

オックスフォード
日本研究

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JAPANESE STUDIES AT OXFORD



Welcome

to the latest issue of the Oxford University Japanese Studies Newsletter

オックスフォード日本研究ニュースレター

The NHK started to broadcast “Downton Abbey” in early May, only days after the Japanese prime minister visited London. Among other things Prime Minister Abe attended a meeting of 14 heads of Japanese universities with their 16 equivalents from the United Kingdom. Oxford’s vice chancellor was, of course, there and he encouraged his colleagues to engage positively with increased collaboration at all levels, but particularly in the scientific fields. In the evening there was a grand dinner in Guildhall attended by around 400 guests, Japanese and British, with at least half the British contingent representing all levels of Japanese studies in the country. Following a somewhat rambling speech, Abe took questions. One, whom I suppose was a businessman, asked what Japan is doing to improve levels of English education in Japan because the difficulty of Japanese language hinders international business. Abe’s response was that his government would do everything they could to increase the numbers of Japanese studying abroad. But this question seems problematic to me. What would we think if a local businessman asked that question of David Cameron in Tokyo, or Beijing? Japanese studies at Oxford is committed to the view that Japanese is in principle no more difficult than any other language and that it is crucially important that more people understand Japanese better. It does not bode well for Japanese perceptions of England in the twenty-first century that NHK viewers will be watching “Downton Abbey” but this cannot be helped. We can do more, however, to promote an accurate and language-informed view of Japan. And we will.

Ian Neary

Faculty teaching about Japan and doing research on Japan in the University of Oxford

Inge Daniels (BA Leuven, MA Nara, PhD UCL)

Associate Professor in Social Anthropology

Linda Flores (MA Washington, PhD UCLA)

Associate Professor in Japanese (Modern Japanese literature)

Bjarke Frellesvig (MA, PhD Copenhagen)

Professor of Japanese Linguistics and Director of the University’s Research Centre for Japanese Language and Linguistics

Roger Goodman (BA Durham, DPhil Oxford)

Nissan Professor of Modern Japanese Studies and Head of Social Sciences Division

Philip Grover

Assistant Curator, Photograph and Manuscript Collections, Pitt Rivers Museum

Jennifer Guest (MA Waseda, MA/PhD Columbia)

Associate Professor in Japanese (Classical Japanese literature)

Junko Hagiwara (MA Ealing College of Higher Education)

Senior Instructor in Japanese

Ekaterina Hertog (MA Moscow, MSc, DPhil Oxford)

Career Development Fellow in the Sociology of Japan and Chair of the Examination Board for the MSc and MPhil in Modern Japanese Studies

Stephen Wright Horn (MA Osaka, PhD Ohio State University)

Departmental Lecturer in Japanese Linguistics

Hiroe Kaji (MA Ulster, MA Brookes University)

Instructor in Japanese Language

Takehiko Kariya (BA MA Tokyo, PhD Northwestern)

Professor in the Sociology of Japan and Director of Graduate Studies for the MSc and MPhil in Modern Japanese Studies

Sho Konishi (PhD Chicago)

Associate Professor in Modern Japanese History and Director of Nissan Institute for Japanese Studies

James Lewis (MA, PhD Hawaii)

Associate Professor in Korean History
(Japanese diplomatic and economic history of the pre-modern period, Japanese-Korean relations)

Hiroaki Matsuura (BA Keio, MA Chicago, MSc Northwestern, ScD Harvard)

Departmental lecturer in the Economy of Japan

Ian Neary (BA Sheffield, DPhil Sussex)

Professor in the Politics of Japan and Head of the School for Interdisciplinary Area Studies

Paul Newman (MEng Oxford, PhD Sydney)

BP Professor of Information Engineering

Kaori Nishizawa (BA Tsukuba)

Instructor in Japanese Language

Clare Pollard (MA Cambridge, DPhil Oxford)

Curator of Japanese Art at the Ashmolean Museum (Japanese ceramics)

Ian Rapley (MPhil, DPhil Oxford)

Postdoctoral Teaching Associate in Japanese History

Kerri L. Russell (MA, PhD Hawaii)

Research Officer, Oxford Corpus of Old Japanese

Mari Sako (MSc, PhD London)

Professor in Management Studies (Saïd Business School; Japanese management and labour)

Tuukka Toivonen (MSc, DPhil Oxford)

Postdoctoral Research Officer in the Study of Contemporary Japan

Izumi Tytler (MA London)

Bodleian Japanese Librarian (Bodleian Japanese Library)

M. Antoni J. Üçerler (DPhil Oxford)

Research Scholar (Campion Hall; Japanese-Western contacts in the 16th and 17th centuries)

Pamela Wace (MSc Reading, DPhil Oxford)

Research Associate (The Pitt Rivers Museum; Japanese Archaeology)

Hugh Whittaker (PhD Imperial College London)

Professor in the Economics of Japan

Student research

All degrees in Japanese at Oxford, including the B.A. include the writing of a substantial piece of research, from the undergraduate 15,000 word dissertation to the doctoral dissertation. Here we present some examples of the research done by our students.

Thomas Jo Johansen

DPhil in Oriental Studies,
Hertford College

Thomas is doing research on the language of *Esopo no fabulas*, a late 16th century Japanese translation of Aesop's Fables. Focusing mainly on aspects of the language which were in a state of transition in the time leading up to the period of modern Japanese, he seeks to get a better understanding of the grammar by constructing an annotated electronic corpus of the text based on the same principles as the Oxford Corpus of Old Japanese (OCOJ). The corpus will upon completion become a valuable tool for accessing and representing the language of the text, which constitutes one of the most important sources of the language of 16th century Japan.

Caitlin Meagher

DPhil in Social and Cultural Anthropology,
New College

Caitlin's research concerns Japanese sharehouses, corporate-owned properties where (mostly younger) Japanese live in private bedrooms with shared kitchen and bathing facilities. These are of interest because, while they remain relatively few in number in Japan, the rate at which they have increased over the past decade is extraordinary. They have captured significant media attention as well: in 2013 alone, three major sharehouse-themed television programs debuted to spectacular ratings on major broadcasting networks.

The cache of foreignness and a belief in the transformative power of foreign exchange continue to pique the interest and imagination of many young people. But in terms of material practices within this experimental space, more traditional Japanese domestic norms often are re-inscribed through practices like the assiduous avoidance of conjugal intimacy

in the home, and demarcations of different realms of the house as comparatively "public" and "private" through the use or prohibition of personal objects, for example. The sharehouse, which remains an experimental and unstable site, is an ideal laboratory to observe the way "cultural values" concerning family and the home are being adapted, renegotiated, and reproduced by young people in a changing Japan.

Helen O'Horan

BA in Oriental Studies (Japanese),
Wadham College

Who protects the innocent from miscarriages of justice? With a notoriously near-perfect conviction rate, it seems that prosecutors face little resistance when pursuing guilty verdicts in Japan. Accordingly, arbitrary evidence collection can pervade the investigation process once the decision to indict a suspect has been made. The press continually reports of innocent citizens having served decades as convicted criminals, facing cases supported by forced confessions and fabricated evidence.

In her paper, Helen examines the structure and behaviour of the Japanese legal bureaucracy, and through consideration of institutional objectives she seeks to clarify the reasons for which the same channels of judicial administration systematically continue to allow for such false convictions. The paper considers what motivates public prosecutors to seek case clearance so relentlessly, how the judiciary supports this process, and the nature of the investigation process noting, in particular, the pivotal importance granted to confessional evidence in Japanese courts. In light of recent case studies, the paper concludes by assessing prospects for reform of the justice system.

Olga Puzanova

MPhil in Modern Japanese Studies,
St. Antony's College

Olga's dissertation offers a study of the Orthodox theology school for women in the Meiji period of Japan, providing an overview of their activities within the framework of the missionary work; analyses their interaction with the main figures of the time, such as the missionary Archbishop Nikolai; and deduces that being able to contribute to the spread of Orthodoxy meant extraordinary freedom for the girls in this pivotal historical period. Positing women in the centre of the project challenges the existing historiography, where the Christian religion of Japan is viewed within the bifurcated epistemological paradigm of the East-West divide. It is due to its extensive use of primary sources, such as the Diaries of Archbishop Nikolai and the monthly journal of the Tokyo women's seminary Uranishiki that this study will be able to fill in the gaps in the current body of research on various levels.

Imogen Pullan

BA in Oriental Studies (Japanese),
Pembroke College

Imogen is researching the ways in which the student protest cycle of the 1960s reflected the changing relationship between state and society in Japan. Centred around two key events - the Anpo protest outside the Diet on 15th June 1960 and the First Haneda Incident of 8th October 1967 - she hopes to demonstrate the importance the student demonstrations played in forming state boundaries. She also looks at how security concerns and the US-Japan relationship during this period played a highly influential role in determining the limits of protest.

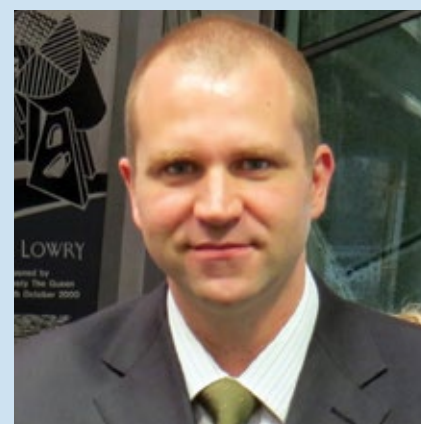
New member of staff

Ian Rapley

(Postdoctoral Teaching Associate)

I have just completed a DPhil at Oxford, and am now starting work as a lecturer in history at Cardiff University. Prior to that I was a student on the Nissan Institute's MPhil in Modern Japanese Studies programme. My doctoral work was a history of the planned language Esperanto in early twentieth century Japan; and my wider research interests include language and history, transnational movements especially across Asia, local histories, and alternative narratives of twentieth century Japan.

I taught the Modern Japanese History course at the Nissan Institute in Hilary Term.



Academic visitors

Professor John Maher (ICU, Tokyo, Japan)

Oxford throws a mantle of memories over me. It connects me with my English student past. The smell of books in the old library, stone walls around St Antony's, the sound of voices along wooden corridors. I look out onto the quad. A student is sitting reading against the sundial. Here she will ignore time for just a few moments. Perhaps I did so too.

I left London in 1979 with degrees in philosophy and education and arrived in a small town in Shimane, on the Japan Sea coast, where I taught in the medical faculty. I taught English to undergraduates, French to toxicologists and Latin in an Anatomy class: whilst I learned Izumo dialect. The experience of multilingualism in medicine in Japan provided a Ph.D. topic which I completed in Michigan and Edinburgh. I continued with 'multilingualism' knowing the good of giving attention to one thing, over time. My 'Multilingualism' in the Very Short Introduction series is due for publication by Oxford University Press.

Work was done. At St Antony's I completed three papers on the Ainu language renaissance comparing the current regenerations in likewise endangered/recovered Celtic languages (Cornish and Manx). I also completed a book on the everyday life of place-names. I came to see place names as a linguistic DNA. Telling the story of human desire, war, migration, revolution, social change. I dug up Japanese place names in the Americas, revisited the issue of colonial Japanese place names and their swift postwar removal (toponymic cleansing) in Korea and Taiwan. As always the peace and quiet of the Nissan Institute helped me focus, think and write. Its quiet collegiality and repeated capacity to platform inspiration in the Nissan Seminars was enormously encouraging. Oxford, St Antony's, and the Nissan live and breathe in my work and thinking.

Professor Wilhelm M. Vosse (ICU, Tokyo, Japan)

I am a professor of politics and international relations at the International Christian University (ICU) in Tokyo, where I teach courses on Japanese politics and Japan's international relations, as well as comparative politics and peace and security studies. I came to the Nissan Institute in September 2013 to conduct the fieldwork for a research project on EU-Japan relations at a time Japan when is trying to diversify its security cooperation. One of my case studies is the counter-piracy mission off the coast of Somalia and the mission ATALANTA, where Japanese MSDF, European, and other naval forces have been closely working together since 2009. Because St. Antony's College is home to many regional studies institutes, I had many opportunities to discuss my research with experts on Japan, the EU, Asia, or China, as well as security studies experts at this and other colleges. I frequently went to London and other places in the UK and Europe to interview government officials and diplomats from Japan or EU member states, as well as military personnel at the NATO headquarters to study the current state and future trajectory of EU-Japan and NATO-Japan government and diplomatic and military cooperation. The University of Oxford is an ideal place to conduct research on Japan's foreign relations.

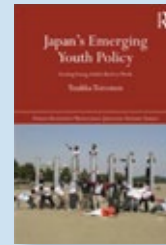
Takehiko Maruyama (National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics)

I will be affiliated with the Research Centre for Japanese Language and Linguistics from April 2014 through April 2015. My research interests include Japanese corpus linguistics, especially disfluent phenomena in spontaneous speech. I designed a syntactic unit of spoken Japanese called the Clause-Unit, and annotated this unit to the Corpus of Spontaneous Japanese (CSJ) released in 2004. I was in charge of corpus design and sampling in compiling the Balanced Corpus of Contemporary Written Japanese (BCCWJ), which was released in 2011 and includes 100 million words randomly extracted from various types of Japanese texts.

New books



Sho Konishi
Anarchist Modernity: Cooperatism and Japanese-Russian Intellectual Relations in Modern Japan, Cambridge, Harvard University Press, 2013.



Tuukka Toivonen
Japan's Emerging Youth Policy: Getting Young Adults Back to Work, Abingdon, Routledge, 2013.



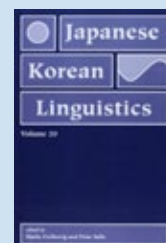
J.A.A. Stockwin
The Writings of J.A.A. Stockwin: Japanese Foreign Policy and Understanding Japanese Politics. Leiden: Brill, (2 vols.) 2012.



Takehiko Kariya
Kyoiku no Seiki (The Century of Education), paperback edition published by Chikuma Shobo, 2014.
This is a paperback edition of the same titled book published in 2004 with a new supplementary chapter.



Wilhelm Vosse, Reinhard Drifte, and Verena Blechinger-Talcott, eds.
Governing Insecurity in Japan: The Domestic Discourse and Policy Response, London and New York, Routledge (Sheffield Centre for Japanese Studies Series), 2014.



Bjarke Frellesvig and Peter Sells eds.
Japanese/Korean Linguistics, vol. 20. Chicago, University of Chicago Press, 2013.

events

Oxford Japan 400

Oxford Japan 400, organised by the Bodleian Japanese Librarian, Izumi Tytler, was an Oxford contribution to the UK-Japan 400. This is a series of events in the UK aimed at enriching dialogue and understanding between Japan and Britain and creating a positive legacy for their future relationship, based on the openness and mutuality that began four centuries ago. The star of the Oxford event was the *Shuinjo*, the original agreement issued by Shogun Ieyasu Tokugawa to the Captain of the East India Company, which for the first time allowed the UK to trade with Japan and permitted British citizens to reside in Japan. The *Shuinjo* was held by the Bodleian by 1680 but had been overlooked for years, and was re-discovered by Izumi Tytler and Prof Nozomu Hayashi on a study visit from Toyoko Gakuen Women's College in 1985.

Oxford Japan 400 was held on 2 October, which is the date on which the original document was issued. There was a special display of the *Shuinjo* in the Proscholium, Old (Bodleian) Library; a small symposium in the Convocation House; and a reception for all at the Divinity School, followed by a dinner for invited guests and speakers at Balliol College.

The talks included opening speeches by Richard Ovenden, then Interim Bodley's Librarian, and



Mr Akio Miyajima, Minister Plenipotentiary from the Japanese Embassy, followed by Prof Timon Screech (SOAS), Prof Derek Masarella (Chuo University), and Dr Gordon Daniels (formerly Sheffield University), discussing the significance of the *Shuinjo* and other aspects of Anglo-Japan relationships over the last 400 years. It was chaired by Dr Sho Konishi of the Nissan Institute.

The event attracted a good crowd of both academics and members of the general public; the Convocation Room was full to its 200-person capacity, with over 30 disappointed individuals on the waiting list. The audience appeared well pleased with such an erudite and informative set of talks that put the document into its fascinating historical context, and expressed their appreciation accordingly.

In Japan, where the 400th anniversary is also being celebrated, the Bodleian's *Shuinjo* has been receiving a lot of attention. Fuji TV came to the Bodleian Japan Library to film the *Shuinjo*

for their news bulletin, and two municipalities – City of Hirado (where the English Factory was built from 1613 to 1623) and Prefecture of Shizuoka (where Shogun Ieyasu retired and was visited by the English East India Company people) – have produced a replica using a high-quality scanned image supplied by us. One of the replicas produced in Shizuoka was donated to the British Embassy in Tokyo on 18 November. The arrangement was assisted by the Oxford University Tokyo Office.

The Oxford event was supported both financially and in other ways by Mitsubishi Corporation International (Europe), for which we are extremely grateful. We are also very grateful to all who helped in many ways with arrangements and not least to the speakers who participated so enthusiastically.

Above: 400th anniversary of Japan-British Relations

Noh Workshop

On Thursday 21 November 2013 the Nissan Institute hosted a noh workshop attended by about seventy people. Extending over four hours from 2.30 to 6.30 the workshop was organised by Professor Yamanaka Reiko of the Hōsei University Noh Theatre Research Institute and combined academic, practical, and comparative approaches to *noh*. The programme was divided into four segments: lecture; demonstration of *noh* movement and costuming (in which participants were invited to take part); short performances by *noh* actors and British contemporary dancers; and a panel discussion.

Professor Yamanaka gave the opening lecture, which she entitled 'Expressive Style in *Noh*: Monologue, Memory and Movement'. Using slides, video clips and animated diagrams, she introduced *noh* as a theatre genre and explored how memory charged the expressive modes in selected *noh* plays. This lecture was followed by a demonstration of *noh* movement by Mr. Umano Masaki, a professional noh actor, with

Professor Yamanaka providing comment and information. Mr Umano and Mr Yamanaka Gashō then presented some *noh* costumes and masks, adding comments on salient points, with Professor Michael Watson of Meiji Gakuin University interpreting and contributing additional comments. Participants then had the opportunity to don noh costume and try on *noh* masks. They remarked on the transformative qualities of both the heavy costumes and the rigid wooden masks.

After a break for tea the workshop shifted location to the lobby area of the Nissan Institute, where the *noh* actors (one chanting and one dancing) performed an excerpt from the final dance of the *noh* play *Yamamba* (Mountain Crone). Two British dancers, Cecilia Macfarlane and Sarah Whatley, then performed the same excerpt to a reading of an English translation by Michael Watson. Finally the two very different genres of dance were performed together, the British dancers only having the Japanese chanted

accompaniment to guide them. The audience was visibly moved by the clear commonality of purpose and complementary expressive power of this joint dance.

At the subsequent panel discussion, points that united the dancers in their work – such as the common effort to strip away everything non-essential – were focused on, together with considerable interest from the audience in the position of women within the *noh* world.





The second Oxford Kuzushiji Workshop

Following a successful series of National Institute for Japanese Language/European Association of Japanese Resource Specialists Kuzushiji (Japanese cursive calligraphy reading) workshops held in Oxford, Leuven, Zurich, Bonn, and Paris respectively, a second intermediate-level Oxford workshop was held at the Oriental Institute between 24 -26 March. The goal of the workshop was to gain practical knowledge of, and first-hand experience in, the reading of hiragana-majiribun of the Edo period at an intermediate level, using historical documents as text.

The workshop was led by Prof Yuichiro Imanishi (NIJL Director) and supported by Prof Koichi Watanabe (NIJL, pre-modern history, archival studies) and Prof Naohiro Ota (NIJ, pre-modern history). There were altogether 18 participants, including librarians, academics, and graduate students from UK, France, Switzerland, Norway, Poland, Hungary, and Canada. The event was another success: the participants found the training a great confidence-builder and expressed their enthusiastic appreciation.

Organisers and local hosts: Izumi Tytler (Bodleian Japanese Library), Kerri Russell and Bjarke Frellesvig (Research Centre for Japanese Language and Linguistics, Oriental Institute)

For the details of the workshop and the photo gallery:
<http://vsarpj.orient.ox.ac.uk/kuzusiji/index.html>

'Surviving Tsunami' exhibition — Pitt Rivers Museum Conserving Photographs after Japan's Tsunami

The Pitt Rivers Museum's recent exhibition, 'Surviving Tsunami: Photographs in the Aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake' (8 October 2013 to 27 April 2014), was the first of its kind to be held in the UK. Comprising fifty-four prints displayed in the Museum's Long Gallery, the exhibition highlighted the work of a significant conservation project in Japan, the Rikuzentakata Disaster Document Digitalization Project (also known as the 'RD3 Project'). Established soon after the natural disaster of 11 March 2011, the project has brought together a team of volunteers and specialists to conserve historic photograph collections which were salvaged from two museums and a library destroyed in Rikuzentakata, Iwate Prefecture. Much of this material on recovery was found to be in a poor condition, the result of water damage from the tsunami. Recognising that specialist expertise would be required, a general appeal for assistance was sent out, resulting soon afterwards in the establishment of the Rikuzentakata Disaster Document Digitalization Project. An entirely volunteer-run initiative, the RD3 Project has to date involved more than sixty people working together to dry, clean, digitise and document over 65,000 photographs, many of which record life in the Tohoku region most seriously affected by the tsunami. For further information about the exhibition, visit www.prm.ox.ac.uk/rd3.html.

Clockwise from top right: Conservation work being carried out by volunteers, Prints salvaged from Rikuzentakata City after the tsunami, Material drying in the RD3 Project's workspace, Removing prints from a damaged album.



Dr. Kazuo Inamori's lecture in the Sheldonian: 'Rebuilding Japan Airlines, the Inamori Way'

On 9th May 2014, Dr Kazuo Inamori, the founder of Kyocera and KDDI, and former CEO of Japan Airlines, delivered a lecture at the Sheldonian Theatre in Oxford. This event was organised by University of Oxford Japan Office. The Vice Chancellor of the University, Professor Andrew Hamilton, welcomed and introduced Dr Inamori to the audience, who filled the Sheldonian Theatre.

Dr Inamori talked about his experiences as Chairman of JAL, which had gone bankrupt in 2010. Under his chairmanship, this former national flagship carrier was not only successfully relisted on the Tokyo Stock Exchange but also became the most profitable airline in the world within three years of his appointment. Many people called this feat a miracle. In the lecture, he confessed that

when Japanese government asked him to take this job, he initially refused it due to his age of 78, and lack of expertise in the aviation industry. He finally took the job because he considered rebuilding the airlines good for Japanese economy, Japanese people, and the employees of JAL themselves. He himself refused to take a salary as a CEO. He pointed out in the lecture that honesty, sincerity, and conscience constitute the elements of his 'philosophy' in management. Namely, this philosophy consists in the principle of acting right as a human even in the severely competitive business world, where usually business people just pursue their self-interests. This principle appears simple and easy to profess to, but is actually difficult to achieve. Once realised, however, it ignited

inspiration his employees so that they all played active roles, resulting in the success of their company.

Dr Inamori concluded that the excesses of our current capitalist economy should be mitigated by building a more harmonious way of business, in which the top management and employees ought to share responsibilities more equally, thereby sharing rewards more evenly and decreasing a huge gap in salaries and other benefits between them. His speech ended with making a deep impression on the audience.

Above: Dr. Kazuo Inamori
Below: Inamori lecture audience, Sheldonian theatre



Old Japanese in Action

The Research Centre for Japanese Language and Linguistics in the Faculty of Oriental Studies organised an event called 'Old Japanese in Action' in collaboration with Creation Theatre and Oxford Spire Academy, which took place at Oxford Spire Academy on 13 June 2014. 'Old Japanese in Action' was organised to celebrate the success of the five-and-a-half year AHRC-funded (at close to £1 million) project, 'Verb semantics and argument realization in pre-modern Japanese' (VSARPJ, see <http://vsarpj.orinst.ox.ac.uk/>) which is coming to an end this June, having run from January 2009 (five and a half years). The event is also part of another project that has emerged from the VSARPJ project, namely the 'Oxford Corpus of Old Japanese' (a long-term international collaborative research project which is developing a comprehensive annotated digital corpus of all extant texts in Japanese from the Old Japanese period (8th century),

A number of texts, including epic poetry, folk tales in poetic form, imperial edicts, and rituals, were selected to introduce students to the range of literature available at that time.

see vsarpj.orinst.ox.ac.uk/corpus/ The event was designed to introduce, in an engaging and interactive way, Year 8-10 pupils to some of the oldest Japanese literature, history and culture, from the 8th century AD, the Nara period; in linguistic terms the language of this period is known as Old Japanese, hence the name 'Old

Japanese in Action'. A number of texts, including epic poetry, folk tales in poetic form, imperial edicts, and rituals, were selected to introduce students to the range of literature available at that time. The event started with a lecture and PowerPoint presentation about ancient Japan and the Japanese language of the time, given by Professor Bjarke Frellesvig, to set the stage and give some background. This was followed by a demo performance of a short text by Katie Ell and Josh Ward from Creation Theatre. After that, the students were divided into two groups, and created their own theatre performances of Old Japanese texts under the direction of the Creation Theatre Team, with a group of Oxford faculty and students available to consult; their final performances reflected direct creative engagement with these difficult ancient texts. Videos and more information can be found at <http://vsarpj.orinst.ox.ac.uk/OJinAction/>.



Above and left: 'Old Japanese in Action' event at Oxford Spire Academy

Nissan Institute seminars

The Nissan Institute seminar in Japanese studies is the main regular seminar series in Oxford on Japan and has been instrumental as a forum for academics and researchers in a wide variety of different disciplines, including social sciences and humanities, to discuss ideas related to Japan for many years.

The Seminar series for Michaelmas term began with a lecture by Professor Sheldon Garon (Princeton University) on transnational history and Japan. Professor Garon provided an overview of Japan's and other countries' government strategies to encourage saving among their citizens by means of postal savings system and savings campaigns.

In Hilary term, we organised a thematic seminar series titled 'Social factors and demographic trends, Japan as a case study'. With the support of the Sasakawa Foundation and Japan Foundation Endowment Committee, we invited nine distinguished speakers working on fertility issues in Japan from Germany, Japan, and the United States. The series started by an introduction into comparative demography by Professor Francesco Billari placing Japan's demographic trends into international context. Professor Kazuo Yamaguchi (University of Chicago) introduced a comparative study on fertility and family

policy in Japan and South Korea, Professor Mary Brinton (Harvard University) talked about female work-family balance in contemporary Japan, while Professor Axel Klein (University of Duisburg-Essen) discussed on a comparison of the policy process on fertility between Japan and Germany. The Seminar attracted audience cutting across different social science and humanity disciplines and regional focuses. All speakers were paired with discussants, all of whom work on demographic and family trends at the University of Oxford, but are not Japan specialists. This led to a vibrant debate and we hope to have contributed to the further interaction and collaboration in the Japanese Studies community in Oxford and beyond.

“...we regard the Nissan Seminar as one of our most important public activities, as all of the papers presented have had an impact on thinking about Japan both within and outside Oxford.”

Overall, the Institute hosted 23 seminars this year and 23 speakers in all as part of this series – too many to mention in this small space. However, we regard the Nissan Seminar as one of our most important public activities, as all of the papers presented have had an impact on thinking about Japan both within and outside Oxford. The seminar series is open to public, and we are always happy to see new faces in attendance.

Most of the past seminars are available as podcasts here: <http://podcasts.ox.ac.uk/series/nissan-institute-japanese-studies>. Details of seminars in the coming terms will be publicised on our website as soon as they have been determined.

Left: Professor Leonard Schoppa's seminar at the Nissan Institute



East Asian linguistics seminar

The East Asian Linguistics Seminar (EALS) is a seminar series that takes place every year in Hilary term in the Faculty of Oriental Studies.

In 2014, there were eight talks, including John Maher (International Christian University) on 'The Sociolinguistics of Toponyms in Japan', Jieun Kier (Oxford) on 'A Verbal Myth: From an Incremental Syntax Perspective', Jos Vos on 'The Joys of Translating *Genji monogatari*', Aimi Kuya (Oxford) on 'A sociolinguistic case study of *keesu* ('case')', Tohru Seraku (Oxford) on 'Towards a Functional-Pragmatic Account of 'Giving' Verbs in Japanese', Youkyung Ju (SOAS) on 'Typological Universals of Relative Clauses with Reference to Korean as a Foreign Language', Kerri L Russell (Oxford) and Peter Sells (University of York) on 'The Syntax of Mood Constructions in Old Japanese: A corpus-based study', and Michael Fortescue (University of Copenhagen) with a talk entitled 'What Are the Limits of Polysynthesis?'.

More information about Japanese language and linguistics research at Oxford, including current and past schedules for the EALS and downloadable files of many of the presentations, can be found on the Research Centre for Japanese Language and Linguistics website: www.orinst.ox.ac.uk/research/jap-ling

Aimi Kuya presenting 'A sociolinguistic case study of *keesu* (case)'



The Sasakawa Japanese Studies Postgraduate Studentship Programme

In 2014 the Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation, with funding from The Nippon Foundation, has launched the Sasakawa Japanese Studies Postgraduate Studentship Programme providing support to students pursuing Japanese studies on the graduate (masters and doctoral) level in 15 UK universities. Three students have been awarded these scholarships to pursue graduate degrees at the University of Oxford starting in 2014. Future applicants can find more details about the scholarships available to pursue Japanese studies at Oxford here: www.nissan.ox.ac.uk/Nissan-funding.



ESRC Studentship: Japanese Studies pathway

In 2014 the Nissan Institute, as an integral part of the School of Interdisciplinary Area Studies, began offering an MPhil-to-DPhil ESRC studentship in the language-based Area Studies training pathway. This is a prestigious studentship that provides full funding to successful candidates throughout their study. The ESRC studentship is not intended for taught Masters degrees on their own. All applicants should envisage continuing to doctoral level study in one of the following departments at Oxford University: Anthropology, Development Studies, Economics, Geography, History, International Relations, Politics, Social Policy, or Sociology.

For details refer to the following website: www.nissan.ox.ac.uk/esrc-studentships-japanese-studies

Current/former students in the news

1st year student **Dorothy Finan** (*BA Japanese, Hertford*) was a finalist in the Individual Presentation category of the Ninth Japanese Speech Contest for University Students (sponsored by the Japan Foundation and the British Association for Teaching Japanese as a Foreign Language).

Alumnus **Patrick Dickinson** (*BA Japanese, Hertford*) wrote and directed the film 'Usagi-san' (2013), which won a Student EMMY for Outstanding Drama (making Patrick the first ever British winner) as well as many other honours, including the BAFTA Los Angeles Student Awards Special Jury Prize and shortlisting for the 40th Student Academy Awards. Alumnus Gareth Edwards (*BA Japanese, Hertford*) also assisted with the script.

Alumnus **Jos Vos** (*BA Japanese, Pembroke*) published the first ever translation of *Genji monogatari* into Dutch in November 2013. Jos Vos on translating *Genji monogatari*: "Although I lived in Japan for eleven years (1985-1996), the thought of translating Japanese literature didn't occur to me until I read Japanese at Oxford as a mature student, from 1997 to 1999. Studying Bashō's prose under the tutelage of James McMullen proved an eye-opener. From Dutchifying Bashō I moved on to compiling a larger anthology (which ranged from Nara-period poetry to Edo-period satirical novels), and this in turn showed me it was *not impossible* to tackle sections of *Genji*

monogatari. Until 2013 there simply was no Dutch *Genji*. It took me seven years to complete my own translation, which probably will always be the largest project I've undertaken. Like most other translators, I did what I could to make my work both enjoyable and faithful to the intentions of the original author. I do not see *Genji* as a gloomy or solemn book. I tried to be true to Murasaki Shikibu's sly sense of humour, and I especially tried to make many hundreds of poems in the book a joy to read – including the poems that appear only in my footnotes."

"Although I lived in Japan for eleven years (1985-1996), the thought of translating Japanese literature didn't occur to me until I read Japanese at Oxford as a mature student, from 1997 to 1999..."

Jos Vos
Het verhaal van Genji
(*The Tale of Genji*)
Amsterdam, Uitgeverij
Athenaeum, 2013.



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Forthcoming events

A workshop 'Husband's housework, childcare participation and fertility choices in East Asia', organised by Dr. Ekaterina Hertog and Professor Man-Yee Kan, will take place on 22-23 August. For details contact Ekaterina.hertog@nissan.ox.ac.uk

JAPANESE STUDIES AT OXFORD

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The Kongyūkai

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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