

# Japan Studies Association of Canada (JSAC)

カナダ日本研究学会



Spring 2016

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Dear JSAC Members and Friends,

Since I last wrote, your JSAC Executive has been involved in a number of events involving visiting Japanese scholars and assisting in the publication of papers from our May 2015 international conference held in Tokyo.

For some years now, JSAC has partnered with the Japan Foundation Toronto to host a visiting professor from Japan for a number of talks in Canada. In September, 2015, Professor Tomoko Okagaki, a political scientist at Dokkyo University gave talks in Waterloo (Japan Futures Institute/Basillie School of International Affairs, University of Waterloo), Toronto (Japan Foundation, Toronto) and Vancouver (Centre for Japanese Research, UBC) on the theme of "What effect did Japan's 19th century entry into international society have on

international society itself? What implications does the Japanese experience hold for other countries today?" Our second speaker this academic year was Professor Hidefumi Imura, an environmental scientist from Yokohama City University. He gave a talk titled: 'Planning for Smart Cities in Japan' in Vancouver (Centre for Japanese Research, UBC) and Toronto (University of Toronto/Japan Foundation, Toronto). Both talks were recorded and through the power of 'live streaming' many campuses around Canada were able to view the presentations live and pose questions to our speakers. Both talks are now available on our JSAC web site. If your campus is interested in participating in the 2016-2017 JSAC/Japan Foundation, Toronto, Lecture Series, then please let me know in advance at [David.Edgington@ubc.ca](mailto:David.Edgington@ubc.ca).

After the JSAC annual meeting in Tokyo last May we received over 20 papers submitted for publication. The first batch is nearly ready for publication by the University of Tokyo's Institute of Social Sciences (ISS). The second batch will be published online on our JSAC web site later in the year.

Finally, we thank Professor Shige Matsui (Law, UBC) for offering to host our JSAC 2016 conference in October this year. Details are given later in this Newsletter.

Wishing you all a splendid spring and summer!

**David W. Edgington, President, JSAC**

## Where in Japan?

The photo from the Fall 2015 Newsletter photo quiz was of the Godzilla head at Tokyo Mid-Town, Minato Ward (and Professor Jacob Kovalio).

Can you guess where in Japan the photo below was taken?

The answer will be given in the Fall 2016 Newsletter.



## JSAC Annual Meeting 2016

The 2016 JSAC Annual Meeting will be held at University of British Columbia – Vancouver, from Thursday October 13 to Sunday October 16, 2016, and the theme is 'Globalizing Japan'.

Professor Shige Matsui (UBC Law, and co-director Centre for Japanese Research) is the Conference organizer. He has applied for Japan Foundation funding, and he will announce a Call for Papers in April.

## Interview with Professor David Welch

### *Director of the Japan Futures Initiative, University of Waterloo*

Last month I had the opportunity to interview Professor David Welch who is part of a team that set up the 'Japan Futures Initiative' at the University of Waterloo in 2011. I asked him to reflect on what the Institute had achieved in the last five years.

**David Edgington.** How did the Japan Futures initiative (JFI) come to be?

**David Welch.** Those of us who study Japan have noticed a steady shift in attention, at least in the social sciences, away from Japan and toward China and Korea. This always struck me as a tragic mistake—not because China and Korea are unimportant, but because Japan is the OECD country that will first be confronting a range of issues that other OECD countries such as Canada will be confronting not long after. These include such things as an aging population, declining or negative aggregate economic growth rates, challenges of shifting from a carbon-based economy, and so on. In addition, expertise on challenges such as these is widely dispersed in Canada; it is difficult to get a critical mass of people together for sustained research engagement. The JFI was intended to help address this by creating a virtual network of scholars engaged on these issues and making it easy to collaborate and cross-fertilize ideas. With the support of the Japan Foundation, we help a planning meeting in Waterloo in 2011, where the idea was endorsed enthusiastically. Since then the JFI has grown steadily in membership. We now have members not only in Canada, but in Japan, Korea, the United States, Europe, and even Israel.



The JFI's biggest challenge has always been funding. While as a virtual network it has virtually no overhead, neither does it have independent resources to mount activities. So we depend entirely on members raising their own funds for JFI-related activities. It is, in a sense, voluntaristic. We are grateful to East Asian Studies at Renison University College, University of Waterloo, for providing some Shibusawa Eiichi Memorial Foundation. The Suntory Foundation has been a key partner via its "Examining Japan in Global Context" project, whose mission is the same as the JFI's.

**D.E.** Over the past 5 years or so, what were the most important types of events and themes addressed by JFI?

**D.W.** The JFI and its partners have held workshops, contributed to publications, and generated reports on quite a wide range of themes, including Japan's next economy, climate change, energy transition, aging populations, happiness, political parties, the Arctic, and the future of Asia-Pacific security.

**D.E.** Going into 2016 the Japanese government has many challenges - what to do about the economy, relations with China and the growing militarization of the South China Sea. What workshops and research projects will JFI hold this coming year to address these issues?

**D.W.** This remains to be seen! As a voluntaristic network, we depend upon members to generate ideas and organize events.

**D.E.** Canada has a new government, and it was interesting to see that Foreign Affairs Minister Stephan Dion met with Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs Fumio Kishida in Ottawa recently. Do you see any changes in Canadian relations with Japan?

**D.W.** At the moment there is a lot of enthusiasm in Japan for cultivating better relations with Canada and having Canada reengage in the Asia-Pacific. The two countries are remarkably like-minded on a wide range of issues. Early indications are that Canada will be receptive, but the big challenge for Canada has always been sustaining engagement because resources and expertise are in limited supply.

**D.E.** Finally David, please tell me about your own current research projects.

**D.W.** At the moment my main research project is "Confidence, Trust, and Empathy in Asia-Pacific Security," housed and funded at the Centre for International Governance Innovation. Japan is, of course, a central player in a number of critical Asia-Pacific security challenges, so I find myself almost constantly grappling with issues central to the JFI mission. At the moment I am working specifically on the role of justice considerations in Asia-Pacific territorial disputes.

The Web-site of Japan Futures Initiative, where current and future events are shown, can be found at: <https://uwaterloo.ca/japan-futures-initiative/>

## Member News

**Teri Bryant** (Emeritus Professor, Haskayne School of Business, University of Calgary) recently retired after 25 years at the University of Calgary. She gave a presentation in January at the University of Saskatchewan entitled:

- “The Militarization of Society in pre-1945 Japan: Lessons from the Objects of Every Day Life”.

Teri reports that she is only retired in a technical sense, and is working on a project relating to the ‘Canadian Museum of the Pacific War’ as well as various speaking engagements.

**Millie Creighton** (Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of British Columbia) received a grant by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) to conduct research in Japan during summer 2016 on architecture, film, and art festivals as part of a larger project on the spreading and reception of culture through contents tourism.

Millie has a new publication:

- (2015) “We Have Always Lived in Our Ancestral Village: At the Edge of the Hong Kong Mega Mall with the Japanese Department Store”, *Critique of Anthropology*, 25, 280-300.

Millie has also made two recent presentations:

- “Global Hallyu’s Local and Regional Effects on Korea-Japan Relations via Gender, Consumerism, Transnationalism and Tourism”, invited presentation as the Regional President for Canada of the World Association of Hallyu Studies, Dubai, UAE, November 2015.
- “Masks in Performance, Masks in Museums, Mediating Realms and Cultures: Japan, Korea, and the Pacific North West (Native Groups of Canada and the USA)” invited presentation as the designated Representative for Canada to the International Mask and Culture Organization (IMACO), a sub-organization on intangible cultural heritage, Shanghai, China, November 2015.

**David W. Edgington** (Professor, Department of Geography, University of British Columbia) has a number of new publications and a presentation:

- (2016) “Reflections on the Hanshin Earthquake of 1995 and the Reconstruction of Kobe, Japan”, in P. Daly and M. Feener (Eds) *Rebuilding Asia Following Natural Disasters Approaches to Reconstruction in the Asia-Pacific Region*, Cambridge, CUP, 108-140.
- (2016) together with N. Ota, N. Sato and J.F. Steele (eds.) “Culture, Identity and Citizenship in Japan and Canada”, *Proceedings of an International Conference Held in Tokyo*, Institute of Social Sciences, Report No. 59, Tokyo, University of Tokyo (139pp).
- ‘Nuclear power plant accidents and government responses: A comparison of Fukushima and Chernobyl’, paper presented at the Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers meeting, University of Northern British Columbia, March 2016.

David also organized a Workshop in March at the Centre for Japanese Research, UBC to mark the fifth anniversary of the '3.11' disaster in Japan with three invited speakers:

- **Millie Creighton** (Anthropology, UBC), “Community Recovery in Tohoku after 3.11”
- **Noritsugu Fujimoto** (Symbiotic Systems Science, Fukushima University), “3.11 and Manga: The Oishinbo Nosebleed Issue”
- **Kiwa Nakano** (Business Management, Daito Bunka University), “Recovery from the Disaster in Onagawa, Japan”.

**Fumiko Ikawa-Smith** (Professor Emeritus, Anthropology, McGill University) has made a number of presentations:

- “Peopling of the Japanese Archipelago: An Evolving Scenario Viewed From Abroad”, a Keynote Speech in Part 2 of the ‘20th International Symposium: Suyanggae and Her Neighbours in Korea’, Cheongju, November 2015. This was published in the conference volume, edited by Yung-Jo Lee, et al., pp. 57-68, Institute of Korean Prehistory, 2015.
- Invited lecture, “The Japanese Archipelago during the Prehistoric Times: When, From Where, and How Many Times Did the Inhabitants Arrive in the Archipelago?”, invited lecture, Tsuda College, Tokyo, November, 2015.

Forthcoming Events:

- Presentation on “Peopling of the New World, As Seen from the Japanese Archipelago”, at the ‘21st International Symposium: Suyanggae at Her Neighbours’, Laramie, Wyoming, July 2016.
- Moderator of the Forum co-organized by Gina Barnes and Tsutomu Soda, on “Methodological Approaches to TephroArchaeology as Practiced in Japan”, Kyoto, August 2016.

**Evan Koike** (Ph.D. student in Anthropology at the University of British Columbia, supervisor Millie Creighton) was awarded a Killam Doctoral Fellowship and has a publication to report:

- (2014) “Emergent Japanese Discourses on Minorities, Race, Culture, Identity”, *Global Ethnographic*, 2, 1-30.

**Jacob Kovalio** (Professor, Department of History, Carleton University) made the following presentations:

- “History-politics in Japan’s Relations with the Indo-Pacific on the 70th Anniversary of the End of the Pacific War”, Lecture No. 1 in the 2015-16 Japan Lecture Series at Carleton University, December 2015;
- “A Historical Journey Through the Meiji and Taishō Periods”, Lecture no. 2 in the 2015-16 Japan Lecture Series at Carleton, December 2015;
- A presentation at the Embassy of Japan, Ottawa, which served as historical background to the Pictures of Enlightenment: the John Cooper Robinson Photography Exhibition, February 2016;

- “Modern Japan’s Political Culture and Constitutional Tradition: The Meiji and Peace Constitutions”, Lecture No. 3 in the 2015-16 Japan Lecture Series at Carleton University, March, 2016.
- “Japan’s Relations with China and Korea”, a lecture to the Ottawa Japanese Community Association, March, 2016.

Jacob also has a forthcoming publication:

- The Case for Japan [and the Philippines and Vietnam and Malaysia and Indonesia and India] or Confronting ‘Lebensraum’ Foreign Policy with Communist Chinese Characteristics, e-essay.

**Simon Nantais** (Instructor, Asia-Canada Program, Simon Fraser University) has a new publication:

- (2015) "Race to Subversion: Nationality and Koreans in Occupied Japan, 1945–1952", *Diplomatic History*, 39, 819-843.

**Linda Ohama** (Independent Film Maker) has completed her film "Tohoku no Shingetsu: A New Moon Over Tohoku". This film was supported by JSAC, and was screened for first time in Tohoku (Sendai City) on the first day of the Spring Equinox (March 20th, 2016).

**Norio Ota** (Associate Lecturer, Department of Languages, Literatures & Linguistics, York University) submitted this report.

- Presentation: “Why Constitutional Patriotism Now?”, 2016 Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities”, 9–12 January 2016, Waikiki, Hawaii.
- Meeting attended: “Academic Freedom in the Managed University: Controversy, Conflict and Control”, Conference sponsored by the Harry Crowe Foundation, 26–17 February 2016, Toronto.
- Award and Recognition: Received the 2015 Japanese Foreign Minister's Commendation, September 2015, “A York University scholar who has devoted over three decades to developing and promoting Japanese language education has been awarded a Commendation from Japan’s Minister for Foreign Affairs. Norio Ota was given this esteemed recognition for his development of Japanese language pedagogy and for promoting greater understanding of and goodwill toward Japan”.
- Norio was also recognized in for his outstanding achievements during the fourth annual York University Research Leaders celebration at the ceremony of “This is Innovation”, February 2016.
- Summer Plans: Presentation on “A New Attempt in Japanese Language Education in Canada”, invited talk at Korea University, July 2016;
- “Power, Institutions & Authority – 5th International Power Conference, 29–31 August 2016, University of Tampere, Finland; Session to be organized: 'Controlling Power through Micromanagement'; Paper to be presented: 'Micromanagement and Control of Power in Universities'.

**Grant Jun Otsuki** (Assistant Professor of Cultural Anthropology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Tsukuba) successfully defended his PhD thesis titled “Human and Machine in Formation: An Ethnographic Study of Communication and Humanness in a Wearable Technology Laboratory in Japan” at the University of Toronto in October, 2015. The full thesis can be downloaded at: <http://www.gjotsuki.net>. He took up his current position at the University of Tsukuba in September 2015.

**Brian Pendleton** (Professor Emeritus, Asian Studies, Langara College) attended the NAJGA (North American Japanese Garden Association) Regional Conference in New York in October, 2016. The major focus included visits to several historic gardens in the area, including 'Kykuit', the Japanese Garden at Pocantico Hills, first designed in 1908 as part of the Rockefeller Family Estate.

In March, Brian presented a paper at the NAJGA Biennial Conference at the Morikami Garden in Florida:

- “My generation are lost sheep ... we must worship Democracy’ - Healing the memories of War and Transforming U.S.-Japan Relations: The 1961 Garden Club of America Tour to Japan”.

**Tom Waldichuck** (Associate Professor, Thompson Rivers University) has made a number of presentations:

- Poster presentation, "Landscape Change in a Konjuka Settlement in the Rural-Urban Fringe of Tokyo Since 1993: An Analysis of Preservation", annual conference of The Human Geographical Society of Japan, Osaka University, November, 2015;
- “Agrotourism in Japan and British Columbia”, presentation at the Western Division, Canadian Association of Geographers meeting, Prince George, British Columbia, March 2016.

**X. Jie Yang** (Professor, Faculty of Linguistics, Languages and Cultures, University of Calgary)

- (2016) Editor “Introducing Old Japan Redux 2”, <http://llc.ucalgary.ca/news/introducing-old-japan-redux-2>;
- (2016) "100 Life Scenes in Classical Painting”, <http://people.ucalgary.ca/~xyang/hp/hp.html>.

## Conference Notice

### European-Japan Relations Conference

Hosted by the European Japan Advanced Research Network (EJARN)

Warwick, UK

June 16 -17, 2016.

For more details contact Carin Holroyd ([carin.holroyd@usask.ca](mailto:carin.holroyd@usask.ca)).



## JSAC Executive 2015-2016

### *President (2013-2016):*

Prof. David W. Edgington  
Department of Geography  
University of British Columbia  
1984 West Mall,  
Vancouver BC, Canada V6T1Z2  
Tel: 1-604-822-5612  
Fax: 1-604-822-6150  
E-mail: [david.edgington@ubc.ca](mailto:david.edgington@ubc.ca)

### *Secretary-Treasurer (2012-):*

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](mailto:nota@yorku.ca)

### *Regular Executive Members:*

Prof. Fumiko Ikawa-Smith (2007-)  
Department of Anthropology  
McGill University  
855 Sherbrooke Street West  
Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3A 2T7  
E-mail: [fumiko.ikawa-smith@mcgill.ca](mailto:fumiko.ikawa-smith@mcgill.ca)

Prof. Thomas Waldichuk (2015-17)  
Department of Geography & Environmental Studies  
Thompson Rivers University  
900 McGill Road  
Kamloops, BC, Canada V2C 0C8  
Tel. 250-371-5718  
E-mail: [twaldichuk@tru.ca](mailto: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](mailto:jhtiessen@ryerson.ca)

Prof. Ken Coates (2013-)  
Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy  
University of Saskatchewan  
E-mail: [ken.coates@usask.ca](mailto:ken.coates@usask.ca)

Please send your updates for the Fall 2016 Newsletter to [david.edgington@ubc.ca](mailto:david.edgington@ubc.ca)