Welcome Message

Welcome to the first July issue of the Centre for Japanese Studies e-Newsletter. This week we are proud to present the latest fruits of our labour as we emerge from the worst of the COVID lockdown looking forward and ready for the next academic year. We are delighted to announce the Online Summer Programme in Japanese Cultural Studies which will be launching later this month to supplement our postponed summer schools, as well as two new episodes from our Beyond Japan podcast. Fancy trying your hand at origami? Find our new MA Origami Canaries in the MA in Interdisciplinary Japanese Studies section. In our Piece of Japan segment, we celebrate the 109th anniversary of the first international treaty to address wildlife preservation signed by Japan, the UK, the US and Russia with our theme of nature & wildlife. You can find a message from CJS Director Professor Simon Kaner on the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures website and hear more from our SISJAC colleagues on their monthly e-bulletin.

Written by Oliver Moxham, CJS Project Coordinator and editor

Editor’s note: Japanese names are given in the Japanese form of family name first i.e. Matsumoto Mariko
Online Summer Programme in Japanese Cultural Heritage

The Centre for Japanese Studies at the University of East Anglia and the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures are pleased to invite applications for a special Online Summer Programme in Japanese Cultural Studies. This programme is offered in place of the Japan Orientation Summer School (sponsored by the Toshiba International Foundation) and the Ishibashi Foundation Summer Fellowship in Japanese Arts and Heritage (sponsored by the Ishibashi Foundation), postponed from summer 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It is our current hope that these two programmes will be rescheduled to summer 2021.

The Online Summer Programme in Japanese Cultural Studies will include a guided and interactive exploration of digital resources available for the field, including the Ishibashi Foundation Lecture Series held in Japan from 2014-2018, and an opportunity to engage with the production of a review of the future of Japanese cultural studies outside Japan, building on an international conference on this theme held in Norwich in 2017. The Academic Director of the Online Summer Programme is Professor Simon Kaner, Executive Director of the Sainsbury Institute and Director of the Centre for Japanese Studies at UEA, and the programme will offer the chance for digital encounters with academics from both organisations. There will also be opportunities to engage online with participants from around the world and to join the network of young specialists who have taken part in the Japan Orientation Summer School and the Ishibashi Foundation Summer Fellowship in previous years.

For more information, please see the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures website.

MA in Interdisciplinary Japanese Studies

The University of East Anglia together with The Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures are delighted to announce the launch of our new MA programme in Interdisciplinary Japanese Studies. It’s been an unsettling time for prospective students, but we’ve worked hard to adapt and bring you an exciting course for September 2020.
Administered through **UEA’s Interdisciplinary Institute for the Humanities**, home to the **Centre for Japanese Studies**, this MA course is a collaboration of Japan specialists from both the University and the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures. Lecturers with academic focus on Japan from several schools of study at UEA, as well as academic staff of the Sainsbury Institute together have developed an innovative interdisciplinary curriculum for students who want to know about Japan, its place in the world, and its transforming cultural identity. For a taste of who will be teaching you and their areas of specialty, **watch our new video** on YouTube or follow our new podcast series **Beyond Japan** for in-depth discussion with the teaching team.

We hope that this course will help create a new generation of versatile experts on Japan, who are well equipped to cross geographical, disciplinary, and institutional borders, ready to jump-start their careers in this exciting field.

Applicants can still apply for 2020 entry with an opportunity of scholarships for outstanding applicants. Arrival time is also flexible to allow for movement restrictions with students able to arrive as late as mid-October. The final deadline for applications is **July 30, 2020**.

To promote our new MA, we have a flock of origami canaries decorated with the themes of our programme and life in Norwich taking flight. You can download the cutouts [here](#), print them out and follow our step-by-step origami guide on YouTube to make your very own canary. Happy folding!

---

**Beyond Japan Episode 3: Japan’s International Relations**

![Beyond Japan Episode 3: Japan’s International Relations](image)

**JAPAN’S INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

**WITH DR. RA MASON**

---

**BEYOND JAPAN**

**EP. #3**
The Centre for Japanese Studies is proud to announce *Beyond Japan*, a groundbreaking podcast series exploring the interdisciplinary nature of Japanese Studies and what insights the field provides in other areas of study. Subscribe to our YouTube channel for the latest episodes, including our last episode on *Modern Japanese Literature* with Dr Hannah Osborne.

This week we are joined by Dr Ra Mason, Sasakawa Lecturer in International Relations and Japanese Foreign Policy at the University of East Anglia who will introduce us to the dynamic and nuanced world of Japan’s International Relations. For more on Ra’s research, see his research profile here. If this episode has given you an appetite for politics and diplomacy, you can join Ra at the cutting edge of Japanese Foreign Policy on our new MA in Interdisciplinary Japanese Studies. For more information, see uea.ac.uk/cjs.

### Piece of Japan

Each week we share some fresh recommendations from CJS members to help bring a piece of Japan to you at home through film, books, anime, manga and more. Today marks the 109th anniversary of the signing of the 1911 North Pacific Fur Seal Convention by the US, UK, Japan and Russia, preventing commercial hunting of seals in the Northern Pacific, thereby making it the first international treaty to address wildlife preservation. To celebrate this historic step towards humankind’s recognition of the value in protecting the natural world, we bring you Japanese cultural artefacts on the theme of nature & wildlife.

If you have any suggestions for themes or other recommendations, send us an email at cjs@uea.ac.uk.

*Editor’s note*: English e-books and Japanese e-books on Amazon can largely only be purchased on amazon.co.uk and amazon.co.jp respectively, meaning that English and Japanese e-books cannot be purchased on the same Amazon account. You can read in both languages on your computer, but it is necessary to have two accounts. Furthermore, if you wish to read on a Kindle you must log in with either an English or Japanese account. Switching accounts on a Kindle will delete any content already stored on the device, so choose wisely!

**Environmental Archaeology in Japan**  
*CJS Director Professor Simon Kaner*

Environmental archaeology is a well-established subdiscipline in Japan as well as elsewhere, and informs the emerging field of Disaster Archaeology – ever pertinent as Japan endures in the face of the forces of nature – from floods and earthquakes to the imminent eruption of Sakurajima, which sits on the edge of one of the largest volcanic calderas in the world, whose previous eruptions have sent massive quantities of debris across the archipelago and surrounding regions, leaving datable traces in the stratigraphy allowing archaeologists to accurately date the deposits they are excavating. I suggest a visit to the website of the Research Institute for Humanity and Nature to get a flavour of the huge amount of innovative, international, trans-disciplinary research in this area, and perhaps the Institute of Disaster Science at Tohoku University in Sendai. For an overview this book on *Multidisciplinary Studies of the Environment and Civilization* makes a good sampler, and Mark Hudson was also involved in the special issue of the Journal of Asian Studies on the Anthropocene.
Film

Recommendations by Dr Rayna Denison

Japan has a long history of documentary, and documentary-style productions. Amongst these, the films of female documentarian-turned feature filmmaker Naomi Kawase provide great examples of stories that connect humanity and the natural world. Most obviously, *The Mourning Forest* (*Mogari no mori*, 2007) [EN/JP] and *Still the Water* (*Futatsume no mado*, 2014) [EN/JP].

Manga and Anime

Recommendations by Dr Rayna Denison

*Kimba the White Lion* (1950-54) by Tezuka Osamu

ジャングル大帝  作者：手塚治

Osamu Tezuka's *Kimba the White Lion* (Jangaru taitei, 1950-54) is famously (not) one of the major source materials for *The Lion King* and follows the adventures of Kimba, jungle emperor, as he grows up among a colourful cast of animal characters. Rumour has it Disney appropriated the tale for *The Lion King* – Mushi Pro started to contest it as copyright infringement only for Disney to bury them in lawyers. Chances are, the American animators on *The Lion King* could have seen Kimba when they were kids themselves, because it would have been shown at some regional syndicates when it was first made, but nobody has come out and said anything official....

Available to stream in Japanese on Amazon.

*Polar Bear’s Café* (2005-13) by Higa Aloha

しろくまカフェ  作者：ヒガアロハ

For something soothing this summer, you might try *Polar Bear’s Café* (*Shirokuma Kafe* 2005-13), which follows a heavily anthropomorphised group of "wild" animals as they go about their daily lives in Tokyo - running a cafe, looking for love, or doing part-time work at Ueno Zoo.

Available to stream in Japanese.
Nature in Literature

Nature has always figured significantly in Japanese literature. For instance, in the *Man’yoshu* (translated by Iain Hideo Levy as *The Ten Thousand Leaves*) the natural world often mirrors the emotional world of the poet; in *Genji Monogatari* (*The Tale of Genji*), Genji’s feelings are animated by his natural surroundings and the activities of wildlife; and in *Noh* plays, such as *Matsu Kaze* (*Pining Wind*) or *Yamamba* (*The Mountain Witch*) the natural world is an ancient and divine realm which manifests itself in various forms through shamanistic dances, enabling audiences a collective emotional catharsis.

In modern Japanese literature writers have appropriated these tropes to represent their own set of concerns. For instance, in Izumi Kyôka’s *Koya Hijiri* (*The Holy Man of Mount Kôya, 1900*) the male protagonist travels through the mountains of Japan, where he encounters fields of snakes, forests that rain leeches, and a strange and beautiful mountain woman who holds the ability to seduce men and turn them into animals. For Kyôka, then, nature is a feminised force that threatens the sanity and safety of modern man. By contrast, in various women’s writing at the beginning of the twentieth century, nature’s alignment with woman lends it a regenerative and erotic power. This is notable in the waka poetry of Yosano Akiko, and in the modernist short stories, such as *Hana wa Tsuyoshi* (*A Pageant of Flowers*) and *Kingyo Ryoran* (*A Riot of Goldfish*) by Okamoto Kanoko.

After the Second World War, however, Nakagami Kenji, a writer who grew up in Shingū, a *hisabcape storietsu burakumin* (outcaste) district located in the southern part of the Kii Peninsula, repeatedly sexualises and genders his wild and remote region as male. Moreover, he uses it in writing such as the short stories *Shugen* (*The Mountain Ascetic*) and *Fushi* (*The Immortal*), as a metaphor for the way in which the outcaste community in Japan has been marginalised from mainstream history and literature.

Even more recently, in the aftermath of the 3:11 disaster, wild animals have become the narrators of stories in novels such as Hideo Furukawa’s *Horses, Horses, in the End the Light Remains Pure*, and Tawada Yoko’s *Memoirs of a Polar Bear*. Such narratives allow us as readers to reconsider humanity’s climate crimes from the perspective of those most vulnerable and least able to influence change.

Recommendations by the National Institute of Japanese Literature

Director-general Robert Campbell of the NIJL (国文研) has announced that they will be releasing many of their premodern texts on infectious diseases in response to the pandemic. These will be available for free on their homepage at www.nijl.ac.jp with regular updates on the latest texts to be released. You can watch Robert explain the move in both English and Japanese on YouTube.
Upcoming Events & Opportunities

Masterclass: Develop a Manga Storyboard with Kubo Kiriko
Japan House
Monday 15 July
11am-12:15pm
Free to attend, booking essential

Japan House London is delighted to dive deeper into the exploration of manga by inviting aspiring artists and illustrators to the first of three special online masterclasses led by internationally renowned manga-ka Kubo Kiriko.

In this first masterclass focussing on creating a storyboard, participants are guided through the creative process of a professional manga-ka. Kubo Kiriko explains how to create a simple one-page story, from preparing a script to dividing the drawing space into frames and sketching a panel.

The masterclass includes a drawing demonstration with the artist herself at work, which participants can decide to follow along or simply watch depending on their level of experience. Participants are also encouraged to engage with the artist by asking for tips and suggestions during the session.

Please note that, while no previous experience with manga is required, it is advised that this event series is for participants aged 16 and over.

Make a HIROCOLEDGE Tenugui Face Covering: Online Demonstration with Takahashi Hiroko
Japan House
Monday 27 July
11am-12pm
Free to attend, booking essential

Learn how to make your own washable pleated face covering from tenugui (simply woven cotton Japanese hand towels) in this live online event led by Takahashi Hiroko, contemporary textile artist and founder of design brand HIROCOLEDGE.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Takahashi has made a range of face coverings from tenugui helping wearers reduce the risk of spreading the virus. These reusable and washable face garments dyed with Takahashi’s signature bold geometric patterns, save on the cost and waste that more
common disposable face masks would usually incur, while also transforming face coverings into fashionable accessories.

This event accompanies the downloadable worksheet 'Make a HIROCOLEDGE Tenugui Face Covering in 7 Steps'. While following the live instructions from Takahashi Hiroko, participants are welcome to join in by making their own face covering. All materials required are listed in the worksheet.

COVID News from Japan

For a running number of reported COVID19 infections, victims and recoveries in Japan, see the Asahi Shimbun homepage [JP].

For non-Japanese speakers, the numbers indicate:

Nationwide infections: Yesterday (total)  Deaths: Yesterday (total)  Recoveries: Yesterday (total)

Visit the Pandaid website for comprehensive material for educating on coronavirus. Nosigner has contributed many such manner posters including advising others to stay one tuna apart.

For a Japanese government public service video on coronavirus (Japanese only):

3 つの密を避けよう！

For Japanese speakers, here are two articles in English from the Japan Times laying out vocabulary coming out of the crisis:

- The Japanese words used to encourage self-restraint
- Cancellations, postponements, suspensions — words that define the times

Click here for a comprehensive online document on Japanese universities adopting distance learning.

For more information on Japanese universities see this twitter thread by Rochelle Kopp, professor at Kitakyushu University, for resources.

General Links

- Orientations Magazine
- Embassy of Japan
- Japan Foundation
- JSPS
- British Association for Japanese Studies
- Daiwa Anglo-Japanese Foundation
- Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation
- Japan Society
- EU-Japan Centre
- Canon Foundation
- Applications for JET Programme
Japanese Language Proficiency Exam
UEA Japan Society: ueajapansociety@gmail.com
Taiko Centre East
Career Forums

If you have any contributions for the next e-newsletter, please send them to us by **12:00 Wednesday 22 July** to make the next issue.

The CJS office is located in the Sainsbury Centre for the Visual Arts (the mezzanine floor), although the office is temporarily closed as per university guidelines. You can always email us at cjs@uea.ac.uk.

To keep up with goings-on at CJS, follow us on social media:

Or visit our website: [uea.ac.uk/cjs](http://uea.ac.uk/cjs)

---

If you wish to be removed from our mailing list, please email cjs@uea.ac.uk