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# EastAsia @SHEFFIELD

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## Japanese Studies students pioneer new study abroad programme at the University of Sheffield Doshisha Centre (USDC) in Kyoto

*Dr Rick Siddle, Director, reports on the new centre which has been set up to deepen existing links in teaching and research, and to act as a base for strengthening involvement with Japan more generally.*

The Centre is located in the heart of Kyoto, right next to the old imperial palace grounds. Doshisha is one of the oldest and most prestigious universities in Japan. Founded in 1875, it has long been regarded as one of the most international of Japanese universities. Besides our Centre, Doshisha hosts similar Centres for Study Abroad programmes for Stanford and two consortia of American liberal arts colleges (with Harvard to follow next year), while Europe is represented by the University of Tübingen and ourselves.

Kyoto itself is, of course, renowned for its historical and cultural heritage stretching back to its establishment as Japan's imperial capital over 1200 years ago. On the other hand it is also a modern and vibrant commercial city with a large student population. It feels a smaller place than it really is, and has the added attraction of being surrounded by forested hills, many hosting temples and gardens in their recesses. These factors make the USDC a wonderful place to spend a year as an undergraduate.

The core of the USDC programme is a Japanese language programme specially designed for our students. In addition, our students are affiliated with the Center for Japanese Language and Culture and can take optional modules in either English or Japanese on topics ranging from Noh Drama and Flower Arranging to Anime and Manga, Business and Social Issues. We are also planning to make use of SEAS's established expertise in internet-based Japanese language learning to help our students engage in more self-study, particularly in

reading and writing, to augment the skills they are acquiring in their regular classes.

Our six pioneers have settled into their student accommodation and routine and are enjoying the experience. Dan Jones has spent some time getting to know the city: "The way all the modern and historic buildings, and the residential, commercial and religious buildings are just mixed together side-by-side is like nowhere else I've visited. The forests surrounding the city are incredible too – how easy it is to just get the bus to the foot of a mountain

and hike until you can see all of Kyoto spread out beneath you. It feels like there's something to discover wherever you go, something new to experience." And Harrison Bees has been sampling the social life: "Doshisha is a lively university with a great atmosphere, especially for new international students. Everyone is very friendly and I'm looking forward to a great year here in Kyoto." As for me, I'm enjoying the challenge of being the first Director and helping to establish a lasting SEAS presence in this fascinating city.



*Dr Siddle (centre front) and the Japanese Studies students celebrate their arrival at Doshisha.*

# 2009 Joint East Asian Studies Conference held at Sheffield

Sheffield University was the venue for this September's Joint East Asian Studies Conference, organised by the British Associations for Chinese, Japanese and Korean Studies. A record attendance of 126 delegates and around 60 speakers included participants from China, Japan, Korea, the US, Australia and New Zealand as well as Europe. The Presidents of the three Associations, all of whom are members of the White Rose East Asia Centre (James Grayson and Tim Wright at Sheffield and Mark Williams at Leeds), were delighted at the turnout and have begun planning the next conference.

A packed hall listened to three international keynote speakers. Professor Rüdiger Frank of the University of Vienna spoke on "Korea and Socialism in East Asia after World War II". Professor Fan Ke of Nanjing University addressed the audience on "Representation of the Other and State Politics in Socialist China", and Professor Genda Yuji of the University of Tokyo lectured on "Japanese Youth, Employment and Hope". Each lecture was followed by a lively round of questions and discussion.

Of the many panel sessions, one of the most popular saw Sheffield's Gill Goddard join with scholars from universities in Niigata and Hokkaido in Japan to discuss issues of "War and Memory: Individuals Bridging National Divides". Attracting interest from all the country groups, the

panel focussed on how different individuals in Japan were coming to terms with their and their country's role in the war in China and South-east Asia, and testified to the courage many of them have shown in facing up to those difficult issues. (See page 4 for more information.)



*Professor Fan Ke of Nanjing University addresses the audience at the plenary session.*

## Welcome to SEAS!

The School of East Asian Studies is very pleased to welcome Motoko Takahashi-Wilson (left), who has been appointed as a teaching fellow in Japanese language. Motoko, who has interests in media, current affairs and languages, comes to us from the University of Edinburgh where she was course director for Japanese and language co-ordinator for non Indo-European languages.

She will be sharing an office with Chizu Whateley (right), who has begun to teach on in-house Japanese language modules having taught on the distance learning courses for several years. Chizu has also worked regularly as a translator/interpreter for Sheffield Chamber of Commerce.



## Note on names

Following East Asian convention, the family name precedes the given name/s in Chinese, Japanese and Korean names, unless the particular person uses the Western name order (given name followed by family name) in his/her publications and/or everyday life.

## Editor's note

The views expressed in the articles are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the School and the University.

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# Professor Emeritus Tim Wright - an appreciation

*Professor Chris Bramall looks back at his working relationship with our former head of department who retires this year.*

I first came across the work of Tim Wright in the autumn of 1984 when I was casting around for a suitable subject for a PhD dissertation. Having just finished a stint at the National Coal Board, the Chinese coal industry seemed an attractive subject. I was swiftly disabused of any such notion: 'The definitive study has already been written', I was told by the legendary W. J. Macpherson, an economic historian of dry wit and great distinction. Admittedly Tim's book - the distillation of a multi-volume PhD - had only taken the story of Chinese coal up to 1937, but it took me no more than a couple of pages of reading to realize that it was indeed the definitive study. It still is.

Our paths crossed again in the early 1990s, this time in person, when Tim gave a paper in Cambridge on the impact of the 1930s world depression on the economies of Guizhou and Sichuan. I remember that (*inter alios*) Tim was not happy with my estimates of tong oil production for the latter, which he wanted to make use of in his research, and we exchanged correspondence on this and other issues relating to the estimation of GDP in south-west China. However, I only came to know Tim properly after he recruited me to a lectureship in Sheffield in 2000. This was no small gamble on his part, for I was no

Sinologist and any department hiring a professed defender of any aspect of Maoism at that time took a considerable risk! For my part, I quickly came to appreciate the depth and breadth of his scholarship. To be sure, Chinese history has always been Tim's abiding passion. We reprised our discussion of pre-war tong oil in Sichuan in the early 1990s with one about pre-war soybean production in Manchuria in 2005. And Tim's students in Sheffield were never in doubt about his enthusiasm. I remember vividly the day when one woman burst into my office with the declaration that she had just come from a 'fabulous Wright lecture'. Yet his interest in the history of the Chinese coal industry never matched the obsession of the late Ken Walker - a second Professor of Chinese Studies foaled by the small Yorkshire town of Otley - with grain production. Moreover, Tim was much more than a 'mere' historian, as his excursions into the intellectual realm of contemporary China abundantly demonstrated. And his grasp of economics was sure: we readily agreed that *Production of Commodities by Means of Commodities* was the most tedious economics book ever written.

Yet, wonderful economic historian though he is, it is as an administrator that Tim is

without peer. Tim's strategy has always been to 'render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's' with a minimum of fuss in order to minimize transaction costs, but yet to define 'that which is Caesar's' in a very flexible way. It was admirably suited to the situation in which he found himself in 2000. Tim inherited a department which, to the eye of an almost equally new arrival like myself, needed a radical shake-up: SEAS earned relatively little research income and had insufficient students. In fact, we were very much on the brink of extinction, as the University made clear to us during the course of a series of reviews. And the burden Tim carried in trying to turn this around was immense: I had thought that being the England football manager was the worse job in the world until I saw the demands that being the Chairman of SEAS imposed upon the incumbent. Yet turn things around Tim did. The threat of extinction was extinguished, research began to flourish, and student numbers have risen annually ever since. Those of us who lived through this period are under no illusion as to what we owe to Tim. It is a tribute to him that he not only carried us through but that he did so with great good humour and immense humanity. The debt we owe Tim is one that will not be easily discharged.



# Reconciliation and the power of the printed word

*Dr Peter Matanle reveals the very personal mission behind the establishment of his own publishing company – Paulownia Press.*

People occasionally ask me why I choose to study and teach about Japan. One elderly man whom I had once met by chance some years ago in a rural pub in East Sussex had actually been quite horrified that I would choose to do such a thing, since his views of Japan and the Japanese had been coloured by wartime negative stereotyping that he had been exposed to in England as a child. Aside from being interested in my own research, one reason is that I have also always been committed promoting friendship between people from different parts of the world. Being involved with Japan and Japanese people, from time to time, has provided me with ample occasions to do just that and publishing my friend Greg Hadley's book, *Field of Spears: The Last Mission of the Jordan Crew*, was one opportunity that I just had to take. The project has had some interesting and, I believe, quite productive (and instructive) consequences.

While working at Niigata University as a post-doctoral research fellow in 2004 I met Greg. Apart from being a great companion with whom to share a bottle of wine, Greg

had a fascinating story to tell about an American B-29 strategic bomber that had been shot down over Niigata in the closing stages of World War II and what had happened to the crew as a consequence of that fateful incident. Living in Niigata Greg also had the opportunity to explore the story from the point of view of the inhabitants of the villages where the plane had crashed and how they view the American military personnel who had suddenly appeared in their communities. Having experienced difficulties in finding a suitable publisher, Greg was looking out for an alternative route to publish the story and I volunteered to help him do so. I set up a small publishing company, Paulownia Press, and so began the story of Greg's book.

One consequence of the decision to set up the company has been that others interested in reconciliation issues have recently approached me to publish books that they have been working on. Philip Seaton from Hokkaido University has recently translated the autobiography of a Japanese woman whose father was a

military policeman in the Japanese army in China during the war. In *My Father's Dying Wish: Legacies of War Guilt in a Japanese Family*, Ayako Kurahashi poignantly describes the journey she had to make both to uncover her father's role in the alleged atrocities that occurred in occupied Manchuria and, more significantly, to persuade her own family to honour his last wish that an apology to the victims of his own aggression should be carved upon his tombstone.

And our own Gill Goddard is now working on rewriting the memoirs of a translator who worked for the Japanese army in South-East Asia. Both this book and *My Father's Dying Wish* will be published by Paulownia Press in the coming months. Like Greg Hadley's story of the American bomber crew, both of these stories also get beneath the surface of that terrible conflict and help us to understand more deeply the minds of the participants, and what happened once the shooting had stopped.

This past September I managed to get all of us together to present a panel called 'War and Memory' at the Joint East Asian Studies Conference in Sheffield. Greg, Philip and Gill all presented their books, and I chaired the gathering. None of the works above will contribute in any way to the current round of government mandated key performance indicators, research assessments and the like. Yet, and perhaps because of this – even after more than sixty years since the end of the war – the panel was probably the best attended at the conference, and the post-presentation discussion was intense and challenging in a way that I have rarely experienced.

This is the sort of thing that confirms to me that what we are doing remains so interesting and important. It is the sort of experience that serves to refresh and reaffirm, in my mind at least, the real value to our communities of continuing to research and teach about East Asia.



# New book on Japanese-UK reconciliation

*Japan and Britain at War and Peace*  
By Hugo Dobson and Kosuge Nobuko  
Routledge 2009

Since the Second World War the relationship between Japan and Britain has undergone an extraordinary transformation, from bitter conflict to peaceful alliance. *Japan and Britain at War and Peace*, edited by Hugo Dobson, Professor of Japanese Studies in SEAS, and Kosuge Nobuko, Professor in International Relations at Yamanashi Gakuin University, is a multilayered examination of this bilateral relationship with an emphasis on the issue of reconciliation.

The volume finds its origins in a conference held on 7 September 2005 at the Cabinet War Rooms in London. The conference, entitled 'Enemy to Friend: Britain and Japan at War and Peace', was initiated by Phillida Purvis and Kosuge Nobuko and organised and hosted by the Burma Campaign Society. Supported by generous funding from the Japan Foundation and the Home Front Recall Programme of the National Lottery, this event provided a valuable opportunity for a number of scholars, veterans, government and non-government representatives from the Japan and the UK to explore the

development and current state of bilateral relations between the two countries on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the end of World War 2. The main theme of the conference, which united the various papers presented, was reconciliation between the two countries. Reconciliation was explored in a broad sense and in a number of areas from economic cooperation and conflict, common concerns in the international system, public and media perceptions of each country, and the efforts of individuals, non-governmental organizations and governments to promote mutual understanding and find strategies to deal with dilemmas.

These kinds of issues are very emotive and continue to be of major concern to the governments and peoples of both countries. This fact is borne out by the media attention that is accorded in both the UK and Japan on the occasion of each anniversary, state visit or controversial slip of the tongue. In order to provide a more nuanced understanding of the issues at the core of this relationship, this volume is



part of an effort to disseminate the findings of the conference to a wider audience. With chapters from an international team of contributors from the UK, Japan, and Australia, this book will appeal to students and scholars of Japanese and British history and international politics, as well as policymakers and civil society groups.



## SEAS and CI move to new premises

The School of East Asian Studies has moved from its home of many decades, the Arts Tower, to a new leafy location on Shearwood Road next to the University Drama Studio. The move, albeit temporary, offers the School increased office space, its own teaching rooms and separate study/common rooms for undergraduates, taught postgraduates and research postgraduates.

The Confucius Institute, which also moved at the same times, now occupies a two-storey building next to SEAS that houses a new Chinese teaching resource room, a multimedia teaching

room, and a reading room where students are able to access a large collection of China-related materials and watch Chinese language television programmes.





*Uyghur men and women gather on the street in Ürümqi.*

# Changing marriage practices in Xinjiang, China



*Professor Zang Xiaowei's research highlights the way in which variables such as religiosity and gender may affect marriage patterns in Ürümqi, the provincial capital of Xinjiang.*

Since 2001, one of my main areas of research has been the production of empirical analyses of Han-Uyghur differences in arranged marriage. Specifically, I have found that there has been a rapid decline in parental arrangement for both Uyghur Muslims and Han Chinese. I have also found that Han Chinese are less likely than Uyghur Muslims to report arranged marriages with main background characteristics being controlled. However, the differences between Uyghur men and Han men fade away when background characteristics were controlled, whereas no similar patterns were found among women.

How can this contrast be explained? I found that Uyghur parents have a powerful influence over their children's marriage choices, but influence or control daughters more than sons. The traditional Muslim family is often described as based on an authoritarian, patriarchal hierarchy, where women are viewed as the repository of the family honour. The preservation of family honour traditionally entails gender separation, the supervision of women, and restrictions on women's behaviour, particularly as regards dress, mobility, and contact with men outside the immediate

family. Muslim men however are given more power and autonomy since they have to compete with non-Muslims in the labour market. Uyghur parents are also more likely to arrange a marriage for their daughters rather than sons because, as a rule, Islam supports in-group marriage. A union between a Muslim groom and a non-Muslim bride is sometimes tolerated. But a marriage between a Muslim bride and a non-Muslim groom is strongly opposed. For this reason, the Uyghur community supervises mate seekers' dating behaviour to maintain endogamy.

Uyghur women are more likely than their Muslim brothers to report arranged marriages also because Muslim women have a lower level of autonomy than their brothers. Parents are less capable of controlling or influencing the marriage decisions of higher status children (who are likely to be men) than those of lower status children (who are likely to be women). Uyghurs in Ürümqi with independent income are better equipped to stand up their parents. Uyghur men are more likely than Uyghur women to receive education and employment opportunities. Uyghur men thus have a greater power to make a spouse choice than their sisters

due to gender disparity in social status. Finally, gender inequality in status attainment itself suggests that Uyghur men are less likely than their sisters to be subject to traditional rituals due to their differences in education and exposure to modernization experience such as work. Education and employment are conducive to love-based marriages.

Hence, Uyghur parents have influence on their children's marriage decisions. But they get involved more in their daughters' marriages than their son's marriages. This gendered contrast is less salient among Han Chinese since they are considered to be more modern, and hence egalitarian, than Uyghurs. Cultural constraints over women's marriage decisions are stronger among Uyghurs than among the Han Chinese. Status attainment levels the differences in mate selection between Uyghur men and Han men but not between Uyghur women and Han women. In other words, ethnic differences in the odds of arranged marriages are smaller between Uyghur men and Han men than between Uyghur women and Han women. This gendered variation is a key factor responsible for the aggregate Uyghur-Han difference in arranged marriages.

# Prestigious institute fosters interest in Korean literature

*The Korean Literature Translation Institute is providing funding to further develop the teaching of Korean literature in SEAS and welcomes a SEAS graduate on to one of its new training courses.*



*Dr Elfving-Hwang (far right) has a PhD in Korean Literature from the University of Sheffield and has regularly taught in the department since 2002.*

The School of East Asian Studies has had a long-term interest in fostering teaching and research of Korean literature through facilitating the development of undergraduate and postgraduate research in aspects of Korean literature. In 1997 the School hosted a major Korean literature symposium with presentations from the world's leading translators of Korean Literature into English. In addition to this, Korean literature (in translation) courses have been taught at the University of Sheffield for more than a decade. Pioneered by Dr Agnita Tennant in 1998, the courses have continued to be taught and developed by Dr Jo Elfving-Hwang since 2002. The two existing Korean literature (in English translation) modules are intended to introduce Korean literature to students with no previous knowledge of either literary studies or Korean history and culture.

In the academic year 2009-2010, the teaching of Korean Literature is supported by a grant from the Korean Literature

Translation Institute (KLTI). KLTI is a South Korean government-funded institution based in Seoul that works to introduce Korean literature to a wide global readership. Its strategic aims include both providing training for translators of Korean literature into a number of languages, and to raise awareness of Korean literature overseas. "We were delighted that the Korean Literature Translation Institute has recognised our efforts to promote Korean literary studies in Sheffield," says Dr Jo Elfving-Hwang, a visiting lecturer in Korean Literature. "We hope that this will allow us to foster many more students with in-depth interest and knowledge in Korean literature."

One such student, who has decided to pursue his interest in Korean literature further, is Patrick Ellen (BA Korean Studies, 2009). He is currently undertaking an intensive Korean literature translation course at KLTI in Seoul. Here, he reflects on his voyage of discovery:

*Before taking the Korean literature courses at SEAS I had never considered myself much of a literary person; in fact, literature had been my least favourite subject at school!*

I was only persuaded to take the classes through a friend's recommendation, but they quickly became among my favourite classes. I learnt a huge amount about Korean culture and history through Korean literature and even wrote my dissertation on two contemporary authors, Yi Munyŏl and Yi Chŏngjun.

Wanting to put the Korean language skills I had gained at SEAS to good use after graduation, I became interested in the KLTI's Translation Academy Intensive Course, a year-long curriculum of practical translation classes, lectures on Korean culture and literature and advanced Korean language. I was lucky enough to be accepted onto the course and came back to Seoul in August and have been on the programme since September. The KLTI also works closely with contemporary authors and helps foster relationships between writers and potential translators of their works. As such, we have been working with three authors this semester: Han Kang, Park Mingyu and Kim Yŏnsu, all of whom are well established on the Korean literature scene.



# China in Photographs 2009

*Now in its fifth year, the Confucius Institute's annual competition to find the best images of China has gone national and is now bigger and better than ever!*

With almost 200 images, this year's China in Photographs competition exceeded all expectations. Entrants from as far away as Peterborough submitted a stunning array of photographs that reveal a multi-faceted China, a country that is changing fast, yet still retains aspects of its rich heritage. The standard was so high, in fact, that the judging panel found it impossible to stick to the original plan to award just one prize for each category (Chinese people, Famous sites, Chinese landscapes, Customs & everyday life, and Artistic images) and instead agreed to award two prizes, making a total of ten category prizes and one overall "best in show".

The competition is open to all and details for submitting photographs for next year's competition will be available on the Confucius Institute at the University of Sheffield's website in the new year: [www.shef.ac.uk/confucius](http://www.shef.ac.uk/confucius).

▼ *Cowherd, by Dr Richard de Grijjs*

Dr de Grijjs happened to wander into a small rural village near the Alu Caves (Yunnan) and encountered this wonderful cowherd, who appeared to be extremely pleased to meet visitors!!



**Best in Show 2009:**

▼ *Lugou Bridge, by Jason Ma*

Finding the best photograph this year was always going to be difficult, but the judges agreed that this photograph best met the criteria in terms of demonstrating photographic skill as well as representing China. First completed in 1192, the Lugou Bridge, just outside Beijing, is probably the most famous bridge in China. It was highly praised by Marco Polo in the 13th century and subsequently become known as the Marco Polo Bridge in the West. More recently it was the site of the battle that marked the start of the Second Sino-Japanese War (1937-45). Over the years, the surface has gradually been polished and, under the bright sunlight, Jason remarked that its shiny quality made it seem like moving waves of stones.



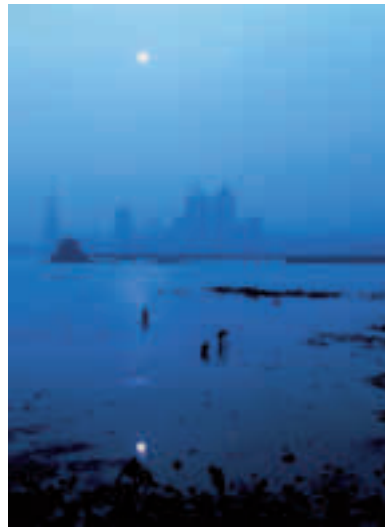
▼ *Bamboo Skis, by Thomas Bannister*

Thomas came across these two boys in a Tujia minority village in Hunan Province, near the Guizhou border. They were using make-shift skis to ski down the frozen alley in their village!



▼ *Qingyin Pavilion, by Guy Dewdrey*

This photograph taken by Guy on Mt Emei conjures up an archetypal Chinese image: "It reminds me of the scenes painted on crockery called Willow Pattern".



◀ *October Evenings in Qingdao, by Richard Heathcote*

Richard captured this image of the sun setting over a beach where Chinese tourists were searching for crabs. He was entranced by the juxtaposition of the Huilan Pavilion and the modern skyline.

▲ *Smiling Boy, by Guy Dewdrey*

The boy had leaned over a large stone bowl that had filled with rainwater. When Guy saw his reflection in the water and he looked at him, he knew this was an unmissable photo opportunity!



▼ *Olympic Walmart, by Richard Heathcote*

Richard shot this surreptitiously as migrant workers gathered around television sets in Walmart in Nanjing to watch China's women's volleyball team play in the Olympic semi-final against Brazil!



▼ *Great Wall All the Way Down, by Gareth Moulton*

Gareth had hiked out to a remote spot to be rewarded with this beautiful shot: "The air was completely still and all around me the atmosphere was calmed by the cotton wool covering of snow".



▼ *Bird's Nest, by John Heathcote*

This colourful night view, taken by John, of a now iconic Beijing structure captures the spirit of China's quest for modernity, cosmopolitanism and sporting ambition.



▼ *Burning Incense, by Professor Rob Dwyer-Joyce*

This close-up of burning incense sticks, with the characters in perfect focus, was taken by Professor Dwyer-Joyce as he wandered around the Six Banyan Trees temple in Guangzhou.



◀ *Summit of Mt Emei in the Mist, by Guy Dewdrey*

Guy knew this would be a great picture when he saw the roofline of the temple at the summit of Mt Emei, looming out of the mist, and the huddle of women with umbrellas sheltering in the foreground.





George (far right) waves the flag for the UK at the finals in Changsha.

# Building bridges to China is just monkey business!

*Final year Chinese Studies student George Martin tells EastAsia@Sheffield about his success at the Chinese Bridge Competition.*

Last March, I took part in the UK qualifying round of the 8th Chinese Bridge Competition, a Chinese speaking contest for university students outside China which is organised every year by the Office for Chinese Language Council International (commonly known as Hanban). This round of competition consisted of a speech on a self-selected topic, a quiz on Chinese culture and a performance of a talent related to China. Despite my initial worries about speaking in front of a large audience (something I would find nerve-wracking in English, let alone Chinese!), I managed to win second place, giving a speech on the origins of my Chinese name and performing a *dankou xiangsheng* – a traditional Chinese comedic performance in the form of a monologue. This meant that I was one of two British students selected to attend the finals in China on an all-expenses-paid trip.

Over 100 students attended the finals, and we spent our first ten days sightseeing and filming in Beijing and western Hunan Province before heading to Hunan's capital, Changsha, to start the competition proper. The first round – a speech and talent performance – was shown on national television, and was edited together with

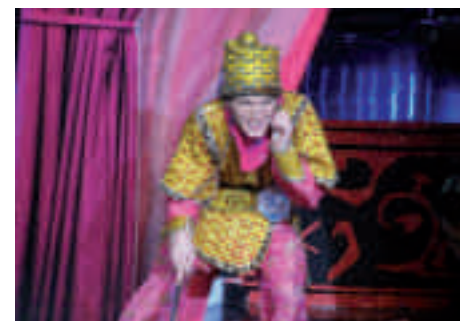
short skits in which the contestants took part in various “cultural activities” (I tried my hand at making *jiangtang*, a type of sweet made with ginger). A newcomer to studios, glaring lights and TV cameras, I thought that I'd been too nervous and performed badly, so was shocked when I heard my name in the Pop Idol-style on-stage announcement of the contestants who'd made it through to the next round.

The remaining thirty contestants were then split into groups, with each group given a theme. My group was “Chinese Legends”, so I had to give a short performance as the Monkey King, Sun Wukong, in full costume, and then present a speech about him. After visiting the set of the Chinese version of *Ugly Betty* to get some tips from professional actors (accompanied by a camera crew, of course), we had two days to write our speeches and perfect our performances before appearing on live TV for the show itself.

Unfortunately, I didn't make it to the final round, but, along with the other contestants eliminated at that stage, received the third-place prize of a six-month scholarship at a Chinese university.

Overall, attending the competition was an amazing experience, allowing me to improve my Chinese, meet new friends from all over the world and even briefly experience life as a TV star – something I'll never forget!

EastAsia@Sheffield congratulates George on his achievement. To date, SEAS students have an unrivalled record at the national level of this competition, with three students progressing to the international finals in China. A clip of George's performance as the Monkey King can be seen at: [http://vblog.hunantv.com/p193\\_MjA4NTI4.html](http://vblog.hunantv.com/p193_MjA4NTI4.html)



Portraying Sun Wukong, the mischievous Monkey King, on live Chinese national television proved an exciting challenge!



# Classical Japanese is certainly not old hat!

*Dr Nic Tranter explains why Bungo, or classical Japanese, remains an important part of the SEAS curriculum.*

SEAS is a modern, social science-oriented department. It may surprise you that we also teach Classical Japanese, a module that many Japanese Studies students choose every year. At first sight neither modern nor social science, the module has run for 15 years with the euphemistic title *Evolution of the Japanese Language*.

Yet Classical Japanese – or Bungo – has no reason to be ashamed. The classical literature canon, written in Bungo, has an emotional pull in Japan; the most famous piece of fiction, the *Tale of Genji*, has spawned vernacular versions and manga. Though ‘classical’ may sound staid and boring, the canon certainly isn’t, ranging from highbrow court life to the ribald and the comical. Some lines of classical literature are well-known; the opening of *Hōjōki* about the transience of life is famously uttered in the Robert Mitchum movie *The Yakuza*, just before the point is proved violently. Until recently generations of Japanese had to read Classical texts at school, and almost every true bookshop

(i.e. not ‘manga-shop’) still stocks some pocket-size editions in Bungo. When I was last in Japan, I bought from a 100-yen shop *Taketori Monogatari*, which contained large, pale grey print. Its purpose? The current Japanese fashion of brain-training: trace over it in pencil, read it aloud as you go along, and improve your failing memory!

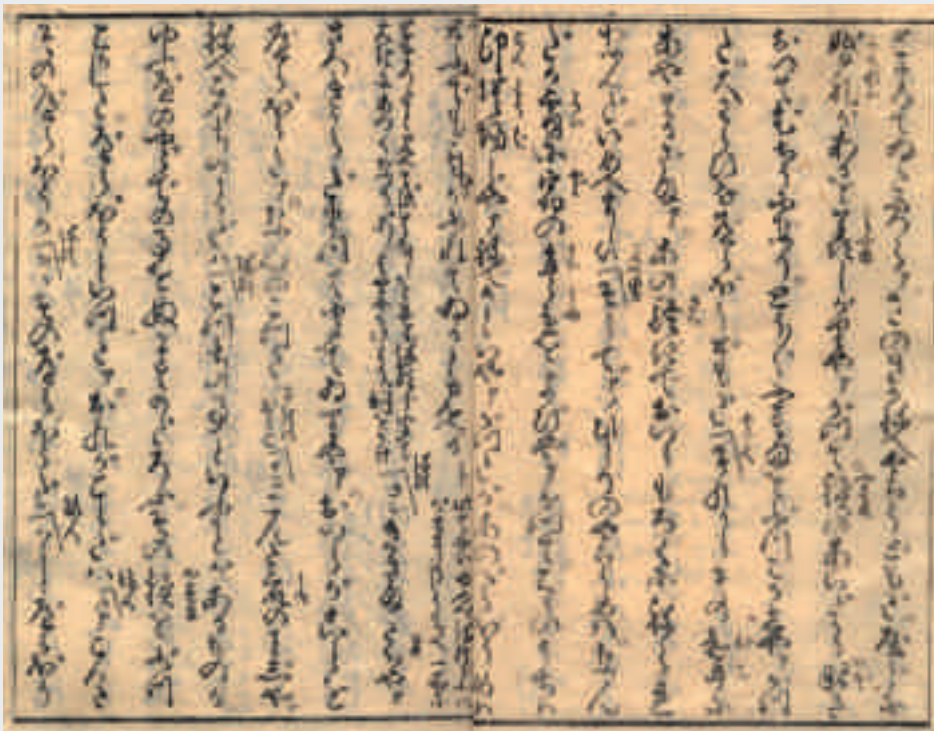
Bungo remains much more relevant to 20th- and 21st-century Japan than, say, Middle English does to Britain. For a start, until the end World War II, Bungo was the official language of legislation in Japan, and the Meiji Constitution of 1890 was composed in it; a variant known as *Sōrōbun* was the ‘correct’ way of writing letters and postcards; and a telescopic variant of *Sōrōbun* characterised military communiqués. In short, if you want to study historical documents or personal correspondence in the first half of the 20th century, you need Bungo. Until the early 20th century, even primary school textbooks were written in Bungo, and many novelists used it to a certain extent –

at least, arguably, until they realised that writing in the vernacular sold more copies. Mori Ōgai is well known for his modern classic *Gan* (‘Wild Geese’, 1911), but he also wrote short stories set in the modern day – even set abroad – but written entirely in Bungo, such as *Maihime* (‘Dancing Girl’, 1890).

Bungo is relevant not only to the early twentieth century. Bungo is heard and seen around contemporary Japan. Some street signs use Classical grammar: *jiko ōshi* ‘accident blackspot’ or *chūshajō ari* ‘[our shop has] car parking’. Book, movie and song titles sometimes sound more prestigious if they include Classical forms, such as Agatha Christie’s *Manekarezaru Kyaku* (‘The Unexpected Guest’), or *Subarashiki Hi* (‘One Fine Day’) starring George Clooney. Certain Classical forms are common in formal writing. Shintō prayers and Japan’s best-known poetry is written in Bungo.

Bizarrely, old Chinese literature – from philosophy to poetry – is widely published for Japanese readers, who would not know older Chinese, in Classical Japanese translation. If you want to appreciate Tang-dynasty poetry, books present poems in the original Chinese, then translate it literally into Classical Japanese, and then often give a modern Japanese interpretation. It is bizarre because Japanese are not expected to pronounce the Chinese text itself, even though Tang poetry was an oral medium using both metre and rhyme; if you read aloud a poem, it is the Bungo metre- and rhyme-less translation you read.

In modern Japan, therefore, Classical Japanese is everywhere: book and movie titles, calligraphy, recent historical documents, phrases used in everyday conversation, even braintraining. And, what’s more, it is popular with our Japanese Studies students here in Sheffield!



*An excerpt from Jippensha Ikku’s Tōkaidō-chū Hizakurige (1802), a comic travelogue which has a Classical Japanese narrative interspersed with vernacular dialogue.*

# Lucking out with passion and skills acquired at SEAS



*Gregory Sutch graduated from SEAS in 1993 and is now the CEO of Intralink, a company that works with companies to develop and implement strategies in Japanese and Chinese markets ([www.intralink.biz](http://www.intralink.biz)).*

Many of us fall into our careers without really knowing what we want to do, and I guess I was one of those. After completing a 4-year degree in Japanese and Geography at Sheffield University, I spent two fabulous years as a Coordinator for International Relations on the JET Programme in Toyama prefecture, Japan. I drifted back to the UK, dabbled in a few things, and then had the good fortune to meet with the founder of a small company called Intralink – then just a one-man outfit – providing market access and business development services to British companies targeting Japan. I grabbed the opportunity with both hands and headed back to Japan where I set up a small office.

That was in 1996. Fast forward to 2009 and the company now has 30 staff in offices in the UK, Tokyo, Shanghai, Taipei and the US (Silicon Valley), and a portfolio of leading-edge technology clients for whom we develop and implement strategies in Japan, China and Taiwan. The company's core service, which we call the Surrogate Sales Program™, provides a facility for companies to generate revenues to the point where there is an economic and practical case for investing in a local company or committing to a strategic

partnership. Although the focus is technology – in mobile/wireless and fixed-line telecoms, networking and enterprise solutions, and consumer electronics – we also work with clients in the healthcare and automotive sectors, intellectual property licensing, chemicals, industrial and engineering products, retail and travel. We also provide Purchasing Office and Investment Coordination services for clients wishing to benefit from low-cost, offshore production in China, as well as a range of Pre-market and Post-entry services to support companies at every stage of their business development in China and Japan.

But like all organisations, we are only as good as our people, many of whom herald from SEAS. The company currently employs six SEAS graduates, and others have passed through our ranks. Some have joined us after 2-3 years of work experience, others as 'fresh' graduates, but all have come with a set of skills and a passion for their chosen country, which we couldn't teach and which we regard as more important than knowledge of any specific industry, which we can teach. Among these essential skills are fluency in, or at least a very thorough knowledge of,

Japanese or Mandarin Chinese; a solid grounding in and sensitivity towards things Japanese and Chinese, upon which each can build his or her understanding and expertise through hands-on experience in the field; and an ability to apply disciplines and manage the pressures which come with project work and deadlines. These are skills which our SEAS graduates, often without knowing it, have developed and honed during their time at Sheffield, and which are essential in 'life after university' and to Intralink as a business.

But most important of all is a passion for Japan or China! To this day I remember the first lecture of Professor Glenn Hook's course *Contemporary Japanese Society*. The year was 1989, the Nikkei 225 was hurtling towards a record 40,000 points (it didn't quite make it), and Japan's bubble was just months away from bursting. Most of the 'Year Nought' students in the class were reading Japanese with Business Studies – it seemed like the obvious way to make your millions – but I was there because, having spent seven years living in Japan as a child, I had already caught the bug! Those that could hack the intensive language classes were the ones who realised that learning Japanese or Chinese was not just about catching the economic wind or making a cool squillion. For many, it was a passion for their subject, acquired through self-study, the inspiration of their tutors and the experience of spending time there, which carried them through the course and is the lasting legacy of their time at Sheffield. It is for this reason more than any that Intralink has employed so many SEAS graduates and that they have gone to thrive as members of our team.

## Taught Postgraduate Degrees

The programmes on offer at SEAS – the MA in Chinese Studies, MA in Japanese Studies, MA in Advanced Japanese (Research Methods), MA in Modern Korean Studies and MSc in East Asian Business – are very flexible. In the Chinese, Japanese and Korean programmes, a range of levels of language study are available for beginners, intermediate and advanced students (pathways are available for those who do not need or want to study a language). A wide range of studies modules are also provided allowing you to tailor your degree to suit your career plans, whether that it is in international business like our graduates at Intralink, government, other institutions and organisations, or further research at doctoral level.

For more information on entry requirements and admissions procedures, please go to the SEAS website: [www.shef.ac.uk/seas](http://www.shef.ac.uk/seas).

**Here are some of their stories...**



### **Stuart Coyle (Taipei)**

"Having decided that my future lay in China's vibrant economy, I knew that I would require specific skills and knowledge: SEAS's MSc in Chinese Language, Business and International Relations offered all of this. After graduation, I spent two years in Taiwan honing my Mandarin, understanding the island's intrinsic relationship with the mainland, and gaining experience in Taiwan's semiconductor industry. Through SEAS's alumni network, I learnt of the opportunity to work for Intralink which seemed an ideal destination for a person of my background. I spent three years with Intralink in mainland China, building knowledge of a variety of industries, interacting with local and foreign business leaders and bringing overseas technologies into China. Now we have embarked on a new venture – Intralink Taiwan – for me, full circle and for Intralink, an extension of our footprint in the major economies of East Asia."



### **Kshitij Kumar (Tokyo)**

The unique MSc in East Asian Business I followed at Sheffield offers the flexibility to specialise in the business and economics of Japan while at the same time attend modules in the Business School for skills that enhance your professional profile. Both of these are needed to work at Intralink which is at the forefront of intercultural and intercontinental business. Japan is viewed as being at the forefront of technology, which is why representing our client's new technologies to the Japanese can be just as challenging as it is exciting and rewarding. Not only are we expected to be "Japan Experts" but also technically adept enough to efficiently promote these new technologies to a competitive and difficult-to-penetrate market. Intralink is, therefore, a great value-add for our clients because the team is a cohort of bilingual country-specific professionals with diverse technical backgrounds."



### **Alyn Watkins (Shanghai)**

"I graduated with an MSc in Chinese Business and International Relations from SEAS in 2006 and the education received from SEAS provided a solid base from which to tackle the various challenges of working in mainland China. As was the case with fellow students at the time of graduation, it was difficult to find opportunities in China when based in the UK. Fortunately, I was lucky enough to secure an internship with Intralink in mid 2007. Intralink represents a wide selection of clients active in many industries and, therefore, offers fresh graduates with the opportunity to accumulate valuable experience through exposure and responsibility from the outset. Working for a dynamic and flexible SME in China's fast-changing economic and business landscape provides opportunities for continuing challenges and development of core business competencies."



### **Mark Hedley (Shanghai)**

"Shortly after completing an MSc in Chinese Business and International Relations in 2007, I started an internship at Intralink Shanghai. Since then, I have been involved in a number of business development and market research projects for various European and American companies looking to enter the Chinese market. Working at Intralink has given me the opportunity to deepen my understanding of China's business environment, and to develop my own sales, research and report writing skills. It has also enabled me to apply to a practical context much of the core knowledge about China provided by the SEAS course. SEAS also provided me with the language skills necessary for carrying out desk research and face-to-face meetings in Chinese. The use of contemporary economic and business related material in Chinese language classes means that the language taught at SEAS can readily be applied to real-world business scenarios."



### **Ed Baker (Tokyo)**

"Doing a Master's in East Asian Business at SEAS has given me a solid platform to pursue a career in the region. The advanced Japanese language classes, in particular, were excellent and are fundamental to the work that I do on a daily basis. In addition, SEAS' access to the Universities' business school, the Chubu Internship and broader regional political economic perspective has also been of great value and importance. Working at Intralink has enabled me to build on these skills and has provided me with exciting "hands-on" experience in the fast-growing high-tech sectors."

# Re-assessing Chiang Kai-shek: an international dialogue



*Dr Jeremy Taylor believes that it is time for scholars to move beyond caricature in their study of Chiang Kai-shek, one of the key figures in twentieth-century Chinese history.*

For many years, Chiang Kai-shek was a topic of only peripheral interest to scholars of modern Chinese history. The belief was that Chiang's failure on the mainland represented all that one needed to know about this figure. For the Left, Chiang was little more than an embodiment of what some have referred to as 'Confucian fascism'; for defenders on the Right, Chiang was the quintessential Cold Warrior who could do no wrong. Little attempt was made to move beyond what were almost caricatured approaches to the study of this individual. The case was rarely different outside the academy. In the People's Republic of China (PRC), Chiang remained a virtual persona non grata in popular depictions of the past; in Taiwan, Chiang quietly disappeared from the public gaze during the Lee Teng-hui presidency, as a 'localised' KMT began to distance itself from an authoritarian past and the Chiang personality cult it had once encouraged.

Over recent years, however, there has been a marked increase in scholarly, public and government interest in Chiang Kai-shek and his legacy. Publication of new biographies of Chiang Kai-shek in both English and Chinese has coincided with events such as the death of Madame Chiang Kai-shek in 2003 and the deposition of the Chiang Kai-shek diaries at the Hoover Institution in 2005. Chiang Kai-shek's legacy has become a topic of public debate on both sides of the Taiwan Strait, and elsewhere, in ways that would have been unthinkable just a decade ago.

It was for this reason that I, having published a number of papers on the Chiang Kai-shek legacy in Taiwan over recent years, decided to collaborate with Dr Emily Hill of Queen's University in Canada and Dr Grace Huang of St Lawrence University in the United States in putting together a conference under the title of 'Re-assessing Chiang Kai-shek: an International Dialogue'. This conference – the first of its kind to be organised in the

English-speaking world in some years – was held at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, from 7-9 August 2009, and involved over 20 scholars from East Asia, North America and Europe who met to discuss and compare recent scholarship on various aspects of Chiang and his significance in modern Chinese history. It included a number of historians who are currently working on the Chiang Kai-shek diaries at Hoover, as well as those re-examining Chiang

through a broader historiographical lens, and led to some lively debates on Chiang Kai-shek's significance both before and after 1949, and on the state of the field today.

The conference was made possible thanks to generous funding from the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation, Canada's Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, Queen's University, the Association of Asian Studies and a number of other sources.



*A de-constructed statue of Chiang held at the Cihu Memorial Sculpture Park in Taoyuan County, Taiwan.*



Pro-Vice Chancellor for Social Sciences, Professor Tony Payne (left), and Head of SEAS, Professor Zang Xiaowei (right), wish Professor Grayson all the best for his retirement.

# SEAS bids a fond farewell to its long-standing Director of Korean Studies

Both staff and students were saddened to say goodbye to Professor Emeritus James Grayson, who took well-deserved retirement this autumn after a career devoted to the development of Korean Studies.

James completed his BA degree at Rutgers University in 1966. He went on to undertake an MA at Columbia University (1968) and received his Master of Divinity from Duke University in 1971. From 1973 to 1982 he taught at two Korean universities, whilst at the same time researching for his PhD, which was awarded in 1979 by the University of Edinburgh. His study of the diffusion of religion across cultural boundaries, and an analysis of the religious and intellectual conceptual framework of

the Korean and East Asian peoples resulted in the production of three fascinating books: *Early Buddhism and Christianity in Korea* (Brill, 1985), *Korea: A Religious History* (RoutledgeCurzon, revised 2002), and *Myths and Legends from Korea: An Annotated Compendium of Ancient and Modern Materials* (Curzon Press, 2000).

James joined the School of East Asian Studies in 1987 when he began to expand the teaching of Korean Studies. He was responsible for the introduction of full degree programmes in Korean Studies and has contributed some of the most popular modules in the department, including *The History of Korea to 1945* and *Religion and Society in East Asia*. On several occasions, he undertook the role of acting Head of

Department and, in addition to his work in SEAS, he was also twice appointed Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences. Outside of the University, James has been a key player in the British Association for Korean Studies for many years and, in recognition for his services to Korean Studies, he was decorated by the Korean government with the *Munhwa hunjang* (Order of Cultural Merit) in 1995.

SEAS will be a much emptier place without him, but we shall all remember with great fondness his unrivalled enthusiasm for all things East Asian and his unforgettable renditions of the popular Korean folksong Arirang!

## Moving on to pastures new

SEAS is also very sad to see the departure of Sandra Hawksworth, a key member of administrative staff in the Distance Learning Centre since 2006. Herself a graduate of the in-house MA in Japanese Language and Society (2003), Sandra will be remembered for her professional expertise, organisational skills, supportive nature and cheerful disposition, all of which made working in the busy centre a pleasure for her

colleagues. She is looking forward to spending time travelling in France, a place which is very close to her heart.

We bid farewell, too, to Professor Harald Fuess, who came to SEAS from the University of Sophia, Japan, in 2007 and is now moving to the Centre for East Asian Studies and Department of History at the University of Heidelberg. Whilst at Sheffield, Harald acted as Director of Postgraduate Studies and Executive

Board Member at the White Rose East Asia Centre, and lectured on the history of modern Japan. He was recently elected President of the European Association for Japanese Studies and will continue in the role until 2011.

We thank them both for their outstanding contribution to the department and wish them all the very best in their future careers.

# SEAS is No.1 again in Asian Studies for student satisfaction!

Once again, the School of East Asian Studies has been ranked - by students themselves - first in the UK among Asian Studies departments in the National Student Survey 2009. SEAS was rated first nationwide in six categories, including teaching, academic support, learning resources, and personal development. The level of satisfaction with the courses at SEAS was the highest among all Asian Studies departments in the UK.

More than 60% of final year students took part in the National Student Survey and their responses highlighted SEAS's

strengths in terms of a stimulating and enjoyable learning environment, organisation, staff availability, skills development and access to resources.

The top survey responses were:

- 'I have been able to contact staff when I needed to' (98% of respondents agreed)
- 'The course is intellectually stimulating' and 'Staff have made the subject interesting' (97%)
- 'The course is well organised and is running smoothly' (95%)

- 'Overall, I am satisfied with the quality of the course', 'My communication skills have improved' and 'The timetable works efficiently as far as my activities are concerned' (92%)

- 'I have been able to access general IT resources when I needed to' (91%).

The results of the survey are published each year on Unistats.com to help prospective students make informed choices about where and what to study.



## East Asian Studies degrees

The School of East Asian Studies offers a wide range of single and dual honours degrees, as well as postgraduate taught and research degrees. For further information, contact [seas@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:seas@sheffield.ac.uk), or visit: <http://www.shef.ac.uk/seas>.

### BA Degrees

Most degrees involve four years of study. Those marked with an asterisk take three years.

#### Single honours

Chinese Studies  
Japanese Studies  
Korean Studies  
East Asian Studies\*

#### Dual honours

Chinese Studies and /History, Management, Music

Chinese Studies with /French, German, Japanese, Russian, Spanish

Japanese Studies and /History, Linguistics, Management, Politics, Sociology

Japanese Studies with /German, Russian, Spanish

French/Germanic/Hispanic/Russian Studies with Japanese

Korean Studies and /Linguistics, Management, Music

Korean Studies with Japanese

East Asian Studies and /Management, Music,\*

International Politics and East Asian Studies\*

### Postgraduate Taught Degrees

MA/Diploma/Certificate in Chinese Studies

MA/Diploma/Certificate in Japanese Studies

MA/Diploma/Certificate in Advanced Japanese Studies (Research Methods)

MA/Diploma/Certificate in Modern Korean Studies

MSc/Diploma/Certificate in East Asian Business

### Postgraduate Research Degrees

PhD supervision is available in a wide range of subject areas on China, Japan, Korea and intra-regional studies. In addition, a number of scholarships are available through the White Rose East Asia Centre.

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