

JRC News

Newsletter of the Japan Research Centre, SOAS

No. 42

October 2000

JAPAN RESEARCH CENTRE SEMINARS

Wednesdays, 5pm, Room G50

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|-------------------------------|----|--|
| October | 11 | Professor Ian Gow (University of Nottingham)
Civilian Control of Whose Military? The SDF, UN
Peacekeeping Operations and the New US-Japan Defence
Guidelines. |
| | 25 | Lionel Lambourne OBE (Private Scholar)
Oscar Wilde and Japan |
| November | 1 | Dr Ellis Tinios (University of Leeds)
Picture Books by Bumpō and Other Early Nineteenth-century
Kyoto Painters: Instruction Manuals, Sample Books or Works
of Art? |
| | 8 | Dr Jean-Jacques Tschudin (LCAO, Paris)
A New Theatre for a New Society? |
| | 15 | Professor Brian Bocking (SOAS)
The Oracles of the Three Shrines: A Scroll Through
Japanese Religion |
| Joint JRC and CSJR
Seminar | 29 | Dr Koji Mizoguchi (University College)
Self-identification, Archaeology and the Japanese Past/Present |
| December | 6 | Professor Ronald Dore (LSE and INSEAD)
Japan's Ambiguous Conversion to Stockmarket Capitalism? |
| | 13 | Joe Earle (Private Scholar)
Narrative and Propaganda in Exhibition Bronzes of the Early
Meiji Era |

**Japan Research Centre
Seminars in Japanese**

Mondays 5.30pm Room G51

16th October

高山正樹 Takayama Masaki (大阪外語大学)
「日本の大都市県における人工高齢化について」

23rd October

猪俣哲史 Inomata Satoshi (日本貿易振興会・アジア経済研究所)
「国際産業連関分析：アジア環太平洋地域の経済相互依存分析への応用」

30th October

岩田秀行 Iwata Hideyuki (跡見学園女子大学)
「役者絵とその特種」

6th November

Reading Week

13th November

永井良和 Nagai Yoshikazu (関西大学)
帝国のダンス：日本植民地におけるイギリス文化

20th November

中村均 Nakamura Hitoshi (アジア大学)
東と西を越える在英日本系企業にみる文化抹殺の問題点

27th November

朴善姫 Park Sunhee (お茶の水大学)
シャマンのトランス時における心生心理的研究

4th December

清水康行 Shimizu Yasuyuki (日本女子大学)
「幕末外交と言語」

Letter from the Chair

On behalf of the JRC I would like to welcome all in-coming students, visiting academics, and those returning to SOAS after the summer vacation.

As you will see from this newsletter, three major changes effecting the JRC have taken place – and I hasten to add that all are extremely positive. The first is that, after an experimental period last spring, we have instituted a series of Japanese-language seminars. This is in addition to the long-standing English-languages series. Expecting people to turn up twice a week is a tall order, I know, and with the seminars run by the Centre for the Study of Japanese Religions (CSJR) we now have three per week. But this is surely a case where more really does mean more. I think those of us who have been here for many years may like to reflect on the vibrancy of Japanese Studies at SOAS compared with past times, and the linguistic level of students. All three seminar series cover a wide range of topics, and it is to be hoped that all will attend as often as they are able. Those who are not yet fluent are nevertheless welcome to use the Japanese-language seminars to enhance their listening skills.

The new seminar series takes place on Mondays at the later time of 5.30. The speakers are JRC academic visitors. We have for many years been fortunate in the number, diversity and excellence of the Japanese scholars who have chosen to spend their sabbaticals with us. But while many close intellectual association have been formed by this means, we have not until now had a formal mechanism for introducing their scholarship to the School as a whole.

Secondly, the application put forward to the Arts and Humanities Research Board to create a Centre for the Study of Asian and African Literatures has been successful. The brief of this Centre exceeds Japanese studies, but as it was Professor Gerstle who formulated and designed the proposal, and who will be the Centre Chair, we can hope and expect Japanese literature to be prominent.

Thirdly, Mr Haruhisa Handa, whose generosity allowed creation of the CSJR, has made a further donation to SOAS, and also to the Sainsbury Institute. Details appear below.

Mr Handa is an expert *nô* performer, and will be giving a free recital in the Brunei Lecture Theatre on Wednesday 22nd November. Please watch out for posters. No JRC Seminar will be held that day to avoid a clash.

Once again SOAS took a prize in the Ivan Morris awards. These are awarded annually for MA theses on Japanese Studies, and are open to students in any university in the UK. For 1999, Jacqueline Kane won third place for her thesis entitled *The Resocialisation of Offenders in the Japanese Criminal Justice System: Success and Failure*.

Finally, the JRC has updated its Website. From the next newsletter people will be invited to de-subscribe from this hardcopy version and to access the letter only online. This will make a considerable saving for the JRC in time and money. The site is already up and running. You are invited to visit it on <http://www.soas.ac.uk/centres/japan/home.html>

Timon Screech

Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures

Mr Haruhisa Handa has made another significant donation to SOAS, in conjunction with the Sainsbury Institute. It was already announced in the last newsletter that two post-doctoral fellowships have been created here. To these, Mr Handa has added a third. This is to be given annually to scholars working on the Japanese religious arts, and who are either Japanese nationals, or whose prime language of scholarly output is Japanese. This year the award has been made to Ms Yukiko Shirahara of Keio University.

Mr Handa has also given funds for a room to be known as the Handa Study Centre, on the fourth floor of the Brunei Gallery. This will be used by the two Sainsbury fellows, and the two Handa (both that given now, and the already created one attached to the CSJR).

Thirdly, Mr Handa has extended his generosity to endowing in the long-term the Sainsbury Lectureship in the History of Japanese Art, which until now has been only guaranteed for three years. The incumbent, Dr John Carpenter, will continue in post, but his title will change in the course of the next session from Sainsbury Lecturer to Donald Keene Lecturer; Mr Handa is an admirer of the scholarship of Professor Keene, that has spanned many decades. As Dr Carpenter is originally from Columbia University, New York, where Professor Keene taught, this is particularly appropriate.

Nicole Rousmaniere
Director

AHRB Centre for the Study of Asian and African Literatures

The Arts and Humanities Research Board has awarded a five-year grant (£702,674) to SOAS and UCL to create a joint Centre for the Study of Asian and African Literatures. Professor Andrew Gerstle (SOAS) will be the Director and Professor Theo Hermans (UCL) will be the Associate Director. This is an extremely important initiative for SOAS. The aim of the Centre is ambitious: to make it a world centre for comparative research on the literatures of Asia and Africa.

The Centre will support eight, three-year group research projects, each with four workshops, over five years, led by SOAS and UCL researchers. The focus will be on fundamental epistemological questions as to the universal nature of literary experience and the applicability of Western literary theories to Asian and African literatures. The projects will cover 'Translation Theory' (Hermans/Radice), 'Genre Ideologies and Narrative Transformation' (Ouyang/Hart), 'Narrating and Imaging the Nation' (Hafez/Bird), 'Traditional Literature and Performance' (Gerstle), 'Gender' (Wilson-Tagoe/Worton), 'City as Metaphor' (Dodd/Haddour), 'The Social Context of Literary Production and Consumption' (Hockx/Paizis), and 'Modernity and the Loss of Tradition' (Shackle). The Centre will aim to include as many SOAS and UCL members as possible in the projects.

The Centre will draw participation from the language departments of SOAS and UCL, from British-based scholars, and from specialists around the world. A case was made to the AHRB that the Centre would serve Asian and African studies in Britain as a whole. Intra-Asia/Africa comparative study is a new area and will be a focus for the Centre's work. Research students will be encouraged to participate in the projects.

The budget will support an Administrator, two Research Assistants (each four years), replacement teaching for the Director and Associate Director, and travel and subsistence for the four workshops of each project. The Internet will be used to establish individual sites for the projects to enable the on-going participation of those outside London. The quality of publications, both on the Web and in print (journal and monographs) will be the ultimate measure of the Centre's success.

Continuation of the Centre beyond the first five years is not guaranteed. The argument made to the AHRB was that the Centre will encourage others to obtain funding for projects that will be supported by the Centre. Therefore, the Centre team will work with individuals to create research applications.

The grant has given us the chance to create something really significant and exciting in Asian/African studies, and to bring Asia and Africa into the centre of research on literature. Success, however, will depend on the willingness of individuals, whose work has a strong empirical base in a particular literary tradition, to engage with others outside their area in discussions on larger theoretical questions. The Centre will officially begin on 1 October this year.

Drew Gerstle

Centre for the Study of Japanese Religions, SOAS

CSJR Seminars

Thursdays, 5.00 –6.30pm

Room 379

October	12	Gaynor Sekimori (SOAS) Religious Reformation in Action: The Prosecution of the <i>shinbutsu bunri</i> Policy Within Haguro <i>shugendō</i>
	19	Massimo Raveri (University of Venice) The Search for the Perfect Body: Living Mummies and Ways to Utopia
November	15	Brian Bocking (SOAS) The Oracles of the Three Shrines: A Scroll Through Japanese Religion
	23	Rein Raud (University of Helsinki) Space-time and Enlightenment in Traditional and Contemporary Thought
December	14	Carmen Blacker (University of Cambridge) Types of <i>kami</i>

For further information on the seminar please contact the convenor, Lucia Dolce, on 020 7898 4217, ld16@soas.uk

For a full programme of events in the Centre for this term, please contact Dr John Breen on jb8@soas.ac.uk

**Joint East Asian Conference 2001, Pollock Halls, University of Edinburgh
3-5 April 2001**

Plenary Theme: Globalisation and Devolution in East Asia.

Panels: Conformity and Dissent in East Asia
Implications in the Interpretation of Texts
Interdisciplinary Responses to Transnational Issues in East Asia
Drugs and Medicine in East Asia
North East Asian Regional Security (Past and Present)
Power and Spectacle in East Asia

Enquiries to: Lynn Baird, BAJS Secretariat, University of Essex, Colchester,
Essex CO4 3SQ, UK. Fax: +44 (0) 1206 873408.

**The first Hotei Publishing conference on Ukiyo-e
11-13 January 2001, Leiden, The Netherlands**

**Co-organiser: IAS (International Institute for Asian Studies, Leiden
Univeristy)**

A year after its frantic start as a professional publishing house dedicated to producing books on Japanese art, culture and society, Hotei Publishing for the first time hosts a conference on Japanese prints and print making.

Two major themes have been selected in an attempt to further contextualize this 18th and 19th century Japanese art form which had such a profound influence on the development of Western art.

First of all the economics of Japanese print production. This research area has thus far received virtually no attention, resulting in a generally distorted view of the original nature of the world of print production. The 'Western' context created following the export of prints to Europe and the United States from the time of Von Siebold until the early 20th century, was entirely different from the position of Japanese graphic art in Edo and Osaka during the 18th and 19th century.

The second theme deals again with an issue of context: here we attempt to address the question of the artistic circles of the print designers: what was the nature of the contact between artists, did the artists have influential literary contacts, did they look at other forms of art, were artists working in painting schools such as Nanga, Rinpa or Maruyama/Shijo admired, considered as a potential source of inspiration, or to put it more bluntly and perhaps rather crudely: with whom did Hiroshige go to the pub? Did he take in a show by for example Watanabe Kazan, or did the eternal pressure of the publishers and the public lead to a life of single-minded hard work, churning out designs at an ever greater pace?

Perhaps contributions to this second theme will lead to a more accurate description of the organisation of artistic life in Japan.

For full details please contact Helena Huisman at Hotei Publishing, Zoeterwoudsesingel 56, 2313 EK Leiden, The Netherlands. Telephone: (31)71-5663190, fax: (31)71-5663191.

Email: h.huisman@hotei-publishing.com or Chris Uhlenbeck at: ukiyoe@xs4all.nl.

The Japan Foundation's
2000 Japanese Language Proficiency Test
will be held at the
School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS)
University of London
Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square
London WC1H 0XG
on
Sunday 3 December 2000

Application fee:

Level 1	£25	Level 2	£25
Level 3	£18	Level 4	£18

Application forms available from the Japan Research Centre

Email jlpt@soas.ac.uk

Fax 020 7436 3844

Closing date: Thursday 12 October

The Sir Peter Parker Awards for Spoken Business Japanese
13 February 2001

The Student Category of the Awards is open to undergraduate students at British universities. The Business Category is open to residents of European Union countries employed in business, commerce or related professions, and post-graduate students. The First Prize in each category is a return air ticket to Japan provided by Japan Airlines, plus a £1,000 Cash Prize donated by Baker & McKenzie.

Organisers: Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO), London, and the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London.

Closing date for applications, 24 November 2000.

Further information is available from The Sir Peter Parker Awards Office, PO Box 5656, Braintree CM7 2LE.

Telephone: 01376 346100, fax: 01376 326426, email: ldnsppa@jetro.go.jp
or visit the website: www.soas.ac.uk/languagecentre/japanese/sppa

JRC Members

Research and travel

Dr John Breen, East Asia Department, gave a lecture entitled 'Gaiko girei: Nichi-ei gaiko shi no ichidanmen' at Ocha no mizu joshi daigaku, Tokyo in July 2000, and attended the Mitama matsuri at the Yasukuni shrine in Tokyo as part of an on-going research project on Yasukuni and death in contemporary Japan.

Lucia Dolce, East Asia Department, and Study of Religions Department, presented an invited paper Redefining the 'New Sects' of Kamakura Buddhism – Lineages, Orthodoxy and Orthopraxis in Medieval Japan, at the international colloquium 'Buddhism: Schools and Sects', University of Leuven, Belgium, 26-27 May 2000.

Lucia Dolce gave a paper Hokke Shinto: Kami Interpretations in the Nichiren Tradition for a panel on *honji suijaku* at the European Association for Japanese Studies triennial conference, Lahti, Finland, 23-26 August 2000.

Lucia Dolce organizer and panelist at the international workshop Religious Practice in Mediaeval Japan, SOAS, 21-22 September 2000.

David Hughes, Department of Music, is in Okinawa from July through September, researching the current state of Okinawan folk song (including Eisaa ancestral dancing). From October through December he will be living in Kyoto while studying the musical activities of the Okinawan community in Kansai. In both places, he is interested in the changing relations between Okinawans and other Japanese ("Yamato people") with reference to music, as compared with the situation around 1980.

Richard Wiltshire presented a paper entitled A Small Plot of Earth: Sustainability, Justice and Urban Recreational Horticulture in Britain and Japan (co-authored with Ren Azuma and David Crouch) at the Royal Geographical Society Planning and Environment Research Group Conference 'Towards Sustainability: Social and Environmental Justice' held at Tufts University, Massachusetts in June 2000.

Richard Wiltshire and Ren Azuma gave a paper entitled Rural Allotments and Sustainable Development: A Japanese Perspective, at the International Research Conference 'People, Land and Sustainability: New Directions in Community Gardening' held at Nottingham University in September 2000.

Richard Wiltshire and Ian Egginton-Metters (Director of the Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens) visited Japan 18–27 September to conduct research on shimin nouen (sponsored by the Sumitomo Foundation), present a seminar at the Rural Development Commission on aspects of devolved management for allotments and community gardens, and give the keynote address at the opening of a new School For Allotment Gardeners in Kunitachi City, Tokyo.

Publications

John Breen, *Shinto in History: Ways of the Kami*, edited with Mark Teeuwen. Curzon Press/Hawaii University Press, 2000.

'Introduction: Shinto Past and Present' (with Mark Teeuwen) in idem.

'Ideologues, Bureaucrats and Priests: On Shinto and Buddhism in Early Meiji Japan' in idem.

'Nativism Restored', *Monumenta Nipponica*, 55, 3 (2000).

Isolde Standish, *Myth and Masculinity in the Japanese Cinema: Towards a Political Reading of the Tragic Hero*. Curzon Press, August 2000.

Barbara Pizziconi, 'The acquisition of Japanese Communicative Style – the *yarimorai* verbs'. *BATJ Journal*, British Association for Teaching Japanese as a Foreign Language, London (2000).

Richard Wiltshire, with David Crouch and Ren Azuma, 'Contesting the Plot: Environmental Politics and the Urban Allotment Garden in Britain and Japan', in Philip Stott and Sian Sullivan (eds.), *Political Ecology: Power, Myth and Science*. London: Edward Arnold, 2000.

Japan Research Centre

School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS)
University of London
Thornhaugh Street
Russell Square
London WC1H 0XG

Telephone 020 7898 4210

Fax 020 7898 4289

Web page: <http://www.soas.ac.uk/Centres/Japan/Home.html>

Chair Dr Timon Screech (ts8@soas.ac.uk)

Administrator Email: bl1@soas.ac.uk