

オックスフォード  
日本研究

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# JAPANESE STUDIES AT OXFORD



**Japanese Studies at Oxford has expanded dramatically since its modest beginnings in the early 1960s and now comprises 20 staff engaged in teaching and research on various aspects of Japanese and Japan.**

Most staff are based in the *Faculty of Oriental Studies* in the University's Humanities Division, and in the *Nissan Institute of Japanese Studies* which forms part of the Social Science Division's School of Inter-disciplinary Area Studies. The diversity and volume of Japanese Studies in Oxford is the background for this Newsletter which we will publish annually to give an overview of our activities and developments. In this, the first issue of the Newsletter, we also look back at some of the history of Japanese Studies in Oxford.

Our undergraduate course in Japanese is firmly established and is historically the cornerstone of Japanese Studies in this University. A major general development over the past few years is an increased emphasis on taught graduate courses in Japanese Studies. Thus, in 2007 the School of Inter-disciplinary Area Studies launched a master's course (MSc/MPhil) in Modern Japanese Studies, complementing the already existing MSt course in Japanese Studies in the Faculty of Oriental Studies. For many of our students these courses are an end in themselves, but we also believe that the provision of high quality graduate training in the UK for the next generation of scholars of Japan is a pressing need. To ensure that we continue to attract the best students also at graduate level and the best postdoctoral researchers, a very important area of development for us is to work towards securing funding for doctoral and postdoctoral fellowships in Japanese studies comparable to those that are available in North America.

In the course of 2008, Japanese Studies saw a welcome expansion of staff, both in the Social Sciences and in the Humanities. Future development and staff expansion is now needed in the area of medieval Japanese history, in order to strengthen research and teaching at both graduate and undergraduate level on this important part of Japanese Studies, and this is something we hope to pursue over the coming period.

**Phillip Harries** (Faculty of Oriental Studies)

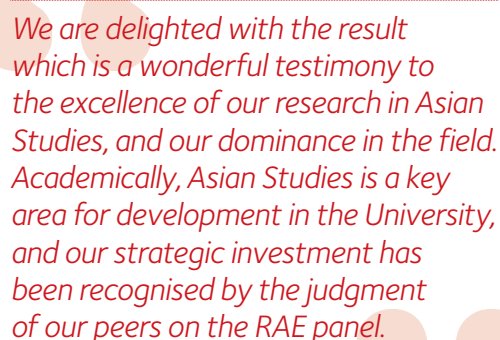
**Ian Neary** (Nissan Institute of Japanese Studies)

## Latest: The results of the Research Assessment Exercise 2008

Just before Christmas 2008, the Higher Education Funding Council for England released the results of the UK government's Research Assessment Exercise (RAE2008) which evaluated the research activities of the UK universities during the period January 2001 to December 2007. In *Asian Studies*, which is the unit to which Japanese Studies belongs, Oxford submitted 33 academics for consideration, more than any other university.

The results show that Oxford was ranked second by a small margin to the School of Oriental and African Studies in the University of London by one measure, but first – by an equally small margin – when the 'research power' of the universities was calculated.

The RAE2008 shows that Oxford and SOAS together account for over half of the total research power in Asian Studies in the UK, reflecting the long-standing dedication of these two universities to Asian Studies.



*We are delighted with the result which is a wonderful testimony to the excellence of our research in Asian Studies, and our dominance in the field. Academically, Asian Studies is a key area for development in the University, and our strategic investment has been recognised by the judgment of our peers on the RAE panel.*

Professor Sally Shuttleworth  
Head of the Humanities Division





## Staff Changes

Over the past few years, since 2003, several core Japanese Studies staff have retired:

Professor **Arthur Stockwin** (2003), Dr **Brian Powell** (2004), Dr **Ann Waswo** (2007) and most recently Dr **James McMullen** (2008).

During this period we have been joined by Professor **Ian Neary** (2003), Dr **Linda Flores** (2004), Dr **Sho Konishi** (2007), and within the past year by Dr **Ekaterina Hertog**, Professor **Takehiko Kariya** and Dr **Kerri L Russell**.



### Ekaterina Hertog

I am interested in human behaviour, particularly family related decisions. All my research has been carried

out using Japanese data. Over the past few years I divided my time between Oxford and Japan and have found Oxford an excellent place to analyse the data collected on my fieldtrips, discuss it with knowledgeable and supportive colleagues and discover the literature with the help of the Bodleian Japanese library librarians. In the three years before I joined the Nissan Institute I have been the Okinaga Junior Research Fellow at Wadham College. This has been an amazing opportunity to spend virtually all my time on research and writing. During this time I have completed a research project on Japanese unwed mothers, and the resulting book manuscript 'Tough Choices: Bearing an Illegitimate Child in Contemporary Japan' is coming out with Stanford University Press this summer. Towards the end of that period, however, I started to feel I was getting too insulated within my area of research interests. That is why I have been very excited to become a full member of the Nissan Institute and get involved in teaching and seminar organisation. I am also continuing with research and have now started work on a new research project on marriage partner selection in contemporary Japan which uses data from a large Japanese marriage agency.



### Takehiko Kariya

As a Professor in the Sociology of Japanese Society, I joined the Nissan Institute of Japanese Studies and the Department of Sociology at the University of Oxford in October 2008. My research interests include sociology of education, social stratification and social mobility, social changes of post-war Japan, and social and educational policies. Before coming to Oxford, I taught Sociology of Education at the Graduate School of Education, University of Tokyo for 18 years. I am now observing myself as an educational sociological research subject to see how a professor who worked in Japanese academic culture can adjust himself to a new (and very traditional and different) academic environment such as Oxford. So far, I think it is working well. After starting my new career here, I find it very exciting both to do research and to teach in Oxford. I am especially thrilled to teach and supervise students who come from around the world to the Japanese Studies programme at Oxford.



### Kerri L Russell

I received my PhD from the University of Hawaii at Manoa in 2006. My research is mainly concerned with the origins and development of the Japonic language family, which consists of the varieties of Japanese spoken in Japan and the Ryukyuan islands. Before coming to Oxford, I was a Visiting Assistant Professor at the University of Arizona. I have also taught at Hawaii Pacific University and the University of Hawaii. I am currently a postdoctoral researcher on the 'Verb Semantics and Argument Realization in pre-modern Japanese' project, which involves grammatical analyses of pre-modern Japanese texts and the creation of linguistic databases. I am enjoying my new life in Oxford, looking forward to working on this project, and getting to know others here.

## Japanese Studies staff at Oxford

Jenny Corbett (BA ANU, PhD Michigan)  
Reader in the economy of Japan

Linda Flores (MA Washington, PhD UCLA)  
University Lecturer in Japanese  
(Modern Japanese literature)

Bjarke Frellesvig (MA, PhD Copenhagen)  
Professor of Japanese linguistics

Roger Goodman (BA Durham, DPhil Oxford)  
Nissan Professor of modern Japanese studies

Benjamin Gould (LLB Tasmania, DPhil Oxford)  
University Lecturer in Law  
(The Japanese criminal justice system)

Junko Hagiwara  
(MA, Ealing College of Higher Education)  
Senior Instructor in Japanese

Phillip Harries (MA, DPhil Oxford)  
University Lecturer in Japanese  
(Classical Japanese literature)

Ekaterina Hertog  
(MA Moscow, MSc, DPhil Oxford)  
Career Development Fellow  
in the Sociology of Japan

Hiroe Kaji (MA Ulster, MA Brookes University)  
Instructor in Japanese

Takehiko Kariya  
(BA MA Tokyo, PhD Northwestern)  
Professor in the Sociology of Japan

Sho Konishi (PhD Chicago)  
University Lecturer in Modern Japanese History

James Lewis (MA, PhD Hawaii)  
University Lecturer in Korean History  
(pre-modern Japanese diplomatic and economic history)

Ian Neary (BA Sheffield, DPhil Sussex)  
Professor of the Politics of Japan

Kaori Nishizawa (BA Tsukuba)  
Instructor in Japanese

Clare Pollard (MA Cambridge, DPhil Oxford)  
Assistant Keeper Ashmolean Museum  
(Japanese ceramics)

Mark Rebick (MA Toronto, PhD Harvard)  
University Lecturer in the Economy of Japan

Kerri L Russell (MA, PhD Hawaii)  
Postdoctoral Researcher in Japanese Linguistics

Mari Sako (MSc, PhD London)  
Professor of Management Studies  
(Japanese management and labour)

Izumi Tytler (MA London)  
Bodleian Japanese Librarian  
(Bodleian Japanese Library)

M Antoni J Üçerler (DPhil Oxford)  
Research Scholar  
(Japanese-Western contacts  
in the 16th and 17th centuries)

# courses



James McMullen

## Japanese Studies at Oxford: 40 years

by James McMullen

There are semi-mythological beginnings in the early years of the last century, with the tenure of a fellowship in Japanese by James Gubbins at Balliol. The story begins in earnest, however, in the early 1960s. Japanese was introduced into the curriculum of Oriental Studies in 1962, initially in the form of subsidiary options for the BA in Chinese. In 1964, it became a full honours course. It was then, as still now, examination driven. The final exam comprised papers in compulsory texts, special texts, and special subjects. In addition there were translation and essay papers, aimed at testing knowledge of the language and of Japanese history and culture.

The aim of the course was to impart a good basic knowledge of the spoken and written Japanese language, literary and non-literary; general knowledge of Japanese history and culture from earliest times to the present; and a specialist knowledge of one period of history or literature. The course lasted three years, and there was one lecturer and a 'lector' (native instructor), aided on the modern history side by the director of the Far East Centre of St Antony's College.

Nearly half a century on, more than 300 have graduated with the BA Honours in Oriental Studies (Japanese). While retaining its basic structure, the programme has burgeoned. There have been several significant landmarks. In 1972, a second lecturer in the Faculty of Oriental Studies was appointed. In 1980, the Nissan Motor Corporation founded the Nissan Institute of Modern Japanese Studies, a university institute housed within St Antony's College. In addition to refurbishing a building, this benefaction endowed a chair and two lecturerships, in modern history and the social sciences of Japan. With this, the teaching, and with it the intellectual horizons, available to students on the BA course within the Oriental Faculty expanded dramatically. Eventually, after a second benefaction from the Company in 1990, two more posts in the social sciences

of modern Japan studies were added and the present fine purpose-built centre was erected, greatly enhancing the presence of Japanese Studies in the University. The teaching staff in the Faculty of Oriental Studies also expanded to include lecturers in pre-modern and modern literature and linguistics and two more instructors in the Japanese language. Tutorial Fellowships in Japanese were set up in Keble, Pembroke, Queen's and Hertford. Additional teaching in the history of Japanese art has been provided by the Ashmolean Museum.

The number of undergraduates on course rose in the 1980s. It has now attained a plateau of about 10–15 admitted each year. From 1984, the course was lengthened to four years. For ten years from that time, the first year was spent at the University of Sheffield, which had developed a particular strength in basic language instruction. This arrangement, believed to have been a unique instance of such inter-university cooperation, was popular with undergraduates, who valued the diversity of academic and social experience it afforded. However, when Sheffield went 'modular' in 1994, the programme was abandoned for practical reasons. The four-year course, however, was retained. Now added was a study tour to a Japanese university in the third term of the first year (first Osaka

University of Foreign Studies, then Kwansai Gakuin Daigaku). In addition, undergraduates are offered the opportunity to take a 'year out' between their third and fourth years, to study or work or teach in Japan, an arrangement that required special university legislation so as not to prejudice their standing for honours. This programme has received generous support from such funding bodies as the Japanese Ministry of Education, the Yamamuro and Trevelyan Foundations for scholarships at Osaka University of Foreign Studies, Hiroshima, Kanazawa, Ochanomizu, Waseda, Dōshisha and Keiō Universities. Companies such as Price Waterhouse Coopers and Linklaters have been generous in funding year-long internships.

On the examination front, a compulsory dissertation and an oral examination, both the first in the faculty, have been introduced. The former, in particular, has elicited some outstanding work, even providing the basis for subsequent graduate research. The Oxford course remains highly flexible. Classical, literary, theatrical and historical studies have been scarcely less popular than modern social sciences. Japanese may now also be combined with serious study of Chinese, Korean or Tibetan. The objectives of the course remain broadly humanistic: to provide a sound basis on which graduates are equipped to build critically on their facility with the language and knowledge of Japan's history, culture, and present circumstances in the world. Attention is paid also to the East Asian background to Japan's historical experience. Care is taken to attend to individual student's needs and ambitions. The high participation in the special Japanese Studies Graduates alumnus society, the Kongyū Kai (Dark Blue Ox Society) suggests that the results have generally been perceived as satisfactory.

## Student Research

All Oxford degrees in Japanese include a dissertation, from the maximum 15,000 word dissertation in the undergraduate course to the doctoral dissertation. Some of our students present their ongoing work here.

### Silvia Croydon (DPhil in Oriental Studies, Merton College)

Prisoners' Rights in Japan

My doctoral research aims to determine the factors that have hampered Japan in the post-war era from revising the criminal justice policies it formulated during the Meiji period. In particular, my focus is the retention of the controversial substitute prison system (*daiyō kangoku*), established through the 1908 Prison Law, whereby criminal suspects are detained continuously under the authority of the police, as opposed to that of the Ministry of Justice.

### Paul Rollason (DPhil in Oriental Studies, Queen's College)

Representations of the Apocalypse in post-war Japan

Following my MSt in Japanese Studies (Modern Literature) I was inspired to continue onto a DPhil to further my studies. I am examining the motif of 'apocalypse' in post-war Japanese literature and visual culture, drawing on a broad range of sources from pure and popular literature to manga, anime and cinema. The cultural significance of World War II and the atom bomb is an area of particular interest to me.



Junko Hagiwara

Did Japan's experience of nuclear apocalypse trigger a gradual decline of serious literature and a flourishing of new modes of representation or is this perceived trend merely reflective of long-held concerns about the impact of modernisation? Using 'apocalypse' as a metaphor for the destruction of traditional culture and the revelation of new conditions of expression, I intend to gain insight into the ways in which apocalyptic themes are indicative of wider concerns about Japanese cultural identity.

### **Philip Garrett (MSt in Japanese Studies (pre-modern history), Wadham College)**

Local Anarchy: The role of the provincial military elite in the rebellions of the 10th century

I am currently researching the role of the tenth century provincial elite in the rebellions which periodically gripped the countryside and perplexed the central bureaucracy. The uprisings, most dramatically the simultaneous revolts by Taira no Masakado in the Kanto and Fujiwara no Sumitomo in the Inland Sea area, marked a new approach to policing and warfare by the central government, a dependence upon the emergent provincial worthies and their military resources, which was to characterise the rest of the Heian era and the eventual emergence of warrior rule.

The provincial situation is relatively well-documented for its time, and I am examining a range of sources both literary, such as the contemporary account of Masakado's rebellion, and ancestor of the later *gunkimono* (war tales) genre, *Shōmonki*, and documentary, such as the *Heichō Seiki* and *Fusō Ryakki* which reflect the central perspective on the uprisings and provide a point of reference with which to verify the more literary depictions.

### **Ian Rapley (MPhil in Modern Japanese Studies, Queen's College)**

Internationalism in early 20th century Japan

I am studying Deguchi Onisaburo's journey to Mongolia in 1924. Undertaken whilst the movements of the leader of Ōmoto were restricted following official suppression of the religion, I think that the expedition and its subsequent representations provide an interesting perspective on the nature of Japanese popular (inter-) nationalism and conceptions of both Japan itself and its position in the world, on a non-state level.

### **Marion Cossin (BA in Japanese, Hertford College)**

Japanese electronics multinationals in East Asia, FDI and regional production networks

As an intern at the Matsushita Institute of Government and Management during my year-out, I was able to interview managers and employees at Matsushita Electric Ltd (Panasonic) which led me to develop a case study of the Panasonic Corporation for my dissertation. I chose to concentrate in particular on the overseas investments of Panasonic in East Asia and, based on this case study, developed my general dissertation topic.

### **Timothy Robinson (BA in Japanese, Wadham College)**

Portrayals of Male Sexuality in the Literature of Ihara Saikaku

My dissertation looks at constructions of masculinity and male same-sex relationships in popular *Genroku* prose works, as a mirror of attitudes in Tokugawa Japan, in traditional literary circles and among the rising merchant classes. I examine how Saikaku framed cultural tensions arising from conflicts between desire, honour, and class expectations, and how Saikaku's works were received and interpreted by succeeding generations.

## **The Japanese Language Programme at Oxford**

by Junko Hagiwara

The undergraduate Japanese degree is four years plus an optional year in Japan between the third and fourth years. There are three full-time and two part-time instructors in Japanese. The total number of undergraduate students studying Japanese at any given time is about 65. In the first year, students are required to take an intensive Japanese language course for two terms. The Japanese course consists of five language modules; Exercises (where the main focus is on grammar), Reading, Writing, Applied skills (speaking and listening), and Kanji and Vocabulary.

In the third term of the first year, all students go to Kwansai Gakuin University in Kobe for four months, improving their practical language skills and cultural understanding both by studying at the university and through living with a Japanese host family.

For many of our students this is their first visit to Japan. In the second year, students start Unseen Translation (from Japanese to English without the use of a dictionary), in addition to the language modules listed above. The focus in the second year is more on reading texts than on applying basic grammar. Students are encouraged to read Japanese on their own, and study set texts in small tutorial groups. Second year students also study Classical Japanese. At the end of the second year is the 'first public examination' which the students must pass in order to continue on the second half of the course.

The third year language programme is similar to that of the second year. In addition, tutorials cover specific texts on selected topics. At the end of the third year, students are given the option of a full year abroad in Japan, either studying at a university or on a work placement. Although not compulsory, most students choose to spend the year in Japan. In the final year, the language programme uses newspapers, magazines, internet, etc.; by the end of the year students have been taught the 1,945 Jōyō Kanji and attained fluency equivalent to the Japanese Proficiency Test Level 1.

An intensive core Japanese language course is also offered as part of the MSc/MPhil in Modern Japanese Studies programme, which started in October 2007. Currently the course offers three levels: intermediate, upper-intermediate and advanced. This year, the total number of enrolled students is 15, with two auditing doctoral students.

The broad aim is for students to gain knowledge and develop language skills and strategies for academic purposes. Materials include what university students in Japan would be exposed to in their academic life. The syllabus is organised around topics, which are related to students' interests and research topics, so as to provide resources beyond language learning. Students are encouraged to engage in information gathering by themselves, and to communicate their thoughts, through various activities. A 'mini-conference', in which students present their dissertation topics in Japanese, is conducted at the conclusion of the course, as the pledge of students' achievement. Last academic year, on-line video conference sessions were conducted with Keio University in Japan.

### **Taught graduate Courses in Japanese Studies**

**MSt in Japanese Japanese Studies**  
Faculty of Oriental Studies  
[www.orinst.ox.ac.uk/html/ea/japanese/japanese\\_mst.html](http://www.orinst.ox.ac.uk/html/ea/japanese/japanese_mst.html)

**MSc/MPhil in Modern Japanese Studies**  
School of Interdisciplinary Area Studies  
[www.nissan.ox.ac.uk/prospective\\_students](http://www.nissan.ox.ac.uk/prospective_students)





Bjarke Frellesvig



Arthur Stockwin

## Major AHRC research grant for Japanese Linguistics in Oxford

The University of Oxford received a large grant from the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) in 2008 to set up a research group investigating the basic syntax of the Japanese language from the first written sources in the 8th century (Nara period) until around 1600 (the beginning of the Edo period).

The project is based in the Faculty of Oriental Studies, and it received a total of £993,414 – the largest of the AHRC's awards in 2008.

The project is directed by Bjarke Frellesvig, Oxford's Professor of Japanese Linguistics, and includes his former student Dr Janick Wrona, Professor Mary Dalrymple (Linguistics, Oxford) and Professor Peter Sells from the Department of Linguistics at the School of Oriental and African Studies, London. Two postdoctoral researchers have been appointed to work full time on the project: Kerri L Russell, who obtained her PhD from the University of Hawaii, joined us in January 2009 and Stephen Wright Horn (Ohio State University PhD) will come to Oxford in April 2009 from his current post at Shizuoka University.

In addition, the project brings together a number of prominent scholars, forming the largest group of people currently working on pre-modern Japanese language, including Professor Satoshi Kinsui from Osaka University, emeritus Professor S-Y Kuroda (UC San Diego), Professor Masayoshi Shibatani (Rice University, Texas, and Kobe University), Associate Professor Akira Watanabe (University of Tokyo), Professor Yuko Yanagida (Tsukuba University), and Professor John Whitman (Cornell University).

The first phase of the project will involve building a large corpus of pre-modern Japanese texts, from the *Man'yōshū* (the 8th century poetry anthology) to the *Esopo no monogatari* (a 16th century translation into the contemporary Japanese of *Aesop's Fables*), in a form suitable for linguistic analysis.

The project will run for nearly five years from January 2009 until September 2013 and its results are expected to have an impact on the understanding of Japanese grammar and its changes through time, as well as historical linguistics and syntax and semantics in general. The project will also admit doctoral students wishing to work on pre-modern Japanese language, providing an excellent opportunity to study and do research within an active research environment. The grant funding the project includes a full doctoral studentship which provides both tuition fees and maintenance.

Professor Frellesvig said: *Japanese is interesting to linguists because it is structurally quite different from many other major languages in the world. It has a well attested history going back to the beginning of the 8th century which makes it ideal for historical linguistics – and it also has one of the world's richest pre-modern literatures.*

*It is gratifying to see such a large research investment in one of the core areas – arguably the most basic part of Japanese Studies – namely the study of the Japanese language, at a time when funding for Japanese Studies in Europe is generally being reduced.*

*Because of the amount of material and the time-depth, a project such as this is far too big for individual researchers. This grant provides an unprecedented opportunity for collaborative, detailed work on core aspects of pre-modern Japanese language, enabling us to set up a large research group of both Japanese and foreign scholars.*

<http://vsarpj.orinst.ox.ac.uk>

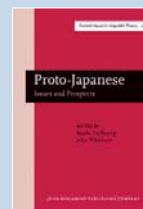
## Staff News

The founding Director of the Nissan Institute for Japanese studies, Arthur Stockwin, was recognised with an OBE in the New Years Honours list announced on 31 December 2008, for services to academic excellence and the promotion of UK–Japanese understanding.

At the start of November 2008 Ian Neary taught a three-day course on 'politics and policymaking in Japan' in Brussels to a group of 20 members of the European commission and was subsequently invited to repeat the course in April 2009, and again in the second half of the year.

Roger Goodman, the Nissan Professor of Modern Japanese Studies, was appointed Head of the Social Science Division from April 2008.

## New Books Published in 2008



Bjarke Frellesvig and John Whitman (Eds). *Proto-Japanese: Issues and prospects.* Amsterdam: John Benjamins.



Bjarke Frellesvig, J C Smith and Masayoshi Shibatani (Eds). *Current issues in the history and structure of Japanese.* Tokyo: Kurosio Publishers.

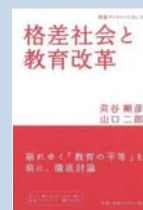


Roger Goodman and Sarah Harper (Eds). *Ageing in Asia.* London and New York: Routledge.

Takehiko Kariya. *Kyōiku Saisei no Meisō.* Tokyo: Chikuma Shobō.



Takehiko Kariya. *Gakuryoku to Kaisō.* Tokyo: Asahi Shinbun Shuppan.



Takehiko Kariya and Jirō Yamaguchi. *Kakusa Shakai to Kyōiku Kaikaku.* Tokyo: Iwanami Shoten.



Takehiko Kariya et al. *Suginamikuritu Wadachu no Gakkō Kaikaku.* Tokyo: Iwanami Shoten.

# events



Akira Iriye



Richard Samuels

## 2008 Kobayashi Takiji Memorial Symposium at Oxford University

### The World Through Takiji's Eyes: Bodies, Regions and Industry

The 2008 Kobayashi Takiji Memorial Symposium at Oxford University was held at Keble College 16–18 September 2008. The symposium was organised by Dr Linda Flores (Faculty of Oriental Studies, University of Oxford), Professor Teru Shimamura (Joshibi University of Art and Design) and Dr Heather Bowen-Struyk (Visiting Professor, Michigan University) and was jointly sponsored by the Shirakaba Literary Museum/Takiji Library and the Otaru University of Commerce.

Scholars from Europe, Japan, Korea, China, Australia, the US and Canada gathered to commemorate the life and works of Japanese proletarian writer Kobayashi Takiji (1903–1933). Nearly 80 years after its original publication, Kobayashi Takiji's opus magnum *Kani Kōsen* has experienced a literary boom in Japan, with nearly half a million copies sold in 2008 alone. The 'Takiji Boom' in Japan has sparked further interest in both the works of Kobayashi Takiji himself and in proletarian literature in general, as critics ponder why proletarian literature is finding a new audience in the world today. Under the banner *'Kobayashi Takiji no shiten kara mitashintai, chiiki, zangyō'* (The world through Takiji's eyes: Bodies, regions and industry), scholars explored topics such as Takiji's perspective on gender and women's roles; embodiment and torture; regionalism and colonialism; modernism and popular literature; Korean proletarian literature; and teaching about Takiji. The event was well attended, and received media coverage in Japan courtesy of Fuji Television, who filmed the first day of the symposium.



Professor Vera Mackie, University of Melbourne, author of *Feminism in Modern Japan: Citizenship, Embodiment and Sexuality and Creating Socialist Women in Japan: Gender, Labor and Activism, 1900–1937*, was the keynote speaker for the event. The title of her speech was 'Sex, Work and Text in Imperial Japan: Strategies of Reading'.

Professor Komori Yōichi of Tokyo University participated on the panel on 'Regionalism and Colonialism'. Professor Komori is well known as a literary critic and social activist and for his work on Natsume Sōseki.



## 'Transnational Moments': 2008 Oxford Astor Lecture by Professor Akira Iriye

The Nissan Institute and the Faculty of History co-hosted Professor Akira Iriye, Charles Warren Research Professor Emeritus of History, Harvard University, throughout his stay at Oxford as the Astor Lecturer in November 2008. The Astor Lectureship annually invites to Oxford a distinguished scholar in the Humanities and Social Sciences working in the United States for intellectual exchange. Professor Iriye is known for his pioneering work on the international history of American–East Asian relations and his 1981 book *Power and Culture: The Japanese–American War, 1941–1945* received the Pulitzer Prize in History. Professor Iriye was President of the American Historical Association and of the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations, and he has served as chair of the departments of history at both the University of Chicago and Harvard University.

During his stay, Professor Iriye met with Oxford historians and other scholars of different disciplines and regions in 13 seminars, project discussions, workshops, meetings, and meals organised throughout the university and involving eight colleges, institutes and faculties, incorporating Chinese, Japanese, American and European studies. He gave three formal presentations: a global history seminar at the History Faculty, an American history seminar at the Rothermere Institute of American Studies, and the final event, the 2008 Astor Lecture, 'Transnational Moments', held in the Nissan Lecture Theatre.

### Nissan Institute seminar

The Nissan Institute seminar in Japanese studies is the main regular seminar series in Oxford on Japan. This year our series started with a presentation by Richard Samuels (MIT) on Japan's current national security strategy. The following week Kweku Ampiah (Leeds) considered the impact of the Bandung conference on the development of an independent line within Japan's relationship with the USA. Omi Hatashin currently based in the Institute of European and Comparative Law, discussed Japanese models of corporate decision making. Marie Suetsugu, a British Academy Post Doctoral Fellow based in Aberystwyth, presented her work on Japan's development aid in Kenya and her new project on aspects of the work of Murakami Haruki. Andrew Cobbing (Nottingham) presented a paper focused on the important regional centre of Hakata in Kyushu. Japan's successes

and failures in the fields of education and care for the elderly have attracted great attention as it is the first advanced industrial country to experience population decline. Our final two papers of the term given by Junko Yamashita (Bristol) and Peter Cave (Manchester) dealt with the impact of recent policy changes on long term health care and the changing role of junior high schools. The Nissan Institute Seminar is open to all. For information about scheduled papers, contact the Nissan Institute: secretary@nissan.ox.ac.uk.

### East Asian Linguistics Seminar

The East Asian Linguistics Seminar is held weekly during Hilary Term (January to March) in the Faculty of Oriental Studies. Also in 2008 the seminar included a number of talks on diverse issues within Japanese linguistics, including Mika Kizu (SOAS) talking on the acquisition of demonstratives and sentence-final particles in Japanese as a second language, Anton Antonov (Paris) on Japanese and 'Altaic', and Hideki Kishimoto (Kobe) on oblique subjects in Japanese.

## Forthcoming events in 2009

18–22 February 2009 *Kanbun workshop*; an intensive course in reading 'kanbun' in Japanese, taught by Professor Susumu Yamabe and Professor Senjuro Machi from Nishōgakusha Daigaku (Tokyo), will be hosted by the Faculty of Oriental Studies.

6–7 July 2009 *Machines that Changed Their Worlds: The Social History of the Sewing Machine and the Bicycle in Britain and Japan*, a workshop organised by Ann Waswo (Oxford) and Andrew Gordon (Harvard), co-hosted by the History Faculty, University of Oxford, and the Nissan Institute. Contact Ann Waswo (ann.waswo@nissan.ox.ac.uk) for further information.

December 2009 *Lecture series* to mark the 150th anniversary of Anglo–Japanese relations, organised by the Faculty of Oriental Studies and the Nissan Institute.

December 2009 *Classical and Contemporary Noh Theatre*. Two performances of Noh plays (*Kiyotsune* and *Pagoda*) and a workshop, organised with the cooperation of the Nissan Institute and the Pitt Rivers Museum. For further information, contact Brian Powell (b\_w\_f\_powell@hotmail.com).

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# JAPANESE STUDIES AT OXFORD

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## The Kongyūkai 紺牛会

Former students can keep in touch with each other and their teachers through Kongyūkai (dark-blue ox society) which is the name of two internet groups open to all those who have studied or taught for Japanese studies at Oxford University at any time over the past 45 years. New members can join at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/kongyukai/> or through Facebook (Groups; Kongyukai).

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