Dear JSAC Members and Friends,

Welcome to the Spring 2020 JSAC newsletter! It is great to read everyone’s exciting news and stories about work on such a wide range of Japan-related topics.

We last met at JSAC 2019 at Mt. Allison University in Sackville, New Brunswick, October 3-6, 2019. Thanks very much to Owen Griffiths and Tim Reiffenstein for a great conference and the opportunity to see a little of the surrounding countryside afterward.

After much thought and discussion, the JSAC Board has decided to postpone the annual JSAC conference planned for July in Kamloops to 2021. The uncertainties and risk surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic make a face to face conference in 2020 impossible to plan. However, we have decided to have a smaller online forum in October (see below for more information). This is obviously a new venture for JSAC but we hope it will allow us all to keep up to date on research about Japan and to stay in touch with one another. I very much hope that many of you will participate.

Please stay healthy and well through these challenging days. I look forward to seeing you all online in October and face to face in 2021!

With best wishes,

Carin Holroyd, President, JSAC

Cherry Blossoms Photo by Brian Pendleton
Conference in Kamloops Postponed

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the conference scheduled for July 2020 in Kamloops has been postponed until 2021 (exact date TBA). Thanks so much to Tom Waldichuk and Cara Cadre for the work they have put in organizing the conference thus far and for their willingness to host in 2021.

JSAC 2020 Virtual Forum - Online October 17th and 18th 2020

JSAC will be hosting an online virtual forum (through Zoom) October 17th and 18th, 2020. Those who would like to organize a panel of presentations around a theme or present an individual paper, please contact Norio Ota at nota@yorku.ca Students are also encouraged to participate. We hope to organize an online happy hour and maybe a Japanese movie night. The Board would really like to encourage you all to participate as presenters and/or audience members. We did not want to wait two years for our JSAC group to reunite!
The 29th annual JSAC conference was held at Mount Allison University from October 3-6, 2019 under theme of “Japan and the Environment: Lessons for the World.” This was only the second time in JSAC’s existence that the conference was held in Atlantic Canada and, despite the additional time and distance to Canada’s far east, the participation was robust and the weather even better.

Over 20 papers were given on subjects ranging from tourism and the impending but now delayed Tokyo Olympics to technological innovation, environmental impacts of specific industries, and the philosophy and aesthetics of nature. Of particular interest was a rare science presentation reassessing the effects of mercury poisoning in the infamous Minamata tragedy. The conference was also fortunate to have an excellent group of keynote speakers from Japan, the United States and Canada whose talks were very well received. Retired Fisheries Canada official Mikio Moriyasu kicked off the conference on Thursday with a timely presentation on the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence Crab fishery. Jeffery Kingston, Director Asian Studies at Temple University, Tokyo, followed the next day with a fascinating and informative discussion on the developmental state and the nuclear village in the wake of 3/11 in Japan. On Saturday, participants were treated to an engaging presentation on the Greenhouse Effect by Université de Moncton Physicist Jean-Francois Bisson. This was followed by an informative talk about the ongoing challenges women face in the Japanese workplace. Finally, the Saturday night conference banquet was graced with a stimulating historiographical talk on big trends in Japanese scholarship by Harold H. and Virginia Anderson Professor of History at Northwestern University, and Laura Hein, who is also the General Editor for the soon-to-be released 3-volume Cambridge History of Japan.

Overall the 2019 conference was a great success and many thanks to everyone who made it possible. Special thanks go to Shimizu-san and the Japan Foundation for their generous and ongoing support of JSAC. Thanks also to the Centre for Canadian Studies, the Mount Allison University Conference Fund, the departments of History and Geography and Environment, and Ryerson’s Jim Tiessen for their financial support. Thanks also go to our small group of exceptional volunteers: Eri, Eri, Minaho, Suzuka, and Seena. Finally, thanks to my colleagues Tim Reiffenstein and Miyako Oe for a great collaborative effort.

And a big thanks to you, Owen!! With great appreciation to you, Tim and Miyako from all your JSAC friends.
JSAC 2019 Conference Proceedings:

We are still looking for submissions for the online Conference Proceedings. We have extended the deadline until June 30, 2020.

Please submit your papers as MSWord files according to the instructions below to ogriffiths@mta.ca.

1. Style: Chicago
2. Times New Roman, 12pt, double-spaced
3. No more than 10,000 words excluding footnotes
4. Please use footnotes not endnotes / no author-date system
6. No Japanese or Chinese characters please unless they are necessary for your argument
8. Any pictures and tables should be cleared copyright before submission

Owen Griffiths, Department of History
Mount Allison University

Welcome to Phillip Lipscy, Director of the Centre for the Study of Global Japan, University of Toronto. Great to have you with us!

Phillip kindly agreed to introduce himself to JSAC.

In 2019, I was appointed as the inaugural director of the Centre for the Study of Global Japan at the University of Toronto. My goal is to make our Centre the one of the first places scholars, students, policymakers, and the general public seek out to understand more about contemporary Japan. I look forward to collaborating closely with the Japan Studies community in Canada and welcoming members of JSAC to our campus.

It is a fascinating time to study Japan. The country has been among the most stable democracies since the end of World War II, but its political system has undergone fundamental shifts. Japanese foreign policymakers face tough challenges navigating regional and global threats. The Japanese economy faces headwinds like an aging population, impediments to entrepreneurship, and longstanding concerns about diversity and gender equality. Aside from being a fascinating country to study on its own terms, Japan offers valuable lessons for other societies navigating similar challenges.

Please visit the CSGJ website for information about our activities and future events: https://munkschool.utoronto.ca/csgj/

A little bit about myself: I spent much of my childhood in Tokyo attending an international school. This experience – as well as my mixed-race, multicultural background – shaped my early interest in international
relations and Japanese politics. I completed my Ph.D. at Harvard University and began my academic career as faculty at Stanford University. At Stanford, I worked with my colleagues to establish the Japan Program in 2011 and developed various initiatives to promote Japan studies. I am co-editor of volumes on the Democratic Party of Japan, which ruled from 2009-2012, and the Abe government, which has been in power since 2012. My research also uses Japan as a case study and source of data to examine broader topics in political science, such as the renegotiation of international institutions, the politics of financial crises, and energy and climate change policy.

York students won big in both regional and national Japanese speech contests.
Submitted by Norio Ota

The 38th Ontario Japanese Speech Contest (OJSC):
Five students took home the following prizes out of 11 in total. Link: Y-File
Beginners’ category: Grand Prize, 3rd Place
Intermediate category: 1st Prize, Special Effort Prize
Open category: Subaru Special Prize

The 31st National Japanese Speech Contest (NJSC): The three York University top prize winners of OJSC competed in the three categories: Beginners’, Intermediate, and Open as the three of the four representatives of Ontario. Link: Y-File Link: Y-File. They won the following top prizes.
Beginners’ category: 1st Prize
Intermediate category: 1st Prize
Open category: 2nd Prize
Prince Takamado Japan Centre: An Update

The PTJC announces a new book. *Hiroshima-75: Nuclear Issues in Global Contests* (ed., Aya Fujiwara and David R. Marples, Ibidem Verlag, 2020) is a collection of essays that analyze how human beings have lived with the atom over the past seventy-five years. It was based on the 2015 conference, held at the Prince Takamado Japan Centre, University of Alberta. Our society has tried to cope with the idea of the atom, which has become integral in our society. This volume is a unique product of collaboration between Japanese and Canadian scholars, who conceptualize the power and fear of the atom in history, politics, literature, and films. As the world reaches the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II, this book reexamines how we relate to the notion of atom. The book is available from Columbia University Press [https://cup.columbia.edu/book/hiroshima-75/9783838213989](https://cup.columbia.edu/book/hiroshima-75/9783838213989) or from the PTJC (ptjc@ualberta) at a discounted price.

The 15th Anniversary of the PTJC and New Awards: Prince Takamado Japan Centre celebrated the 15th anniversary of its establishment in conjunction with the 90th anniversary of Japan-Canada diplomatic relations in August 2019, welcoming Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado as a guest speaker. Her lecture on *Netsuke* received a large audience and strengthened the ties between our academic communities. To commemorate this occasion, we decided to establish new travel funds for students who wish to participate in academic conferences that promote academic exchanges between Japan and Canada from 2021. Although this is a very difficult time, please look forward to our announcement later this year!

A new dawn, by Brian Pendleton
Congratulations to Evan Koike, winner of the America-Japan Society award.

Evan Koike a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Anthropology at the University of British Columbia (supervisor: long term JSAC member Dr. Millie Creighton) is shown in the front row middle of this photo (See below) receiving a medal from the America-Japan Society for his research work on Japanese young peoples’ attitudes about modern fathering and masculinity. Evan Koike was also one of the recipients of the Klaus Pringsheim Graduate Student Paper Prize awarded at the last JSAC annual meetings, held at Mt. Allison University.

Front row, left to right: Keiko Packard, Committee of Visit and Study Japan Program, Evan Koike, PhD Candidate at the Department of Anthropology, University of British Columbia (Supervisor: Millie Creighton), Kazuo Okamoto, Executive Director of the America-Japan Society (AJS)

Back Row: left to right: Nana Yamamoto, America-Japan Society student intern, Toshie Komatsu, member of the America-Japan Society, Takashi Watanabe, Director of the America Japan Society, Chitoo Bunno, member of the America-Japan Society, Nanaka Nishimura, America Japan Society student intern.
Member News

David Edgington, Emeritus Professor, University of British Columbia

Publications:


Kimie Hara, Professor & the Renison Research Professor in East Asian Studies, University of Waterloo

Publications:


Presentations:

「東アジア地域秩序変容と日露・日中島問題（Transformation of Regional Order in East Asia and Japan-Russia and Japan-China Island Problems ）」, the 17th Asia Pacific Conference - Governance in the Asia Pacific: Politics, Economics, Business and Environment, Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University, Beppu, Japan, November 30-December 1, 2019.


“Japan’s Frontier Problems in the Shifting Regional International Dynamics in East Asia,” Japan Studies Association of Canada, 2019 Annual Conference, Mount Allison University, October 3-6, 2019.

“Regional Orders and Boundary and ocean Issue in East Asia” & a Panel Moderator, the 5th Annual International symposium on Boundary and Ocean Studies; Boundary and Ocean Studies and International
Cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative, Wuhan University China Institute of Boundary and Ocean Studies, Wuhan, China, September 21-22, 2019.


Photo: Rosoku-jima (Candle Rock) of Okinoshima Islands, Shimane Prefecture. The sunset lights the rock like a candle. Submitted by Kimie Hara
Carin Holroyd, Professor, Political Studies, University of Saskatchewan

In June 2019, I took fifteen students to Japan (Tokyo, Tsukuba, Kyoto, Osaka, Hiroshima and Takayama) for two weeks. It was lovely to introduce them to Japan and to see how much they enjoyed everything. There were a few adventures including one trip to the hospital and one lost rail pass – but overall it was very successful. Enough time has passed that I have even agreed to take another group in June 2021!

Publications:

“East Asia (Japan, South Korea and China) and the Arctic,” in Ken Coates and Carin Holroyd, eds., The Palgrave Handbook of Arctic Policy and Politics (London: Palgrave, 2020), 319-332.

“Technological Innovation and Building a “super smart” society: Japan’s vision of Society 5.0”, Journal of Asian Public Policy, 2020


I was also fortunate to receive a Japan Foundation short term research fellowship which allowed me to spend January and February in Tokyo.
Fumiko Ikawa-Smith, Professor Emerita, McGill University

Publications:
I continue to provide a one-page segment of an autobiographical essay, entitled カナダで米寿をむかえました to the section called 考古学の履歴書 of the アルカ通信 (Aruka Newsletter, a monthly publication of the Archaeological Laboratory located in Komoro City, Nagano Prefecture). My segment appears in every other issue. In 2019, it was published in No.185, 187, 189, 191,193,195 and 197 (February, April, June, August, October and December issues).

Committee Service:
I completed the last of the four-year term on the Selection Committee for Historically Underrepresented Groups Scholarships (HUGS), Society for American Archaeology. The scholarship is to increase the chance of graduate school admission for students with ethnic minority background, with the view to increasing diversity in the future pool of professional archaeologists.


Heidi Lam, PhD Candidate, Department of Anthropology, Yale University

Heidi’s first article has been published in the Journal of Intercultural Studies. It has not been assigned yet to a journal issue, because it is part of a special series titled "Consuming the Past in Contemporary East Asia."

Here is the free e-print link: https://www.tandfonline.com/eprint/6C5FMXWZ6ZBSKDZJQTFC/full?target=10.1080/07256868.2020.1751598

Norio Ota, Professor, York University

Presentations:
'Advanced online testing on Moodle', invited by the Teaching and Learning Committee for the second Brown Bag Lunch lecture, DLLL, York University, February 26, 2020.

“Language use in the post-truthism and populism environments: A case study of ‘Society 5.0”, JSAC2019 Annual Conference, Mt. Alison University, Sackville, NB, Oct. 3 – 6, 2019

Event coordination:
Hosted the 2019 Japanese Language Proficiency Test at York University on behalf of the Japan Foundation, December 1, 2019


Administrative activity:

Coordinator, Japanese Section (2019-20)

Hosted the Rakugo event inviting three performers in rakugo, paper cutting and juggling from Japan, November 8, 2019.


Travelling:

Kamakura, Japan (April, June-August, December 2019)
Algarve, Portugal (May – June 2019)
Taiwan (December 2019)

On a personal note, Norio enjoyed many hot springs in Japan and Taiwan.

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Brian Pendleton (Professor Emeritus, Asian Studies, Langara College)

August 2019 – served as analyst and guest commentator for the annual tour of eight, private residential gardens built and maintained by the Vancouver Japanese Gardeners Association (VJGA).

February 2020 – served as a member of the interview team at the Japanese Consulate (Vancouver) for students applying for the JET teaching and exchange program.


Ongoing: Continuing to serve as Secretary to the North American Japanese Garden Association (NAJGA) Executive Committee and Editor of the NAJGA Journal which is published yearly. NAJGA membership includes individuals, public and private gardens numbering over 300 in Canada and the United States, and leading members of the international gardening community.

Ongoing in 2020 – research on the (pending) Tokyo Olympics … not sure what direction and focus will prevail: “Games will be held, postponed, cancelled or …?”
Chris G. Pope, Assistant Professor, Kyoto Women’s University

The last academic year has been eventful to say the least. On the publishing front, I have written an article on Japan and North Korea for the Conversation, co-authored a chapter for the upcoming Oxford Handbook on Translation and Social Practices entitled, “Political Translation and the Sustainable Development Goals,” wrote two articles on the International Political Economy, one for my university’s journal and another for a Proceedings Annals with the Japan Political Science Organization.

I submitted two articles on the changing boundaries of governance in Japan to two separate international journals. However, with the health pandemic seemingly unrelenting, the peer review process will understandably take some time. While three exciting conferences had to be cancelled due to the spread of COVID-19, I became a father to my second child, an extremely cute and active little girl called Emma, this March.

At the moment, my colleagues at Kyoto Women’s University and I are in the throes of figuring out how to adapt our lessons to an online format for our students as a countermeasure to COVID-19 and enjoying all the comforts and challenges with working from home. I am waiting on news for funding for a project on Japan and China, and I am thinking about whether or not this is the time to start turning my thesis into a book!

I am excited about meeting everyone at JSAC when the time comes. It is possible that the next year to eighteen months might be a little uncertain due to the current pandemic. Until things clear up, I wish everyone and their loved ones the best of health. Looking forward to meeting when the time is right for all of us.

Publications:


Stephen Nagy, Senior Associate Professor, International Christian University

Publications:


Conference Papers, Invited Lectures and Workshops


2019 “Japanese-based perspective on Canada's opportunities in the world's third largest economy and what the west needs to do to realize these opportunities,” Policy Session, Canada West Foundation, Calgary, Canada. August 8th, 2019.


2019 “Japan’s political situation, post-election predictions,” at Canada-Japan Society of British Columbia, Canada. July 17th, 2019


Authored editorials, commentary (Abbreviated)


Bill Sewell, Professor, Saint Mary’s University

Publications:


Scott Simon, École d’études sociologiques et anthropologiques, Université d’Ottawa. Here are two photos of drongos that I took on Guåhan (CHamoru for Guam). Beginning in January, I was doing research with the CHamoru people and teaching a class on Cultural Ecology at the University of Guam (UOG), beginning in January. I found it interesting to see how CHamoru memory of Japanese colonialism (in the Mariana Islands) and of war-time occupation (Guåhan) is still present in many ways, and not just in official war memorials. One of the most interesting ones is about this bird, which the CHamoru call sâli Taiwan. Sâli was already their word for the similar-sized, and also black, Micronesian starling. The Japanese, who administered both Taiwan and most of Micronesia at the time, intentionally brought the drongo from Taiwan to Rota in the Mariana Islands, hoping that the bird would eat the insects that were destroying crops on their sugar plantations. Not only did the drongo thrive on Rota, it also spread to neighbouring islands, including Guåhan. Japanese administration thus created a very lasting tie between Taiwan and Micronesia.
Because of the coronavirus pandemic, Scott left Guam on March 17 on the China Airlines flight to Taipei; and went into quarantine for 14 days. He is still in Taiwan, waiting to return to Canada when it is safe to travel.

X. Jie Yang, Professor, University of Calgary

Publications:

デジタル古典研究に挑む——動画・音声・画像・その他
Classical Studies in the Digital Era: Motion Pictures, Sound and Images
中国21 (China 21), Vol.51, December 2019, pp. 99-114
Classical Japanese in 5 Minutes, 2019-03-23
https://sites.google.com/view/cj5m
* 29 short lectures on the basic of classical Japanese.

劇動く花押 Moving-KAO, 2019-07-27
https://sites.google.com/view/testpageyang/MovingKao
* GIF pictures showing how KAO, a personal signature was written.

復讐する男と女の物語 - Tale of Revenge: A Real Heroine 2019-11-16
Kindle Canada: https://www.amazon.ca/dp/B0817V3QLH Kindle Japan: https://www.amazon.co.jp/dp/B0817V3QLH
* An Edo graphic novel with a translation in modern Japanese.

注釈絵で読む「徒然草」 Reading "Essays in Idleness" with Edo's Pictorial Commentary
https://www.facebook.com/chushakue/ * An on-going project, briefly releasing 2 sections each week.
Old Japan Redux, Vol. 5 2019-02 Edited by X. Jie Yang
* Selected creative works from term papers submitted to a credit course, "Topics in Japanese Civilization", fall 2018.

Noriko Yabuki-Soh, Associate Professor, York University

Book review:

Presentations:

Manuscript reviewing:
Feb 2020 – Present: 『第二言語としての日本語の習得研究』 [Acquisition of Japanese as a Second Language]

Community service:
Member of the Organizing Committee for the 38th Ontario Japanese Speech Contest, University of Toronto, February 29, 2020.
Member of the Organizing Committee for the 31st Canada National Japanese Speech Contest (Online), March 29, 2020.
The Emperor’s Birthday Celebration hosted by the Consulate General of Japan in Vancouver

On January 29, 2020 the Consulate General of Japan in Vancouver, Takashi Hatori and his wife Yuju Yoon hosted an event at the Fairmont Waterfront Ballroom of Canada Place. Among the invited guests were long term JSAC members, Dr. Millie Creighton and Dr. David Edgington, along with several others involved in academic studies of Japan. This photo shows Japan focused researchers, etc. invited from the University of British Columbia.

Back Row (standing), left to right: David Edgington, Faculty in Department of Geography, Kyung-Ae Park, Faculty in School of Public Policy, Santa Ono, President of the University of British Columbia (UBC), Millie Creighton, Faculty in Department of Anthropology, Takashi Hatori, Consulate General of Japan in Vancouver, Gage Averill, Dean of Arts at UBC, Julie Walchi, Work Educated Learning, Shirin Eshghi, Japan Librarian, Aki Furuzawa, spouse of Shirin Eshghi, Fuyubi Nakamura, Curator, Museum of Anthropology. Front Row (those kneeling or sitting) left to right: Christina Laffin, Faculty in Department of Asian Studies, Wendy Yip, UBC Ambassador and Spouse of President Ono, Yuju Yoon, Wife of Consulate General of Japan in Vancouver, Mari Fujita, School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture, Ignacio Adriasola, Faculty in Department of Art History, Visual Art and Theory. (Submitted by Millie Creighton)
**FAMOUS ANT HAIKUS**

Damn this stupid crumb!  
Why are you unbudgeable?  
I sit near, weeping.

What's it all about?  
Birth, reproduction, and death—  
Must be something right?

Chocolate ice cream,  
Cinnabons—  
LIME LOLLIPOPS!!  
Glad to be an ant.
Many thanks to outgoing Board members: David Edgington, David Welch and Shige Matsui! We are so grateful for all your hard work on behalf of JSAC!!

JSAC EXECUTIVE, 2020-2021

Prof. Carin Holroyd
Department of Political Studies
University of Saskatchewan
9 Campus Drive
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Canada

Tel: 1-306-966-5506
Fax: 1-306-966-5250
E-mail: carin.holroyd@usask.ca

Secretary-Treasurer (2012-2016; 2016-2020; 2020-2024)
Prof. Norio Ota
Department of Languages, Literatures and Linguistics
York University, 4700 Keele Street
Toronto, ON, Canada M3J 1P3

Phone: (416)736-2100 ext. 88750
Fax: (416)736-5483
E-mail: nota@yorku.ca

Regular Executive Members:

Prof. Thomas Waldichuk (2014–) Department of Geography & Environmental Studies Thompson Rivers University 900 McGill Road Kamloops, BC, Canada V2C 0C8 Tel. 1-250-371-5718 E-mail: twaldichuk@tru.ca

Professor Jim Tiessen (2014–) Ted Rogers School of Management Ryerson University 350 Victoria Street Toronto, ON M5B 2K3 E-mail: jhtiessen@ryerson.ca

Professor Aya Fujiwara (2018-) Director, Prince Takamado Japan Centre for Teaching and Research Faculty of Arts - History & Classics, University of Alberta. Email: fujiwara@ualberta.ca

Professor Owen Griffiths, (2019 - )Department of History, Mt. Alison University. Email: ogriffiths@mta.ca