



INTERDISCIPLINARY  
INSTITUTE FOR THE  
HUMANITIES

Winter 2022  
e-Newsletter

Editor: Oliver Moxham

CJS Director: Professor Simon Kaner

Header photo by editor: Teshio River, Nayoro, Hokkaidō



What's in this  
issue

From the  
Director

The Sasakawa  
Japanese  
Studies  
Postgraduate  
Studentship  
Programme

MA in  
Interdisciplinary  
Japanese  
Studies

In-person  
events &  
exhibits

*Beyond Japan*  
Podcast

CJS Colleague  
Updates

Online events

General Links

Contact Us

Welcome Message

CJS ニュースレターへようこそ！

Welcome to the Winter 2022 Centre for Japanese Studies e-Newsletter. While the Omicron variant of COVID-19 has once again impacted on plans for travel and in-person events, there is a cautious return to in-person events as infection rates begin to drop. In the meantime, we continue to provide a range of online offerings for you to enjoy. Our [CJS Research Seminar series](#) continues in webinar format for the coming semester to bring you speakers from around the world. While our *Faces of Faith* display at the Sainsbury Centre has come to an end, you can still [enjoy our online display](#) at [JapanInNorwich.org](http://JapanInNorwich.org). A number of our CJS members will (hopefully) be heading to Honolulu in March for the Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference where they are preparing to present a panel alongside colleagues from the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures, as well as presenting a number of further externally hosted events to look forward to.

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

Stay safe and well,

Simon and Oliver

*Editor's note:* Japanese names, barring special exceptions, are given in the Japanese form of family name first i.e. MATSUMOTO Mariko

Forthcoming dates for your diary

*27 January*

**The Women of Ghibli: Female Labour and the Creation of *Porco Rosso***

with Dr Rayna Denison

*24 February*

**Enduring Crisis: North Korea and the Transformation of the Postwar Japanese State**

with Sebastian Maslow

*6 March*

**Kobo A-B Workshop at the Sainsbury Institute: An Introduction to Boro**

with Kobo A-B

*11 March*

**Museums of themselves: disaster, heritage, and the future of northeastern Japan**

with Andrew Littlejohn

*24-27 March*

**Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference**

## From the Director, CJS

所長より

January can often be a challenging month, and for those of us in Japanese studies 'Blue Monday' was compounded by news from Japan confirming that it is likely to still be some time before we can return to the country we study. The British Association for Japanese Studies and the Association of Japanese Language Teachers [have written to the Japanese Ambassador to the UK](#) setting out the concerns the ongoing ban is causing to foreign students and researchers [add link to letter]. A Japanese TV series currently streaming on Netflix, *The Journalist* (新聞記者) provides a master class in speaking truth to power in Japanese, along with the opportunity (in this household at least) to shout at the screen in Japanese as an alternative to English, and some welcome catharsis as we confront the state of the world as we enter the Year of the Tiger.



There is, however, much to look forward to as vaccinations at last make a return to 'in person' a reality (even if not quite yet in Japan) – including welcoming participants in the British Association for Japanese Studies – Japan Foundation Postgraduate Workshop and the Sasakawa Postgraduate Studentship Alumni to Norwich in later February, and a series of panels involving researchers from UEA at the Association for Asian Studies meeting in Hawai'i in later March – watch out for tweets, posts and reports on these events.

Finding our own paths to wellbeing continues to be of the greatest importance, and I am giving this extra attention preparing for [an online lecture for Kyushu University on 27<sup>th</sup> January](#). Staying connected is for me one very effective method – and I hope the contents of this e-newsletter help you stay in touch with the broader Japanese Studies community at UEA over the next few months. Stay well – 皆さんがお元気でありませうように！

Simon Kaner

## The Sasakawa Japanese Studies Postgraduate Studentship Programme

ササカワ日本研究奨学金

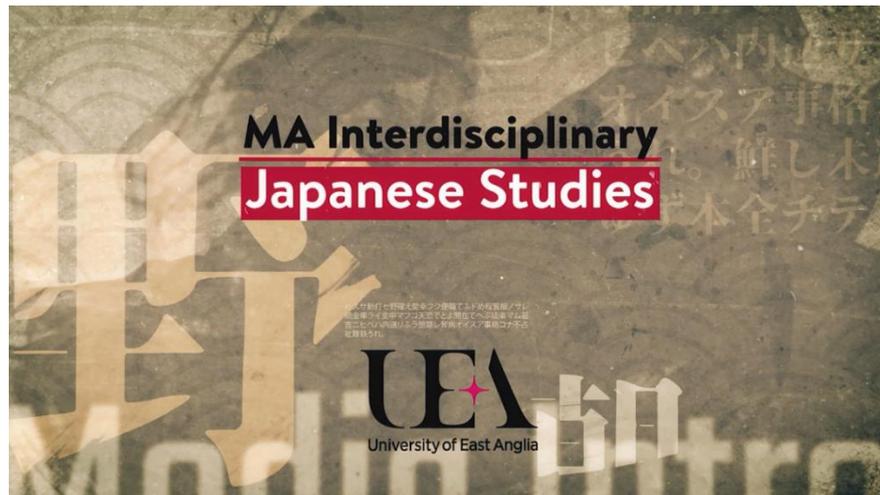
The Sasakawa Japanese Studies Postgraduate Studentship Programme, provided by the [Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation](#), supports the development of Japanese Studies in the UK. Launched and administered by the Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation and fully funded by **The Nippon Foundation**, the Programme provides up to 30 postgraduate studentships annually, each worth £10,000.



The programme builds on The Nippon Foundation funded [Sasakawa Lectureship Programme](#) that was administered by the Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation between 2008 and 2013 and provided for 13 full-time lectureships in Japanese studies at 12 UK universities.

The Sasakawa Japanese Studies Postgraduate Studentship Programme, the Sasakawa Foundation's second initiative in support of Japanese studies, is making a real difference at a time when financial provision for the study of Japan is scarce. It is providing crucial encouragement and support to our brightest and most promising postgraduates – our future Japan specialists.

**To apply:** please send a brief CV and a statement of interest (up to 500 words), specifying the course you are interested in and your future plans in Japan related research and activity, to Professor Simon Kaner ([s.kaner@uea.ac.uk](mailto:s.kaner@uea.ac.uk)) by the **28 February**. Final decisions will be made in April.



In 2020, the University of East Anglia together with the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures launched the [MA programme in Interdisciplinary Japanese Studies](#). We have 7 enthusiastic students currently on the programme who have been making fantastic progress and will be putting together their dissertation proposals over the coming months. We invite any prospective students to join our blossoming programme from September 2022. [Feel free to get in touch](#) with any questions you may have about the course and see [our webpage](#) for more information.

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 the diversity amongst our lecturers, [watch our introductory video](#) on YouTube or check our [Beyond Japan](#) podcast episodes Series 1, episodes 1-7 for in-depth discussion with the teaching team on their research areas.

In November, MA graduate Zoe Shipley discussed her dissertation research on the *Beyond Japan* podcast. [Have a listen](#) for a taste of the kind of research you can pursue through the course:

**MA SPOTLIGHT**

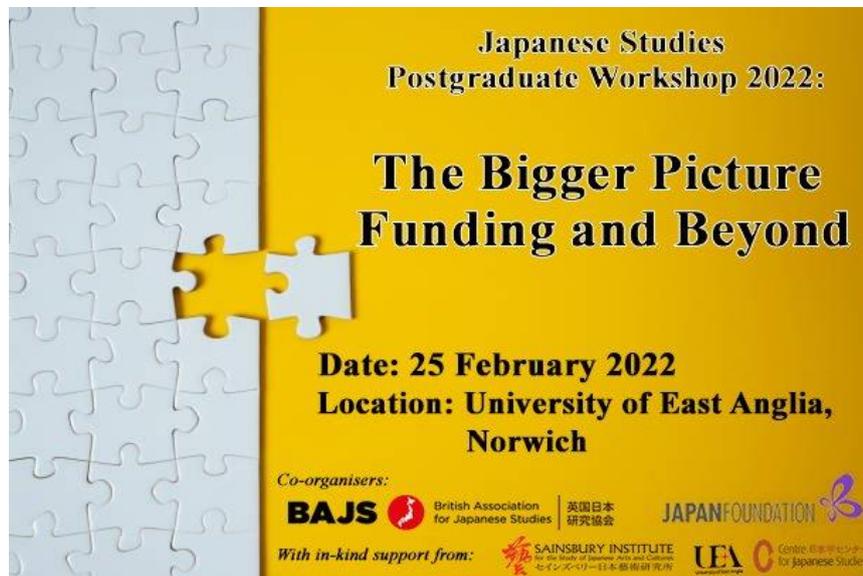
**REALITY OR FANTASY?  
19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY PHOTOGRAPHY OF JAPAN  
WITH ZOE SHIPLEY**

**BEYOND JAPAN**   Centre 日本学センター  
for Japanese Studies  UEA  
University of East Anglia  SAINSBURY INSTITUTE  
for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures  
セインズベリー日本藝術研究所 **S2.E10**

## In-person events &amp; exhibits

## 対面イベントと展示

**NOTE:** At the time of publishing, UEA guidelines restrict indoor gatherings to a maximum of 10 people. As such, future plans for in-person events are pending on a relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions. Please be aware when booking that in-person events are subject to cancellation at short notice in the current climate.



## BAJS – Japan Foundation Postgraduate Writing Workshop

Friday 25 February – **booking required**

This February, the Sainsbury Institute and University of East Anglia will be hosting the annual BAJS/Japan Foundation Postgraduate Workshop 2022. This workshop aims to assist the development of the next generation of Japan specialists in the UK. It is a great opportunity for students to receive practical advice on their research from senior colleagues, and to get to know fellow postgraduate students in the Japanese Studies community.

All students pursuing a Japanese Studies postgraduate degree can apply, but preference will be given to students who are studying in the UK and are also BAJS members. Priority will be given to PhD students with later applications opening for Masters students. A bursary is available for travel and accommodation expenses.

## Discover Japan

## Saturday 26 February | 10:00-15:00

The Forum, Norwich

NR2 1TF

Free to attend, no booking required

Are you interested in Japanese language and culture? Perhaps you have thought about learning Japanese or visiting Japan one day? If so, this is a fantastic event for you, with Japanese language taster, origami, Japanese calligraphy and more.



Take part in various intercultural activities, including a Japanese language taster, origami, Japanese calligraphy and many more.

The event is supported by the Japan Foundation and all welcome to join free.

### **Kobo A-B Workshop at the Sainsbury Institute: An Introduction to Boro**

**Sunday 6 March 2022 | 10:00-16:00**

**Sunday 3 April 2022 | 10:00-16:00**

Available to attend in person at the Sainsbury Institute (64 The Close, NR1 4DH)

Pending on COVID-19 restrictions

£90 per ticket

[Book via the Kobo A-B website](#)



Boro – ぼろ or Ranru らんる are both terms in Japanese which translate as old and tattered. The term is now commonly used about all Japanese textiles that are patched or repaired garments or bedding which have been mended, using fragments or oddments of cloth. Boro textiles originate from the Edo period through to the beginning of the Showa period in Japanese history. These items were often handed down from generation to generation, usually within a family, and have become prized and treasured pieces of textile art for the beauty inherent within each piece.

An introduction to BORO, looking and creating textile work and pieces that emulate and are in sympathy with the repair approaches found within the world and creation of Boro/Ranru pieces.

## Beyond Japan Podcast

## ポッドキャスト再視聴

*Beyond Japan* is well into its second series with a full roster for upcoming episodes. You can find *Beyond Japan* on [Spotify](#), [Apple](#), [Google](#), [Anchor](#) and many other servers. Alternatively, you can [subscribe to our YouTube channel](#) or [JapanInNorwich.org](#) for notifications on the latest episodes.

Oliver recently wrote a report on *Beyond Japan's* first year, noting its far-reaching listeners from all ages and across the world. The report also features glowing comments from former interviewees on how the podcast makes their research more accessible and episodes feature on curricula at several prestigious universities. The full report will be published in 2022 on [JapanInNorwich.org](#).



New episodes come out every Thursday. More information is available [here](#). In case you missed them, you can catch up on the last four episodes of 2021 below:

**NOSTALGIA & MOTHERHOOD  
WITH DR FORUM MITHANI**

**BEYOND  
JAPAN**

Centre 日本学センター  
for Japanese Studies

UEA  
University of East Anglia

SAINSBURY INSTITUTE  
for the Study of Japanese Arts and Culture  
セインズベリー日本藝術研究所

**SOCIAL ORDER:  
TOKYO'S MANNER POSTERS  
WITH CHRIS SCHIMKOWSKY**

**BEYOND  
JAPAN**

Centre 日本学センター  
for Japanese Studies

UEA  
University of East Anglia

SAINSBURY INSTITUTE  
for the Study of Japanese Arts and Culture  
セインズベリー日本藝術研究所

**HISTORIANS & ONLINE HARASSMENT  
WITH DR PAULA R CURTIS**

**BEYOND  
JAPAN**

Centre 日本学センター  
for Japanese Studies

UEA  
University of East Anglia

SAINSBURY INSTITUTE  
for the Study of Japanese Arts and Culture  
セインズベリー日本藝術研究所

**NET-ZERO JAPAN  
WITH PROF HIROSHI ŌTA**

**BEYOND  
JAPAN**

Centre 日本学センター  
for Japanese Studies

UEA  
University of East Anglia

SAINSBURY INSTITUTE  
for the Study of Japanese Arts and Culture  
セインズベリー日本藝術研究所

## Events

**Transition from Painted to Painter: The Female Body of Okinawa and its Women Artists**

with Dr Eriko Tomizawa-Kay

18:30 – 20:00 CET

27 January 2022

Organised by the Department of East Asian Studies at the University of Vienna

Free to attend – [join via event page](#)

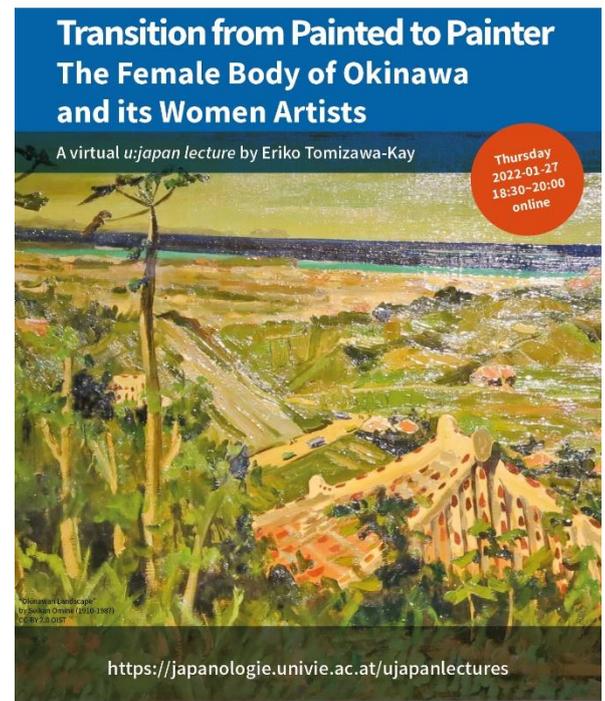
or directly via [this link](#)

In pre-war Okinawa, while male painters were striving to be recognized and acknowledged by central art circles, with the exception of female students under the tutelage of Okinawan male teachers, opportunities for Okinawan women as artists were extremely limited. The emergence of Okinawan female artists had to wait until the post-war period. This paper discusses the significance of depictions of Okinawan women wearing Ryukyuan apparel - a favourite subject of both Japanese painters and Okinawan male painters during the war emergency period (1930s and 1940s) - in order to elucidate the social complexities of Okinawan women at that time when Okinawa was under the dominion of the Japanese Empire.

This paper examines three issues: first, how the representations of the Okinawan female body were appropriated to express the relationship between subjugated Okinawa and mainland Japan, and justify discrimination against the Okinawan people. Secondly, during the post-war period, how Okinawan female artists establish their careers and identity under the periphery of the nation-states of Japan and the patriarchy in Okinawa. Finally, I discuss contemporary Nihonga, which is also labelled as contemporary Ryukyu painting, painted by female artists in Okinawa. This presentation will also reconsider contemporary Okinawan painting by female painters in relation to both Japanese and East Asian art histories in order to cast a new view of Okinawan painting as the living Traditional Painting, and also Modern Okinawan Painting as a descendant of Ryukyu.

**Eriko Tomizawa-Kay** is lecturer in Japanese Language and Culture, at School of Politics, Philosophy, Language and Communication Studies, the University of East Anglia. She specializes in modern Japanese art history, particularly *nihonga* (Japanese style painting).

She is the organizer of 2019 international conference, entitled "Okinawan Art in its Regional Context: Historical Overview and Contemporary Practice". The conference report (Japanese/English) will be available on the website shortly as *Sainsbury Institute Occasional Papers 2*. Her publications include 'Reinventing Localism, Tradition, and Identity: The Role of Modern Okinawan Painting (1630s - 1960s)' In *East Asian Art History in a Transnational Context*, edited by Tomizawa-Kay, E. & Watanabe, T. Routledge, 2019.



Thursday  
2022-01-27  
18:30-20:00  
online

<https://japanologie.univie.ac.at/ujapanlectures>

**Decentering "Japanese Art History": Rethinking Periodization, Geography, and Historiography**

Organised by Dr Eriko Tomizawa-Kay. Chaired by Prof Simon Kaner.

27 March 2022

Panel for the [Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference](#)



This panel challenges existing geographic and temporal paradigms in order to decenter Japanese Art History. It brings together papers considering different moments from across the Japanese archipelago to discuss how decentering of the field can address marginalized artworks, identities, and cultural issues in order to rethink the history of art and artists at local and nation-state levels.

Each of the papers in this panel asks what we mean by "Japan." Is it the physical archipelago? The nation-state as negotiated since the Meiji era? The people of the region? The panelists all consider how we can relativize and decenter the framework of "Japan" as well as what the value of more diversified art historical research may be. When we envision a decentered field, what kinds of visual and material forms that have been produced and received in the archipelago most meaningfully widen the field and illuminate both lesser-known and canonized cultural productions?

Papers engage in close studies of arts from Ainu or Okinawan cultures, bringing them into dialogue with discourses from other parts of the archipelago. Panelists will present case studies that reframe various objects in a transnational context, breaking out of conventional and often anachronistic conceptual limits of modern nation-states. We discuss the use of "Indigenous" in Japanese art history, drawing on decolonializing scholarship, especially from Indigenous scholars. Through these explorations, we will shed light on the attempts to critically assess the classifications and evaluations of hegemonic scholarly research that has created and maintained the institutions of nation-based art histories.



## RESEARCH WEBINAR SERIES

For our 2021-22 CJS Research Webinar Series we will be resuming our monthly online sessions on the **second or third Thursday of each month**, 13:00-14:00 BST. Please subscribe to our website, <https://JapanInNorwich.org>, for email updates as soon as booking goes live. Our roster for the Winter semester is as follows:

*27 January*

### **The Women of Ghibli: Female Labour and the Creation of Porco Rosso**

with Dr Rayna Denison, Professor in Film and Digital Arts at the University of Bristol



#### RESEARCH WEBINAR SERIES

**The Women of Ghibli:  
Female Labour and the  
Creation of Porco Rosso**



*24 February*

### **Enduring Crisis: North Korea and the Transformation of the Postwar Japanese State**

with Sebastian Maslow



#### RESEARCH WEBINAR SERIES

**Enduring Crisis:  
North Korea and the  
Transformation of the  
Postwar Japanese State**



*11 March*

### **Museums of themselves: disaster, heritage, and the future of northeastern Japan**

with Dr Andrew Littlejohn



#### RESEARCH WEBINAR SERIES

**Museums of themselves:  
disaster, heritage,  
and the future of  
north-eastern Japan**



Subscribe to [JapanInNorwich.org](https://JapanInNorwich.org) for email updates

## COVID News from Japan

## 日本における新型コロナウイルスの情報



Last month, the Japanese government caused uproar amongst the Japanese Studies community by their choice to close the borders and even requesting that Japan-bound flights be suspended until the end of February (this was later reversed due to public pressure). However, official guidance indicates **the borders will remain closed until at least late February** to those without Japanese nationality or resident status, with speculation it could continue until the elections in May. As this move has proved ineffective in preventing the spread of the Omicron variant in Japan, there is some hope that this may be reversed, although Japan has been one of the last countries to lift such restrictions as COVID infection rates ease.

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

**Total infections: 2,216,159**      **Total hospital Admissions: 325,103**      **Total recoveries: 1,814,747**

**Total deaths: 18,520**      **Total vaccinations: 188,427,409**

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

Infections: Yesterday	Hospital Admissions: Yesterday	Recoveries: Yesterday	Deaths: Yesterday
(total)	(total)	(total)	(total)
感染者：+前日	入院者：+前日	退院者：+前日	死者：+前日
(総数)	(総数)	(総数)	(総数)

#### Vaccinations: Yesterday

(total)

ワクチン接種：+前日

(総数)

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](#)

#### General Links

#### お役立ちリンク

[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](mailto:ueajapansociety@gmail.com)  
Taiko Centre East  
Career Forums

Contact Us

お問い合わせ

If you have any contributions for the next e-newsletter,  
please send them to us by **20 April 2022** to make the next issue.



Send us an email at [cjs@uea.ac.uk](mailto:cjs@uea.ac.uk).

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



Or visit our website: [JapanInNorwich.org](http://JapanInNorwich.org)

**If you wish to be removed from our mailing list, please email [cjs@uea.ac.uk](mailto:cjs@uea.ac.uk)**