Welcome Message

Welcome to the Spring 2021 Centre for Japanese Studies e-Newsletter. In this issue we bring you a full roster of events, both online and in-person, to fill your summer days. Following last year’s success, we will be hosting our second Online Summer Programme in Japanese Studies in the run up to the Tokyo Olympics. Our colleague Dr Christopher Hayes has written a piece on how he expects the Olympics to finally turn out following months of speculation. Several events will also be held over the summer, including exhibits at the Sainsbury Centre for Visual arts such as our exhibition Faces of Faith: Religious Statuary in Early Japan and a special guest exhibition by Leiko Ikemura. Finally, we have several updates from our CJS colleagues to share with you.

We always welcome feedback and are very happy to pass on Japan-related news of relevance to our readership – so do get in touch and let us know what you think.

Stay safe and well,

Simon and Oliver

Editor’s note: Japanese names are given in the Japanese form of family name first i.e. MATSUMOTO Mariko
Last year, the University of East Anglia together with the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures were delighted to announce the launch of our MA programme in Interdisciplinary Japanese Studies. For our inaugural year, we were delighted to welcome 8 students to the programme and to Norwich. We now invite prospective students to join our blossoming programme this September 2021. Feel free to get in touch with any questions you may have about the course. See our webpage for more information or apply here directly.

Administered through UEA’s Interdisciplinary Institute for the Humanities, home to the Centre for Japanese Studies, this MA course is a collaboration of Japan specialists from both the University and the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures. Lecturers with academic focus on Japan from several schools of study at UEA, as well as academic staff of the Sainsbury Institute together have developed an innovative interdisciplinary curriculum for students who want to know about Japan, its place in the world, and its transforming cultural identity. For a taste of diversity amongst our lecturers, watch our new video on YouTube or check our Beyond Japan podcast episodes #1-#7 for in-depth discussion with the teaching team.

Online Summer Programme in Japanese Cultural Studies 2021

The Centre for Japanese Studies at the University of East Anglia and the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures are pleased to invite applications for a special Online Summer Programme in Japanese Cultural Studies, running from Monday 12th to Friday 23rd July 2021. This is an entirely new programme, building on the success of our first programme in 2020. The programme will be organised around three core themes: science, sport, and sustainability. In particular, the programme
will approach these from an interdisciplinary arts and humanities perspective and explore the interrelationships between science and humanities. These themes are particularly appropriate in 2021, where we find ourselves in the midst of a global crisis, the coronavirus pandemic. It is also an Olympic year, with Tokyo hosting the postponed 2020 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games. In these difficult times, it is vital that we build resilience, promote wellbeing, and look towards a sustainable and responsible future, in line with the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals.

The course will be directed by Professor Simon Kaner, Executive Director of the Sainsbury Institute and Director of the Centre for Japanese Studies at UEA, Dr Christopher J. Hayes, and Dr Matsuba Ryoko. The programme will offer the chance for digital encounters with academics from both organisations. There will also be opportunities to engage online with participants from around the world and to join a growing network of programme alumni.

The Online Summer Programme in Japanese Cultural Studies will include a guided and interactive exploration of digital resources available for the field, including materials from the Sainsbury Institute’s world-renowned collections. While much of the content can be accessed at a time most convenient to the participant, there will be daily live sessions through Zoom, held at 13:00 BST. Participants who engage with all aspects of the programme will receive a Certificate of Attendance.

Programme dates: 12-23 July 2021
The programme will be delivered in English. No prior knowledge of Japan or Japanese is required.
There is no cost for participation.
Registration: To register your place on the Online Summer Programme in Japanese Cultural Studies 2021, please fill out the registration form which can be accessed by clicking the button below.
By registering for the programme, you agree to follow the guidelines for participants which will be sent to you.
Registration deadline: Friday 28 May 2021
Book your place here

Summer Exhibits at the Sainsbury Centre

The Sainsbury Institute has been busy collaborating with our colleagues at the Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts to host a roster of Japan-related exhibits this summer as museums tentatively reopen to the public once more.

Faces of Faith: Early Japanese Religious Statuary at the Sainsbury Centre
Opens Friday 18 June
Description by Oliver Moxham
As part of my MA course in Museum and Heritage Studies, I took part in a three-week internship with the Sainsbury Centre to design an exhibit to join museums in Japan celebrating the 1,400th anniversary of the death of Prince Shōtoku Taishi, the regent who brought Buddhism to Japan. *Faces of Faith* is centred around the rare 13th century wooden statue typically on display in the Living Area, “Female Shinto Deity” (right), and seeks to put into context the significance and value of such religious artefacts in Japan as well as the dynamic history of East Asia Prince Shōtoku represents.

Of course, dealing with a semi-legendary figure from the 7th century poses many questions. Who was Prince Shōtoku? Did he really fly up to Mt. Fuji on horseback? Why was Buddhism so significant and where does Shinto fit into it? The exhibit breaks down these questions into three themes, looking at the historical, political and religious context of Japan in the 7th century. To nourish any inquisitive minds whose curiosity has been piqued by the exhibit, a dedicated “Shōtoku miniseries” has been produced by Beyond Japan with an episode dedicated to each theme (see below).

Finally, as an extension of *Faces of Faith*, the Sainsbury Institute will be holding two sessions at the Sainsbury Centre demonstrating the digital scanning of the Centre’s Japanese collection. The first will be held on Thursday 27th May and livestreamed – follow JapanInNorwich.org or @CJS_Uea on Twitter for the latest updates!

**Leiko Ikemura: Usagi in Wonderland**  
Opens **Sunday 11 July**  
Tickets: £8 or FREE for Members and UEA/NUA Student Members  
[Book your tickets here](#)

Japanese-Swiss artist, Ikemura Leiko, presents a selection of paintings, sculptures, drawings and photography in her first UK exhibition. Ikemura has selected 50 works that span three decades of her career. Her art appeals to our imagination with its childlike purity.

The exhibition’s dominant theme is the connectivity of all aspects of nature, be it human, animal, plant or mineral, in an eternal circle of life. Through her fantastical figures and primeval landscapes, Ikemura explores fragility, transience and slow evolutionary change – choosing to address environmental issues from an empathetic, global perspective.

Usagi, meaning ‘rabbit’ in Japanese, is a recurrent mystical motif in Ikemura’s work, representing rebirth, fertility and renewal. Her bronze sculpture, *Usagi Kannon (Rabbit Bodhisattva of Mercy)*, will stand in the Sainsbury Centre Sculpture Park from autumn 2021, providing a place of refuge to visitors wishing to shelter beneath its generous skirt.

The exhibition has been developed in collaboration with the Sainsbury Institute to coincide with the Japan-UK Season of Culture.

Supported by *The Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation, Henry Moore Foundation, Japan-UK Season of Culture* and the *Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures*.  
Image Credit: *Trees out of Head*, Leiko Ikemura, 2015/20 © Leiko Ikemura and VG Bild-Kunst 2021
Beyond Japan Podcast

Beyond Japan, upon releasing its 35th episode, has now reached the phenomenal landmark of over 3,500 plays in 2021. You can find Beyond Japan on Spotify, Apple, Google, Anchor and many other servers. Alternatively, you can subscribe to our YouTube channel for the latest episodes.

Recently, Oliver was invited to write an article for the University of Sheffield’s School of East Asian Studies (SEAS) e-Newsletter, describing what he has done since graduating from Sheffield and his motives behind Beyond Japan.

As mentioned in our exhibits section, Beyond Japan recently produced a “Shōtoku miniseries”, marking the 1,400th anniversary of the death of Prince Shōtoku Taishi by exploring the religious, political and historical context of Japan in the 7th century. You can catch up on these episodes below.

New episodes come out every Thursday. More information is available here.

SHŌTOKU MINISERIES

[Ep. #32] Mixed Religions: Buddhism, Shinto & Honji Suijaku
with Professor Mark Teeuwen

MIXED RELIGIONS: BUDDHISM, SHINTO & HONJI SUIJAKU
WITH PROF MARK TEEUWEN
In July, the Tokyo 2020 Olympics will (hopefully) finally go ahead after a year’s postponement due to the global Coronavirus pandemic. When Japan previously hosted the Summer Olympics in 1964, it was a transformative event, showcasing a new Japan to the world replete with new infrastructure in Tokyo and the opening of the Shinkansen line. Known as the TV Olympics because they were the first to be broadcast live internationally, these Games changed the way that Japan was perceived internationally. The 2020 Olympics were meant to be similarly transformative, with then Prime Minister Abe stating in 2014 that he wanted to see robots compete in their own parallel competition, as well as being the “Recovery Olympics”, showing how Japan had bounced back from the 2011 Great East Japan Disaster.
It was not until March 2021 that the decision was made to ban international spectators from the Games, but it remains doubtful whether events will have an audience at all, with the decision on whether to allow domestic spectators delayed until June as the third state of emergency goes into effect in six prefectures across Japan. Nonetheless, International Olympic Committee Vice President John Coates has declared that the Olympics will not be cancelled nor postponed.

Even if the Olympics go ahead, they will not be a dazzling display of global unity, not least for the lack of international spectators. Last year, when the organising committee were insistent that the Games would go ahead in summer 2020, national Olympic committees called for postponement and several teams dropped out. With so much uncertainty still around and many countries experiencing fresh waves and new Coronavirus variants amid vaccine shortages, it is entirely possible that some countries will be unable to participate.

There is also the disunity with the Japanese public. Since the Games were first announced, they have been fraught with controversy: the decision to hold the Games during Japan’s intense summer, the displacement of people caused by Olympic site construction, concerns about radiation levels in Fukushima, the dropping of an Ainu performance from the opening ceremony, the revelation that the Olympic logo was plagiarised, the exponential rise of costs, and sexist remarks by then-Olympic President Yoshiro Mori, to name a few. Opposition to the Games has grown, with a recent poll suggesting that 60% of people in Japan want the Games to be cancelled. Another poll found that 80% of Japanese think the Games should be cancelled or postponed. However, with the Beijing Winter Olympics taking place in 2022, another delay is unlikely.

Many Japanese see the Olympics as a distraction, when the government’s focus should be on addressing the coronavirus pandemic. Last week, organisers requested 500 nurses volunteer at the Games, drawing widespread anger at the prioritisation of the Olympics over the pandemic. Prime Minister Suga has since stated that he has “never put the Olympics first”, but he has put them above public opinion if the polls are any indicator.

Christopher Hayes is a Research Associate at the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures, part of the University of East Anglia in Norwich, United Kingdom. His research interests include contemporary British media representation of Japan, the persistence of Orientalist discourses, and foreign tourist perceptions of the country. He is currently engaged in two research projects: first, he is investigating British media representation of Japan in the context of the Tokyo Olympics and the global Coronavirus pandemic; second, he is analysing official discourses about Japan in tourism materials as forms of self-Orientalism and how they relate to mediatised representations of Japan in the UK.

CJS Colleague Updates

Depicted Okinawa Women: The Study of Representations of Okinawa Women

Eriko Tomizawa-Kay, a lecturer in Japanese Language and Culture in PPL has been awarded a two-month fellowship with the Japan Foundation, commencing later this year. This programme provides overseas scholars and researchers in the field of Japanese studies with opportunities to conduct research in Japan, with the aim of supporting them, and promoting Japanese studies overseas.

Eriko’s project is titled: Depicted Okinawa Women: The Study of Representations of Okinawa Women; its aim is to historically investigate and verify how the image of Okinawan women were depicted in modern times following the establishment of the Ryûkyû Domain; and to study the positions of Okinawan women's art in the 1900s, including pre-war representations.
Decentralism and the study of local and regional art have been discussed in Japanese Art History for several years. However, this has not yet been sufficiently achieved in the art relating to Okinawan women. Furthermore, the study of Okinawan Women and Arts within the context of War and its aftermath are very limited outside of the Okinawa Prefecture. The fellowship will focus on these significant but hitherto neglected aspects.

The still under-researched area of the relationship between Okinawan art and gender is an ideal topic to provide new perspectives from outside Japan. The key issues of the research plan are, first, to conduct joint research with scholars based in Japan regarding the ‘image of Okinawan women’ in Japanese art history. The fieldwork has been planned in collaboration with Okinawan scholars and institutions, such as the Okinawa Prefectural University of Arts where the Eriko has been offered affiliation as a guest research fellow, which adds additional support and resources over the duration of the fieldwork in Okinawa. This project will form part of a long-term plan to investigate modern Okinawan paintings in a transnational context.

Nadine Willems’ book shortlisted for Gladstone Prize

We are excited to announce that our colleague Dr Nadine Willems has had her latest book *Ishikawa Sanshirō's Geographical Imagination: Transnational Anarchism and the Reconfiguration of Everyday Life in Early Twentieth Century Japan*, published by Leiden University Press in 2020, has been shortlisted for the Gladstone Prize by the Royal Historical Society. The prize rewards a work of history on a topic not primarily related to British history.

We applaud Nadine for this great recognition of her work and wish her the best of luck as her book goes through the final hurdle.

To hear more about Nadine’s research on Ishikawa Sanshirō, you can listen back to her Beyond Japan episode on Dissenting Voices in Modern Japan.

CJS Research Webinar Series

This semester we have had the pleasure of hosting four excellent seminars across a range of topics. Our final webinar on the UK-Japan pre-war alliance which was aired today will be available shortly. You can now rewatch all webinars via our YouTube channel through the links below:
[February] Rule of Law & Representative Democracy in Japan
with Professor Kabashima Hiroshi

with Professor Asato Ikeda

[April] Komikkusu Media - The History and Affordances of Manga's Paperbacks
with Professor Bryan Hikari Hartzheim

[May] Britain's Road to Unlikely Alliance with Japan, 1894-1902
with Dr Antony Best
Upcoming Events

The EU’s Strategy for the Indo-Pacific: Stroking the Panda or Poking the Dragon?
Webinar jointly organised by European institute for Asian Studies and University of East Anglia
Wednesday 26 May | 13:30 GMT
Book here

Moderator: Ra MASON, Sasakawa Lecturer in International Relations and Japanese Foreign Policy, School of Politics, Philosophy, Language & Communication Studies, University of East Anglia.

Speakers include: Garima Mohan, George Cunningham and Philip Shetler-Jones.

With 60 percent of the world’s maritime trade passing through its seas, the Indo-Pacific is a region producing over 40 percent of global GDP. This makes it a crucial area for most economies across the globe, including the European Union. Lacking all-encompassing security structures, the region is facing rising tensions, including geopolitical rivalries, contested territories and territorial waters. Recognising the area’s growing importance, the EU’s recently launched Indo-Pacific Strategy to safeguard its members’ interests and to promote stability, democracy and international law. Aside from the economic significance of the region, its geopolitical dynamics are undergoing important changes.

This EIAS-UEA webinar will assess the EU’s Strategy for the Indo-Pacific including its implementation and potential impact.

SISJAC Third Thursday Lectures

Visual story-telling of the Matagi hunters of Tōhoku
Thursday 20 May 2021 | 18:00 GMT
Book here

Matagi are traditional hunters living in small villages and settlements in the highlands of northern Honshu, the main island of Japan. From its origins, back in the 16th century, they have made a living of selling meat, skins and other products derived from hunting. Their main prey is the Japanese black bear, a subspecies listed as vulnerable according to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). These communities, however, never face hunting as a recreational or sporting activity. For the Matagi, Nature is a conscious presence, personified in the Goddess of the Mountain (Yama-no-Kami); a deity who is envious of other women and thus has forbidden them from entering her domains for over five centuries.

Following the Fukushima incidents in 2011, the state prohibited many Matagi communities from selling bear meat, due to the high risk of it being intoxicated by radiation. In 2017 the Japanese authorities lifted the veto, and the Matagi could resume what has been their main economic activity for centuries. Nevertheless, this community faces a more than likely extinction of its cultural heritage. The global aging of the Japanese population, legal and regulatory limitations on hunting, and attachment to values and religions that no longer germinate among the younger generations, are...
some of the main reasons that leave these hunters without much hope of preserving their legacy in the early 21st century.

However, the need to preserve the Matagi cultural heritage has prevailed over religious convictions and, in the face of the disinterest of young men, the first cases of Matagi women – accepted and trained as hunters – have recently emerged. Women who, as is currently the case on a global scale and in all strata of society, claim an equal position in every field.

The researcher Alex Rodal and the photographer Javier Corso from OAK embarked on capturing the stories of the Matagi between 2017 and 2019, travelling to Akita and Yamagata prefectures. There, they had the privilege of being the first visual storytellers from outside Japan in portraying the life of Matagi hunters, specifically that of the groups established in Oguni and Animatagi.

In this Third Thursday Lecture, Alex and Javier will discuss their fascinating project that resulted in publication of a beautifully crafted book.

About the Speakers

ALEX RODAL · OAK Chief Research Officer & Criminologist
Graduated in Criminology at the ‘Universitat Oberta de Catalunya’ (UOC). Rodal is passionate about the study of Criminological theories that seek to explain the genesis of crime in society. His scientific vocation leads him to constantly nourish new knowledge of disciplines as diverse as psychology, sociology, anthropology, medicine, chemistry or journalism. These aptitudes make him a born researcher, whose skills are currently at the service of the production company and agency of documentary projects OAK stories. There he works as Head of Research and coordinates the pre-production of all projects.

JAVIER CORSO · OAK Director & Photographer
Javier Corso (1989) is a photographer, founder and director at OAK STORIES and National Geographic Explorer. His agency works as a production company and creative agency for companies and organizations such as National Geographic Partners (Spain) and United Nations Habitat. His photographic work originates from the need to communicate about aspects of the human condition through means of local, smaller-scale stories.
Corso began working as a documentary photographer in 2011. His photographs have been published in National Geographic, TIME, Al Jazeera and GEO magazine among others. His work has also been exhibited at The Cervantes Institute in New York, the Florida Museum of Photographic Arts, Circulo de Bellas Artes (Madrid), Palau Robert (Barcelona) and the International PHOTON Festival (Valencia). His work is part of the traveling exhibition “Creadores de Conciencia” which compiles the work of 40 authors under the topic "committed photographers" of Spain.
In 2018 he was nominated for the World Press Photo 6x6 Global Talent Program and his project MATAGI received the National Geographic Society Early Career Grant.

Our colleagues at the Sainsbury Institute hold monthly lectures around Japanese arts and cultures every third Thursday. You can find out more about their upcoming events here.
COVID News from Japan

For a running number of reported COVID19 infections, victims and recoveries in Japan, see the Asahi Shimbun homepage [JP].

Infections: 690,831  Hospital Admissions: 70,709  Recoveries: 603,015  Deaths: 11,858

For non-Japanese speakers, the numbers on the webpage indicate:

Infections: Yesterday (total)  Hospital Admissions: Yesterday (total)  Recoveries: Yesterday (total)  Deaths: Yesterday (total)

感染者：+ 前日 (総数)  入院者：+ 前日 (総数)  退院者：+ 前日 (総数)  死者：+ 前日 (総数)

Visit the Pandaid website for comprehensive material for educating on coronavirus. Nosigner has contributed many such manner posters including advising others to stay one tuna apart.

For a Japanese government public service video on coronavirus (Japanese only):

3 つの密を避けよう！

For Japanese speakers, here are two articles in English from the Japan Times laying out vocabulary coming out of the crisis:

- The Japanese words used to encourage self-restraint
- Cancellations, postponements, suspensions — words that define the times

Click here for a comprehensive online document on Japanese universities adopting distance learning.

For more information on Japanese universities see this twitter thread by Rochelle Kopp, professor at Kitakyushu University, for resources.

General Links

 Orientations Magazine
 Embassy of Japan
 Japan Foundation
 JSPS
 British Association for Japanese Studies
 Daiwa Anglo-Japanese Foundation
 Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation
 Japan Society
 EU-Japan Centre
 Canon Foundation
 Applications for JET Programme
 Japanese Language Proficiency Exam
 UEA Japan Society: ueajapansociety@gmail.com
 Taiko Centre East
 Career Forums
If you have any contributions for the next e-newsletter, please send them to us by 1st **October 2021** to make the next issue.

Send us an email at cjs@uea.ac.uk.

To keep up with goings-on at CJS, follow us on social media:

[Logo: Instagram]  [Logo: Facebook]  [Logo: Website]  [Logo: Twitter]

Or visit our website: japaninnorwich.org

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