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Notice to all readers

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Graduation 2019

The School of East Asian Studies was proud to see its final-year students graduate at a ceremony held on 17 July 2019.

This year saw another cohort of high-achieving students and the award of four prizes.

James Cooper was awarded the Tim Wright Prize, given to outstanding students on an East Asian Studies degree programme. Tim was involved in a number of aspects outside of his studies and took on the role of Master of Ceremonies at our annual Japan Day event.

In Korean Studies, Vilde Olaussen was awarded the James H. Grayson Prize for her impressive performance throughout her degree. Vilde was highly active outside of her degree, taking a year out to do an internship in the Norwegian Embassy in Korea, working part-time in the SEAS office and appearing in departmental promotional videos.

The Robert Sloss Prize in Chinese Studies was awarded to Helena Kinch who demonstrated academic excellence all throughout her studies. Helena showed an unwavering dedication to academic life and was known as a team player that positively contributed to class dynamics. She excelled in a number of languages including Chinese, Spanish and Catalan.

Finally, the Margaret Daniels Prize was awarded to Ollie Moxham for his first-class performances on our single-honours degree in Japanese Studies. Throughout his degree, Ollie was involved in a number of activities and won a prize at last year's British Association for Japanese Studies. Dr Gordon Daniels, a former Senior Lecturer in Japanese History, was able to present Ollie with his prize on the day.

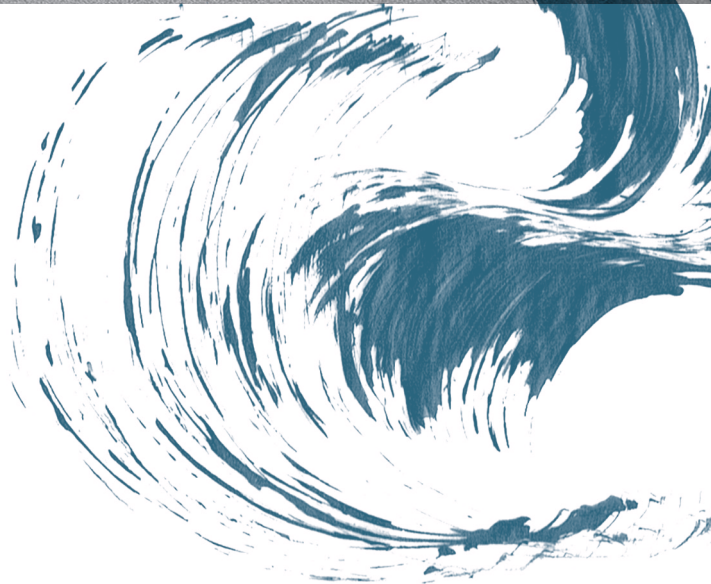
Professor Kate Taylor-Jones, Head of School, commented that:

"we are immensely proud of all our students and we are delighted to celebrate with them on their graduation day. SEAS graduates have shown passion and commitment to their study of the languages and cultures of the East Asian region and everyone has worked hard to succeed in their degrees. We look forward to hearing about their future adventures!"



The School of East Asian Studies wishes all its graduates every success in their chosen careers and looks forward to keeping in touch with them.





SEAS welcomes a number of new staff...



Dr Jennifer Coates
*Senior Lecturer in
Japanese Studies*

Dr Coates joined the School in September 2019 and is contributing to our Japanese Studies programme as well as taking on the role of overarching postgraduate admissions and teaching on a number of undergraduate modules.

Before coming to SEAS, Jennifer (Jenny) was a Senior Lecturer in Japanese Arts, Cultures and Heritage at the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures at the University of East Anglia. Previously, Jenny was an AHRC Kluge Fellow at the Library of Congress, Washington D.C. (2012), a Visiting Research Fellow at the Australian National University (2011) and Assistant Professor at the Hakubi Centre for Advanced Research, Kyoto University (2014-2018).

She is currently working on her second monograph titled 'Feelings Without Words: Growing Up with the Cinema in Postwar Japan, 1945-1968.' This will be the first ethno-history of postwar Japanese film viewership, exploring the popular discourses around cinema and their part in the formation of a sense of self.



Clea Carroll
*Learning and Teaching
Administrator*

Clea joined the University in 2014 after many years working in Sheffield's public libraries. Starting in the Department of Urban Studies, then the Department of Geography, Clea took up her current role as Learning and Teaching Administrator within the School of East Asian Studies in March 2019.



Dr Martyn Smith
*Lecturer in
Japanese Studies*

Dr Smith is a member of the Japanese Studies team and joined SEAS from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) in London. Martyn completed his PhD at SOAS, University of London in 2014. Since completing his PhD, he has taught at Newcastle University, Birkbeck, Winchester University and SOAS. In 2018 he was a Visiting Assistant Professor at Tokyo University of Foreign Studies.

Martyn's recent book 'Mass Media Consumerism and National Identity in Postwar Japan' examined the transformation of nationalism and national identity in connection to the rise of consumer society during the 1950s and 1960s. His latest research takes an interdisciplinary approach to the study of sound and the history of technology in Japan and Asia. He is particularly interested in the ways in which sound was perceived, hierarchized, regulated, manipulated, and given meaning differently in different places and at different times, and how the study of sound exposes some of the core issues and processes driving changes in technology, the environment, politics, aesthetics, cultural and social relations in Asia.



**Dr Hyun Kyong
Hannah Chang**
Lecturer in Korean Studies

Dr Chang joined the School in August 2019 as a new member of the Korean Studies team. She is a musicologist and historian specialising in trans-Pacific Korea. Before joining the University of Sheffield, she taught at New York University.

Her current research focuses on music and religion in Korea from the late nineteenth century to the early twentieth, with a focus on the impact of Western missionaries on Korea. She is also preparing a special issue titled 'Musics of co-eval East Asia' for a musicological journal.



Dr Sarah Son
Lecturer in Korean Studies

Dr Sarah Son joined SEAS in August 2019. She completed her PhD on national identity and inter-Korean relations at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) in London in 2014, before spending five years working in South Korea in the non-profit sector on North Korean human rights issues, as well as on human rights documentation practices more broadly.

Her current research focuses on the application of new and remote sensing technologies in documenting human rights abuses in North Korea in partnership with organisations based in Seoul, while also conducting qualitative research with the North Korean escapee community on developing modes of redress for past human rights violations in the future.



Jonathan Hemsall
*Business Administration
Apprentice*

Jon joined the University in September 2019 from Bishop Grosseteste University where he studied a BA and MA in Theology. Within his academic studies, he covered a variety of topics within East Asian culture such as history, philosophy, and religion. Jon works in a development role as a Business Administration Apprentice and splits his time between The School of East Asian Studies and the School of Education. He is excited to see what opportunities come up across the School and has recently taken up the role of Green Impact Champion where he oversees a variety of community projects from litter picks to rising awareness of climate change to staff and students.



Dr Nozomi Uematsu
*Lecturer in
Japanese Studies*

We are very happy to welcome back Dr Uematsu who previously worked with us on a temporary basis in 2016 teaching Japanese literature. Nozomi has taken on the role of Japan Year Abroad co-ordinator and will also be teaching on a number of undergraduate modules.

Prior to joining Sheffield as a Lecturer in September 2019, Nozomi was a Teaching Fellow in Japanese at Durham University. She also taught at Queen Mary University of London, Cambridge, Sussex and Akita International University (Japan).



Dr Christina Maags
Lecturer in Chinese Studies

Dr Christina Maags joined SEAS in January 2020 after working as Lecturer in Chinese Politics at School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) from 2017-2020.

She completed her PhD in Political Science at the University of Frankfurt, Germany (2017) and studied in Oxford, Frankfurt and Bonn. In addition, she has been a visiting fellow at the Australian National University (2016). Her research interests include political economy, multi-level governance and local policy implementation in the People's Republic of China. Using these analytical frameworks as a lens, she has particularly conducted research on cultural heritage politics and the politics of demographic ageing in contemporary China.

Christina is currently working on two major research projects: 'Political Economy of Elder Care in China' and 'Intangible Heritage, the Market & the State'. In her research, she pays particular attention to interactions and interdependencies across global, national and local scales.



Victoria Large
*Marketing and
Recruitment Officer*

Victoria joined the School of East Asian Studies in May 2019 on a secondment basis covering a period of maternity leave. Vikki, as she is more widely known, previously worked in the University's Student Recruitment and Admissions department predominantly in the communications function. Prior to that, Vikki worked in both central and faculty Outreach and Widening Participation teams and at Sheffield Hallam University as an events co-ordinator.



...And says goodbye to some

SEAS recently bid farewell to a few members of staff.

Dr Nicolas Tranter decided to retire in the summer of 2019. He studied in the department (the then Department for Japanese Studies) from 1983-1991 and was awarded a first class BA in Linguistics and Japanese Studies in 1987 (winning Faculty and Linguistics prizes), including three years of Korean language study; and a PhD in 1992. He worked in the department as a tutor from 1989-1990 and lecturer from 1990-2019 and taught Modern Japanese at every level; Classical Japanese; Early Modern Japanese; Japanese Linguistics; and East Asian Linguistics. He was treated for lymphoma 2012-2014, returned to work in April 2015, out of remission 2019. He is a survivor, but this has taken a toll on his health and informed his decision to retire, however he still intends to continue doing research.

September 2019 saw **Motoko Takahashi Wilson** move to the School of Modern Languages and Cultures at Durham University to join their Japanese language team as an Assistant Teaching Fellow. Motoko came to SEAS in 2009 and completed her MSc in International and European Studies at the University of Edinburgh.

In Summer 2019, **Dr Markus Bell** left the School to pursue opportunities in Myanmar with his family. He is currently working with Rapid Asia as a freelance Research and Report Writing and a Columnist at the Myanmar Times.

In January 2020, **Dr Ziyi Wei** took up the role as Assistant Professor at the Nottingham University Business School. Ziyi joined SEAS in January 2014 as a Lecturer in Chinese Studies from Henley Business School, and after completing her PhD on International Business Strategy at the University of Reading.

SEAS has also said 'see you soon' to three members of staff who have taken maternity leave. **Keighley Cowood**, Marketing Officer, welcomed Cora Lily Cowood on 1st June 2019 and **Dr Lucille Han**, Chinese Language Tutor, added baby Lucas to her family on New Year's Day. **Dr Yu Chen**, Lecturer in Chinese Studies, will be taking maternity leave from February 2020.



**We wish everyone
the best in their
respective futures
and look forward to
keeping in touch, and
we look forward to
welcoming those back
who are returning to
SEAS in 2020.**



Rewards and Recognition for SEAS Staff

Promotions, Awards and Good News

In December 2019, Dr Mark Pendleton was promoted to Senior Lecturer in Japanese Studies – a well-deserved promotion and many congratulations to Mark.

Professor Kate Taylor-Jones was presented with an award for Outstanding Practice in Learning and Teaching from the Faculty of Social Science in the summer of 2019.

Another bit of exciting news - one of our MSc East Asian Business students, Luca Tinnirello, published one of his essays from the EAS6207 Politics and Governance in China module. The published version is in Italian and can be found online:

www.china-files.com/sinologie-partito-comunista-cinese-questione-di-legittimita



Higher Education Academy (HEA) professional recognition

The winter of 2019 saw Dr Jamie Coates recognised through the Higher Education Academy (HEA) for his commitment to learning and teaching. Jamie was appointed to Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy. HEA Fellowships demonstrate a personal and institutional commitment to professionalism in learning and teaching in higher education. Fellowships span four categories from Associate to Principal Fellow and provide individuals with recognition of their practice, impact and leadership of teaching and learning.



Employability in the Spotlight

On joining SEAS in August 2019, Dr. Sarah Son (Lecturer in Korean Studies) took over the role of Employability Lead for the School.



SEAS had a full semester of events over the last few months, including careers presentations from a number of East Asia-focussed companies and organisations with long experience finding roles for East Asian Studies graduates. We have also worked closely with the University of Sheffield Careers Service to encourage students to take part in University-wide careers events and job fairs.

In December, SEAS held a Careers Retreat with over 50 students in attendance. Five SEAS alumni from fields including tourism, teaching, journalism, business and government took part in a panel where they shared their experiences of job searching and presented their top tips for students. The panel answered a wide range of questions from students, demonstrating the many different routes taken by East Asian Studies graduates after leaving university.

Some key tips presented at the retreat included:

- > Making use of the many online and offline support services offered by the University of Sheffield Careers Service and Career Connect;
- > Being proactive during breaks and holidays by seeking out work experience or volunteer opportunities to build your skills and expand your network;
- > Keeping a written record of experience and extracurricular activities, including skills learned and knowledge gained to help you with writing job applications down the track;
- > Researching industries, companies and organisations you'd be interested working in to find out whether they are a good fit for your interests and skills, and what they look for in their employees;
- > Thinking about ways to build your CV from the first year of your degree.

Two weeks after the Careers Retreat, all SEAS students were invited to attend a group personal tutorial focussed on employability. Personal Tutors took students through tasks and discussion topics to explore lessons from the Careers Retreat and to put together an employability action plan for the remainder of their degrees, including steps they can be taking now to prepare themselves for finding a job after their degrees.

In the coming year, we will be continuing to look at new ways to embed employability into the curriculum across our degree programmes. We will also continue to expand our efforts towards providing extracurricular opportunities for students to meet potential employers, learn about different industries and prepare for the job market.

Apprenticeships at The University of Sheffield

University Apprenticeship Scheme in Social Sciences

**Jonathan Hemsall,
Business Administration
Apprentice, School of East
Asian Studies**

Following a University presentation on apprenticeships in 2017, a pilot apprenticeship scheme was set up. The University of Sheffield are committed to offering the highest quality apprenticeship that will impact productivity and growth not only in our organisation but also in our city, the wider region and the UK.

The School of East Asian Studies (SEAS) were successful in their bid to be part of the pilot and successfully recruited a Business Administration Apprentice in September 2019. Our apprentice, Jonathan Hemsall discusses his time with SEAS:

"Since September last year, I have had the privilege of working for the School of East Asian Studies under an 18-month apprenticeship programme as a Business Administration Apprentice. My current role sees me working across two departments, the School of East Asian Studies and the School of Education.

When I applied for this role in July 2019, I was writing up a Masters dissertation and my time as a student was coming to an end. However, during my studies, I developed a keen interest in the higher education sector, and felt I would be suited to a professional services role.

Whilst I did not undertake my undergraduate or postgraduate study at The University of Sheffield, I was aware of the University's national and international reputation for academic excellence and global community, mainly from old school friends who studied with the institution. I was also aware of Sheffield's reputation of being a student friendly place to live, and in the 4 months that I have been living in the city I have enjoyed exploring the local area, including paying a visit to Sheffield Steelers Ice Hockey games, not to mention the spontaneous trips to IKEA.

Currently, I oversee a variety of project-based activities within SEAS, as well as, shadowing and supporting staff with general admin tasks. All of which is with the goal of developing myself professionally. One particular area of project work, which I oversee, is the School's contribution to Green Impact, an initiative set up by NUS, to make universities more environmentally sustainable in the current fight against the climate crisis. As part of this, a 3rd year undergraduate student and I are organising a series of litter picks across the local area which both staff and students can take part in. Additionally, we are also organising food bank collections as a way for the School to engage with the local community.

So far, I have enjoyed my role with SEAS and I am grateful for the opportunities that I have been afforded to develop my work experience and knowledge – I look forward to seeing what opportunities arise over the remainder of my time with SEAS."



MA International Relations and East Asia

We have a new Masters course, MA International Relations and East Asia starting in September 2020.

The course is jointly run by the Department of Politics and International Relations and the School of East Asian Studies so students will be taught by leading experts from both departments.

MA International Relations and East Asia explores key issues in international relations and global politics, with a particular focus on the East Asia region. Students will learn about the major structures and ideas shaping international politics in East Asia such as changing power dynamics and regional identity.

It has been designed so that there is a clear development in relation to students' knowledge, understanding and skills relevant to the sub-discipline of International Relations but with a particular reference to East Asia. It examines the major structures, actors and ideas shaping international politics in East Asia today and introduces students to new theories about international order and identity linked to emerging trends in the region. Central themes will address changing power dynamics, regional identity and Asian centrism; leadership and the emerging multilateral architecture and ASEAN-led regionalism.



Green Impact

SEAS commitment to Green Impact

**Jonathan Hemsall,
Business Administration
Apprentice, School of East
Asian Studies**

Green Impact is an initiative set up in cooperation with the National Union of Students and is a United Nations award winning programme designed to support environmentally sustainable development of Universities globally. Over the last ten years, Green Impact has developed a variety of projects, set out through the UN's nine sustainable development goals including Zero Hunger, Sustainable Cities and Communities and Climate Action.

Within the University, the focus is on making the institution more environmentally sustainable. Each department that joins Green Impact gets a toolkit, which breaks down guidelines on sustainability into nine short and manageable actions. In addition, each department is tasked with organising one or more projects that supports sustainable development. This can be done through aspects such as building projects or community work, and at the end of the project each department is awarded either a bronze, silver or gold award, depending on the amount of work that has been done.

For SEAS contribution to Green Impact, our Business Administration Apprentice, Jonathan Hemsall, has worked with a 3rd year undergraduate student from the Department of Philosophy to come

up with initiatives which supports the overall aims and objectives of Green Impact. In his own words, Jon says "over the last 3 months we have organised a series of staff and student litter picks across the university campus and are organising a food bank collection, with the majority of our efforts taking place in February and March 2020".

"We have also worked on the nine point toolkit and have made adjustments to actions which have been completed in previous years. For example, we have added stickers to light switches across the building reminding staff to turn lights off when not in use. We have also reminded staff about limiting their use of flying where possible and to only fly if absolutely necessary, and the obvious of printing necessary documents only."

"Overall being the SEAS Green Impact Champion has been a very enlightening experience for myself and has allowed me to not only contribute towards the department's sustainable development but also my own as well. I am looking forward to the opportunities which will come about when the department moves to its new home in the Jessop West building."



Who's Sōri Now? Prime Ministers in the UK and Japan

Professor Hugo Dobson, Professor of Japan's International Relations, National Institute of Japanese Studies and School of East Asian Studies

SEAS has scored a double whammy in terms of research funding. Both Mark Pendleton and Hugo Dobson have been successful in securing the Economic and Social Research Council and the Arts and Humanities Research Council's UK-Japan Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities Connections grants. Mark has been leading a project on the coal mining industries in Japan and the UK while Hugo has been exploring the power of the prime ministers in each country.

Hugo's project explores the phenomenon that since 2012 and the return of Prime Minister Abe Shinzo for a rare second term of office, the position of the Japanese prime minister has appeared to be becoming stronger in Japan at the same time that the UK prime minister (at least until last December's general election) appears to have been weakening. This is surprising as traditionally the Japanese prime minister was regarded as a weak, compromise figure who only served for very short periods (hence the pun in the headline – sōri means prime minister in Japanese). However, this now appears to be a thing of the past. In the UK, intra-party dynamics and, of course, Brexit have shifted in a way that has weakened the prime minister.

Although not suggesting any causal link, this project seeks to build a network of scholars in the UK and Japan that are interested in explaining these two phenomena, exploring how prime ministerial leadership has traditionally been understood and measured in both countries, and asking whether these approaches are fit for purpose.

So far this network of UK and Japanese researchers have met in Sheffield and Tokyo. The most recent workshop in Japan was held at Seikei University and brought together a number of leading scholars in the field to explore factors such as the broader socio-economic context, the core executive, party relations, individual styles and skills, celebrity politics and psychological factors. It opened with a frank and honest discussion with former Prime Minister Fukuda Yasuo, who served as prime minister just over a decade ago.

The next stages of the project will include a seminar at the Daiwa Anglo-Japanese Foundation in London and an event in Westminster during the Summer of 2020.

As well as this project, Hugo is working on two books while on research leave this academic year: a history of the Group of 20 summits and a biography of postwar Japanese prime ministers with particular focus on what they do after leaving power.



Seismic Changes: Mapping Gender and Culture in Japan Today

**Dr Mark Pendleton and Dr Jennifer Coates, Senior
Lecturers in Japanese Studies**

In the World Economic Forum's 2019 Global Gender rankings Japan slid 11 places to 121st place, well below other developed countries and other East Asian countries like China and Korea. While Japan ranks well for women's health outcomes, it's low ranking primarily reflects a very low level of political engagement by women in Japan, as well as serious problems in terms of social and economic advancement, and increasingly in educational attainment.

All of this suggests that in the context of Japan, gender is a very important area to research and study. The School of East Asian Studies hosts a number of prominent scholars whose work touches on gender issues in Japan. Several of them were contributors to a new landmark volume, edited by Senior Lecturers in the department, Dr Jennifer Coates and Dr Mark Pendleton, along with their colleague Dr Lucy Fraser from the University of Queensland in Australia. The Routledge Companion to Gender and Japanese Culture is the first volume that brings together such a large amount of scholarship on gender issues as they relate to Japan - 40 chapters and over 240,000 words.

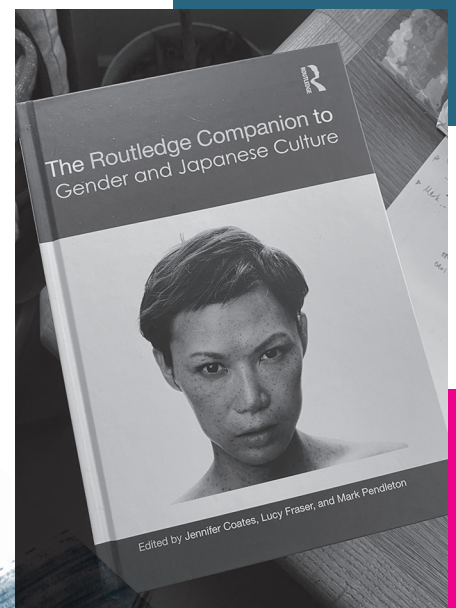
In addition to the editorial work of Coates and Pendleton, Dr Jamie Coates contributed a chapter on gender and ethnicity in urban

Japan; Dr Jennifer Coates worked with UCL doctoral researcher Laura Haapio-Kirk on a chapter on digital technologies and cultures; and two of our own PhD students also contributed - Anna Vainio on rural gender construction and decline; and Georgia Thomas-Parr, who co-authored with our Head of School Professor Kate Taylor-Jones, a chapter on representing girls in cinema.

Contributors to the volume come from all over the globe and at various stages of their careers, from doctoral researchers to senior professors. Initial response to the publication have been positive - Professor Hideko Abe of Colby College described it as "an unprecedented collection of new and updated accounts of original texts which constitutes the most comprehensive overview of both classic and contemporary scholarship in the field of gender and culture," and Professor Kazue Harada from Miami University noted that "particularly impressive is how this volume tackles the complex intersecting issues of gender, race, ethnicity, class, and others."

In these fast-changing times, the landscape of gender issues and related challenges is always shifting. The Routledge Companion to Gender and Japanese Culture offers a timely update on the situation of gender and

related concerns in Japan today, as well as a number of research models, case studies, and approaches that will influence how we study gender in Japan for years to come.



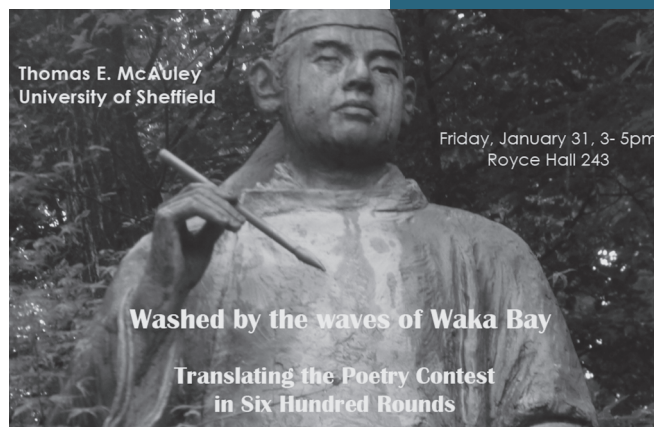
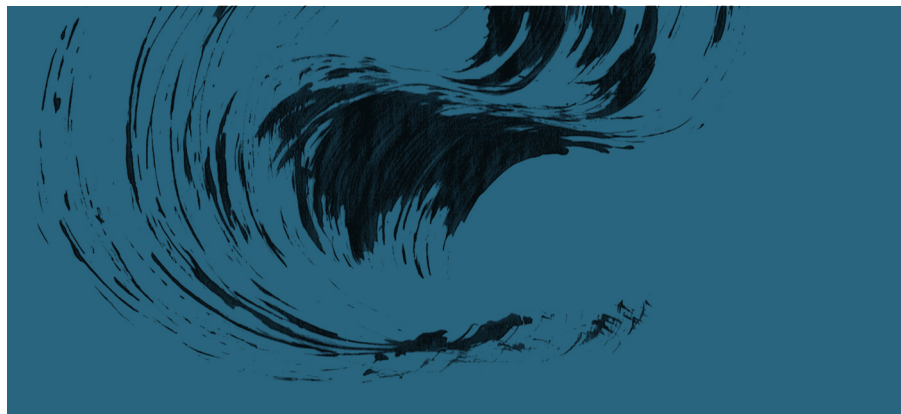
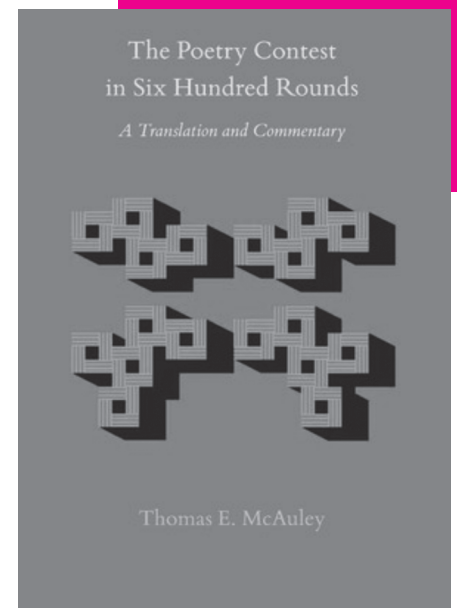
The Poetry Contest in Six Hundred Rounds – Book Tour

Dr Thomas E. McAuley, Lecturer in Japanese Studies

At the end of last year after approximately a decade of work, my translation and commentary of Roppyakuban uta'awase ('The Poetry Contest in Six Hundred Rounds') was published by Brill as part of their prestigious Brill's Japanese Studies Library. Publication of the work has been eagerly awaited in the field of premodern Japanese poetry studies, and so I have received a number of invitations to visit other universities to give presentations on the content of the book. In late January 2020, I was able to combine three of these into a short north American book tour.

My first stop was Vancouver, where I addressed the Department of Asian Studies at the University of British Columbia. Here, I spoke about the challenges involved in translating the text, and how my choices as a translator had shaped the final product. My audience included not only members of the department, but also a local poet and other poetry lovers at the university. After leaving Vancouver, I flew to Los Angeles where I spoke at both the University of Southern California (USC) and the University of California: Los Angeles (UCLA). At USC, as well as giving a research presentation on the contradictory attitudes

displayed by the judge and contestants to poems utilising Chinese expressions. I also gave a lecture to their undergraduates as part of their introductory course in premodern Japan. It's a real privilege to help introduce young people to the world of waka poetry and maybe create a life-long interest. Finally, at UCLA, I once again addressed the issues involved in translating the contest, speaking to faculty and graduate students of the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures. Here there was an opportunity to discuss translation techniques and strategies with young scholars confronting the same issues as part of their doctoral research.



The Tandem Learning Project

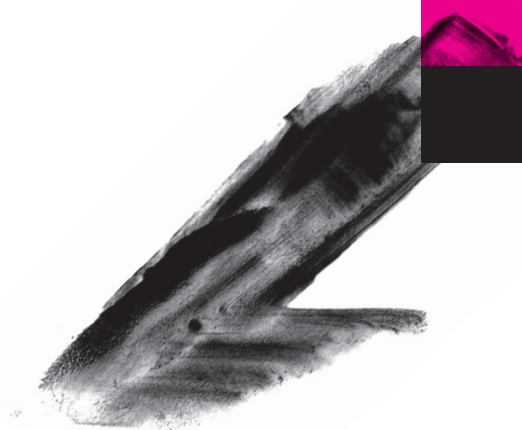
**Dorothy Finan, PhD Candidate
in the School of East Asian
Studies, Daiwa Scholar in
Japanese Studies**

I previously took part in the Tandem Language Learning Programme (TLLP) 2018 as a Master's student, when the academic language exchange event was held in Sheffield, and this time I found myself travelling as a PhD student with Dr. Thomas McAuley and SEAS Masters student Damian to Sapporo, Japan. I felt more pressure to communicate my research well this time, as I am currently preparing for fieldwork in Japan, during which I will no doubt have to explain my research into adolescence in Japanese popular music many times over. Thankfully Sapporo resident Maria, my language exchange partner, who researches women's leisure travel in Japan and its representation, put me very much at ease, and even taught be a little Sapporo dialect beforehand (namara; it means "very").

We spent the 13th of January exploring Sapporo. I tried some local miso ramen, and caught a glimpse of sculptors working the ice to create the centrepieces of the city's famous snow festival. The 14th of January was the first day of the workshop, and Maria and I were the first pair to present our research in our target language, during which I received plenty of useful feedback on my methods. The first day also featured presentations from research staff at each university, including one by Dr. McAuley himself on insights into translation gained from working on the Poetry Contest in Six Hundred Rounds. We were also treated to a meal at an izakaya, which provided a chance to try the namara oish (very delicious) Sapporo delicacy of jingisukan (grilled lamb).

The second (and final) day of the workshop on the 15th of January included topics ranging from memorial spaces in Siberia to agritourism in China. Damian gave a presentation in Japanese about economic relations between Japan and the US, and SEAS PhD student Georgia Thomas-Parr presented about her experience curating an exhibition based on her (auto) ethnography of girls' fandom of Japanese popular culture. I was struck by how helpful it was to hear my peers talk about their research in person, and following a talk by Dr. McAuley and Dr. Jeffrey Gayman on academic careers, I left the workshop with my head buzzing with ideas.

After a farewell reception, Georgia and I managed to convince our fellow participants (including Dr. McAuley!) to enjoy some karaoke. On our last day in Sapporo, Damian and I managed to get some beautiful pictures of the city from the top of Mt. Moiwa. It was a lovely way to end a busy and useful week. I am very grateful to all the staff at SEAS and Hokkaido University for organising and funding the workshop, and have already arranged to meet up with my language exchange partner Maria during my upcoming fieldwork.



Pawn on a Chessboard: Anglo-Korean Relations in the Period of the Korean Empire, 1895-1905.

**Dr Euysuk Kwon, recent successful
doctoral student in the School of
East Asian Studies**

My doctoral research, *Pawn on a Chessboard: Anglo-Korean Relations in the Period of the Korean Empire, 1895-1905*, stemmed from a question I had for a while since I learned about Korean history: why Korea became a Japanese protectorate in 1905. Many scholars had discussed and explained Japan's colonisation of Korea between 1876, when Korea opened its nation to the outer world at the gunpoint of a Japanese warship, and 1910, when Korea was eventually annexed. However, I was curious why Great Powers, who had already signed treaties with Korea and recognised the territorial integrity and independence of the country, allowed Japan to annex Korea and eventually lose their privileges from the unequal treaties. Amongst Western Powers, I was particularly interested in Britain, who had substantial interests in the region and actively engaged with regional affairs.

Thus, I wanted to know how Britain and Korea approached the question of Korean independence via my doctoral research. I particularly focused on the period between 1895 and 1905, when Korea was completely independent of Qing China's nominal suzerainty over Korea and thus able to pursue its own foreign policy without Chinese interference. Interestingly in 1895, Britain was convinced that Korean independence would be desirable for Britain's interest in the region in fear of Korea falling into the hands of Russia. Despite the fact that both Korea and Britain thought Korean independence would be desirable for

mutual interests, either had a different approach as to how to use Korea's limited resources. Britain wanted Korea to prioritise the modernisation of its economic and military systems under foreign guidance if necessary, whereas Korea intended to focus on diplomacy to secure an international guarantee of Korean independence.

However, Korea's reliance on diplomatic relations with other Great Powers, whose interests in Korea were marginal, was unsuccessful especially when Korea's neighbouring Powers, Japan and Russia, were fighting each other for the complete domination of the country. Meanwhile, through various political events that threatened Korean independence, Britain witnessed the lack of Korea's capacity to defend its independence as well as to modernise its current system. Furthermore, as Russo-Japanese rivalry deepened, Britain found that Japan also shared the same interest: stopping Russia's advance towards Korea. After the signing of Anglo-Japanese alliance of 1902, British and Japanese representatives in Korea closely worked together to maximise their influence in the country and during the Russo-Japanese War, British Legation in Korea even helped to facilitate Japanese occupation of the country.

My research concludes that Korea and Britain had different approaches to the question of Korean independence and they eventually failed to persuade each other to achieve it by their own means.

Furthermore, it should be remembered that Korean independence was desirable for Britain as long as it would protect Britain's imperialist interests. Considering that the current geopolitical situations of the region were very similar to those in the period between 1895 and 1905, except for Britain being replaced with the United States, I hope my research can contribute to the understanding of the international politics of Northeast Asia. I look forward to undertaking further research on the modern history of Korea in the near future.

The Hu Xiaoling Prize

The Hu Xiaoling Prize has been set up in memory of Dr Hu, who worked in the School of East Asian Studies between 2000 and 2008, with the help of a generous donation from an anonymous donor.

This prize is in memory of Dr Hu, who worked in the School of East Asian Studies for a number of years. Dr Hu was an indispensable part of the Chinese language programme that Sheffield built up from 2000, and made a huge contribution, especially to the vital first year course in Chinese. She was actively involved in creating the necessary learning materials for the Distance Learning programme. Dr Hu's research interests were in the historical development of Chinese grammar and in the area of language acquisition, and she collaborated with scholars

in China and Spain to study the different problems experienced by English and Korean speakers learning Chinese. She presented the results of her various research projects internationally, in countries including China, Germany, Russia, Slovenia, Spain and the US. Unfortunately, Dr Hu had to take early retirement on health grounds and for years suffered with Motor Neurone Disease with great courage. She passed away in January 2012, and is remembered with great affection by all who knew her.



Iyeesha Akim


MA Politics and Media in East Asia, recipient of Hu Xiaoling Memorial Prize 2019

My name is Iyeesha Akim and I want to thank you for the kind donation towards my share of the Hu Xiaoling Memorial Prize. I was born in Wales, to parents that had moved from West Africa to seek a better education for me and my siblings. I am extremely happy to receive this award and equally as surprised due to doubting myself yet again because of my struggles with dyslexia throughout my education.

The reason for studying a postgraduate degree at The University of Sheffield is simple; I wished to develop my own researching skills for the future. I wanted to be able to support and help young people of my generation and before who are at a disadvantage not only in Asia but around

the world. I wanted to learn and understand more about today's modern-day social issues that I have experienced myself. When I came across The University of Sheffield, I had first doubted whether it was really somewhere that would be a good place to further my MA studies. However, what really stood out to me about the university was the student experience and academic life and amazing research areas that no other place had offered me.

Next year, I am preparing to move to China for one year of work experience. This prize will be spent on contributing towards work materials for the young students that I will teach. In the future, I wish to use this award as an inspiration towards completing my PhD in East Asian Studies. My research will focus on the development of popular culture in Japanese and Chinese media.



During the first year of my undergraduate degree, I found out I was dyslexic. This caused a big change in me as I was not aware I had it throughout my whole life. My parents were shocked and confused as to why the daughter they would always brand as “clever” and “perfect” would have a disability. However, instead of being concerned about how I felt during my degree, they focused on making sure I hid my disability from family and friends. I was made to feel ashamed of my learning difficulty. It had caused me to lose confidence throughout my whole life and started to make me doubt my ability to even do a degree. This is something that my family and close friends were not aware of and even now they still question how I managed to achieve my first-class honours. There would be a lot of times during my third year where I would think about giving up completely as I couldn’t see myself graduating as a disabled person. However, I knew that deep down inside, even with my fears and anxiety, I enjoyed my education. I enjoyed learning about new theories and techniques used in the creative media industry.

But what I really enjoyed the most was research. I loved digging my head into books and going to museums to collect information. Because of this everyday motivation, I was able to accept my disability as something I could overcome through continuing to always enjoy my education.

I want to work with people of all ages, share my experience as a dyslexic person with people from different backgrounds and inspire others who feel like they are hopeless due to their disability. Most of all, with the knowledge that I have I gained from my MA studies, I want to continue educating others. I want to do all of this, not only in Asia but eventually around the world.

Having the opportunity to do a master’s degree has given me the chance to show minorities that they can achieve despite the barriers that they think they may face.

My personal goal is to be more open about my own problems that I have faced mentally and physically and not be afraid to hide them anymore. I wish to do this so that I can encourage others around the world with disabilities to not let it get in the way of their own education. I want them to see me as an inspiration for continuing to learn and focus on the subjects they enjoy, while also helping others around them. I call this the “cycle of inspiring education”. Lastly, I will be honoured to always refer to my award as an achievement that I am grateful for and in and in tribute to Dr Hu, a woman that I did not know personally, but have high respect and admiration for.

Paige Harris
MSc East Asian Business,
Hu Xiaoling Memorial Prize
recipient 2019

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the generous contribution in memory of Dr. Hu’s legacy at this renowned institution for learning. Upon the discovery that I had won the prize I was shocked and filled with a sense of elation at the thought of my hard work being recognised. All those long, arduous all nighters at the library at 3am finally seemed worth it. I have honestly surprised myself that I have managed to gain an overall distinction as well as this award for my work, and I hope to continue getting these kinds of results in my future endeavours. Being from a small Devonshire town, unfortunately, there are little opportunities to easily gain footing in the corporate world, therefore I plan to use the prize money towards driving lessons so I can commute to nearby cities for work. Thank you very much again.



Contemporary Chinese Sex-plorations in Japan: media, mobility and gender in the Sino-Japanese context

Dr Jamie Coates was invited to give a talk at Italy's leading East Asian studies institute Ca Foscari on 11 November 2019.

The event was hosted by Professor Toshio Miyake, and Ca Foscari's Japanese studies student organisation GESSHIN, as part of a funded series they organised titled 'What a queer! Perspectives on Gender and Queer Studies of Japan and East Asia'.

Jamie's talk discussed how Japanese media is shaping young Chinese sexualities, and how young mobile Chinese people increasingly see living in Japan as an opportunity to explore different sexual possibilities.

Over 250 people came to hear Jamie's talk, with many students opting to sit on the ground rather than miss out. The conversation that followed the talk saw an insightful discussion of how a transnational approach to sexuality allows us to think about East Asia in new ways. Talking with the organisers before the event, they were excited to hear about the recent growth in gender, sexuality and media research at Sheffield, and hoped to invite more speakers in the future. Unfortunately, Jamie's visit was cut short due to sudden tidal flooding that occurred on 12th November. Sneaking out at 5am in the morning before the flooding, Jamie snapped the following photo of the canals before they fully submerged.



European Network for Korean Resources Specialists Conference 2019 at the University of Sheffield

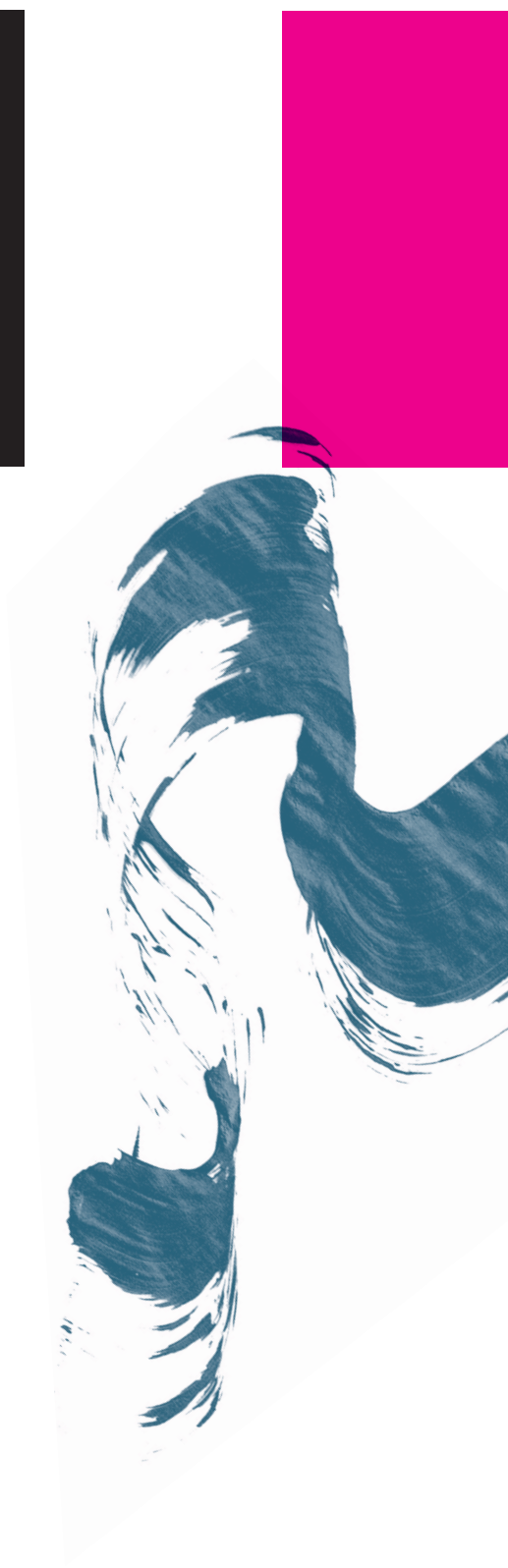


In 2019, the Library hosted the European Network for Korean Research Specialists Conference. It brought together 23 specialists from Europe, Korea and the USA. The conference aim was to bring together specialists and to strengthen the representation of interests of Korean Resources Specialists in national and worldwide libraries and information infrastructures to support current developments and trends in Korean Studies in Europe.

23 universities and national libraries in Europe presented about their digital resources over two-and-a-half days, to cooperate and share knowledge. This conference was also about strengthening ideas and sharing information worldwide; a speaker from Harvard University in the USA presented about their current activities and resources for Korean Studies

in North America; the Korea Foundation presented about their support programs for overseas universities' libraries; the National Library of Korea showed their digital resources which will be valuable for Korean Studies; and Korean resources suppliers from Korea also attended to showcase their up-to-date Korean-related resources.

The ENKRS will continue to collaborate with Korean Studies academic support groups in Europe, the USA and Korea to build global digital communities, which will have an impact on the field of Korean Studies in teaching and research, capitalising on the current popularity of Korean culture in Europe.



The Secret World of Fangirls

The Festival of Social Science is a nationwide event which offers researchers the opportunity to present their research to the public in the format that they wish. Last year's festival (November 2019) saw the hosting of an exhibition titled, 'The Secret World of Fangirls' which was organised by 3rd-year SEAS PhD candidate Georgia Thomas-Parr. The event, which ran for two days in Sheffield's Showroom Workstation, was in collaboration with the individuals with whom Georgia had become acquainted during the course of her 18-months of ethnographic fieldwork at anime conventions and Japan-related events in the UK.

Celebrating the creative voices of fangirls in the UK, the event sought to animate discussions, questions and re-definitions of the stereotypes that objectify and trivialise fangirl culture. The resulting exhibition was a collaborative vision which displayed pieces ranging from drawings, to photography, to films and fashion, including:

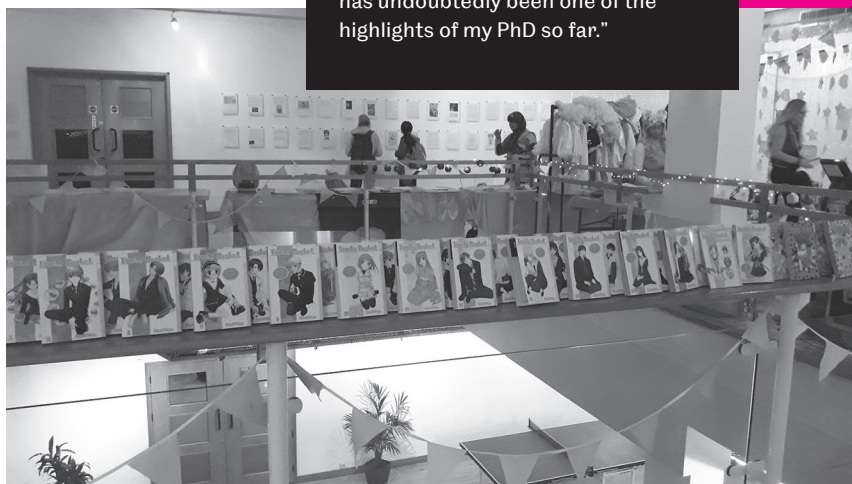
50 panels: attached to the walls of the exhibition, displaying photos and testimonials on the topics of mental health, consent, transgender and feminist activism, race equality and ethical sustainability;

- > 'Artyfacts': creative pieces – both found and handmade – that resonate with and inspire fans;
- > The fangirl banner: designed and illustrated around the theme of inclusiveness in the anime community;
- > Ethical and sustainable kawaii fashion makeovers: led by two kawaii fangirl stylists using upcycled clothes;
- > The kawaii immersion corner: a space where exhibition participants could immerse themselves in a kawaii wonderland, surrounded by fan-arranged music, and decorated with pastel bunting, fairy lights and soft furnishings.

Overall, the exhibition explored kawaii (cute) culture as 'a way of seeing'; a sensibility which resonates with certain individuals in a certain way with its colourful aesthetic.

Georgia spoke about her experience of being involved in the festival:

"Being the written format that it is in (and with a limited word count at that), my thesis would not be sufficient enough to share many of the art-based, performative expressions and perspectives of all the fans that I had met throughout my research, so I wanted to create a dynamic and engaging space which would bring everything (and everyone) together. I was really honoured to be able to run this exhibition, of which it would not have happened without the help from the individuals I had the pleasure to meet during my PhD. It was through all their effort, support, generosity and creativity which made this event come alive in the way that it did. I could not have asked for a more memorable conclusion to the end of my fieldwork, of which this has undoubtedly been one of the highlights of my PhD so far."





Georgia would like to thank the Economic and Social Research Council for funding both the exhibition and her doctoral and Masters studies, and SEAS for providing additional funding for the exhibition.



Japanese Arts and Culture descend on the North, again!

Artists, authors and filmmakers from Japan filled various Sheffield cultural institutions in February with a festival of Japanese arts and culture co-curated by SEAS academic staff.

Artists, authors and filmmakers from Japan filled various Sheffield cultural institutions in February 2019 with a festival of Japanese arts and culture co-curated by SEAS academic staff. Professor Kate Taylor-Jones and Dr Mark Pendleton worked with arts agency Modern Culture, the Japan Foundation and the Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation in highlighting some of the best in contemporary culture from Japan.

Celebrating Japanese arts, culture, literature and film, the Japan Now North festival took place across the city from Tuesday 19 February 2019 until Monday 25 February 2019.

A highlight of the festival included a screening of the eye-opening documentary *Of Love and Law*, which follows the work of the first law firm in Japan set up by an openly gay couple and the challenges they faced in a society of conformity and obedience. The screening was then followed by a Q&A session with the director, Hiraru Toda.

Writers were also featured prominently, with a conversation with award-winning novelist Yu Miri and her translator Morgan Giles and a book launch for her recent novel *Tokyo Ueno Station*.

The city will also welcomed Yorkshire-born, Tokyo-based novelist David Peace, an exhibition curated by Suzanne Mooney and manga translator Jocelyne Allen.

Dr Mark Pendleton, Senior Lecturer in Japanese Studies at the University of Sheffield said: "Teaching and research about Japan has a 50 year history at the University of Sheffield. Through events like Japan Now North, the School of East Asian Studies is building on that tradition with activities that take our Japan expertise out of the University and into the South Yorkshire community.

"Japan has in many ways since the late nineteenth-century been the 'perfect other'. It's seen as weird and wonderful but accessible at the same time. Through Japan Now North, we're aiming to deepen people's understanding of Japan beyond those stereotypes."

With a history dating back to 1963, the University of Sheffield's School of East Asian Studies is one of Europe's leading centres of academic excellence for the study of contemporary East Asia, with research and teaching covering China, Japan and Korea. Its focus is the business, politics, societies, cultures, economies and history of modern and contemporary East Asia.



Celebration 40 years of Korean Studies

2019 marked the 40th anniversary of Korean Studies at the University of Sheffield.

To celebrate this milestone we planned a number of celebrations throughout the year including Korea Day, a Korean film screening, research seminars and a schools outreach event.

Korea Day took place on 10th March 2019 and was a celebration of Korean culture with activities, performances and demonstrations involving traditional Korean music, K-Pop dance, Korean food, calligraphy and traditional costumes. We were also joined by Korean sculptor Jinsik Kim who sculpted a traditional Korean totem pole live on campus. The totem pole is now a permanent feature on the university's campus.

On 18th September 2019, we held a panel event for the general public and staff and students from around the University, and invited key Korean studies scholars from around the globe. We were joined by Professor Suk-Young Kim (Professor, Director and Head of Performance



Studies at UCLA), Professor Laurel Kendall (Curator of Asian Ethnology and Division Chair, Division of Anthropology at the American Museum of Natural History) and Dr Jim Hoare (Associate Fellow, Asia-Pacific Programme) alongside Professor James H Grayson who discussed the key issues facing Korean studies and its future. The event was well attended, scholars shared their key areas of research and experiences of Korean studies, focussing on the very future of the subject – there were even some exciting photographs from a visit to North Korea!





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PhD supervision is available in a wide range of subject areas on China, Japan, Korea and intra-regional studies. In addition, scholarships may be available through the University of Sheffield.

This newsletter is published by the School of East Asian Studies at the University of Sheffield.

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