

Cutting-Edge Research at Kyoto University

A small selection of research activities deals with Japan.

HIST ARCH Manifold Narratives for Kyoto Studies

In search of the real story of Kyoto's development.

The modern autonomous area of Kyoto City was developed from a small area of 30km² in the 1880s to its current size of over 800km². The urban structure, however, expanded at each step in the history beyond the autonomic administrative territory of Kyoto Township, and physically spread to the suburban towns and villages. The whole area was long under the control of the prefectural and national governments, until prefectural power over urban management was decentralized to the municipal government in 1956.

In modern history, however, Kyoto City has often been represented in publications issued by the municipality as a unique town which developed autonomically, as if without any national intervention.

As faculty members of Kyoto's outstanding university, my colleagues and I strive to ensure that our research into the city's development is free from historical revisionism and distortion. Through our work, we seek to create a platform for a discussion that includes diverse, and even conflicting, interpretations of the city's urban development.



Tsutomu Iyori, CEAA, ENSA-Paris-Villemin (France)

Professor, Graduate School of Human and Environmental Studies

www.h.kyoto-u.ac.jp/staff/233_iyori_t_0_e.html

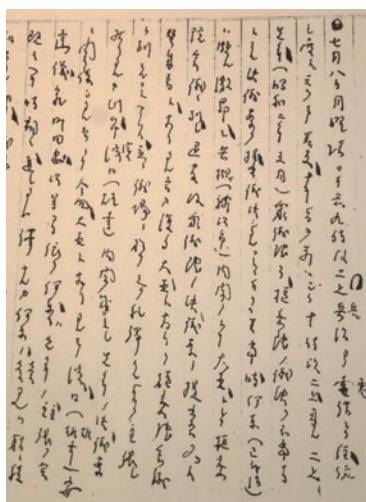


The outer urbanized area of Kyoto in 1927 under the control of the Home Ministry. The city developed physically beyond its inner autonomic municipal area.

(*Toshikeikaku Yokan*, edited by the Urban Planning Section of the Japanese government's Home Ministry in 1927)

HIST Japanese Modernization and International Cooperation

Accepting international law, order, and constitutional monarchy.



Kuratomi Yuzaburo's Diary (National Diet Library)

I have written biographies of modern Japanese politicians, including Ito Hirobumi, Hara Takashi, and the Emperor Showa. Through my studies, I have revealed how modern Japan have accepted international law and order, and how it has approached subjects concerning national security, the ruling of colonies, and the development of a constitutional monarchy.

For example, many researchers claim that the Emperor Showa was responsible for starting the Pacific War, as he had the constitutional power to stop it. However, using newly released materials, I have shown that the Emperor did not have sufficient power to prevent the war, and he was perpetually agonized over the extent to which he should intervene in political affairs in order to maintain peace. I have therefore concluded that the Emperor Showa had no responsibility for the War. This research has been commonly accepted in the field of Japanese history.

From the Editor Dr. Ito's book on the subject, *Showa Tenno Den (Biography of the Emperor Showa)* (Tokyo: Bungei Shunju, 2011), was awarded the 15th Shiba Ryotaro prize.

Yukio Ito, PhD *Professor, Graduate School of Law*

kyouindb.iimc.kyoto-u.ac.jp/e/yA2qM



HIST The History of the Japanese language

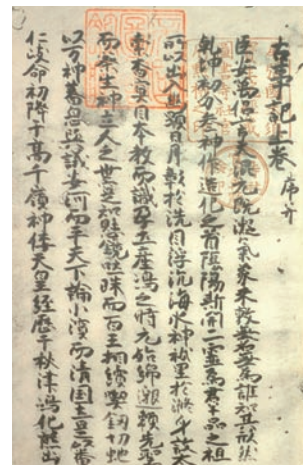
Exploring ancient Japanese language in the period before recorded history.

I am engaged in a study of historical changes in the phonemes and grammar of the Japanese language from the Nara period (8th century) to the present day. My recent research focuses on elucidating ancient Japanese language in the period before recorded history by analyzing 8th century Japanese literature. I have already succeeded in partially identifying a system of verb conjugation which existed circa 1BC/1AD. My theory that there were only two types of verb conjugation at that time, called the *kami-ichidan katsuyo* (upper single grade) and *shimo-ichidan katsuyo* (lower single grade) is contrary to the commonly-held view, which is based on a form of conjugation called the *yodan katsuyo* (quadrigrade). The theory has not yet been widely recognized by conservative academic circles.



Prof. Kida in the costume of a Heian-period aristocrat

Akiyoshi Kida, MA Professor, Graduate School of Letters
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Kojiki (National Diet Library)

JPN EDU Concepts Beyond Words

How do Temporal Adverbs reflect the speaker's view of event actualization?



The Japanese language has a rich variety of temporal adverbs which provide us with many clues as to how the speaker conceptualizes event actualization. One such clue is the reference point which is an essential tool for grasping the actualization time or the length of time for which the event endures. Another clue is the objective or the first person oriented manner of description of events. Both *Sugu* and *Mamonaku* may denote an actualization as one immediately following the reference point. However, unlike *Sugu*, *Mamonaku* cannot modify first person volitional actions since it is restricted to objective description. Indefiniteness is another property

that reflects the speaker's view of event actualization. *Sonouchi* denotes such indefiniteness, thereby expressing the speaker's uncertainty about the realization, making it possible for him to express vague promises that might never realize. Temporal adverbs could also denote aspectual properties of the event such as the gradual or the rapid manner in which it unfolds in time, allowing us to pursue the detailed mechanism of event actualization as reflected in language. Furthermore, they depict the speaker's anticipations or apprehensions about the realization, indicating the cognitive procedure underlying each expression.

Ruchira Palihawadana, PhD Professor, The International Center
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PSYCHOANAL Can You See Me?

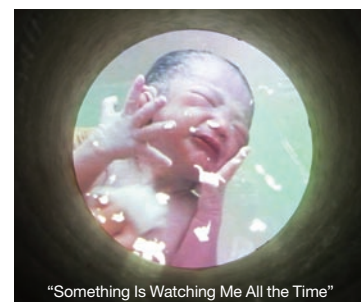
The unconscious origin of the self.

Can you see me? When I was born I was not afraid of being seen, but how about now? I get embarrassed and anxious when I am seen. Certain people may even feel a false sense of fear that they are being watched by an evil organization. At one extreme it could be said that the subjectivity of the act of seeing is analogous to the power of the modern political establishment, and must be overcome. Where can we find, then, that simple sense of being seen that must have once been ours? An enormous unconscious mechanism seems to be at

work behind the loss of this sense. I am engaged in research to clarify these matters from a psychoanalytic perspective. One student in my laboratory has chosen to present their results as a piece of artwork on it. At the time of birth, humans have a desire to verify their "self." This desire may emerge as the cry: "Can you see me?"

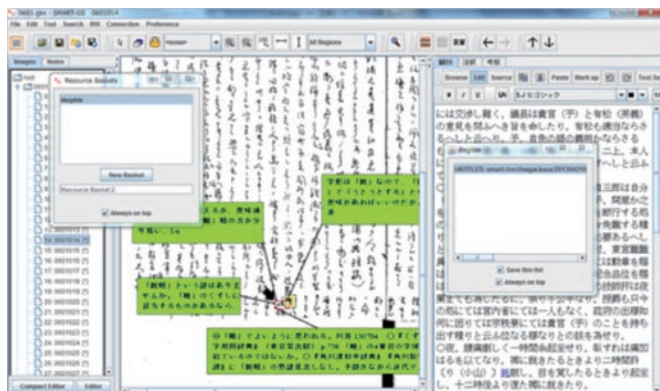


Kazushige Shingu, MD Professor, Graduate School of Human and Environmental Studies
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Reading and Publishing One of the Longest Diaries in the World

Deciphering the Diaries of Yuzaburo Kuratomi using SMART-GS.



A web page of SMART-GS

Yuzaburo Kuratomi (1853-1948) was a bureaucrat-politician during the Meiji, Taisho, and early Showa eras. He began his career at the Ministry of Justice in 1879. After his service in Korea in 1907-1913, he became the comptroller general of the Imperial Household in 1916. He was nominated as Chairman of the Privy Council in 1926, and held that office until 1934. Like the English politician Samuel Pepys, Kuratomi is famous for the detailed diaries he kept from 1919-1947. The diaries have become a valuable historical resource documenting the political and social life of the Imperial Household of Japan at that time, and reveals many inside stories about both the Imperial Household and the Privy

Council. However, due to his illegible handwriting and the enormous volume of his writing, it has been difficult for even professional researchers to read the diaries. To facilitate this task, my colleagues and I are transcribing the diaries. Sections of the diaries spanning 1919-1924 have already been published in three volumes, and further portion, spanning 1919-1934, will soon be published by Kokusho Kankokai Inc.

The task of deciphering Kuratomi's handwriting has been made a great deal easier by SMART-GS, a new ICT tool developed by Prof. Susumu Hayashi of the Department of Humanistic Informatics of Kyoto University's Graduate School of Letters. SMART-GS is a tool designed to support philological and historical research, which has proven indispensable in converting historical documents to digital images. SMART-GS has three distinctive features.

1) It binds digitized documents with relevant translations, annotations, bibliographical information, explanatory notes, and other forms of text data. 2) It marks up selected areas of both digital images and attached text, and establishes links between the marked-up elements. 3) It offers management functions for mark-ups and links, and displays the relation between linked elements in the form of diagram.

From the Editor SMART-GS can be downloaded from <http://sourceforge.jp/projects/smart-gs/releases/>. The English manual is also available on <http://smart-gs.sourceforge.jp/manual/en/index.html> (SMART-GS 0.8, 0.9 Manual)

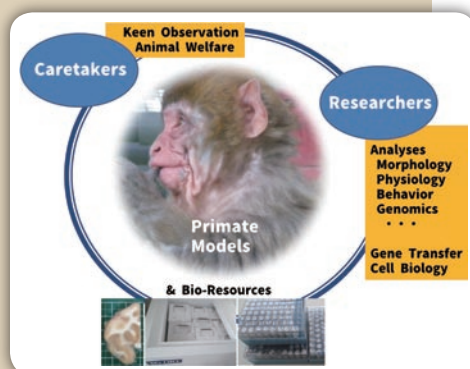
Kazu Nagai, PhD Professor, Graduate School of Letters

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Research into Japanese Monkeys at the Primate Research Institute

Monkeys are common animals in Japan, often appearing in popular folk-tales. In the 1950s, Dr. Kinji Imanishi and his colleagues at Kyoto University began modern biological studies on the Japanese monkey (*Macaca fuscata*). Kyoto University's Primate Research Institute keeps over 700 Japanese monkeys. The monkeys are kept in open enclosures, retaining their original regional groups and genetic diversity, as well as in group and individual cages. The Japanese monkey continues to be an important subject in various fields of research, such as neuroscience, cognitive science, morphology, genetics, ecology, and conservation science. We are cooperating with other researchers and caretakers at the institute to develop primate models and bio-resources (skeletal and tissue specimens, cells, and DNA).



Author: Takao Oishi, PhD Associate Professor, Primate Research Institute **WEB** www.pri.kyoto-u.ac.jp

INT'L MKTG The Competitive Advantage of *Omotenashi* in the Global Market

How Japanese firms attain market leadership overseas by leveraging their uniqueness.

Omotenashi is a defining characteristic of many Japanese firms. Although it is difficult to translate the word into English, it can be roughly defined as “the spirit of selfless hospitality.” Japan’s service culture of *omotenashi* is internationally praised for its thoughtfulness, dedication to the needs of customers, and meticulous attention to detail. However, since *omotenashi* is deeply rooted in traditional Japanese values and ways of thinking, it has been very difficult to replicate outside Japan. My research explores how companies can leverage *omotenashi* in the global market to attain market leadership. I am examining the issue both from the perspective of the provider (i.e., successful Japanese firms leveraging *omotenashi* overseas) and the market (i.e. the attitude of local people toward *omotenashi*). The objective of this research is to construct a new model for company globalization.



Satoko Suzuki, DBA Senior Lecturer, Graduate School of Management
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PHOTO: Shiseido Co., Ltd.

ART HIST The Sculptors of Buddha

Fresh insight into the sculptors of Buddha Statues.

For approximately thirty years, I have been studying the sculptors of Buddha statues (called *Busshi* in Japanese). In Japan, Buddhist sculpture began in the late 7th century, and produced such acclaimed sculptors such as Jōchō (-1057) and Unkei (-1223). My research seeks to elucidate the achievements and contemporary social position of the sculptors.



From the Editor For his book based on this research, Dr. Nedachi was awarded the Kokka Prize from Asahi Shimbun.

Kensuke Nedachi, PhD Professor, Graduate School of Letters
www.bun.kyoto-u.ac.jp/ (Japanese only)



A statue of Amitabha Tathagata (*Amida Nyorai*). This sculpture was originally used as a teaching resource.

JPN-HIST Should *Tsurezuregusa* be Classified as Edo Literature?

New insight into Japanese cultural history.



Tsurezuregusa (Copyright 1998, Kyoto University Library)

In Japanese cultural history, it is generally considered that the literary classic *Genji Monogatari* (*The Tale of Genji*) was written in the Heian period (11th century), and that the essay *Tsurezuregusa* (*Essays in Idleness*) dates from the Kamakura period (14th century). Until the Edo period (17th century), however, their readership was largely limited to a small number of aristocrats and clergy, and they were not widely read or well known by the general public. As the lives of ordinary people in villages and towns stabilized, and the works became more widely read, rather than focus on the book’s passages about the impermanence of life, the readers of *Tsurezuregusa* tended to quote the monk Kenko’s admonitions to refrain from heavy drinking, choose the right friends, and disregard superstitions when lecturing their children. This is an example of the way in which readers interpret the contents of books

from the perspective of their times, regardless of the intentions of the authors.

By utilizing books found in old storehouses in villages and towns, and investigating references to books in readers’ diaries, I am trying to reconstruct Japanese cultural history from the perspective of ordinary people, rather than the perspective of great authors and thinkers.



Fuyuhiko Yokota, PhD Professor, Graduate School of Letters
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JPN-ARCH ELP **Mysterious Inventory, *Shizai-cho* !**

Archaeological research on documents of history and property concerning ancient Buddhist temples.

Do you keep the packing material for your furniture once you have moved into a new house? Your answer to this question is most likely “no”, but some ancient Buddhist temples would answer in the affirmative. Certain temple inventories reveal that the packing materials for Buddhist statues were stored even after the statues had been moved. Archaeological research has provided a key to solving this mystery: the temples were obliged to move to new sites in Nara several times; therefore, the packing materials had to be retained. I have analyzed the *Shizai-cho*, the documents of history and property in ancient Buddhist temples, from an archaeological perspective. My studies encompass everything owned by the ancient temples – including their facilities, property, and equipment – and clarify the effectiveness with which they utilized those resources, both financially and religiously. The re-use of packing materials is only one detail of the vivid lives led in ancient Buddhist temples, as discovered by me in the pages of the *Shizai-cho*.



Mahito Uehara, *Kodaijin no shisan to keiei* (Tokyo: Suiren sha, Co., Ltd., 2014)

Mahito Uehara, MA

Professor, Graduate School of Letters
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JPN-LIT **Elucidation of the Source and Work Process of Literature**

Research on the source and work process of modern Japanese literature: Kyoka Izumi, Ryunosuke Akutagawa, Hisao Jyuran, and Rohan Koda.

I am engaged in research tracing the work process of literature, identifying the sources used by authors in their writing. One particular area of focus is the relationship between Japanese and Chinese classical literature and modern Japanese literature. I am interested in the themes of fantasy literature and first-person stories. I have also written an annotation for Kanagaki Robun's "*Takahashi oden yasha monogatari*."



Chisato Suda, MA Professor, Graduate School of Human and Environmental Studies

www.h.kyoto-u.ac.jp/staff/242_suda_c_0_j.html



A page of Kyoka Izumi's *Kyoka Senshu*, designed by Settai Komura (1915)



A page of Kyoka Izumi's *Syakuyaku no uta*, designed by Settai Komura (1919)

HIST OF ARCH **Anti-Global Investigation of Historic Heritages**

Dig up local historic buildings, and elucidate their historical and social significance.



A unique Shinto shrine building in Hyogo prefecture.

In Japan, over 4000 historic buildings are designated as Important Cultural Properties (ICP). Such designated buildings are generally regarded as important resources in the study of Japanese culture; however, they only tell part of the story when it comes to Japan's religious and regional history. Many historic buildings with the potential to be important historical materials still remain uninvestigated, and for this reason I have been investigating non-designated historic buildings in the Hyogo and Shiga prefectures. In the course of my work I have encountered a large number of Buddhist temples and Shinto shrines with previously unknown regional characteristics. Through their studies, my colleagues and I have clarified the process of change in religious power from the medieval period to early modern times, revealed that certain buildings were utilized by multiple religions, and made other important discoveries. Through our work, rather than seeking to expand Japan's roster of World Heritage Sites, we are seeking to elucidate diverse regional histories.

Tsuneto Yamagishi, PhD Professor, Graduate School of Engineering

www.art.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/information/laboratory/history?set_language=en



MANAGEMENT Reactions for Innovation

Creating Legitimacy for Resource Mobilization.

How is innovation realized? To address this question, I have carried out a five-year joint research project with my former colleagues at the Institute of Innovation Research, Hitotsubashi University. Innovation requires resources to transform new ideas into commercial goods, which can then be marketed and diffused throughout society. Yet the process of innovation always contains an element of uncertainty, and there is no *ex-ante* objective consensus that a new idea will ultimately succeed. How, then, can innovators mobilize the necessary resources? My research examined the process of innovation in Japanese firms, drawing on twenty-three case studies of Okochi Memorial Prize winners. The study empirically and theoretically identified three possible routes that innovators could explore to create legitimacy for resource mobilization without objective prospects.

Three Routes for Creative Legitimization						
Routes for creative legitimization		Increase the number of supporters				Increase the amount of resources mobilized per supporter
		Given reason		Work on reason		
		Increase # of potential supporters reached	Increase probability of supporters emerging	Increase probability of supporters emerging	Decrease uniqueness of reasons	
Route One	Wider exploration	●				
	Selective exploration		●			
Route Two	Combine reasons			●		
	Change the reason				●	
Route Three	Seek for influencers					●



From the Editor The book based on this research, *Reasons for Innovation: Creating Legitimacy for Resource Mobilization* by A. Takeishi, Y. Aoshima, and M. Karube (Tokyo: Yuhikaku Publishing Co., Ltd., 2012), won the 2012 Nikkei Prize for Excellent Books in Economic Science.

Akira Takeishi, PhD Professor, Graduate School of Economics

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PHILOSOPHY Philosophizing with the Kyoto School

Facing the facts about the “theory of the body.”

According to Prof. Mayuko Uehara, editor in chief of the *Journal of Japanese Philosophy* (SUNY Press), studies of Japanese philosophy have become progressively globalized in recent years. Prof. Uehara has been receiving many reports about international research activities to revitalize Japanese philosophy. Among those research activities, the philosophy of the Kyoto School seems to be the most influential for non-Japanese scholars. Against this background of interest in the Kyoto School, Prof. Uehara's primary interest is delving into the philosophical problems that the Kyoto School did not thoroughly develop.

One of such problems currently being tackled by Prof. Uehara is that of facial expressions, which have never been an object of philosophy. Nishida Kitarō, founder of the Kyoto school, formed an original “theory of the body.” Prof. Uehara has been taking a great deal of interest in the “face,” which is at the core of human existence—in other words, the most sophisticated expressive agency of human existence. Based on the Nishida's theory of body, Prof. Uehara aims to examine facial “expressions”—how they appear—to make it clear that this theory does not thoroughly explain the human body or facial expressions, and seek a more complete “theory of body” by considering in detail the complex relationship of individual existence, emotions, and sensibilities.



Mayuko Uehara, PhD Professor, Department of Japanese Philosophy, Graduate School of Letters

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Kitarō Nishida with staffs and students around 1913 [K. Nishida, *Nishida Kitarō Zenshu*, Vol.14, (Tokyo: Iwanami Syoten, 1951)]

The Kyoto School (Kyōto-gakuha) is the name given to the Japanese philosophical movement centered at Kyoto University that assimilated western philosophy and religious ideas and used them to reformulate religious and moral insights unique to the East Asian cultural tradition. **WEB** www.kyoto-gakuha.info (The Kyoto School Archive)

Nishida Kitarō was the most significant and influential Japanese philosopher of the twentieth-century. (from the WEB site “stanford encyclopedia of philosophy,” <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/nishida-kitaro/>)

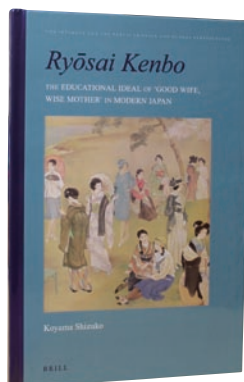


Kitarō Nishida (1870-1945)

THIS ARTICLE'S
KEY WORDS

EDU-HIST Exploring Japanese Education History from the Perspective of Gender

How coeducation in secondary schools was implemented.



Are coeducational schools or single-sex schools preferable for secondary education? This is a theme that continues to be fervently discussed. After World War II, many Japanese secondary schools shifted from single-sex education to coeducation, which resulted in three types of secondary schools: boy's schools, girl's schools, and coeducational schools. Through exploring Japanese education history, the issues discussed at that time, and the ways in which coeducation was implemented, I am undertaking a study into the nature of gender equality in education.

From the Editor Dr. Koyama's book *Ryōsai Kenbo : The Educational Ideal of 'Good Wife, Wise Mother' in Modern Japan* (Leiden: Brill, 2012) was awarded the 2013 Choice Outstanding Academic Title Award by American Library Association.

Shizuko Koyama, PhD

Professor, Institute for Liberal Arts and Sciences
www.pedagogy.jinkan.kyoto-u.ac.jp/ (Japanese only)



EVOL-BIOL Common in Japan, Special to the World

The uniqueness and diversity of a Japanese frog.

One of the characteristics of Japan's natural environment is the abundance of water springs. Various animals have evolved to adapt to this aquatic environment, resulting in unique species found only in Japan. One example is Tago's brown frog, which is being studied by Dr. Koshiro Eto. Generally called "common frogs," brown frogs are the most well-known frog group and are found widely in the northern hemisphere. Most of them live in still water, such as ponds. However, Tago's brown frog differs from others of the same genus as it breeds in the unique water spring environment.

According to my research, it is only in Japan that this unique ecological character has evolved from the ordinary still water species. Tago's brown frog is a common species, abundant in Japanese mountains, but it is actually quite a remarkable expression of Japan's unique natural environment.

Koshiro Eto, PhD *Researcher, The Kyoto University Museum*

zoo.zool.kyoto-u.ac.jp/herp/MATSUI_LAB/Eto/EtoHP_Eng.html



Tago's brown frog bred in a water spring, with a tadpole on the lower right.

CONTEMP-CULT Harmful Rumors in the Area of the Fukushima Nuclear Accident

Discrimination caused by the public's lack of understanding regarding radiation risks.



A poster for the movie *Godzilla* (Toho Co., Ltd., 1954)

The monster Godzilla was born as a consequence of hydrogen bomb testing at Bikini Atoll. The film is an example of what Prof. Sugimoto calls "radiation-induced transformation tales."



Having witnessed the nuclear disaster at Tokyo Electric Power Co's Fukushima nuclear power plant in 2011, I produced a paper titled *The Desire for Radiation-Induced Transformation Tales*. The paper asserts that the Japanese public's fears concerning radiation (radiophobia) date back to national memories of the atomic bombings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and have been fueled by movies and TV dramas enjoyed as entertainment. It also describes how the resulting superficial knowledge of radiation concerns has led to discrimination against Fukushima and the other affected areas.

Yoshihiko Sugimoto, MA

Professor, Graduate School of Letters
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From the Editor Dr. Sugimoto's study, *The Desire for Radiation-Induced Transformation Tales*, is scheduled for publication in English.

PRIMATOLOGY Too Old for Her Age

Premature aging in a Japanese monkey.

Progeroid syndromes are a series of syndromes in humans, which cause the extraordinary early onset and rapid progress of aging-like bodily changes. In Kyoto University's Primate Research Institute, my colleagues and I suspected that an infant female Japanese monkey, nicknamed *Shiwako* (meaning "the girl with wrinkles") was suffering from this syndrome due to her unusual appearance. Upon examining *Shiwako*, we found several symptoms which are common to progeroid patients, such as certain physical characteristics (e.g. bilateral cataracts), metabolic disorders (e.g. an elevated level of hemoglobin A1c



Shiwako and a MRI image of her head

[HbA1c]), and cellular features (e.g. deoxyribonucleic acid [DNA] repair deficiency). However, a genetic analysis found no notable mutation in the known progeroid-related genes. We are engaged in further analyses to elucidate the cause of her phenotype. It is anticipated that these studies will shed light on both the mechanism of normal aging and on that of progeroid syndromes.



Takao Oishi, PhD Associate Professor, Primate Research Institute
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POMOLOGOLOGY The Sexuality of Persimmon Trees

Fruitful discoveries in the orchard.

Although most plants have both male and female sex organs in the same individual, approximately 5 percent of plant species have separate sexes. This characteristic is called dioecy. The sex determination systems of most dioecious plants resemble the mammalian XY system, but the gene responsible for determining the sex of plants has been a long-standing mystery. We found an unusual gene called OGI (meaning "male tree" in Japanese) in male persimmon trees (*Diospyros*). Unlike most genes, OGI encodes a very small piece of RNA (ribonucleic acid) that acts as "molecular scissors," cutting down the expression of another gene called MeGI (meaning "female tree" in Japanese). Discovery of the OGI–MeGI system for sex determination in persimmons is anticipated to contribute not only to our understanding of the evolution of the plant dioecious system, but also to the development of practical orchard applications.



Different types of persimmons being grown in the orchard (See the column)



From the Editor Dr. Tao had been elected as the board of the International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS) on 16 August 2014. He is the first board member from Japan since the organization's establishment.

Ryutaro Tao, PhD (left) and Takashi Akagi, PhD

Associate Professor and Assistant Professor, Laboratory of Pomology, Graduate School of Agriculture
www.pomology.kais.kyoto-u.ac.jp



The Kyoto Farmstead of the Experimental Farm

The Kyoto Farmstead of the Experimental Farm, a Kyoto University facility located in Kitashirakawa, Kyoto, was established in 1924, around the same time as the university's Faculty of Agriculture. The Kyoto Farmstead is used exclusively for research, in contrast to the university's other experimental farm, located in Takatsuki, Osaka, which is used also for student education in farm practice. Orchards at the Kyoto Farmstead are managed by the Laboratory of Pomology, and comprise a variety of fruit and nut trees, including persimmon (*Diospyros kaki*), Japanese apricot (*Prunus mume*), and peach (*P. persica*). Notably, a collection of over 170 persimmon accessions and cultivars has brought the Kyoto Farmstead reputé as one of the most valuable persimmon germplasm stations in the world.



Author: Hisayo Yamane, PhD

Senior Lecturer, Laboratory of Pomology, Graduate School of Agriculture

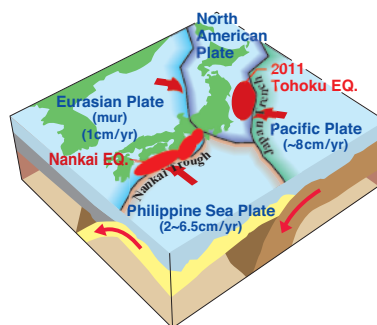
WEB www.pomology.kais.kyoto-u.ac.jp (Japanese only)

SEISMOLOGY Earthquake Cycle Simulation

Computer simulation of past and future earthquakes.

Two oceanic plates are subducting at a rate of several centimeters per year beneath northeast and southwest Japan (see illustration). Due to friction, some parts of these plate interfaces can stick together for a hundred years or more. When such plates suddenly slip, it can produce earthquakes of magnitude eight or more, causing severely destructive ground shaking and tsunamis, such as the 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami disaster. Such iterative stick-slip processes are called “earthquake cycles.” I am engaged in studies using a supercomputer-constructed model of the Japanese islands

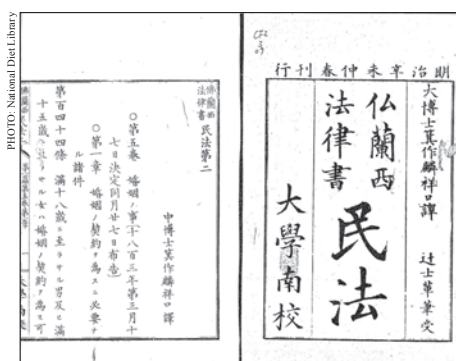
which simulates such earthquake cycles based on a laboratory-derived friction law to reproduce the occurrence of historical severe earthquakes in order to predict the occurrence of earthquakes in the future. My work is particularly concerned with the impending Nankai earthquake in southwest Japan, which is anticipated to occur in the first half of this century.



Kazuro Hirahara, PhD *Professor, Graduate School of Science*
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HIS LAW Law as a Basis of Modernization in Japan

The History of Japanese Law directly reflects the transformation of Modern Japan.



The translation of French civil codes by Mitsukuri Rinsyo in 1874 was an important beginning to the reformation of modern Japanese law.

In the latter half of the 19th century, Japan experienced a fundamental change, which is generally equated with modernization. The Meiji government sought to catch up with Western powers as quickly as possible, and various changes occurred at a breathtaking pace. Japanese laws also underwent a tremendous transformation. By introducing Western legal systems and concepts, and adjusting them to the indigenous legal order, Japanese law was totally reorganized by the end of the 19th century and served as a key basis for modernization. However, once established, the legal order was not immune to further change. Industrialization, globalization, and cultural development all urged legal responses. My research investigates the development of Japanese law, which directly reflects the history of modern Japan.

Takao Ito, LL.D.

Professor, Graduate School of Law / Director of the Kyoto University Archives
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Center for Informatics in East Asian Studies, Institute for Research in Humanities, Kyoto University



Situated amid a quiet residential area the Institute is praised both within and outside Japan for its elegant, tasteful marble white building as a symbolic seat for Sinological studies. The building was complete in November 1930 as a research facility of the Kyoto Institute, the Academy of Oriental Culture (the antecedent of the present-day Department of Oriental Studies). Its construction was commissioned to Goichi Takeda, professor of architecture, Kyoto University, who was also in the position of the manager of the Construction and Maintenance Section of the

SOCIAL Studies of Popular Culture

Reading Japanese society from changes in popular culture.

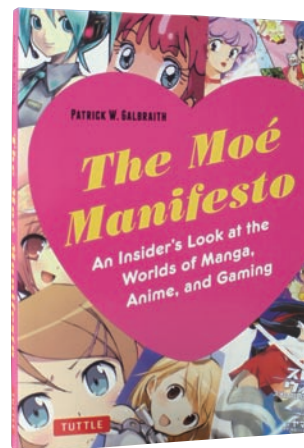
I am studying pre- and postwar gender structure, sexuality, media, and politics in Japan by analyzing popular culture from the perspective of cultural sociology and gender research. The number of young scholars who have developed an interest in studying Japanese culture due to an encounter with the country's popular culture is currently increasing. I hope that popular culture will provide a starting point for more

people to further their interest and understanding of Japanese traditional culture, history, thought, and social issues.

From the Editor Dr. Ito was interviewed in the book *The Moé Manifesto* by P. W. Garbraith (2014) as one of the founders of "men's study" in Japan.

Prof. Kimio Ito *Professor, Graduate School of Letters*

www.gcoe-intimacy.jp/staticpages/index.php/ito_en



JPN-LIT The Charm of Japanese Studies

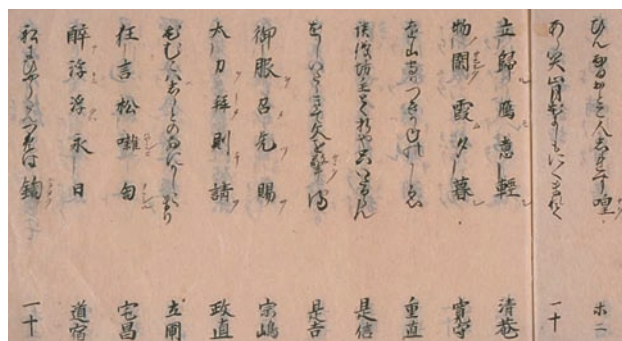
Haiku research from a global perspective.

My field of study is early modern Japanese literature with a focus on the haiku genre of poetry. The study of haiku is based on the accumulation of past research. For example, the discovery of new documents leads to additional bibliographic research that deepens our knowledge. Past research also includes the study of haiku theory. As a field of Japanese studies, haiku research is undertaken by scholars of diverse nationalities. By comparing haiku to other short forms of poetry around the world, researchers can gain an understanding of haiku from the wider perspective of global literature. Such research could lead to a new, previously

overlooked perspective on haiku. This unconventional approach to the study of Japanese literature provides a meaningful new angle. Although haiku is a well-known subject of study within Japanese literature, it is granted an additional meaning when viewed from a global perspective. I believe that this is where the true charm of Japanese studies can be found.

Mariko Mori, MA *Professor, The International Center*

www.ryugaku.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en



Kanna renku (Copyright 2002, Kyoto University Library)

university. Then Kenzo Tohata, one of graduate school students under the professor, designed the building. The exterior is in the Romanesque style, which was suggested by Kosaku Hamada, then professor at the Faculty of Literature (later the President of Kyoto University). The architectural style is the one called the Spanish mission style, which models Spanish cloisters and is highly reputed as one of the prominent works that commemorates the closing of Japanese modern architecture. The tower structure contains archives on its second to fourth floors of three-layer steel-frame construction. The tower itself is a stairwell and designed to be bright with the outside light allowed in through glass panes fitted into the ceiling and floor boards. The adjacent research buildings are arranged to surround the courtyard like a gallery. The whole facility was designated one of the registered tangible cultural properties of the Agency for Cultural Affairs in 2000.

WEB www.zinbun.kyoto-u.ac.jp/e/institute/access-institute/access_e.htm#b

Painter: Kiyoko Yamaguchi, PhD *Alumnae of Kyoto University*

kiyoko-yamaguchi.com/



ARCHAEO What is the Agricultural Society?

Analyzing the transition of pottery styles in the Japanese islands.

Today, people can't live without domestic foods. Domestic foods represent the characteristics of contemporary agricultural society. Since the beginning of agriculture up until the present day, humans have been developing food-producing economies. I am interested in how such economies began. In the Japanese islands, pottery was first produced approximately 12,000 years ago by foragers in the Jomon period. After the introduction of rice paddy cultivation from the Korean peninsula approximately 3,000 years ago, pottery styles dramatically changed as farmers in the Yayoi period made new forms of pottery, such as rice cookers, storage pots, etc. I am studying the formation process of the agricultural society by analyzing the transition of pottery styles. I hope that my studies will clarify the first step in the establishment of the nation.



Yusuke Senoo *Researcher, The Kyoto University Museum*

www.museum.kyoto-u.ac.jp/index_e.htm (The Kyoto University Museum)

Forager's pottery style
: for boiling meat, fish, and nuts



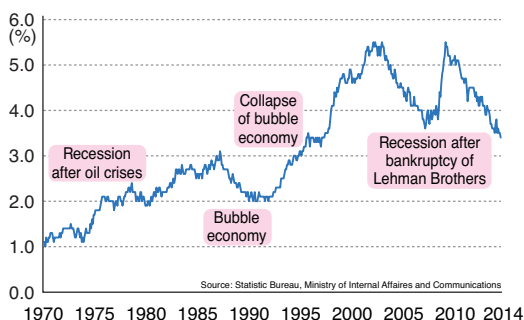
Big Change!

Farmer's pottery style
: for rice cooking



JPN ECON HIST Improving the Employment Situation in Japan

Pursuing the ideal of fulfilling employment for all.



Historical data: Japan's unemployment rate
(Seasonally adjusted series)

My research focuses on a historically-based analysis of the responses of economic agents such as the government, firms, and workers to ever-changing economic factors, such as fluctuations in growth, the decline of industries, and the turbulent international situation. I am particularly interested in the employment adjustment processes of postwar Japan, which were conducted both inside and outside the labor market. Until the 1980s, Japan had been largely successful in controlling its unemployment problem. Since the 1990s, however, as Japan faces such difficulties as an aging population combined with a low birth rate and global competition, unemployment levels have increased and working conditions have deteriorated. This is reflected in the casualization of employment and the lowering of

wages. Through my research I have sought to highlight these issues and illustrate possible ways for Japan to achieve a more harmonious balance between different domestic labor groups, and also in the international community.

Junko Watanabe, PhD *Professor, Graduate School of Economics* www.econ.kyoto-u.ac.jp/economic_history/staff.html

JPN HIST Why Were Samurai Governments Established?

Exploring their history from the late Heian period to the early Kamakura period (11–13th century).

Why were samurai (warrior) governments established in Japan? This is the question that I have been exploring in my research. Through this research, I seek to reveal certain historical characteristics of Japan, the only East Asian country in which samurai governments were formed. From the perspective of historical science, I have been elucidating the question by studying the cloister government, the Taira clan government, the Genpei War (a conflict between the Taira and Minamoto clans), the establishment of the Kamakura shogunate, and the literary *Tale of Heike*.

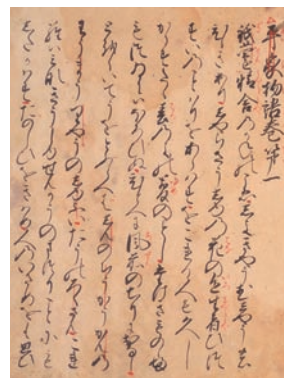


From the Editor In 2003, Dr. Motoki and his coauthors were awarded the 57th Mainichi Publishing Culture Award (Social Sciences and Humanities Division) by Mainichi Newspapers Co., Ltd. for their work based this research.

Yasuo Motoki, PhD

Professor, Graduate School of Human and Environmental Studies

www.h.kyoto-u.ac.jp/staff/241_motoki_y_0_e.html



Tale of Heike (Copyright 1998, Kyoto University Library)

HIST Exploring Ancient Temples

Significant changes in Japanese society after the arrival of Buddhism.



Bunhwangsa, a Buddhist temple in Korea. Buddhism was introduced to Japan from Korea.

I am engaged in research on ancient Japanese history, with ancient temples being a particular recent interest. In the two to three-hundred years after the arrival of Buddhism in Japan, society in archipelago underwent an enormous change: Buddhist temples were constructed, religious associations were established in villages, and imperial authority became more reliant on Buddhism. I am engaged in tracing the history of such changes through examining historical documents, cultural property, and archeological remains. I feel that my work is indispensable in understanding fundamental aspects of Japanese culture.

Shinji Yoshikawa, PhD

*Professor, Graduate school of letters
kyouindb.iimc.kyoto-u.ac.jp/e/sQ1uV*



ART TOSA RIMPA

Creating a new form of artwork combining Japanese culture and information technology.

It has been said that the 21st century will be an era that goes beyond logic. I am engaged in research to create a new form of artwork combining Japanese culture and information technology. Endeavoring to add a modern dimension to the four-hundred-year-old tradition of the Rimpa school (one of the major historical schools of Japanese painting), I have developed a new *tarashikomi* (marbling) technique by applying sound vibrations to liquid to produce unique naturally-formed patterns. I have successfully applied this technique to create distinctive new artworks using advanced technology.



From the Editor TOSA RIMPA, Dr. Tosa's art book (featuring text in English), will be published in April 2015 by Tankosha Publishing Co., Ltd., Kyoto.

Naoko Tosa, PhD *Professor, Academic Center for Computing and Media Studies* www.naokotosa.com



RIMPA Meets Projection Mapping



The Rimpa School is characterized by colorful designs using gold or silver, which showcase Japanese life and culture. It is found in different formats, such as paintings and folding screens, and is acknowledged as an important school of painting in the history of Japanese art. The year 2015 marks the school's 400th anniversary, and various commemorative events are scheduled to be held around Kyoto throughout the year. As one commemorative event, the Kyoto National Museum held an art projection mapping event titled "The Legendary Fujin and Raijin in the 21st Century" on March 12–15, 2015 (Fujin and Raijin are the Japanese gods of Wind and Thunder). The event was produced by Prof. Naoko Tosa and her colleagues from Kyoto University's Academic Center for Computing and Media Studies. Prof. Tosa created a projection mapping installation for the event by combining the Japanese traditional arts of *ikebana* (flower arrangement) and *kyogen* (a form of theatrical performance) using her techniques of visual art and technology. Under the theme of "tradition and innovation," the installation sought to provide a glimpse into the future of the Rimpa School. The installation was created in collaboration with Mr. Ryuho Sasaoka, headmaster of the *Misho-ryu Sasaoka* School of *ikebana* and Mr. Ippei Shigeyama, a *kyogen* performer, both of whom share Prof. Tosa's keen appreciation of Japanese cultural beauty.



WEB www.kyohaku.go.jp/jp/oshirase/post_35.html