko Kariya (BA MA Tokyo, PhD Northwestern)

Professor in the Sociology of Japan

Sho Konishi (PhD Chicago)

Associate Professor in Modern Japanese History, Director of Nissan Institute for Japanese Studies

Mateja Kovacic (MA Zagreb, PhD Hong Kong)

British Academy Postdoctoral Research Fellow

James Lewis (MA, PhD Hawaii)

Associate Professor in Korean History

Laurence Mann (MA, DPhil Oxford)

Tanaka Junior Research Fellow in Japanese Studies at Pembroke college

Ian Neary (BA Sheffield, DPhil Sussex)

Professor in the Politics of Japan, Director of Graduate Studies for the MSc and MPhil in Modern Japanese Studies

Kaori Nishizawa (BA Tsukuba)

Instructor in Japanese Language

Clare Pollard (MA Cambridge, DPhil Oxford)

Curator of Japanese Art at the Ashmolean Museum (Japanese prints and decorative arts)

Mari Sako (MSc, PhD London)

Professor in Management Studies, Saïd Business School, (Japanese management and labour)

Pamela Wace (MSc Reading, DPhil Oxford)

Research Associate (The Pitt Rivers Museum; Japanese Archaeology)

Hugh Whittaker (PhD Imperial College London)

Professor in the Economy and Business of Japan

Emeritus Fellows

Jennifer Corbett (PhD Michigan)

Emeritus Fellow in Japanese Economics

Phillip Harries (MA, DPhil Oxford)

Emeritus Fellow in Japanese (Classical Japanese literature)

James McMullen (MA, PhD Cambridge)

Emeritus Fellow in Japanese (Intellectual history)

Brian Powell (MA, DPhil Oxford)

Emeritus Fellow in Japanese (Japanese theatre)

Arthur Stockwin (PhD ANU)

Emeritus Fellow in Japanese Politics

Ann Waswo (PhD Stanford)

Emeritus Fellow in Japanese History

Research and Teaching Associates

Professor Roger Buckley

Dr Toshie Okita

Dr Alice Freeman

Dr Pia Joliffe

Dr Chigusa Yamaura

Research

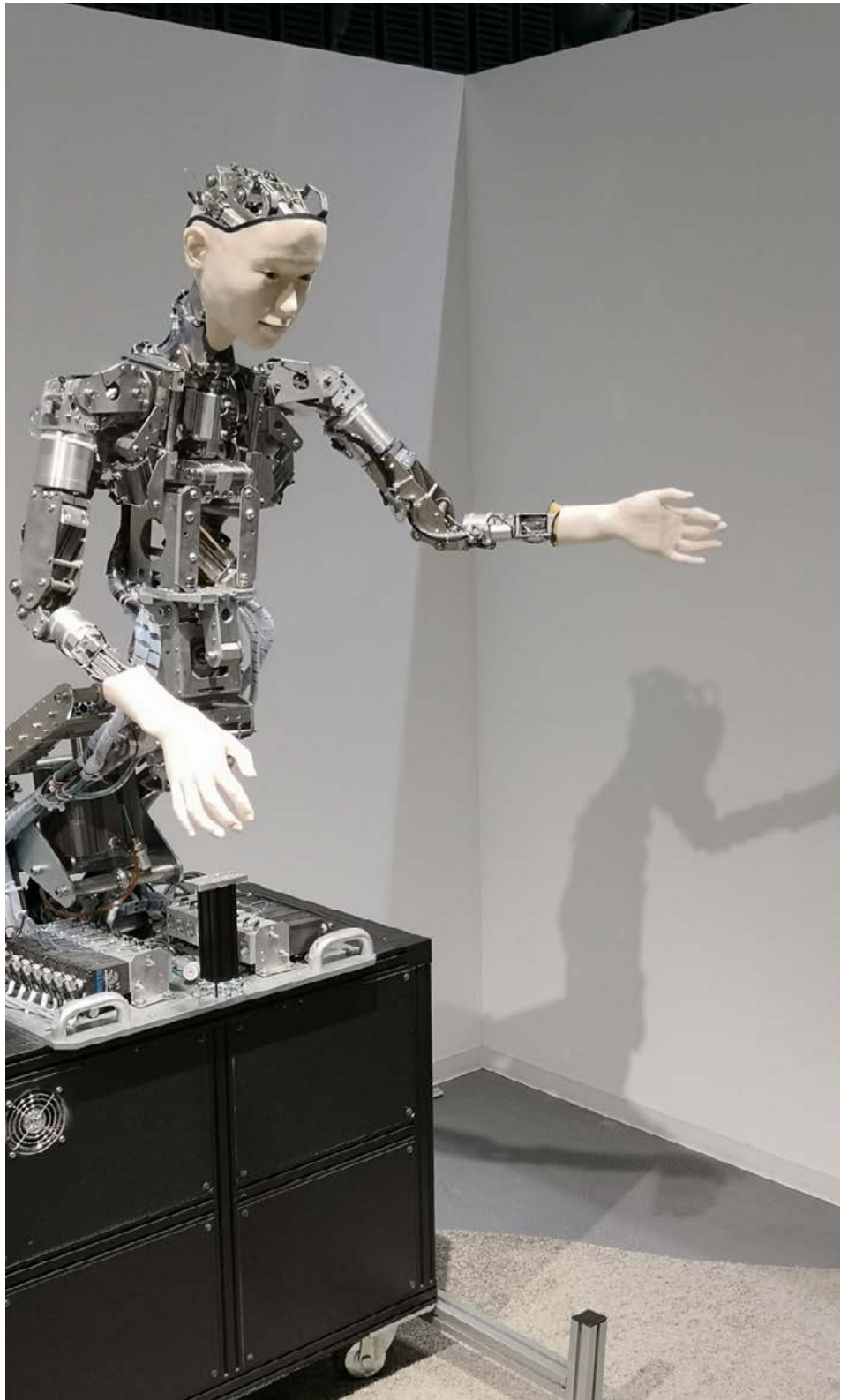
Robotics and AI Research at the Nissan Institute

Social robots and artificial intelligence have attracted considerable academic attention in response to the rising number of robots in everyday life and government plans for robotic and AI policies. The Japanese government has systematically encouraged robotics research since 1995 and founded the Robot Revolution Realisation Council in 2014. This year PM Abe announced his vision of a Super Smart Society or Society 5.0. At next year's Tokyo Olympics, many robotic and AI technologies now being developed in Japan will find their way into the daily life of the visiting athletes.

Robots and AI technologies provide a helpful lens into thinking about politics, economics, society and culture in a multitude of ways. Since 2018, the Nissan Institute has hosted a postdoctoral research project on humanoid robots and artificial intelligence in Japan. The project uses historical and anthropological approaches to investigate how culture and society influence technology and the impact that this technology has on society and culture. The project covers the industrial and political structures that shape robot narratives and real-world applications and considers sociocultural factors such as gender, spirituality, material and popular culture. The cultural and intellectual history of robots in Japan includes the seventeenth century *karakuri ningyō* mechanical dolls and Japanese robots such as *Gakutensoku*, created in 1928 by the biologist Nishimura Makoto. By looking into the histories and contemporary stories of individual robot makers it is possible to unveil the multiple, heterogeneous and diverse nature of robot cultures underneath the dominant homogenising narratives.

Many philosophical questions arise from robot-human interaction: from how robots and AI change and challenge our definitions of human nature to thinking about human culture. At the institute, we integrate these new topics and questions into existing teaching, opening up technology and science studies to students of various backgrounds.

Mateja Kovacic



The Nissan Institute Then and Now

I had the good fortune to spend this last academic year in Oxford as a visiting researcher at the Nissan Institute, after I earned my DPhil here in 1989. While several members of the Nissan community have been here for this entire time span, this gave me a unique perspective afforded by the opportunity to return after a 30-year absence, with just a few short visits in between.

The building that serves as home to the Institute today is not new, of course, but it replaced the cozy townhouse on Church Lane that was the original home of Modern Japanese Studies when the enterprise was first organized here in the 1980s. I describe it as a 'home' for good reasons for I have fond memories of inhabiting its spaces with my fellow graduate students: Robert Madsen, Malcolm Brock, Rikki Kersten, Naoko Shimazu, Bill Tsutsui, Sandra Wilson, Dolores Martinez, and Roger Goodman (then the post-doc with an office in the "Nissan Garage"). We hung out in the lounge reading the Japanese papers, which were not then available online, and talking about our passionate interests in Japanese politics, economics, history, and society. The fact that Britain's leading experts on these subjects all had offices in the building and gathered weekly for seminars on Friday completed the feeling that we were all part of the Nissan family.

Over the course of this year I have happily confirmed that the Nissan Institute, in

its 'new' space, continues to provide this comfortable and intellectually-stimulating home for its faculty and students, with a family now spanning three generations. The generation of faculty who mentored me (Arthur Stockwin, Jenny Corbett, and Ann Waswo) have all retired from Oxford, but they still have homes in the area and join some of its seminars and events. Roger long ago moved from post-doc to its faculty, and is joined by Professors Neary, Konishi, Kariya, and Whittaker, who all exhibit a level of collegiality and mentorship for graduate students that are not uniformly found at the best universities in the world. Jane Baker keeps the trains running on time, including a steady supply of coffee and tea. Stimulating seminars are still held on Friday afternoons, and I'm happy to report that there is another brood of graduate students here now, hanging out in the lounge and sharing the excitement of learning everything they can about modern Japan.

Len Schoppa, Department of Politics,
University of Virginia

Len, then and now...



New Books

Xin WEI and James B Lewis



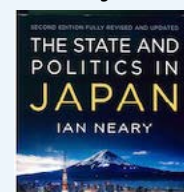
*Korea's Premier
Collection of Classical
Literature: Selections
from Sŏ Kŏjŏng's
(1420-1488)*
Tongmunsŏn.
University of Hawai'i
Press, 2019.

Kiyoko Hanaoka and Clare Pollard



*Plum Blossom and
Green Willow:
Japanese surimono
poetry prints from
the Ashmolean
Museum*
Ashmolean Museum,
2018

Ian Neary



*The State and Politics
in Japan*
2nd Edition, Polity,
politybooks

This combines an
explanation of the
historical context

with an account of contemporary party politics. The final five chapters consider changes that are taking place in five key policy areas: foreign and defence, industry, social welfare, the environment and human rights.



Laurence Mann

**Tanaka Junior Research Fellow in
Japanese Studies at Pembroke
college 2018-21**

His doctoral work centred on the *norito* (Shinto liturgies) but, subsequently, he has written more broadly on topics related to sound textures in Old Japanese poetry, and Ryukyuan. In addition to a monograph on *norito*, and a diachronic study of rhyme features in Japanese verse, he is working

on a collaborative project with researchers at Bangor University, using neurocognitive approaches to sound examined through poetry in Japanese and Welsh. He is also heading another project, supported by the university's John Fell Fund, which employs linguistic, literary and neurocognitive approaches to the role of sound textures in the poetic heritage of a number of less studied ethnolinguistic traditions in East Asia.

Conference Report

Neither Near Nor Far: Encounters and Exchanges Between Japan and the Middle East

was the third meeting of a working group which explores cultural encounters and exchanges between Japan and the Middle East by questioning western-centric approaches to globalisation and seeking to understand what role East-East encounters contribute to global experiences. At the first meeting, *Global Flow of Cultural Knowledge and their Afterlives* (Osaka, December 2016), the group looked at how knowledge about the other Orient was acquired and consumed. By situating the papers in historical contexts, it brought to the fore how although in recent years there have been more opportunities for direct contacts, Europe used to mediate the knowledge flow between Japan and the Middle East. At the second meeting, *French Orientalism and its Afterlives in Japan and the Middle East* (Paris, February 2018), the group reflected upon France's role in hosting and shaping the cultural encounters between the two Orients and its contemporary consequences.

This year in Oxford the group further engaged with the issue of globalisation by focusing on the exchange of religious ideas and material goods between the Middle East and Japan. It started with a public screening of the new Iranian documentary film "The Easterner" by Massoud Taheri on the life and works of Toshihiko Izutsu (1914–1993), a towering figure in the field of Islamic studies, who had a special relationship to Iran. Though invited by the organisers, the filmmaker could not attend the conference as he was denied a visa – yet one more example of how the "hostile environment" promoted by the British government is impeding the good functioning of academic exchange between scholars and intellectuals.

In the first keynote lecture Armando Salvatore explored Izutsu's encounter with 'Abrahamic' religions, his discovery of Islam and his contribution to the field of Islamic and religious studies and its significance for

Oxford Screening of **The Eastern**

A documentary on Toshihiko IZUTSU
The renowned Japanese Comparative Philosopher and Islamologist
Directed by Masoud Taheri (2018, Iran), with English subtitles



Date: Friday 24 May 2019 Time: 14:00-16:30

Venue: Middle East Centre, Investcorp Building, St Antony's College, Woodstock Road, Oxford OX2 6JF
Admission Free

Programme:

14:00-16:30: Screening of The Eastern

17:00-18:30: Keynote Lecture by Armando Salvatore (McGill University)

"Situating the Study of Islam in Global Intellectual History: Toshihiko Izutsu's Middle-Earth"

For details contact: Laurent Mignon, laurent.mignon@orinst.ox.ac.uk

Organised by

The Middle East Centre, St Antony's College, University of Oxford
Center for Modern Middle East Studies, National Museum of Ethnology, Japan
KAKENHI (16KT0098)

科研費
KAKENHI



国立民族学博物館
National Museum of Ethnology

the historiography of this field of study. In the second keynote lecture Tetsuo Nishio discussed how belly dancing, or so-called "oriental dance", had become a global phenomenon and analysed the discourses of practitioners on concepts ranging from 'womanhood' to 'orientality'. Entitled *The Immateriality of the Universal*, the first panel focused on the circulation of religious ideas, interreligious encounters and the representation of the religious other. The second panel with the title *The Materiality of*

the Global focused on the exchange of goods between Japan and the Middle East, ranging from cloth smuggling to ceramic tableware to artificial intelligence and robotics. Followed by an interested and engaged audience, the keynotes and panels led to rich discussions on a variety of topics from debates on 'cultural appropriation' to what Tetsuo Nishio termed the 're-globalisation of the Middle East'.

Laurent Mignon associate professor of Turkish, St Antony's College

New Networks

Oxford Alumni Club of Japan: Building effective networks and expanding 'exits'

An increasing number of Oxford Japanese Studies graduates are choosing to start their professional careers in Japan. A key enabler of this trend is Japan Inc.'s globalisation imperative that is pushing companies to introduce overseas hiring strategies to diversify their workforce and secure top talent. At the same time, the students themselves are beginning to view Japan as a realistic long-term option.

The growth in the number of Oxonians in Japan paved the way to the development of new networks. In November 2014 the Oxford Japanologists in Japan group held its first gathering in the Kagurazaka, famous for its French cuisine and traditional Japanese dining establishments. The event welcomed over 40 Oxonians, a mix of Nissan Institute and Oriental Institute Japanese Studies graduates and former visiting scholars. Where previously ties were largely cohort based, this event forged fresh vertical and horizontal connections that crossed departments and matriculation years.

Following the success of this meeting, the broader Oxonian community in Japan expressed a similar desire for a network, and in 2017 the Oxford Alumni Club of

Japan (OACJ) was launched as an official University of Oxford alumni society. It is the largest Oxford network in Japan with over 500 members. The group aims to enhance the lives and careers of the Japan Oxonian community – past, present and future – through providing opportunities for social and professional networking.

The group is especially committed to cultivating Oxford-Japan academia-industry ties that benefit current students. The OACJ has pioneered a collaborative initiative with the support of the Nissan Institute and Oriental Institute to provide Japanese Studies specific careers guidance, graduate career path case studies, and company introductions. For example, through this initiative, Oxford Japanese Studies students have been introduced to internships at large Japanese corporations and tech startups, research assistant experiences at a Japanese think tank, full-time job offers from global consulting firms and key industry connections for doctoral research related interviews. In this way, Japanese Studies at Oxford is a frontrunner in developing area-specific career support to supplement the general career guidance provided by the University.

Moreover, in collaboration with the Oxford Career Service's Internship Office, OACJ has developed the 'Summer internships in Japan' programme that has since spring 2018 created over 35 paid internship opportunities across over 12 different companies receiving 200 applications from students across the University.

While the importance of widening access is gaining a lot of attention in UK universities and higher education policy circles, the OACJ is illuminating the importance of expanding exits especially for what are traditionally considered by parents, students and schoolteachers to be non-practical degrees. Indeed, the challenge of improving access is inseparable from exit opportunities.

This is especially significant for Japanese Studies. Although more graduates are interested in working in Japan, a major challenge is that an alarmingly high number of students quit their Japanese company within the first year of joining due to gaps in cultural expectation as well as a lack of knowledge of the broader opportunities on offer outside of a few large trading houses, banks and consulting firms.

For contact details of OACJ see back page



Warren A. Stanislaus is a DPhil Candidate in History at Pembroke College. Originally from South East London, Warren has spent over 10 years in Japan both as a student and professional. As President of the Oxford Alumni Club of Japan, he has been active in developing UK-Japan academia-industry partnerships. Warren graduated with an MPhil in Japanese Studies from the Nissan Institute having completed his first degree in Tokyo at the International Christian University. In 2019, Warren was named as one of the "UK's Top 10 Rare Rising Stars."

Follow him on Twitter or Instagram: @warren_desu

The 3rd Tanaka Symposium in Japanese Studies

was held in June at Pembroke College with the theme 'Poetry, translation, education'. It was a celebration of the work of Noriko Mizuta and paid tribute to educator and philanthropist Dr Kenji Tanaka who sadly passed away earlier this year.

Professor Mizuta's long career in Japan and the United States has made wide-ranging contributions to the worlds of American literature, comparative literary studies, women's writing and feminist criticism, translation, higher education and poetry. The keynote, delivered by Mizuta herself, centred on the importance of translation for women's studies and literature in modern Japan. Professor Mizuta then gave a reading of her own poetry, beginning a workshop dedicated to the translation of that poetry including presentations delivered by Julia Bullock (Emory University) and Hannah Osborne (SOAS). They dealt with various aspects of Mizuta's work including the complex intersectional relationships between scholarship, translation and literary production.

The poetry translation workshop offered a rare opportunity for student translators

to get feedback on their work from senior academics and translation professionals, as well as from the author herself. The second part of the day also provided an arena for discussion of the roles poetry and translation play in safeguarding minority voices, featuring a talk on translating songs in the Jeju language (Jieun Kiaer, Oxford) and a video art and poetry demonstration inspired by Ainu ethnographies (Eiko Soga, Ruskin School of Art, Oxford). The 4th Symposium, to be held summer 2020 will report the findings of new neuro-cognitive studies exploring how language supports the creation of poetry, and underpins our understanding of it.



Professor Noriko Mizuta

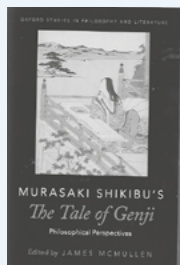
Open Cabinet at the Pitt Rivers Museum

The Pitt Rivers Museum is pioneering new technology to digitise objects from its collections in 3-D, and to enable access to these scans on mobile devices in the galleries using recognition software. Among a selection of twenty-five objects chosen to highlight in the Open Cabinet pilot project are two Japanese netsuke, the elaborately crafted miniature toggles worn with kimono during the Edo era to enable the attachment by cord of *inrō* and other types of container. Illustrated right is a screenshot from the photogrammetry rendering of a *manjū* netsuke carved from ivory by an unnamed and as yet unidentified artist. This depicts the Buddhist monk Mongaku Shonin, or Endō Moritō (1139–1203), shown here, as traditionally elsewhere, holding the handle of a bell in his mouth; on the reverse is a carving of the waterfall under which as a young man he did penance for accidentally killing his lover. The netsuke was bought at auction by the collector Dr Hermann Gunther in 1925 and given to the Pitt Rivers Museum in 1944.



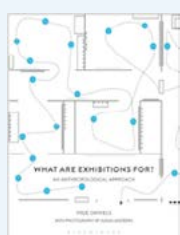
Japanese ivory netsuke by an unknown artist. (Pitt Rivers Museum, University of Oxford. Accession Number: 1980.34.887)

More New Books



Murasaki Shikibu's The Tale of Genji: Philosophical Perspectives. A new approach to *Genji*, edited with an introduction by **James McMullen**.
Oxford University Press (New York)

The essays address such questions and problems as: the role of myth in *Genji*; time and space; moral coherence; poetic truth; the aesthetics of calligraphy, the natural world; gender roles; and Buddhism.



What are Exhibitions For? An anthropological approach,
Inge Daniels
Bloomsbury 2019

Why do people go to exhibitions, and what do they hope to gain from the experience? What would happen if people were encouraged to move freely through exhibition spaces, take photographs and be playful? Inge Daniels answers these questions drawing on a Japan-related case study – the exhibition she curated about Japanese homes.

Translation and Literature in East Asia – Between Visibility and Invisibility

By **Jieun Kiaer, Jennifer Guest, Xiaofan Amy Li**

This book explores the issues involved in translation between Chinese, Japanese and Korean, as well as from these languages into European languages with an eye to comparing the cultures of translation within East Asia and tracking some of their complex interrelationships. Bringing together material dedicated to the theory and practice of translation between and from East Asian languages for the first time, it reasserts the need for a paradigm shift in translation theory that looks beyond European languages by encompassing a wide range of literature and scholarship in East Asia.

Forthcoming



A History of Discriminated Buraku in Japan
Teraki Nobuaki and Kurokawa Midori
Translated by **Ian Neary**
Renaissance Books 2019

Drawing on recent scholarship on the topic, the first half of this book summarises the historical origins of these communities up to the mid nineteenth century and then considers their evolution and the development of discrimination against them up to the early twenty-first century.

Compressed Development

Hugh Whittaker, Timothy Sturgeon, Toshie Okita and Tianbiao Zhu
Oxford University Press

Compressed development is about how experiences of economic and social development have changed and are continuing to change. What used to be clear development 'stages' in the 'late development' era now unfold simultaneously, or out of sequence. This book explores the intersection between development studies and studies of globalization, and uniquely draws attention to the importance of time and timing.

『追いついた近代 消えた近代：戦後日本の自己像と教育』
(*Disappearing modernity after catching up modernisation*)
Iwanami Shoten
Takehiko Kariya

The results of a ten-year research project on Japan's (re-) modernization in the post-war period, this book analyses how Japan's leading policy makers and intellectuals interpreted the concepts of modernity and modernisation and applied them to policy making, in particular in education policy.

Nihongo Cup 2019 in Oxford

The final of the Nihongo cup was held in the Nissan Institute on 22 June 2019. This is the Japanese speech competition that is open to school pupils. There are three levels: Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4 & 5 (pre-GCSE) and the post GCSE group, mainly A level students. The winner of the final category was Theo Nze whose prize included a 13 day trip to Japan where he took part in another speech competition and Japanese language workshop along with winners of similar competitions in 15 countries including the USA, Brazil, China, New Zealand and Poland. Theo's speech – which was in Japanese remember – was about what it means to be Japanese in the C21st when Japan is so proud of tennis players such as Naomi Osaka.

This year for the first time Prof Kariya was one of the judges. Afterwards he commented, 'I was very impressed with the high quality of their speeches, their enthusiasm to learn the Japanese



language, and through it, about Japanese culture and society. The students seemed delighted about coming to the Nissan Institute, a Mecca of Japanese Studies in the UK.'

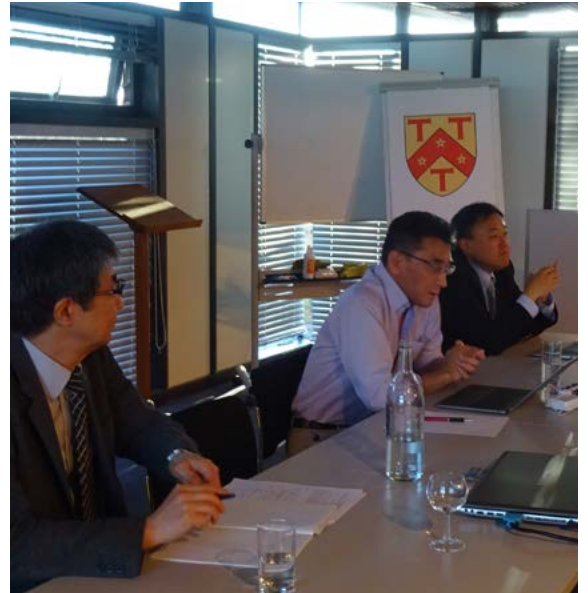
Meiji 150 in the Nissan Institute

October 2018

A special seminar on the theme of the Meiji Restoration (*Meiji Ishin*) and Opening of Japan (*Kaikoku*), co-sponsored by the Suntory Foundation, identified fresh significance, meanings and value of the rich experience of the *Meiji Ishin*. This was the 14th Suntory Foundation seminar series, 'Re-examining Japan in Global Context' to which speakers and discussants from Japan, the United States, Canada and the UK were invited to participate. The first speaker, Professor Tadashi Karube of University of Tokyo drew attention to the difference between 'revolution' and 'restoration' as English equivalents for 'Ishin.' He argued that Japanese people in the 19th century had found commonalities between Western culture and their own, thereby accepting different systems as part of (western) 'civilization.' The second presentation by Professor Sho Konishi of the Nissan Institute

discussed the non-imperial underground encounters in revolutionary Japan between the newly labelled 'criminals' and 'losers' of the civil war. Using a case of the Tokugawa-era *Kaitokudo* School of Virtue, he presented a new, non-state transnational historical narrative and connectivity of this era enacted by historical actors who, he argued, have been erased by the political deployment of the nationalizing term 'civil war' in history and historiography.

These presentations and the subsequent discussion shone new light on the *Meiji Ishin* locating it and the opening of Japan in a global context.



Professors Kariya, Konishi and Watanabe (Keio U) at the Suntory seminar

Meiji 150 conference report

May 2019: Reopening the 'Opening of Japan' was the theme of the graduate-led conference held in the Nissan Institute to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Meiji Ishin. Standard narratives surrounding Japan's nineteenth century experience centre on the impact of the country's mid-nineteenth century 'opening'

of trade and interaction with Western nation-states, leaving critical aspects of the country's history largely unexplored. The diverse papers presented at the conference brought into sharp focus the surprising, multidirectional transnational connections between Japan and societies around the globe. By uncovering the significance of

these overlooked global links, the speakers highlighted the ways in which the study of Japan is at the cutting edge of efforts to reclaim highly meaningful trends, actors, and ideas from the margins of history.

Student-led, the event included nine panels and lectures by Professors Sho Konishi (University of Oxford), James Ketelaar (University of Chicago), and Professor Olga Solovieva (University of Chicago). Half of the panellists flew in from institutions in Europe, the U.S., and Japan. The other half consisted of doctoral students, postdoctoral fellows, and faculty based at the Nissan Institute. Together, the participants collaborated to showcase new perspectives and the ground-breaking historical work currently being undertaken at Oxford.

The co-organisers of this conference, Lewis Bremner and Maro Dotulong, gratefully acknowledge the support of the Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation, the Daiwa Anglo-Japanese Foundation, the Japan Foundation, and the Nissan Institute of Japanese Studies.



One of the panels at the conference. From left to right: Dr. Nadine Willems (lecturer, UEA), Maro Dotulong, Dr. Mateja Kovacic, Lewis Bremner, and Yu Sakai.

BJL News and Updates



The Bodleian Japanese Library is home to one of the most extensive collections in Europe of academic books and journals for the study of Japanese culture. We are dedicated to the support of Oxford academics and students, as well as visiting scholars who work on Japan. Our holdings keep growing at a steady pace, thanks to the unceasing support offered by the Nissan Benefaction and the numerous donations which we receive annually from individuals and institutions. Over the past year, we have greatly expanded our portfolio of digital resources – e-books, e-journals, and databases – and plan to keep developing the Bodleian Japanese Library collection in this direction, making it even more accessible to all our users.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

As part of a Bodleian-wide restructuring, our famed Japanese rare books and manuscripts were relocated in Weston Library, a state-of-the-art building which houses most of the Bodleian's special collections. However, quite recently, we (re)discovered a large number of beautifully illustrated nineteenth and early twentieth century books in our stacks. These books, which will soon join our special collection, include English translations and essays on Japan written by early European Japanologists, books on photography, limited editions, and even a sizable collection of magic lantern slides.



PERSONNEL

Alessandro Bianchi succeeded Izumi Tytler as Bodleian Japanese Librarian. He received his PhD from the University of Cambridge, where he worked on Tokugawa-period literature and the history of books. Before joining the Bodleian Libraries in February 2019, he worked at cultural and research institutions such as the British Library, the Smithsonian, and Haverford College.

NEWS IN BRIEF

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Bjarke Frellesvig who was elected a Fellow of the Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and Letters (Det Kongelige Danske Videnskabernes Selskab)

Arthur Stockwin who will be given an honorary doctorate by the Australian National University in December 2019 in recognition of his contribution to the understanding of Japanese politics.

The Nissan Institute Routledge Japanese Studies

This year we have published:

Friendship and Work Culture of Women Managers in Japan: Tokyo After Ten by Swee Lin Ho, a former doctoral student in social anthropology at the Nissan Institute and currently Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology at the National University of Singapore.

The Dilemma of Faith in Modern Japanese Literature: Metaphors of Christianity by Massimiliano Tomasi, Professor of Japanese at Western Washington University.

July 2019 saw the launch of the fifth edition of Joy Hendry's classic textbook *Understanding Japanese Society* which contains new material on: the continued effects of the triple disasters of 2011; local examples of care for nature and the environment; new perspectives on the role of women; and, Japan's place in the context of globalization. Each chapter includes contributions from leading scholars in the field based on new and emerging research.

The series is open to proposals for books on any aspect of modern and contemporary Japanese society and welcomes the submission of doctoral theses for consideration.

For further information, please contact either of the Series Editors, Roger Goodman (roger.goodman@nissan.ox.ac.uk) or Arthur Stockwin (arthur.stockwin@nissan.ox.ac.uk).

JAPANESE ART AT THE ASHMOLEAN

'**Plum Blossom and Green Willow**', an exhibition of *surimono* poetry prints ran between October 2018 – 17 March 2019). Among the finest examples of Japanese woodblock printmaking of the late eighteenth to early nineteenth century, *surimono* were privately published in limited editions by members of poetry clubs to present to friends and acquaintances on festive occasions. Mostly consisting of witty *kyōka* poems combined with related images, *surimono* were often designed by leading print artists and produced using the best materials and most sophisticated printing techniques. They provide a fascinating insight into the refined and cultivated Japanese literati culture of the period.

A catalogue by Kiyoko Hanaoka and Clare Pollard accompanied the exhibition.

AREThé is an international festival celebrating the arts of the contemporary Japanese tea ceremony. This year's AREThé events included a special demonstration by a group of tea masters from Fukuoka in the museum's Japanese tea house, a loan display of exquisite contemporary tea utensils, and a collaboration with the Oxford Anagama Kiln Project at Wytham Woods that resulted in a display of wood-fired vessels from the latest kiln firing.

April saw the opening of '**Lifelines**', an exhibition to celebrate the distinguished career of print artist Naoko Matsubara, who has donated over a hundred works to the Ashmolean. Based in Canada, Matsubara creates dynamic and joyful woodcuts that have been pushing at the boundaries of the woodblock medium for the past six decades.

Preparations are now underway for a major exhibition of Japanese art to be held from July to November 2020, timed to coincide with the Tokyo Olympics. The exhibition will explore the city of Edo/Tokyo through the vibrant arts it has generated from its beginnings as the headquarters of the Tokugawa shoguns in the early 1600s to the sprawling modern metropolis and dynamic artistic centre it is today. Works will include woodblock prints, maps, paintings, photography and video art. The exhibition will look at ways in which Tokyo artists have depicted their urban environment, zoom in on the daily lives and

leisure activities of the people living in the city, and then explore Tokyo as a city of innovation, artistic self-expression and protest.



[top right image]: Utagawa Hiroshige, *The Suijin Woods and Massaki on the Sumida River*, Colour woodblock print, 1856, Presented by Mrs E. M. Allan and Mr and Mrs H. N. Spalding from the Herbert H. Jennings Collection, EAX.4351

[bottom image]: Naoko Matsubara, *Tagasode*, Colour woodblock print, 2014, Presented by Naoko Matsubara, RA2018.160

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Kongyūkai 紺牛会

Originally formed to help former students and teachers keep in touch with each other, Kongyūkai (dark-blue ox society) is now principally a Facebook group which can be joined by anyone who has studied, taught, or contributed to courses related to Japan in Oxford University. Apart from networking through the Facebook group, Kongyūkai's main activity is an annual dinner, held in Oxford during the Michaelmas Term. The 2018 dinner was the biggest yet, with forty-three participants. Held in Wolfson College, and again sensitively organised by Louise Gordon and her friendly team, the dinner was attended by the college's new President Sir Tim Hitchens, former UK Ambassador to Japan. Also from the diplomatic world was Mr Okada Takashi, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at the Embassy of Japan.

At the beginning of the dinner we remembered Audrey Stockwin, Professor Stockwin's wife and a noted potter, who had died earlier in the year. The speaker was the art historian Professor Timon Screech, who noted that this would be the last Kongyūkai dinner in the Heisei era and followed this observation with a survey of the historiography of the Imperial institution from earliest times to Meiji Restoration. The speaker in 2019 will be Sir Tim Hitchens when the dinner in 2019 will be held again in Wolfson College on Friday 22 November.

In addition there will be a London Kongyūkai event this year on 14 September from 12.30 at the Duke of Hamilton pub, London NW3 1JD. Details from the Kongyūkai Facebook site or Keijiban or from Paul Ardern: paulardern@gmail.com or Brian Powell: b_w_f_powell@hotmail.com

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