ANNUAL REVIEW
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センター長便り - ヘレン・マクノートン

新しい年度にあたり、ジャパン・リサーチ・センターのスタッフを含め、アソシエート及び客員研究員、ご支援をいただきました企業や団体、また、ソーシャルメディアの粉々も本研究の百年を記念して2016年2月1日に開催されましたシンポジウム「ダルウィッチ・ボーイズを超えて：SOASにおける日本研究」が、英日間の英日関係や日本研究発展への貢献ははかり知れないものであります。2015年8月にセンター長を拝命いたしましたが、おかげさまで就任後の1年を無事に終えることができました。故津田かよ子先生のご厚意で始まりました津田特別講演や、国際日本学会・三井総合研究所で行われた「SOAS日本語学科ダルウィッチキャンパスで日本語を学んだ「ダルウィッチ・ボーイズ」たちのその後の学びや研究活動」に参加し、2015年の日本研究の重要性に触れ、友田さんといろいろな皆様に、「ダルウィッチ・ボーイズ」のおかげもあったアルド・ドーリー先生とそのご家族、先生の91歳になられたお誕生日にイラストとお花で、ジャパン・リサーチ・センターでの成長を体験した。この100年を振り返り、過去・現在・未来という時間軸での日本研究を重要なものに認識し、これからの方々への決意を誓う貴重な機会となりました。SOASの日本研究開始百周年を記念して2016年2月1日に開催されましたシンポジウム「ダルウィッチ・ボーイズを超えて：SOASにおける日本研究の百年」です。SOASの日本語学科の歴史の中で、英日間の英日関係や日本研究の発展への貢献ははかり知れないものです。2016/2017年度も、運営委員会のメンバーであるクリストファー・ガーティス、スティーブン・ドット、クリスティナ・ブルース、ピーター・フレイスマン、ジェームズ・サボイ(敬称略)とともに活気のある1年にしたと思います。2016年度秋以降は、シモジタラムとジェャン・リサーチ・センターカとの結びつきを広げるためにも、今後も日本の大学と研究機関、さらには多くの皆様のご支援をいただければと思います。

日本研究の発展は、SOASの日本語学科の歴史の中で、英日関係や日本研究の発展への貢献ははかり知れないものです。2016/2017年度も、運営委員会のメンバーであるクリストファー・ガーティス、スティーブン・ドット、クリスティナ・ブルース、ピーター・フレイスマン、ジェームズ・サボイ(敬称略)とともに活気のある1年にしたと思います。2016年度秋以降は、シモジタラムとジェャン・リサーチ・センターカとの結びつきを広げるためにも、今後も日本の大学と研究機関、さらには多くの皆様のご支援をいただければと思います。
A tribute to Professor Paul Webley, CBE

The JRC was deeply saddened by the death of Professor Paul Webley, CBE, former Director of SOAS University of London. Professor Webley took office as Director and Principal of SOAS in August 2006. In 2015, he was awarded a CBE for his work as the leader of a renowned specialist institution, an eminent economic psychologist, as a member and chair of many influential bodies in higher education and as an unceasing champion of specialised research and of freedom of speech.

Paul was always a great supporter of Japanese Studies at SOAS, attending and helping out with JRC activities, asking for our publications so he could personally read our work and display it in his office, and speaking fondly of his trips to Japan and interaction with JRC colleagues and students. He leaves a great legacy.

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Dr Helen Macnaughtan (Chair, JRC, SOAS)

BIOGRAPHY

SOAS University of London has paid tribute to its former Director, Professor Paul Webley, CBE, who has passed away aged 62. Paul joined SOAS in 2006 and served as its eighth Director and Principal until 2015.

Current SOAS Director, Baroness Valerie Amos said: “Paul made a tremendous contribution to both SOAS and the wider specialist community - as an inspired leader of our renowned specialist institution, as an eminent economic psychologist, as a member and chair of many influential bodies in higher education and as an unceasing champion of specialised research and of freedom of speech. His work was fittingly recognised in the award of a CBE in the 2015 New Year’s Honours List.”

“As we approach our centenary in 2016-17, SOAS can be proud to have had Paul as its champion and leader for the last decade. He leaves a great legacy. Paul’s warmth, generosity and loyalty was felt by all. The whole SOAS community of staff and students, alumni and friends and supporters are greatly saddened by his loss and our thoughts are with Julie and his family.”

Professor Steve Dodd (SOAS)

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Stephen McEnally will join the Japan Research Centre from September 2016 as a Senior Fellow, following a distinguished career supporting UK-Japan cultural and academic relations. During the period 1979-2016, Stephen worked for the British Council (including appointments in Japan), the Japan Foundation (London) and the Great Britain-Sakai Foundation. In a career spanning forty years he has established key funding and cultural programmes supporting the academic field of Japanese Studies in the UK.

Following Stephen’s formal retirement in summer 2016, he will work with the JRC in promoting the Centre’s on-going academic activities including annual lectures, the hosting of academic conferences and workshops, and the building up of collaborative networks within the British Japanese studies and Japan-related business communities in the UK. Stephen offers vital professional and networking expertise, and will support UK-Japan cultural and academic relations. During the period 1979-2016, Stephen worked with the JRC in promoting the Centre’s on-going academic activities including annual lectures, the hosting of academic conferences and workshops, and the building up of collaborative networks within the British Japanese studies and Japan-related business communities in the UK. Stephen offers vital professional and networking expertise, and will support UK-Japan cultural and academic relations. During the period 1979-2016, Stephen worked with the JRC in promoting the Centre’s on-going academic activities including annual lectures, the hosting of academic conferences and workshops, and the building up of collaborative networks within the British Japanese studies and Japan-related business communities in the UK. Stephen offers vital professional and networking expertise, and will support UK-Japan cultural and academic relations.
While in residence as a Research Fellow at Humboldt University of Berlin’s International Research Centre ‘Work and Human Life Cycle in Global History’, Chris had the opportunity to give lectures at the Free University of Berlin and the University of Washington at Seattle, and the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies. He also served as discussant for the European Forum on Korean-Japanese History, held in Brussels; the UFSP-GEAS Publication Workshop, organized by the URPP Asia and Europe at University of Zurich; and an inaugural lecture held at the Oriental Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague. In 2016, Chris was appointed Vice Chair of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague.

In April, she completed editing a volume with two co-editors, Peter Selts and Kimi Akita. The volume is titled “Grammar of Japanese Mimetics: Perspectives from structure, acquisition and transition.” The edited volume was based on the Grammar of Mimetics Workshop held in 2015, supported by the Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation, Daiwa Anglo-Japanese Foundation, and Meiji Jingu Japanese Studies Research Grant.


In September 2015, Griseldis participated at the JAWS conference at Bodø/Trondheim University, Istanbul with a paper in the panel “Representing Nature and Technology in Japan” before she attended the conference of the British Association of Japanese Studies at SOAS, with a presentation on “Dreaming of Dominance in East Asia – Imaging China in Japan’s Lost Decade,” in the panel “Rethinking the Postwar in Japan: Beyond U.S.-Japanese Encounters.” In March 2016, she attended the conference “Every Picture Tells a Story – The Visualization of Japanese History” at the University of Oslo. In April 2016, she was invited to a talk at the University of Sheffield, speaking on the topic of “Nostalgia for a Lost Past – Imagining the Postwar in Japan”.

Griseldis has been working as Japan Research Consultant for the critically acclaimed Amazon Prime adaptation of Philip K. Dick’s novel The Man in the High Castle. The first season was released in November 2015, and she has since returned to the same role for the second season of the series.


On 2 June, SOAS’s centenary was commemorated with the symposium “Teaching and Learning Japanese at SOAS - Past, Present, Future: Celebrating 100 years of Japanese language pedagogy and 20 years of pedagogues’ training”. Barbara’s opening presentation revisited the school’s war-time programmes, and included a very poignant glimpse in the past thanks to abundant study materials from that time kindly donated to the school by Leslie Phillips, and an interview from ‘SOAS Biteshych girl’ Mary Every. Current and former colleagues spoke about the periods 1990-2010, and 2010 to today. In the afternoon, five presentations discussed academic research on Japanese language learning and teaching, and showcased the great variety of topics and approaches to the study of Japanese that was, and is carried out at SOAS. Revisiting our early and recent history together with a large audience of some 60 attendees made us feel immensely proud of the achievements of linguistic pedagogues’ training”.

Barbara PIZZICONI
Reader in Applied Japanese Linguistics

Kristin SURAK
Senior Lecturer in Japanese Politics

A first preliminary report on a three-year joint project on the development of intercultural competence, conducted by Barbara Pizziconi and Noriko Iwasaki (linguistics), was presented at this event. Different aspects of the project were subsequently presented at a colloquium of the AILA research network in which this project participates (Besançon, France: 29 June), and at the AILA conference (Venice, Italy: 9 July).

Kristin Surak enjoyed a productive year as the Richard E. Fischer Member at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton where she continued her research on labour migration and transnational migration. While at the Institute, she published several essays in popular venues, such as the London Review of Books and the Los Angeles Review of Books, in addition to completing several academic articles on migration, as well as the tea ceremony.

During the academic year, Kristin gave two keynote speeches. At Ca’Foscari University in Venice, Italy, she addressed the attendees of the international symposium “The Culture of Tea in Japan”. And at the University of California in Davis, she delivered the keynote speech opening the new Global Tea Initiative to be hosted at that university.

Kristin also presented invited lectures on several research projects at a number of institutions spanning four continents. She spoke on investor citizenship at Princeton University, the Institute for Advanced Study, and the NYU Abu Dhabi Institute. She presented talks on labour migration at Cornell University, NYU Abu Dhabi, and the University of Witswatersrand. And she lectured on tea ceremonies at the University of California at San Diego, and the University of Hamburg.

Continuing her public outreach, Kristin offered expert commentary on the role of cities in global migration at the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations Global Forum held in Baku, Azerbaijan in April. Later the same month, she gave a talk at the UCLA Terasaki Center Global Japan Forum on labour migration issues in Japan and East Asia.

Kristin was also awarded a £50,000 research grant from the Leverhulme Foundation to pursue a project examining the origins and spread of citizenship by investment programs under which countries effectively sell citizenship or residence opportunities.

A weekly round up of the news coverage by JRC members.
www.soas.ac.uk/jrc/news/
jrc-in-the-media/
The story of the Dulwich Boys has been featured on BBC Radio 4’s Today Programme

It marked 100 years of Japanese Studies at SOAS, focusing on the story of the Dulwich Boys and their achievements, as well as celebrate the expansion and diversity of Japanese studies over subsequent decades.

The School received its Royal Charter in 1916 and the first students were admitted in January 1917. Japanese language was taught from the outset and both the army and navy sent students for language training during the 1920s. However, the teaching of Japanese expanded in 1942, when the Board of Education, at the behest of the War Office, established a scholarship scheme for boys from secondary and public schools aged 17 and 18 to study languages critical to the war effort. Accommodated at Dulwich College, the Dulwich Boys as they came to call themselves, attended language courses at SOAS every morning, and returned to the college each afternoon to study the regular Dulwich curriculum. On completing their 18 months of language training, each student was inducted into the military or intelligence services. By the 1944-45 academic season, there were 583 Japanese language students at SOAS including those in the armed forces. The story of the Dulwich Boys has been featured on BBC Radio 4’s Today Programme (01:41:27) and in the BBC Magazine. The article, produced by BBC journalist Nick Higham, features in the BBC Radio 4’s Today Programme (01:41:27) and in the BBC Magazine. The article, produced by BBC journalist Nick Higham, features

The JRC was delighted that eminent Japanese studies Professor, Ronald Dore, his 91st birthday to lead a panel of SOAS Japanese studies alumni from across the decades. The event was chaired by Nick Higham, journalist and correspondent for BBC News, and opening speeches were given by Valerie Amos, Director of SOAS and Ambassador of Japan to the UK, and Ambassador of Japan to the UK, given by Valerie Amos, Director of SOAS

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The event on 1 February 2016 launched the SOAS centenary

A special celebratory event marking 100 years of Japanese Studies was held in February 2016. The discussion focused on the story of the ‘Dulwich Boys’ - a group of young men who studied Japanese at SOAS during WWII – noting their achievements, as well as celebrating the expansion and diversity of Japanese studies at SOAS over subsequent decades. The JRC Chair, Dr Helen Macnaughton, welcomed a diverse audience which included staff from Dulwich College, Japanese studies alumni and their family, as well as supporters of the JRC from the Japanese Studies community. Special mention was also made of the ‘SOAS Bletchley Girls’ – seven members of the WAAF (Women’s Auxiliary Air Force) who were recruited to learn intensive Japanese at SOAS in 1943 before being sent to Bletchley Park. The JRC was delighted that eminent Japanese studies Professor, Ronald Dore, recalled how it was the Japanese women teaching at SOAS who were crucial in enabling the young men to acquire empathy for Japan during the Second World War.

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A group of seven women serving in the Women’s Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF) were recruited to study Japanese at SOAS in 1943, to be sent to work in assistance of the war effort. They were told they may be posted to the Far East, but instead they ended up in the very hub of British code-breaking, Bletchley Park. Helen Wilby updated the Japanese call sign index and Eleanor Clark helped produce a dictionary of Japanese military terms. The seven WAAFs became lifelong friends, meeting regularly as a group for two years. They never discussed any details of their work with anyone, until the 50th anniversary of their meeting.

Bletchley Park was not just focused on German codes, and two-thirds of the Bletchley workforce were women. The “Jappy WAAF”, as the seven girls used to call themselves, never sent to war front, and never visited Japan. From the days of their Japanese course at SOAS, they worked in secret and kept that secret for most of their lives, among themselves, and with families and friends alike.

Barbara Pizziconi and Helen Macnaughtan wrote about the seven WAAFs in the book, ‘Jappy WAAF’. Photographs of雌inna Salmond and Adrian Barker (daughter and son of Eileen Clark) are featured in the book. Barbara Pizziconi is a former Associate Professor at the National University of Singapore, and Helen Macnaughton is a SOAS Alumna.
Conference
British Association for Japanese Studies (BAJS)
Annual Conference
10-11 SEPTEMBER 2015

The JRC hosted the BAJS Conference in September 2015. A total of 230 conference delegates, including established academics and PhD candidates representing a broad range of UK, European and Japanese academic institutions attended the two-day event. There were some 40 panels in various fields of Japanese Studies scheduled, enabling around 150 scholars to present their latest research in the fields of Japanese literature, film & media, history, politics, gender relations, employment, art, business and culture & society. The Japan Foundation kindly contributed funding to the event and sponsored the plenary session. Professor Aaron Gerow from Yale University gave a plenary lecture titled: Theorizing the Theory Complex in the Japanese Film World.

For more information on the British Association for Japanese Studies (BAJS): www.bajs.org.uk/

Korean Studies and the Centre of Taiwan Studies, will also host the

The JRC, together with the SOAS China Institute, the Centre of

Studies (BAJS): www.bajs.org.uk/

For more information: www.soas.ac.uk/jeas-2016/

Fleeting Spring Dream took place at SOAS on 29 September 2016. Founded in Kyoto in 2006 the ensemble has performed more than ninety times and played to a full house at SOAS.

The Tale of Genji Theatre Recital: A Fleeting Spring Dream took place at SOAS on 29 September 2016. Founded in Kyoto in 2006 the ensemble has performed more than ninety times and played to a full house at SOAS.

Event Reports
The convenors reflect back on events

Event reports are published in the Journal of East Asian Studies (JEAS) and the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Culture (SISJAC), as well as on the SOAS Website.

The symposium attracted a wide range of scholars who have been not only interested in Japanese art but also the relationship with East Asian art history, and also the new framework of ‘East Asian Art’ and the definition of ‘Art History.’ Moreover, the symposium speakers have shown a completely new way in which to see Japanese Art History to people that are engaged in Japanese studies in Europe, as well as to stimulate audiences with the newest topics in Japanese art history. The presentations and exchange of information about research topics have given a rare and important opportunity for, in particular, young scholars to create close relationships in the near-future, and to develop intellectual communications beyond countries and their study areas.

After successfully completing this symposium, the anthology by speakers will be published during FY2017.

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Professor Naoko Shimazu (Birkbeck) gave the 2015 W.G. Beasley Memorial Lecture on 26 November 2015. It was very warmly received. Her lecture, entitled ‘‘Japan’’ in the Western Imagination: A Voyage of Ideas Into the Past’, explored the way in which ‘‘Japan’’ came to be constructed as a system of knowledge in the Western imagination throughout the last four hundred years, from the time of the so-called ‘‘Christian Century’’ in the sixteenth century to the twentieth century.

We are very grateful to the generous support of the Toshiba International Foundation, which make The W.G. Beasley Memorial Lecture possible. This annual lecture, created in 2013, provides an opportunity to commemorate the life and writings of SOAS historian Professor William G Beasley (1919–2006). Professor Beasley was not only a leading figure in the development of Japanese Studies in Britain, he also had strong links with SOAS. He was appointed to the post of Lecturer in Far Eastern History at SOAS in 1947, and appointed in 1954 to the post of Professor of the History of the Far East. During his tenure at SOAS, Professor Beasley headed the History and Far East departments and the founding Chair of the Japanese Research Centre (1978–83).

In her Beasley lecture, Professor Shimazu considered the changing images of ‘‘Japan’’. She began from the first impressions of the Jesuits during their stay in Japan during the sixteenth century. She noted how travellers such as Isabella Bird and Rudyard Kipling during the late nineteenth century added a distinctly Victorian interpretation of ‘‘Japan’’. And she explored how conditions of modernity during the twentieth century refined further the western understanding of ‘‘Japan’’.

The Meiji Jingu Autumn Lecture was held in October 2015, an annual event which has been sponsored through the generosity of the Meiji Jingu International Research Institute since 2008. This year’s lecture was part of the Meiji Jingu/SSJC lecture series titled Tokyo Futures, 1868–2020. The JRC welcomed Professor Jordan Sand, Georgetown University, who gave a lecture titled: Between Imperial Capital and World City: the tourist’s Tokyo a century ago.

JRC annual lectures

The Meiji Jingu Autumn Lecture With Professor Jordan Sand (Georgetown University) 26 NOVEMBER 2015

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In addition to supporting this Autumn Lecture series, Meiji Jingu also generously funds annual postgraduate student scholarships and research grants for JRC academic members. As always, we were delighted to welcome Mr Sato, Director of the Meiji Jingu International Research Institute, and members of his team to SOAS for the event. We remain grateful for their ongoing support of Japanese Studies research at SOAS.

Annual Tsuda Lecture With Professor Laura Hein (Northwestern University) 24 FEBRUARY 2016

The 10th Annual Tsuda Lecture was held in February 2016, and marked the last in this series which ran from 2007–2016. A very generous donation of support from the late Mrs Kayoko Tsuda has enabled the JRC to host this annual lecture series as well as offer a Tsuda Bursary to a promising final year PhD student in the field of Japanese Studies, for a period of ten years. The final Tsuda lecture was given by Professor Laura Hein (Northwestern University) who was hosted by the JRC as a SOAS Centenary Fellow during 2015/16. Her lecture was titled: Reckoning with the 20th Century: 60 Years of Tomiyama Taeko’s Art.

Professor Laura Hein with Dr Helen Macnaughtan at the Annual Tsuda Lecture reception in February 2016

ビーズリー記念特別講演

今年度も公益財団法人東芝国際交流財団のご支援によるW・G・ビーズリー記念特別講演が実施されました。この特別講演はSOASの歴史学研究者ウィリアム・G・ビーズリー名誉教授(1919–2006)の御逝去をもたげて開催されるものです。ビーズリー教授は英国内における日本研究発展の名手でありながら、SOASとは深いつながりのある先生でした。1947年から極東歴史研究の講師としてSOAS教授をつとめ、1961年からは教授となり、歴史学科と極東研究学部の学部長を務められました。また、1979年から1983年までジッパリアンセンターのセンター長を務めていました。

津田特別講演

明治神宮秋季特別講演

Panel discussion
Abenomics and Currency Wars
Professor Koichi Hamada
20 JANUARY 2016

On 20 January 2016, the Japan Research Centre, the SOAS Department of Economics, the Japan Economy Network and the London Asia-Pacific Centre for Social Science co-organised a lecture and panel discussion on ‘Abenomics and Currency Wars’. Professor Koichi Hamada – the Tuntex Professor Emeritus of Economics at Yale University and Special Economic Advisor to Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe – started the discussion with his assessment of the Japanese government’s strategy of reviving the Japanese economy with a programme comprising the ‘three arrows’ of monetary easing, fiscal stimulus and subsequent consolidation, and structural reforms. Professor Hamada’s talk was followed by a lively panel discussion in which he was joined by Andrew Filardo, the Head of Monetary Policy at the Bank for International Settlements, and Andrew Rozanov, Associate Fellow for International Economics at Chatham House. The panel was chaired by Ulrich Volz from the SOAS Department of Economics.

Workshop
Reading Edo Period Texts
SOAS Japanese Manuscript Workshop
With Professor Peter Kornicki and Dr Jenny Preston
31 MAY - 3 JUNE 2016

The SOAS Japan Research Centre held a four-day Kuzushiji Workshop from 31 May to 3 June 2016. The workshop was a follow-up from the successful 2015 International Symposium on Media and Materialities in Early Modern Japan, co-organised by Radu Leca and Doreen Mueller with the support of the JIRC.

The workshop generated huge demand and was oversubscribed with 23 participants. We were overwhelmed by students and researchers’ need for reading early modern printed books and manuscripts. Many participants were postgraduate students and researchers from SOAS, Oxford University and the University of East Anglia who will use their kuzushiji reading skills to access primary sources for their research. We also had professional participants including librarians (British Library, SOAS) and Japanese Embassy employees.

Feedback from participants shows that the majority found the workshop very useful, particularly the well-structured workshop manual and the teaching method: two-hour intensive reading sessions delivered by Prof Peter Kornicki, a leading scholar in his field, and Dr Jenny Preston, who is championing the study of early modern Japanese texts in the original among SOAS BA and MA students. The workshop also had the benefit of the use of kuzushiji dictionaries acquired with remaining funds from the 2015 symposium.

Participants valued the two different teaching styles, which introduced different approaches to reading kuzushiji. Participants noted the need for sustained kuzushiji reading practice and it is hoped that these workhops will be repeated. In the words of SOAS PhD student Naama Eisenstein: “The ability to read cursive Japanese (kuzushiji) is becoming fundamental in the study of pre-modern and modern Japan. This intense four-day workshop was a wonderful start, giving us tools for further study. We can only hope that now the importance of kuzushiji has been recognised, there will be more workshops and courses offered.”

Workshop
Japanese Roof Garden
The newly built garden
Whether in the rain or the sun, the garden has a life of character. Its character also changes with the time of day and the season, so it is worth a repeat visit.

Planting has been kept to a minimum, with simple thyme used in a chequerboard pattern at the north end of the garden and the climbing wisteria to provide cool shade during the summer. The purple flowers of the wisteria also provide a splash of colour when they bloom in late spring. Various types of stone are used in the garden: a sweeping curve blends the original rectangular sandstone with the irregular green slate; the central area of raked silver grey granite chippings has regular slabs of basaltic rock alluding to a bridge over flowing water; the linked stones in the gravel areas are Lankhite from Norway; dark grey granite in a contrast in colour and texture to the formal granite edging and to the chequerboard planting.

Opening Times
The garden is open to the public when the Brunel Gallery is open. It is normally open on Thursdays and Saturdays from 10.30am to 5pm except when exhibitions are being changed or during private functions.

Admission to the garden is free.

www.soas.ac.uk/visitors/roofgarden/
Japan’s Postwar Military and Civil Society: Contesting a Better Life
By: Tomoyuki Sasaki (Eastern Michigan University)

This book details the interactions between the SDF and civil society over four decades, from the launch of rearmament in 1950. These interactions include recruitment, civil engineering, disaster relief, anti-SDF litigation, state financial support for communities with bases, and a fear-mongering campaign against the Soviet Union. By examining these wide-range issues, the book demonstrates how the militarization of society advanced as the SDF consolidated its ideological and socio-economic ties with civil society and its role as a defender of popular welfare. While postwar Japan is often depicted as a peaceful society, this book challenges such a view, and illuminates the prominent presence of the military in people’s everyday lives.

The SOAS Studies in Modern and Contemporary Japan series features new research monographs as well as translations of scholarship not previously available in English.

2015-2016 PUBLICATIONS

Politics and Power in 20th-Century Japan: The Reminiscences of Miyazawa Kiichi
By: Mikuriya Takashi (Open University of Japan), Nakamura Takafusa (Tokyo University)

Miyazawa Kiichi played a leading role in Japan’s government and politics from 1942 until 2003, during which time he served as Prime Minister, and also as Minister of Finance, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Director General of the Economic Planning Agency, and Chief Cabinet Secretary. In this oral history autobiography, he discusses with candor and detail a wide range of topics, including his 1939 visit to the United States, recovery policies during the postwar occupation, the San Francisco Peace Treaty, and Japan’s role in international organizations such as GATT and OECD, and gives a thoughtful insider’s view of six decades of Japanese politics, closing with his thoughts on Japan’s role in the 21st century.

Japanese Taiwan: Colonial Rule and its Contested Legacy
Editor: Andrew D. Morris (California Polytechnic State University)

Japanese Taiwan provides an interdisciplinary perspective on these related processes of colonization and decolonization, explaining how the memories, scars and traumas of the colonial era have been utilized during the postwar period. It provides a unique critique of the Japaneseness of the erstwhile Chinese Taiwan, thus bringing new scholarship to bear on problems in contemporary East Asian politics.

Debating Otaku in Contemporary Japan: Historical Perspectives and New Horizons
Editors: Patrick W. Galbraith (Duke University), Thiam Huat Kam (Rutgers, University of New Jersey), Björn-Ole Kamm (Kyoto University)

Debating Otaku in Contemporary Japan disrupts the naturalization and trivialization of ‘otaku’ by examining the historical contingency of the term as a way to identify and contain problematic youth, consumers and fan cultures in Japan. Its chapters, many translated from Japanese and available in English for the first time, explore key moments in the evolving discourse of ‘otaku’ in Japan. Rather than presenting a smooth, triumphant narrative of the transition of a subculture to the mainstream, the edited volume repositions ‘otaku’ in specific historical, social and economic contexts, providing new insights into the significance of the ‘otaku’ phenomenon in Japan and the world.

We welcome proposals for new books in the series. If you would like to discuss contributing, please get in touch with the series editor at christopher.gerteis@soas.ac.uk

For more information: www.bloomsbury.com/soasstudies/
The Japan Research Centre and library resources at SOAS have been key to Oleg’s research since moving to the UK, and he has started, completed, and am continuing to work on several projects that have benefitted from this support. This includes, most recently, a book co-authored with Margit Pernau, Helge Jordheim, et al. Civilizing Emotions: Concepts in Nineteenth-Century Asia and Europe (Oxford University Press, 2015). This book examines the translational history of concepts of civility, virtue, and emotion that moved throughout Asia and Europe in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

SOAS has also been an invaluable resource for a book he is currently completing together with Rian Zwiengenstein on the history of Japanese castles in the modern period, provisionally titled Castles of Modernity: Proclaiming the Past and Reclaiming the Future in Japan’s Castles.

Over the past year, Oleg has presented this research at conferences and invited talks in Japan, the US, Canada, Denmark, and the UK. There is more information on this and other projects on his website: olegbenesch.com

Oleg is based at the University of York allowing him to visit regularly and take part in events and life at SOAS. The members of the JRC, and the SOAS community more generally, were incredibly welcoming and made this interloper from across the street feel very much at home.

Erika MOTOMORI
Visiting Scholar

During the last half of her sabbatical at SOAS (April 2015–March 2016), Eriko translated my previous papers on historical Japanese childhood into English for an international audience. With the help of colleagues and students from JRC, she was able to finish rough drafts of three papers. At the workshop, “Childhood, Education, and Youth in Pre-1945 Japan — and Beyond” (23 Nov 2015, University of Manchester), she presented one of these papers, “Beyond the Dictionary of Adult-Control and Child-Centred: A Struggle from Historical Sociology of Childhood,” and had an intensive discussion about how to look at children’s writings/narratives in the context of pre-war Japan.

Eriko also enjoyed attending JRC seminars and communicating with colleagues at these studies. The similarities and differences in perspectives between Japanese studies and Japanese sociology, my field, gave her multiple viewpoints. Back in Japan, she is now struggling to finalize the three drafts by adjusting them to sociologists overseas as well as researchers of Japanese studies.

Other than these, she interviewed a few prominent researchers in British sociology of childhood and visited several British associations for children and museums on research or not. Among them, the special exhibitions or related directly to her field, the history and museums on childhood.

LONDON LIFE
Eriko had a wonderful year in London and visited as many museums as possible, whether they were related directly to her research or not. Among them, the special exhibition on child migrants at the V&A Museum of Childhood, the Foundling Museum and the Ragged School Museum were closely related to her field, the history and sociology of childhood. The exhibitions helped her to understand how British society started its interest in children, and then institutionalized the sentiments.

Tomoko HASEGAWA
Visiting Scholar

The third edition of her book, Takeichi Hideo and Akihiko Harutaka eds., Seminar Mass Media in Japan 3rd (Nihon Hyoron Shiy) In Japanese was published. She is writing 6 Chapters (9 Chapters in total).

Tomoko participated in the Spring Conference of Japan Studies in Journalism and Mass Communication at Tokyo University, Hongo Campus 18 June 2016. The title of her paper was “Youth and Mass Media in 1930s Modernized Tokyo Factor” in Societies: An Analysis of Book Reading and Movie Going Activities”.

She also participated in the conference, International Association for Media and Communication Research 2016, Leicester, UK 27-31 July 2016. The title of her paper for popular culture working group is “Cultural Transfer of the Western Popular Music in Japan: A Case Study of Midnight Radio Programs for Youth in the Late 1960s”.

In September 2015, Tadasuke joined SOAS as a JRC visiting scholar. SOAS provided him with a very peaceful and comfortable environment, where he was able to concentrate on his research work. The university’s library was excellent. It has an enormous collection of books on Japan and other Asian countries, with many written in Japanese, so his research could advance very smoothly. It was a great pleasure for him to be able to go there.

While at SOAS he has written several papers about Japanese political economy from a comparative perspective. The library was a valuable resource and these papers will be published soon.

Tadasuke also participated in numerous JRC seminars. The topics covered in these seminars were very interesting, covered a range of areas, and reflected the interdisciplinary nature of the JRC. However, he was most impressed by a presentation given by Professor Ian Nish have presented, which was thorough and detailed. He learnt a lot about how a researcher could do this in his sincere and earnest attitude. He is grateful for SOAS giving me this precious opportunity.

LONDON LIFE
London is famous for a lot of beautiful green spaces, for example, Hyde Park, The Green park, The Regents Park, St James’s Park, Kensington garden, and so on. In addition, there are many other open spaces in this city. Despite being in the middle of a big city, these parks and gardens are very quiet and calm. Tadasuke loves these places, and would often walk around when he had some free time. Also, since many have good playgrounds, he would sometimes bring along my daughter. She really loved it.

Moreover, people in London are very kind and friendly. Although Tadasuke could not understand English very well, many people helped him with kindness in my daily life. Thanks to their help, he felt relaxed in this atmosphere and enjoyed life in London. That is most valuable memory of his visit.
In September 2015 Monika presented a paper at the annual conference of the British Association for Japanese Studies (BAJS), held at SOAS. The title of her paper was ‘Enduring Inspiration: The Influence of Ukiyo-e on Contemporary Art’.

In January/February 2016 she ran a course on ‘Masterpieces of Japanese Art from the British Museum’ at Morley College. In May 2016 she got invited back to the V&A to be the City year course to give two lectures on ‘Edo’ and on the ‘V&A Toshiba Gallery of Japanese Art’.

She also contributed again to the V&A’s lectures on the Kano School and on Rinpa the Edo Period. She also performed on the Laotian khaen mouth organ as part of a symposium on Asian instruments at Kunitachi College of Music, Tokyo.

His chapter on ‘Japan’ was published in Michael Church (ed.) ‘The other classical musics: fifteen Great Traditions (Boydell & Brewer, 2015), which received the annual Royal Philharmonic Society Award for Creative Communication in 2016.

He continues his activities with two Japanese music ensembles that he established: the SOAS Min’yo Group and the London Okinawa Sanshinkai. During 2015-16 both groups have performed in London (several times), Liverpool, Manchester, Copenhagen, Paris and Tokyo.

Monika is currently preparing an article titled ‘Ukiyo-e Re-imagined: Ukiyo-e and Contemporary Art’, based on her BAJS conference paper, for the Journal of Japaneseism.

David represented SOAS as a Special Visiting Professor at Tokyo University of Foreign Studies from October 2015 through January 2016.

In April 2016, the British Forum for Ethnomusicology held a panel and wine reception for David in recognition of his many years of service, more than a dozen former SOAS Music students were in attendance.

During academic year 2015-16 David gave public lectures/seminars at Cambridge University, Sheffield University, the Royal Anthropological Society, SOAS and twice at Tokyo University of Foreign Studies. He also performed on the Laotian khaen mouth organ as part of a symposium on Asian instruments at Kunitachi College of Music, Tokyo.

His chapter on ‘Japan’ was published in Michael Church (ed.) ‘The other classical musics: fifteen Great Traditions (Boydell & Brewer, 2015), which received the annual Royal Philharmonic Society Award for Creative Communication in 2016.

David gave lectures at Tohoku University, the John Rylands Library in Manchester and the Kobukunshaku kenkyu shyoukan in Tokyo, he presented papers at the Early Modern Japan: Approaches, Perspectives, Projects’ meeting in Frankfurt and the ‘East Asian Manuscript and Print’ workshop at the University of British Columbia, and gave a keynote lecture at the ‘Comparative Perspectives on Materiality and History of the Book: China and East Asia’ workshop in Philadelphia.


ARTICLES


Peter gave lectures at Tohoku University, the John Rylands Library in Manchester and the kobukunshaku kenkyu shyoukan in Tokyo, he presented papers at the Early Modern Japan: Approaches, Perspectives, Projects’ meeting in Frankfurt and the ‘East Asian Manuscript and Print’ workshop at the University of British Columbia, and gave a keynote lecture at the ‘Comparative Perspectives on Materiality and History of the Book: China and East Asia’ workshop in Philadelphia.

ARTICLES


Peter KORNIKI
Research Associate

2015-2016 academic year was good and productive year for Olga. She is completing research about history of consumer culture in Japan. Olga published article at the magazine of University of Wien about “New look” for a better life: Japanese women and post-war advertising of cosmetic and perfume” (Minikomi, vol. 85).

Also, on 26 of April Olga gave a talk at the University of Central Lancaster, Preston about “Advertising happiness to Japanese women: post-war magazines and ideology”. Olga is still teaching four courses at Kyiv Mohyla Academy National University and working on scientific book about history of consumption, women and happiness in Japan.

This academic year Olga also started to study at MBA course as a part-time student in order to deepen her knowledge about economics and has a broader picture on history of consumption she is doing research about.

ARTICLES

‘New look’ for a better life: Japanese women and post-war advertising of cosmetic and perfume” (Minikomi, vol. 85).

Thanks to the JRC members and staff. Rinko met many researchers from other countries at seminars and social tea party. The JRC seminars she attended gave her a lot of intellectual stimulation. To discuss with researchers in different fields was very interesting and exciting. And thanks to the SOAS staff and library, she could access and analyze some dataset collected in the UK. She has already had some Japanese dataset which means she can compare the effects of VET in Japan and England which is proving very useful for her research project.

LONDON LIFE

Rinko went to England with her children, and they enrolled in state schools for a year. Therefore, Rinko had to go to school as a mother. Teachers, staff, and parents were so kind to them, and helped them a lot. From this experience, Rinko was able to compare the educational system and school life in England and Japan. This experience was so interesting. Now, she will start to report about this experience.

Peter KORNIKI
Research Associate

Olga KHOMENKO
Research Associate

Rinko MANABE
Visiting Scholar

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British culture himself. Hiroshi looks forward to visit many places and see the depth of Japan although a short stay, Hiroshi was able to settle its wartime responsibilities. As a result, Japan has developed its economy without adding to his research, was to think about post-war reconciliation. After WWII, Japan had donated these two research books to Yenching Library, Harvard University.

In September 2015 Stephen Turnbull attended the conference ‘Japan: Pre-modern, Modern and Contemporary - A Return Trip from the East to the West’. Learning in, about and from Japan at the Dimeutr Cantermir Christian University in Bucharest, where delivered a paper about his research into Japan’s sexual shrines. The official launch of his book on the same topic ‘Japan’s Sexual Gods: Shrines, Roles and Rituals of Procreation and Protection’ (published as Volume 49 in Brill’s Japanese Studies Library earlier in 2015) took place in November at SOAS. In January 2016 Stephen Turnbull was the guest of the US Navy War College in Newport, Rhode Island where he presented a paper entitled Wars and Rumours of Wars: Japanese plans to invade the Philippines, 1593-1637 to an audience of senior naval officers. He also gave a public lecture about samurai at Boston University. He spent the month of April in Japan doing fieldwork for a forthcoming book on the ninja as a cultural phenomenon. In May 2016 Stephen, a widower for fourteen years, became engaged to be married to the Reverend Marlene Wilkinson, whom he first met as an MA student at Leeds in 1990. The couple will marry in September.

During this stay, as part of language policy studies, Hiroshi conducted literature research for comparative studies of English and European language affairs and policies. His objective for conducting research in Britain was to directly feel and pick up a sense of diversity in the linguistic culture of British society, which is in itself very diverse and in constant interaction with foreign cultures. In the past couple of years, he has started writing a novel in his spare time. Being in direct contact from doing research. Being in direct contact with the London’s culture and people was a great nourishment for his creative activities. Another objective of Hiroshi’s stay, in addition to his research, was to think about post-war reconciliation. After WWII, Japan had developed its economy without settling its wartime responsibilities. As a result, Japan has disputes, often emotional, with its neighbours in relation to the past. Although a short stay, Hiroshi was able to visit many places and see the depth of British culture himself. Hiroshi looks forward to continuing his relationship with the centre in the future.

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n 2006, the late Mrs Kayoko Tsuda pledged to support the SOAS Japan Research Centre (JRC) and its PhD students through an annual £10,000 donation for a period of ten years from 2006 to 2015. All at SOAS and the JRC were saddened to learn of Mrs Tsuda’s untimely passing in 2012, but have remained proud to have continued the work that she had committed to fund in her memory.

This generous gift provided a £7,000 bursary each year to a promising PhD candidate in financial need during the final stages of their research, contributing towards programme and university expenses, and ensuring that they could focus entirely on the quality of their final submissions during what was the most critical period of their studies. The remainder of the funding was targeted at supporting the on-going running costs and academic activities of the JRC, and in particular sponsoring the Tsuda Lecture programme. This annual lecture series bolstered the JRC’s work towards our aim of disseminating knowledge, and understanding the rich culture, history and contemporary practices of Japan to the broader scholarly and academic communities, as well as interested members of the general public.

Our donors have a profound effect on the work of SOAS, none more so than those who support scholarships and bursaries at the School. Through the Kayoko Tsuda Bursaries we have been able to ensure that the most promising candidates are able to make the most of the unique educational opportunities SOAS provides, regardless of their income, status or family background.

The impact the funding has had on Japanese studies is far reaching.

**DUNCAN ADAMS**
Duncan’s research, carried out with the support of the Tsuda Bursary, looked at sexual desire in the fiction of Mishima Yukio. It attempted to put Mishima's treatment of desire in context, by comparing his fiction to other contemporary discussions of desire in fiction and non-fiction (including journalism and medical writing). It differed from previous research in the prominence it gives to Mishima's treatment of desire in all his writing, which generally receives little critical attention.

**JENNIFER COATES**
Jennifer’s research – ‘National Crisis and the Female Body in the Fiction of Mishima Yukio’ – aimed to address film’s effect on the viewer during periods of national crisis. The generosity of the Tsuda bursary also allowed her to visit many universities around the UK and present my research at workshops and conferences for young scholars.

In January 2014 I co-organised a workshop at the University of Leeds, presenting my research and participating in round table discussions on theory in Japanese studies. Such experiences encouraged Jennifer to continue her research productively in the wider field of Japanese studies, and allowed her to meet many researchers who gave invaluable advice and created further opportunities.

**ALESSIA COSTA**
During the final year of her PhD, thanks to the precious support of the Tsuda Bursary, Alessia was able to complete the research for her PhD thesis on organ donation and transplants in Japan. Her thesis – Bodily Assemblages: the Moral, Political, and Informal Economy of Japanese Organ Transplants – addressed anthropological relevant questions concerning the use of the human body in medical technology by looking at the case of organ transplants in Japan.

The Tsuda Bursary proved a great incentive to the completion of her work in view of the final viva. The fund was an important asset that greatly helped in the final positioning of her argument.

**EMO GYOGI**
Eiko’s thesis examines the use of translation activities in beginner and intermediate Japanese language classes for intercultural purposes. Her interest in this topic grew out of her experience as a Japanese language teacher and professional translator. Eiko’s PhD studies have been made possible through financial support from scholarships. Tsuda Kayoko Bursary enabled her to focus on her research throughout the year without being troubled by financial concerns. Thanks to the Bursary, she was able to cover tuition fees, living costs, and travel costs for attending and presenting her work at various conferences.

**IRIS HAIKAMU**
Iris’s research focused on the theoretical strands of the thesis into an original theoretical approach to the topic of organ donation and transplants.

**ALAN CUMMINGS**
For his PhD thesis, Alan decided to focus upon the great kabuki playwright, Kawatake Mokuami and the actor, and the contributions of playwrights to the construction of kabuki, but Alan considered that playwrights had an equally important part to play. His interest in traditional Japanese theatre itself had been sparked by the classes he took with Professor Andrew Gerstle in his final year of his undergraduate degree at SOAS in the mid-nineties.

**FRANCESCA DI MARCO**
The Tsuda Bursary allowed Francesca to complete her PhD thesis within a year. She could devote her time entirely to the last chapter of her research and then to the final writing of the whole thesis. Thanks to the award, she could dedicate time to research in the most effective manner, while not worrying about her financial situation.

The topic of her research was the study of the discourse on suicide patterns in post-war Japan. Most existing research, despite a variety of theoretical approaches, has analysed suicide largely as an unchanging expression of traditional Japanese values. By contrast, Francesca highlighted the changing relationship between the presentation of suicide, or the act of suicide, and the representation of suicide in the media and other sources, unveling the conditions under which the historical appearance of suicide is formed, re-interpreted and reinvented. Finally, she explored the recent growth in suicide manuals, websites, and chat rooms, in order to understand the extent to which this contributes both to new patterns and recurrent analyses.

**KIGENSAN STEPHAN LICHA**
During the time Kigensan was supported by the Bursary, he was able to write two main chapters for his thesis. The first was an extended critical overview of Sôtô Zen kôan traditions. He also formulated a theoretical approach to the interpretation of kôan. This approach treats them as fully linguistic artefacts and analyses their function in terms of performative and metaphorical modes of discourse.

In addition to completing his PhD, Kigensan also had the opportunity to present research at a number of international workshops held at SOAS.

**BENEDITTA LOMI**
Benedetta’s research examined the worship of Balb Kannon 薬師如来, the horse-headed, wrathful form of the Bodhisattva of Compassion, stressing the interactions and discontinuities of its occurrences within the esoteric and folkloristic tradition.

Thanks to the Tsuda Bursary, she was able to work on two crucial chapters of her thesis and complete the final draft of her research in 2010. The Bursary also allowed her to concentrate fully on the writing-up during 2010, and releasing her from financial worry. She is thankful to her benefactor for their kind generosity, and to the JRC committee, for giving Thanks to the JRC and to receive valuable feedback.

**JENNY PRESTON**
The bulk of the research for Jenny’s thesis on the Kyoto artist Nishikawa Sukenobu had been completed at the time she received the Kayoko Tsuda Bursary, but much of the drafting and the final positioning remained to be done. The bursary provided a massive incentive to take the work over the finishing line, and an important and welcome opportunity – the Kayoko Tsuda Bursary lecture – to share some of the more radical aspects of the research with the SOAS community. It also gave Jenny the latitude to draw the various strands of her thesis into a cogent whole, to chase down difficult readings and obscure references in the images that had for years been so easily left to drift. This proved a huge asset in the final positioning of her argument.
The Library holds some 160,000 monographs for Japanese studies. There are over 1,000 Japanese language periodicals, some 300 western language periodicals, and over 500 audio visual materials for teaching and research in Japanese studies; the online catalogue is available at library.soas.ac.uk.

The Library was supported by various individuals and institutions in the UK and Japan during the 2015/16 academic year:

- The Library has received financial support from the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures (SISJAC) to acquire materials on Japanese art and culture as in previous years since 1999. Over 100 titles were acquired, including Utamaro = UTAMARO THE BEAUTY (2016), and Edo jidaishin bunko (vols. 1-4, 1993-1996).
- The Japan Collection received 135 Japanese language books on international relations and political history from Emeritus Professor Ian Nish (International History at LSE). The donation includes several titles not held by any UK libraries, such as prince no shinsetsu (4 vols., 1999).
- The Art Collection received many exhibition catalogues, publications in Japan from Miss Marie-Therese Barret, which have filled gaps and further enhanced the Collection.
- Fujiko Kobayashi (fk2@soas.ac.uk) of Modern Art, Tokyo, 16-27 November.

Dr Noriko Iwasaki (Senior Lecturer in Language Pedagogy) and Dr Barbara Pizziconi (Reader in Applied Japanese Linguistics)

Project title: Study abroad in Japan and intercultural and personal development
Amount awarded: £1,000

The 2014-2015 Meiji Jingu grant we obtained for our project titled 'Study abroad in Japan and the development of intercultural competence' was instrumental to start up our plan. We were able to collect and analyse data from our BA Japanese student participants prior to their period of study abroad. We have collected further data during their year abroad in January and in June this year, and are currently in the process of collecting their post-year-abroad data. We are now seeking support to hire English-Japanese bilingual assistants for the transcription of year-abroad and post-year-abroad data. The transcription of data in the programme called ELAN, specifically developed to analyze multi-modal language data, is a prerequisite for the subsequent data coding and analyses, which need to draw systematically from the whole of the data set, now comprising of hundreds of hours from three data sessions per participant.

Dr Fabio Gygli (Lecturer in Anthropology)

Project title: Neuro-Orientalism: Cultural Difference and the New Brain Sciences in Japan
Amount awarded: £1,200

The project is an exploratory pilot study that looks at the ways in which the new brain sciences (neurology, cognitive psychology, and cognitive neuroscience) are appropriated and made locally salient in Japan by proffering new explanations for difference and uniqueness. The aim of this project is to look at the ways the brain is understood as enculturated in the context of Japanese brain science and b) the ways in which this knowledge is disseminated and put to (political) use by the mass media. The popular genre of variety infotainment in Japan has led to the emergence of a series of Genki ‘scientists’ such as Dr Nakano Nobuko who peddle a very simplified and often nationalised version of scientific discourse, in which cultural difference between the Japanese and the rest of the world is located in the brain.

Further information: www.soas.ac.uk/jrc/awards-and-grants

SOAS, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON 37

WWW.SOAS.AC.UK JRC

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Project title: Neuro-Orientalism: Cultural Difference and the New Brain Sciences in Japan
Amount awarded: £1,200

The project is an exploratory pilot study that looks at the ways in which the new brain sciences (neurology, cognitive psychology, and cognitive neuroscience) are appropriated and made locally salient in Japan by proffering new explanations for difference and uniqueness. The aim of this project is to look at all the ways the brain is understood as enculturated in the context of Japanese brain science and b) the ways in which this knowledge is disseminated and put to (political) use by the mass media. The popular genre of variety infotainment in Japan has led to the emergence of a series of Genki ‘scientists’ such as Dr Nakano Nobuko who peddle a very simplified and often nationalised version of scientific discourse, in which cultural difference between the Japanese and the rest of the world is located in the brain.

Further information: www.soas.ac.uk/jrc/awards-and-grants
Outline of Project

This project will examine and document polite speech forms in the endangered Ryukyuan language Amami, spoken on Amami Island.

Introduction

I propose a project to explore the morpho-syntactic strategies of Amami predicates in formal registers. From a language documentation perspective, this lack of attention is in sharp focus to the field of studies, particularly in Japanese academic and art historians. This inconsistency might be attributed to the value placed on tea gatherings and the utensils for matcha (powdered tea) practice to the detriment of sencha (steeped tea) production that is informed by Chinese and Qings. The intention of this PhD proposal is to re-examine in depth ceramics from the premodern to modern period within the global sphere. The project considers not only the involvement of entirely Western outfi ts and the inclusions of Western-derived accessories featured within conventionally Japanese dress formats (for example the jacket, the hat and the fur stole) in order to discuss the semiotic role of fashion onscreen in reference to the concept of Japanese modernity. The researcher questions the role of the cinematic representation of Japanese modernity by examining the semiotics of dress onscreen in conjunction with interwar Japan’s transcultural media climate and the employment of an interdisciplinary approach which consults not purely film-related theoretical bases but also historical, anthropological and gender-based approaches. Lois’s research examines the role of Western-inspired costume as opposed to indigenous Japanese styles such as the kimono in Japanese cinema between 1927 and 1939. The aim is to explore the relationship of Western costumes to the Japanese cinema of this time period, alongside the responses of audiences to its inclusion. The ultimate aim of the project is to ascertain the place of Western costume and fashion within Japanese society during this time period via its relationship with film and consequently its place within the global sphere. The project considers not only the involvement of entirely Western outfits onscreen, but also the inclusion of Western-derived accessories featured within conventionally Japanese dress formats (for example the jacket, the hat and the fur stole) in order to discuss the semiotic role of fashion onscreen in reference to the concept of Western fashion objects as “signifiers of modernity” persisting since the Meiji era. The research questions the role of the cinematic representation of Japanese modernity by examining the semiotics of dress onscreen in conjunction with interwar Japan’s transcultural media climate and the employment of an interdisciplinary approach which consults not purely film-related theoretical bases but also historical, anthropological and gender-based approaches. Lois has been most fortunate to have received the Sasakawa Postgraduate Studentship for the first two years of her PhD studies, a resource which has been truly invaluable to her. It is needless to say that without the Foundation’s input she would not have been able to embark on this course of research at all. Alongside the Studentship’s role in financially supporting her study in terms of helping her fees and living costs, the grant has demonstrated to her the value placed on the study of Japanese modernity and its relationship with film and consequently its place within the global sphere. The project considers not only the involvement of entirely Western outfits and the inclusions of Western-derived accessories featured within conventionally Japanese dress formats (for example the jacket, the hat and the fur stole) in order to discuss the semiotic role of fashion onscreen in reference to the concept of Western fashion objects as “signifiers of modernity” persisting since the Meiji era. 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This research project may allow scholars of Japan, especially those interested in the history of the great silence of humanity, to recover voices of aid workers, and throw light on the history of the Red Cross Societies outside Japan during the series of imperialist wars that led up to the World War II. The organisation itself was at a crossroads, and individual aid workers acted behind the scenes. Thus, one of the aims of the research is to examine the history of JRCS wartime humanitarian activities in the global history discourse.

In order to add to the historiography of the Japanese Empire and World War II narratives, this study of wartime humanitarianism seeks to re-interpret some of the wartime landscape of wartime mobilisation surrounding the JRCS. The organisation itself struggled to operate relief activities while maintaining the Red Cross’ international claim of neutrality. Although there are a large number of wartime historiographies, operations of aid workers have generally become lost to the historical narrative. Therefore, this project re-explores wartime history through the lens of ‘humanitarianism’ with the aim being to recover voices of aid workers, and throws light on the history of the great silence of humanity.

This research project may allow scholars of Japan, and perhaps the Red Cross itself, to better understand the extent to which the institution’s relief activities were, and were not, in accord with its institutional mission.
現在SOASにて学部生500名余り、院生100名余りが日本及び日本語に焦点を当てて学んでおります。欧州における当分野の研究機関として最大の学生数となります。

The SOAS Japan Research Centre is the forum for Japan related activities at SOAS University of London. The principle role of the JRC is to promote, coordinate and disseminate information relating to the academic study of Japan across the disciplines, and to act as a resource for academic, governmental, non-governmental and business constituencies with an interest in Korea.

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