

# Centre for Japanese Studies

## e-Newsletter

Spring Semester 2024



## WELCOME MESSAGE

### CJSニューズレターへようこそ

Welcome to the 2024 edition of our Centre for Japanese Studies e-Newsletter.

In this issue, we will be reflecting on the achievements and activities of the Centre for Japanese Studies (CJS) over the past year and taking the opportunity to look forward to some of our upcoming events and initiatives.

2023 saw the University of East Anglia (UEA) celebrate its milestone 60th anniversary and colleagues at the Centre for Japanese Studies continued to be busy across a range of interdisciplinary research projects, publications and events - a theme at the very heart of CJS. As we enter 2024, the Year of the Dragon, the Sainsbury Institute celebrates its 25th anniversary - you can find out more about some of the activities planned for this in this issue.

We hope you enjoy this issue, and please do submit any questions or suggestions to our team at [cjs@uea.ac.uk](mailto:cjs@uea.ac.uk).

#### Professor Simon Kaner

Director of the Centre for Japanese Studies

#### Olivia Butler

Project Co-ordinator at the Centre for Japanese Studies

*Image: [Norwich snapdragon](#). NWHCM : 2011.239. © Norfolk Museums Service. Read more about Norwich's snapdragon tradition [here](#).*

## Newsletter Highlights

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Professor Simon Kaner

2023 was a challenging year for UEA but we were pleased that the Centre for Japanese Studies was relatively unaffected. I was on sabbatical leave for the first half of the year and am grateful to Dr Sherzod Muminov for directing CJS in my absence. I was able to spend time in Japan preparing a monograph on the archaeology of the Sea of Japan, and also worked with colleagues from English Heritage to bring some Japanese archaeology to Stonehenge as part of our *Circles of Stone* project. Interest in Japan across the University and our broader community continues to flourish – as was so well exemplified by the wonderful and inspirational Bunkasai in December. Congratulations to Mika Brown and all involved, and thanks to the Japan Foundation Sakura Network for continuing to support our activities encouraging greater interest in Japanese.

We look forward to 2024, the Year of the Dragon, despite the troubled start to the year in Japan, with the earthquake that devastated much of the Noto peninsula and the terrible events at Tokyo's Haneda airport the following day. Our thoughts are with everyone affected.



We are planning to mark UEA's 60th anniversary in Japan in the spring – discussions are ongoing with our wonderful UEA Alumni Ambassadors Mr Takanashi Hisashi and Mr Ando Mikio, both of whom I saw in December. Japan continues to attract students wishing to take up study abroad options – whether on our Japanese language programmes or, as demonstrated by John Garner's report on his year at ICU, following other degrees. And Norwich continues to attract excellent students from Japan – see the report by our PhD student Hirohito Tsuji. The report by UEA International's Katrien Verbruggen on her recent visit to many of our partner universities in Japan demonstrates the appetite for enhanced exchanges at all levels. We hope to use the double anniversaries (UEA's 60th and the Sainsbury Institute's 25th) to further develop collaboration and exchange between Norwich and Japan.

Wishing you all a happy and successful Year of the Dragon.

## Upcoming Events

### CJS RESEARCH SEMINARS

**28 February** *seishun stories in Japanese idol media* - Dorothy Finan (University of Leeds)

**13 March** *The End of the Cold War in East Asia: An Overview* - Aono Toshihiko (Hitotsubashi University/Cambridge University)

**March** Title and date to be confirmed - Takamine Tsukasa (Meio University)

Please check [our website](#) for further details and booking as it is announced

**IN CONVERSATION:** Paul Madden CMG, formerly British Ambassador to Japan and currently Special Advisor to the CJS Board and Bill Emmott, Chair of the Japan Society.

Friday 16 February

Venue and times TBC

### ASSOCIATION FOR ASIAN STUDIES (AAS) 2024

14 - 17 March (reception 15 March at 19:30)

Seattle, Washington

Find out more about the programmes and papers [here](#).



# JAPAN

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

# IN NORWICH

## CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF THE SAINSBURY INSTITUTE

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Founded in 1999, this year marks the 25th anniversary of the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures.

To celebrate this landmark event, we have a range of activities, events, exhibitions and initiatives planned across Norwich and beyond.

We will be releasing further information on this programme as it is announced but highlights will include:

- **May 2024** an exhibition and display at The Forum in Norwich focusing on our *Nara to Norwich* project and in collaboration with the medieval Buddhist temple of Hasedera in Nara
- **July 2024** an exhibition across sites in Norwich and Norfolk bringing renowned artist Hokusai's works to life through high resolution digital replicas, and a concurrent exhibition on *tanzaku* exploring the creative environment of 19th-century salon and tea culture in Japan
- **November 2024** a conference in London looking back at the Institute's achievements of the last 25 years, and forward to what the next 25 might hold
- **2024 - 2025** an enhanced provision of our flagship Third Thursday Lecture series

**Keep checking our website as we announce further details**

The Centre for Japanese Studies again continued to provide an impressive array of outputs, activities and initiatives this year. The centre was led by Dr Sherzod Muminov until July 2023 when Professor Simon Kaner returned from his study leave, and we are grateful to Dr Muminov for continuing the excellent work of CJS during this time.

### January 2023



#### UK-JAPAN 21ST CENTURY GROUP CONFERENCE HELD AT UEA

In January 2023, UEA hosted the UK-Japan 21st Century Group conference, the most senior bilateral body acting in the sphere of UK-Japan relations. The Centre for Japanese Studies and the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures were both instrumental in the organisation of the conference and were delighted to host a reception for attendees at the headquarters of the Institute at 64 The Close. Colleagues and staff were also joined by representatives from Norwich City Council including the Lord Mayor, Sheriff of Norwich, and the Leader of the City Council.

#### CJS RESEARCH SEMINAR SERIES CONTINUES

Our research seminar series continued this year with talks focusing on manga, tea trade between Japan and the UK, the post-Imperial armed forces of Japan, and the use of sexual orientation categories in contemporary Japan. You can view recordings of our available seminars on the [CJS YouTube channel](#).

### Spring Semester 2023



### May 2023



#### CJS COLLEAGUES VISIT 'CIRCLES OF STONE' AT STONEHENGE

Along with colleagues from the Sainsbury Institute and students from our MA programme in Interdisciplinary Japanese Studies, CJS colleagues made the trip to Salisbury to visit the [Circles of Stone: Stonehenge and Prehistoric Japan](#) exhibition at the Stonehenge Visitor Centre, co-curated by English Heritage and CJS Director Professor Simon Kaner. A concurrent mini-exhibition at Avebury stone circle opened on the day of the visit.

#### CJS VISITS EAJS GHENT

The academic side of both the Centre for Japanese Studies and the University of East Anglia was exceptionally well-represented at the 17th meeting of the [European Association for Japanese Studies](#) in August. As well as a stimulating array of presentations, both in person and online, the conference – the first time the Association has met in person since 2017 due to the Covid-19 pandemic – was an excellent opportunity to reconnect with colleagues from across Europe and beyond. Thanks to the support of the University's Japan Country Dialogue Group and UEA International, we had a stand promoting CJS and the Sainsbury Institute, showcasing our publications and our new Virtual Reality Sainsbury Institute.

### August 2023



Our Centre for Japanese Studies colleagues lie at the core of our work and activities. Continuing to provide an impressive array of outputs in 2023, specialists cover disciplines such as Politics and International Relations, History, Japanese Language, Health Sciences, Economics, Art History and Archaeology.



### EUGENIA BOGDANOVA-KUMMER

Lecturer in Japanese Arts, Cultures, and Heritage

Eugenia was Acting Director of the Sainsbury Institute July 2022-July 2023 during Simon's study leave. During this time, she was busy as course leader for the [MA in Interdisciplinary Japanese Studies](#) and undertaking research to access and connect archiving and collecting practices of modern and contemporary art in Europe and using digital tools to link and connect these. She is currently on study leave.

### ERIKO TOMIZAWA-KAY

Lecturer in Japanese Language and Culture

Eriko is currently on study leave at the University of Michigan, and has written an article on '[Nihonga in Okinawa](#)' in a publication related to the '[Okinawa-ga](#)' art exhibition held at Okinawa Prefectural University of Arts in August. She has also written a chapter on '[Decentering Japanese Art History: Case Study of Ainu and Okinawa](#)' resulting from last year's Association for Asian Studies (AAS) conference.

### HANNAH OSBORNE

Japan Foundation Lecturer in Japanese Literature

Hannah Osborne has this semester taken over as course leader of the [MA in Interdisciplinary Japanese Studies](#) at UEA. She also continues in her role as Chief Editor of [Japan Forum](#) where she is working on a special issue on [Decolonising Japanese Studies](#). She is also working on a forthcoming translation which we will announce details of in the coming months.

### NADINE WILLEMS

Associate Professor in Japanese History

Nadine has an [upcoming article in \*The Japan Review\*](#) (hard copy due to be published in early 2024) about the personal records left by a young army recruit who participated in Japan's Siberian Intervention of 1918 to 1922. The soldier was a talented artist who chronicled his experience of the conflict through a series of expressive drawings. Nadine has also written an article about anarchism in pre-war Japan for the *Oxford Research Encyclopaedia of Asian History* and is involved in an international and interdisciplinary research project on Japanese islands convened by the International Research Centre for Japanese Studies in Kyoto.

### NAOKO KISHITA

Associate Professor in Dementia and Complexity in Later Life

Naoko Kishita has this year launched a £1.23 million project to help the carers of people living with dementia improve their own mental health. The team have created a [digital therapy platform](#) to support carers, which can be accessed via a mobile phone, laptop, or tablet – thanks to funding from the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR).



### IACT4CARERS

EMAIL THE RESEARCH TEAM  
[iact4carers.study@uea.ac.uk](mailto:iact4carers.study@uea.ac.uk)

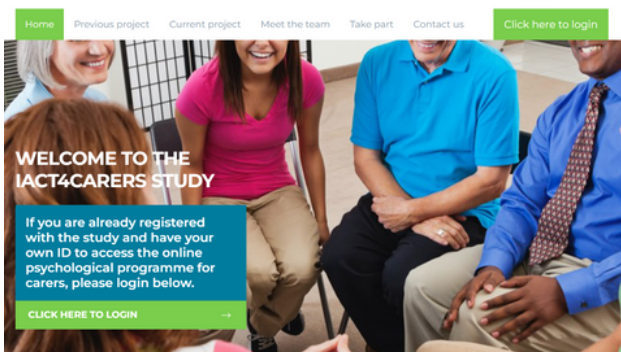


Image (left): Takeuchi Tadao, *Winter in Peschanka*. 1921. M. Takeuchi Collection. Courtesy of the Art Research Center (ARC), Ritsumeikan University.



### RYOKO MATSUBA

Lecturer in Japanese Digital Arts and Humanities

Ryoko this year published a collection of translations of essays by Hokusai and his peers in *Mad About Painting*, which was named as one of the best art books of 2023 by the *New York Times*. She has also continued to lead on important digitisation initiatives and workshops with collections at the V&A, the British Museum, Chiddingstone Castle, and the National Museum of Scotland. Ryoko has also been conducting research into the techniques of traditional craftspeople in Japan and how to record and preserve these through digital techniques.

### RA MASON

Sasakawa Associate Professor of International Relations and Japanese Foreign Policy

Ra has spent the past year conducting research on Okinawa for his forthcoming book that focuses on the Ryukyu Islands as a flashpoint for great power conflict. He has also been expanding and enriching relations with multiple Japanese partner universities, from Meio and Ritsumeikan to Nichibun and Tohoku.

### Mad about Painting

Katsushika Hokusai

David Zwirner Books



### SHERZOD MUMINOV

Associate Professor in Japanese History

Sherzod has this year been appointed as Associate Editor at the Journal of the Historical Association, *History*. He has also contributed a chapter on the Japanese Empire to the *Cambridge History of Nationhood and Nationalism* and his book *Eleven Winters of Discontent* (2022) has been named a finalist for the Association of American Publishers 47th Annual PROSE Awards in the "World History" category.

### JAPANESE LANGUAGE AT UEA

Akiko Tomatsuri, Mika Brown and Yumiko Kita

The Japanese Language team at UEA have continued to teach cohorts at both an undergraduate and postgraduate level, as well as running a successful programme of daytime and evening Japanese courses. We welcomed back 28 final year students as well as new students in both undergraduate and postgraduate courses. UEA is ranked 20th for Languages and Linguistics in the Guardian University Guide 2024, and successively received outstanding NSS (2022) and Graduate Outcomes (2023). Mika Brown also arranged another iteration of the popular *Bunkasai*, held this year on 25th November on UEA campus. Activities covered performance, speeches, anime, and food, and demonstrated Norwich's appetite for all things Japan - you can view more about the day involved on the [Bunkasai Instagram page](#).



# PARTNERSHIPS WITH JAPAN

## By Katrien Verbruggen

JANUARY 2024

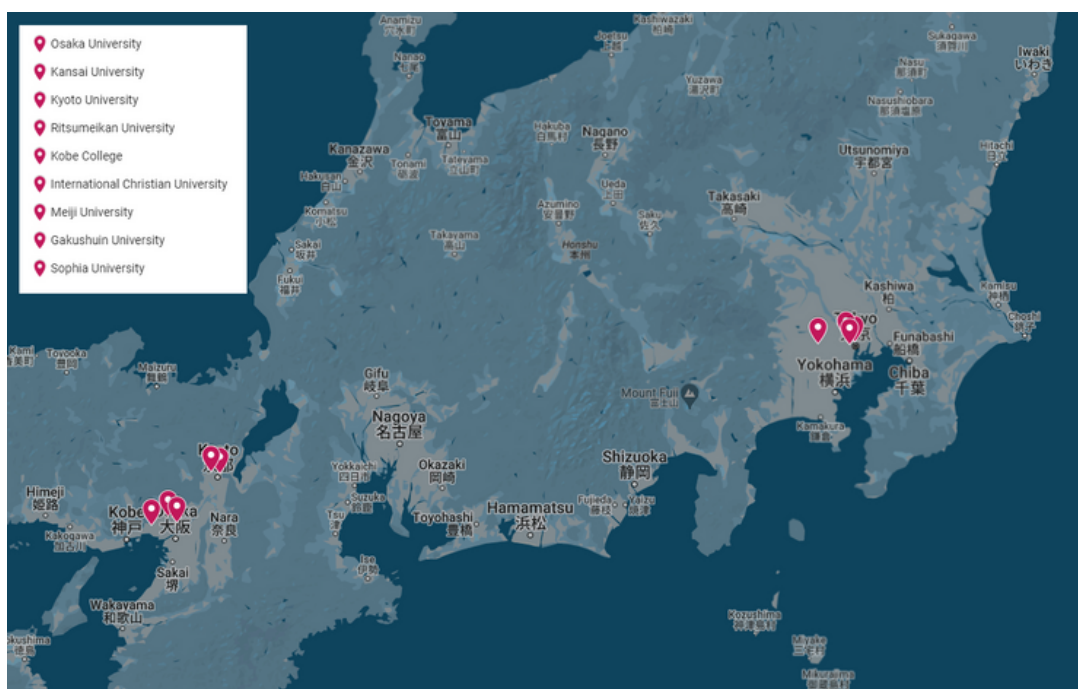


I visited Japan in my capacity as UEA's Study Abroad Partnerships Manager, on behalf of UEA Global Programmes and Study Abroad. The main purpose was to visit university campuses and meet with academic and non-academic staff at UEA's Japanese partner universities in the Kansai and Kantō regions. Many fruitful meetings and conversations were had about student exchange and how the programmes are currently running since we launched student exchange with Japan over ten years ago, and we discussed future ambitions and our wider relationships as international partners. UEA has 20 partnerships for undergraduate student exchange in Japan, from as far north as Hokkaido to as far west as Okayama. This year I visited 9 partners in and around Kyoto, Osaka, and Tokyo (you can view images from all 9 partners [here](#)). I really enjoyed experiencing part of the journey our students make when they go to Japan, and it was most rewarding to meet colleagues and peers, academic staff, and Japanese students as well as UEA students who were studying on the beautiful university campuses.

UEA and Japan have very deep ties which we are honoured to contribute to and benefit from with the yearly exchange of approximately 50 students both ways. Japan has an impressive range of experiences to offer in terms of their top-quality education and academic programmes, as well as extra-curricular experience - and it seems UEA is also a very popular destination for inbound Japanese students as well. UEA's campus and the experiences Norwich offers for international students from Japan are highly valued – Japanese students describe how participating in UEA's clubs and societies is a great way to integrate into the wider university community during their time at UEA.

In addition to UEA's Japanese language learners who study abroad in Japan as part of their degree, in recent years we've seen growing numbers of students from other academic areas such as Psychology, Economics, Business, Global Development, and even the Natural Sciences expressing their interest and effectively spending their year abroad in Japan. To manage this interest, an important part of my meetings with partners was about their English taught academic offer and the access of UEA students with no Japanese language knowledge to courses at Japanese universities. Japan is investing many resources in further internationalisation of their Higher Education and university campuses, and most of UEA's partners are developing wider English academic offerings at a fast pace.

***We are delighted to see very healthy numbers of Japanese students joining us at UEA year on year. As a green campus university and perfect sized city, we remain a very attractive and safe place for Japanese students to experience life in the United Kingdom, and we look forward to continuing to contribute fruitfully to UEA's relationships in Japan through the exchange of many students every year.***





By John Garner

Final year undergraduate student on BA  
Archaeology, Anthropology and Art History, UEA

From August 2022 I embarked on a year-long exchange at the International Christian University (ICU) in Tokyo. Along with another coursemate, we were the first undergraduate students from UEA's School of Art History to venture to Japan for the study-abroad program. I chose Japan because it has always been my dream to live and study there, and chose Tokyo for the abundant academic, travel and leisure opportunities.

ICU is a small private university located in the quiet suburbs of Mitaka city, in western Tokyo. Life there was a change of pace compared to UEA. Every weekday morning I had two hours of Japanese language classes, before spending the afternoons taking degree-specific classes like Japanese art history, Japanese archaeology and the medieval history of East Asia, all taught in English. Through these classes I could focus on my exact interests, such as learning practical excavation skills in a real prehistoric site on campus, or being taught how to identify Buddhist deities in medieval scroll paintings. As a liberal arts college, I could also take classes beyond my usual field, such as the environmental history and sociology of Japan, and even a class on Japanese-American culture. These allowed me to broaden my knowledge on subjects that aren't offered at UEA but are still important to my research. For extracurricular activities, I joined the Taizanso Project, a student-led group that conserves and promotes a collection of government-protected Edo to Showa era teahouses and estate buildings that are hidden away in the forest of ICU campus. Usually closed to the public, the opportunity to be actively involved with Japanese architectural heritage was an impressionable experience, and is informing my undergraduate dissertation topic.

A real joy of being in Japan was the ability to see for myself artworks or historical sites that I had studied in the classroom, both around Tokyo and when travelling. Tokyo is home to major institutions like the Tokyo National Museum, the National Art Centre, or the Japan Folk Crafts Museum, but also being a central travel hub, it is relatively easy to take the train or fly to anywhere across the country. During spring vacation, a highlight of mine was touring the historic capital of Nara, searching for iconic works of Buddhist sculpture at the Kofuku-ji temple, or the seventh century wall paintings of the Takamatsuzuka and Kitora Tombs in Asuka. On another trip I went to see the UNESCO World Heritage Jomon archaeological sites in northern Tohoku and Hokkaido. This was all possible through funding from the UK Turing Scheme and the Japanese government's JASSO Scholarship, which I urge any prospective student to apply for and work towards.



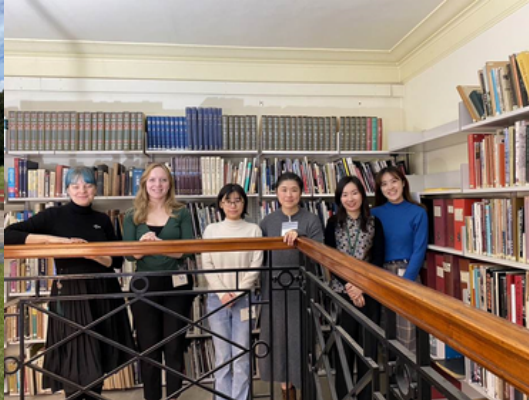
While studying and travelling developed my Japanese language skills and focused my scholarly interests, it also demanded a stronger confidence in myself. Throughout the year, by making connections through new people, places and experiences, I came to appreciate life and see the world through new eyes. At UEA, I am continuing research on Japanese heritage and hoping to return to Japan soon for possible fieldwork.

*Images:*

*Header: Oyu Stone Circles, Akita Prefecture, part of the UNESCO World Heritage Jomon Prehistoric Sites of Northern Japan. Photo by author.*

*Image 1: John bagging a potsherd from a Jomon pit-dwelling in the student excavation trench, located on the International Christian University Campus. Photo by Toru Hayashi.*

*Image 2: Yakushi-ji Temple, one of the UNESCO World Heritage Historic Monuments of Ancient Nara. Photo by author.*



## Beyond the MA with Emma Kiey

JANUARY 2024

By Emma Kiey

Graduate of the MA in Interdisciplinary Japanese Studies 2021-2022

It's been over a year since I completed my MA in Interdisciplinary Japanese Studies at UEA, and time has flown by. I first found SISJAC during my undergraduate degree in history where I had developed a keen interest in modern Japanese history and material culture. I began attending relevant virtual lectures held by the Sainsbury Institute and I then applied to their online summer programme in 2020. This is where I discovered the vastness of Japanese studies and what their brand new MA had to offer.

During the MA, which I joined in 2021, I was able to study an unmatched variety of topics I could never have imagined possible in one year-long postgraduate degree. My first assignment was on the presentation of menstruation in Japanese women's literature, followed by my second essay on Japan's climate policy and its vulnerable natural heritage. I also wrote on Japanese female performance art history, and the history of sartorial Japonisme in international museum collections. While diverse, the course allowed me to delve into my own unique interests and encourage further study. I discovered my passion for dress history, material anthropology, and museum studies - still very interdisciplinary!

Since graduating, I completed an internship with the Daiwa Anglo-Japanese Foundation, and for the past year I have been working as a visitor experience assistant at Japan House London, giving exhibition tours and helping to teach visitors about many different aspects of Japanese culture. I work here alongside another former MA IJS student, Amy Orton. I have continued working on digitisation projects across the UK with Dr. Ryoko Matsuba, after first working with her during my MA on an assistantship at the British Museum and V&A digitising Japanese prints and books. In the past year I've also digitised archival materials at Kew Gardens and the Courtauld Institute independently. Recently, I began writing for the Digital Orientalist, a digital humanities magazine. [My first article](#) expands on the digital aspects of my MA dissertation research on the Kyoto Costume Institute. I hope to continue my independent research and writing on the many topics of Japanese studies that fascinate me.

***One of the most valuable things studying on the MA programme has given me is not only a group of lifelong and like minded friends, but also a supportive network of Japanese studies scholars, museum professionals, academics and more who I have stayed in contact with and continue to learn from.***

The MA gave me an excellent foundation for work in Japanese studies both professionally and my future academic career. In 2024, I'm planning to travel to Japan to develop my Japanese language learning, continue working/volunteering with museums in the UK and (hopefully!) abroad, and prepare for further academic study and professional development.

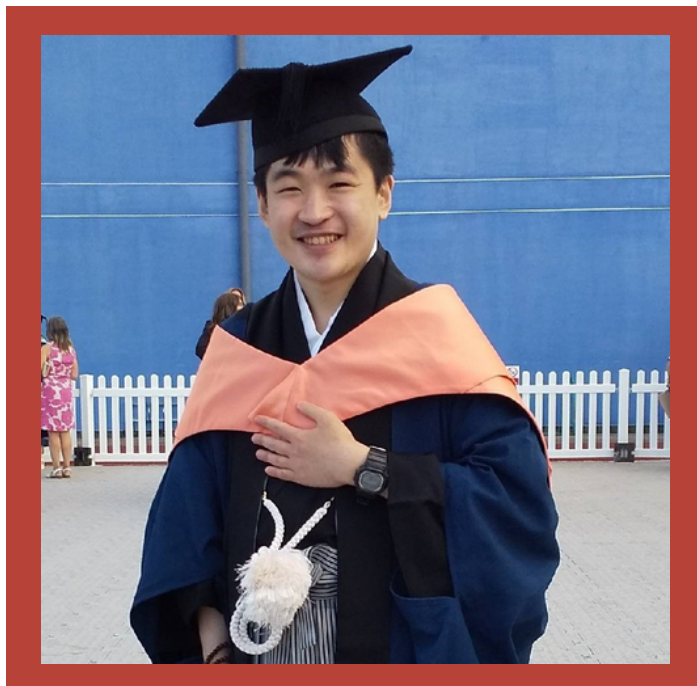
Images:

Left: Emma Kiey with fellow MA Interdisciplinary Japanese Studies students on graduation day. Middle: Emma Kiey with Sainsbury Institute and V&A colleagues during a digitisation workshop in December 2022. Right: Emma Kiey at the current exhibition at Japan House London, '[Ainu Stories: Contemporary Lives by the Saru River](#)'

Read more about the digitisation project at the V&A [here](#) and Emma's recent article in the Digital Orientalist [here](#).

## PhDs at UEA with Hirohito TSUJI

Hello, I am Hirohito Tsuji, a postgraduate researcher (PhD candidate) in UEA's School of History. Before obtaining an MA in Interdisciplinary Japanese Studies at UEA, I completed an MA in History and the minor programme of Museology at Kokugakuin University in Tokyo, and a BA in Japanese history and the minor field of Shinto studies at Kogakkan University in Ise, Japan. Although I am Japanese, I felt keenly the need to conduct research from a broad interdisciplinary perspective, taking into account previous research in English-speaking countries, and decided to study outside Japan.



UEA, with the Centre for Japanese Studies and the Sainsbury Institute, is the perfect place for cross-disciplinary Japanese studies, as it is home to renowned experts in a variety of fields related to Japan, including history, archaeology, literature, politics, language, and art history, etc. The Lisa Sainsbury Library at the Sainsbury Institute also has a lot of valuable academic resources not only in English but also in Japanese (particularly related to art, archaeology, and cultural heritage), which can be very useful for those doing Japanese studies outside Japan.

Other than research, I was also very attracted to the fact that UEA offers excellent support for non-native English speakers, and has a strong commitment to combating racism and academic harassment. Another reason I chose UEA is that Norwich is comfortable for international students like me because it feels like a safe city, and is also located with easy access to big cities such as London and Cambridge. As my PhD research, I am studying the genealogy of branch families of the Imperial House of Japan, called “*miyake*”, and am also interested in a comparative study between the Imperial Family of Japan and Western monarchies including the Commonwealth.

For international students, it is not easy to live in the UK with its high cost of living and high tuition fees compared to British/EU students, but I was fortunate to have been awarded a Sasakawa Japanese Studies Postgraduate Studentship for three years and also received a travel grant for research fieldwork by the Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation (GBSF), which helped me a lot financially. After finishing my PhD, I would like to continue further academic research, balancing it with my life's work as an amateur *enka* singer, to disseminate Japanese history and culture to the world, and to contribute to the further development of Japan-Anglo friendship.



**Find out more about the Sasakawa Japanese Studies Postgraduate Studentship Programme [here](#).**

You can also read more about the November 2021 Great Britain Sasakawa Alumni workshop, hosted by the Sainsbury Institute, the Centre for Japanese Studies and UEA.

**Miss last year's newsletter? You can read our last edition [here](#) or visit our website for all our [past issues](#).**



# Further information

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## Useful links

### At UEA

[MA Interdisciplinary Japanese Studies](#)

[Centre for Japanese Studies, UEA](#)

[UEA Japan Events](#)

[Japanese Language Evening Courses at UEA](#)

[UEA Undergraduate and Postgraduate Courses](#)

## Organisations and resources

[Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation](#)

[Daiwa Anglo-Japanese Foundation](#)

[Japan Foundation \(London\)](#)

[The Japan Society](#)

[Japan House London](#)

[Japan Society for the Promotion of Science \(JSPS\)](#)

[Embassy of Japan in the UK](#)

[UK-Japan Events Calendar](#)

[Japan Research Centre, SOAS](#)

[British Association for Japanese Studies \(BAJS\)](#)

[Applications for JET Programme](#)

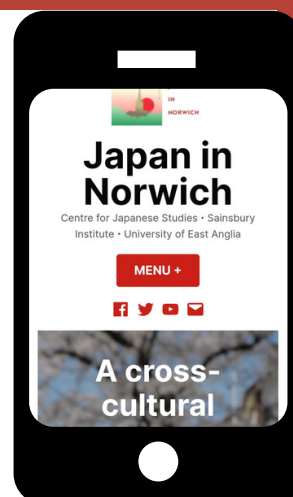
[Japanese Language Proficiency Test](#)

[Japan Forum](#)

## Contact Us

We always welcome suggestions for content for our upcoming issues - please email us at [cjs@uea.ac.uk](mailto:cjs@uea.ac.uk) to get in touch.

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