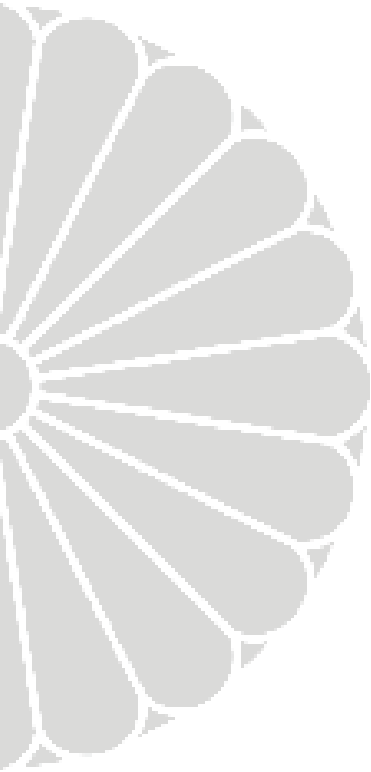


# Events


## January - December 2019



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 [@JapanSocietyLondon](#)

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 [The Japan Society](#)

**The Japan Society**, 13/14 Cornwall Terrace, London NW1 4QP  
tel: 020 7935 0475 email: [info@japansociety.org.uk](mailto:info@japansociety.org.uk) [www.japansociety.org.uk](http://www.japansociety.org.uk)

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Registered Charity No. 1063952 VAT Registration No. 241 5505 89.

# Japanese Conversation Group

Tuesday 8 January 2019

6.30pm

The Brewmaster  
37 Cranbourn Street  
London WC2H 7AD

Standard Admission £5.50  
(£1 Discount for: Japan Society members/Students/Regulars)



The Japanese Conversation Group provides a friendly and informal atmosphere for Japanese speakers of all nationalities to come together and speak Japanese. Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of every month. They begin at 6.30pm with a pay-as-you-go bar, and finish around 11.00pm.

You will receive all discounts for which you qualify. The Regular Attendee Discount will apply if you attended at least 50% of meetings during the previous calendar year, or once you attend six meetings in the current year.

Please visit the Japanese Conversation Group website <http://jcg.org.uk> for further details on their programme, which may be subject to change.

The Japanese Conversation Group is held on the first Tuesday of the month.

# Japan Society Book Club: *Convenience Store Woman* by Sayaka Murata

Monday 14 January 2019

7.00pm

The Japan Society  
13 / 14 Cornwall Terrace  
London NW1 4QP

Free for Japan Society Members – booking recommended

The book club is held on the second Monday of every month



Murata Sayaka's *Convenience Store Woman* is a novel of deftly crafted paradoxes set in a convenience store, a familiar place of everyday life in Japan. The protagonist, Keiko Furukura, is a numb character depicted in bare and swift language, yet is one of the most intriguing personas in recent Japanese literature. Aged 36, Furukura is single and has been working at the poignantly named 'Smile Mart' convenience store for over 18 years, having joined whilst a university undergraduate. She feels comfortable in her life, but is aware that she is not living up to society's expectations and causing her family to worry about her. When a similarly alienated but cynical and bitter young man comes to work in the store, he will upset Keiko's contented stasis--but will it be for the better?

**Sayaka Murata** was born in Chiba Prefecture in 1979. She was a fan of manga and novels for girls and started writing fiction while still in elementary school. She made her debut in 2003 with *Junyu (Breastfeeding)*, a short story which received a merit award in the

Gunzo Prize for New Writers. In 2013 she won the Mishima Yukio Prize for *Shiro-iro no machi no, sono hone no taion no (Of Bones, Of Body Heat, of Whitening City)*. *Konbini ningen* (lit. *Convenience Store People*) is her 10th novel and was awarded the Akutagawa Prize in 2016. The novel has sold over 600,000 copies in Japan and it is the first work by Murata translated in English. Throughout her writing career Murata has worked part-time as a convenience store clerk in Tokyo.

The book club is held every month. There is no restriction on the nationality of the authors read, but books should be available in translation in both Japanese and English. The discussion is conducted mainly in English, but you can choose the language in which you read the book. The intention is simple: to explore the themes of the book, express personal opinions on the style and content, discuss how the book has changed (or not) in translation and to have a relaxed discussion with others who have similar interests.

# The Importance of Cultural Diversity. A long-term comparative perspective between prehistoric Japan and Britain

Monday 21 January 2019

6.45pm

The Swedenborg Society  
20-21 Bloomsbury Way (Hall entrance on Barter St)  
London WC1A 2TH



Free – booking recommended

The most distinct characteristic of human beings is our ability to create various cultures. While genetic studies have confirmed that modern humans are biologically a species which emerged a relatively recent 200,000 years ago and which has a high level of genetic homogeneity, humans have developed amazing cultural diversity. We see this in the rich variety of languages, material cultures, values and life styles around the world. Furthermore, studies in archaeology and history have revealed that throughout our history these cultures have continuously been changing.

On the other hand, it is also true that, considered from a long-term historical perspective, significant similarities can be found in different cultures which are geographically distant from each other. Prehistoric Britain and Japan after the Last Glacial Period (11,000 to 3,000 years ago) would be a representative example. Both include stratified social structures, complex hunting-gathering-based economy, and stone monuments such as Stonehenge and stone circles. Historical parallel phenomena like these must offer clues to understanding how people develop their own cultures in the context of their environment.

In this paper, focusing on cultural similarities in prehistoric Britain and Japan, Uchiyama will first discuss the reasons why human beings have changed their lifeways throughout the history, creating cultural diversity. He will then turn to the modern world and the tendency for societies to become inward-looking, which results in an increasing intolerance to different cultures. He will consider why such a tendency could be potentially dangerous to our future and what actions we could take from a long-term historical perspective.

**Junzo Uchiyama** is an environmental archaeologist, who obtained his M.A. from University of Durham in 1996 and a PhD from SOKENDAI, the Graduate University for Advanced Studies, Japan in 2002. Based on the methodology of zooarchaeology, his main academic interest has been human historical adaptation processes to their environments during “Neolithisation”, the transitional period from hunting-gathering to agriculture-based societies since the Last Glacial period, using the Japanese Archipelago during the Jomon period as a main research field. Uchiyama is currently a Handa Japanese Archaeology Research Fellow at the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures, University of East Anglia

# Sir Hugh Cortazzi GCMG Memorial Notice

**Monday 11 February 2019**

**11.00am** (please take seats by 10.45)

**OBE Chapel, Crypt, St Paul's Cathedral**

Those wishing to attend are asked to register by reply to **events@japansociety.org.uk** or to telephone **020 3075 1996**



A memorial service will be held in the Order of the British Empire Chapel, in the Crypt at St Paul's Cathedral at 11am on Monday 11 February 2019 to celebrate the life of Sir Hugh Cortazzi GCMG.

The OBE Chapel at St Paul's Cathedral holds up to 350 people. In order to obtain an idea of numbers, the family has asked that those wishing to attend please register by reply to **events@japansociety.org.uk** or to telephone 020 3075 1996.

The address is St. Paul's Churchyard, EC4M 8AD London. Entry is via the North West Crypt Door (please refer to map here). Doors to the Chapel will open at 10.15am and attendees are asked to be seated by 10.45am. (Seating will be allocated on a first come, first served basis). The service will start at 11am and will be concluded by midday.

Please keep hand baggage to a minimum as security is tight and checks will be in place. There is no parking available. No photography is permitted in the Chapel.

There is disabled and wheelchair access, but please let us know requirements in advance, so we can ensure assistance is available.

In case you have not already seen them, you may be interested in reading the Japan Society's tribute page to Hugh and the obituary by David Warren on our website.

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# Japan Society Book Club: The Gossamer Years. The Diary of a Noblewoman of Heian Japan by Michitsuna no Haha

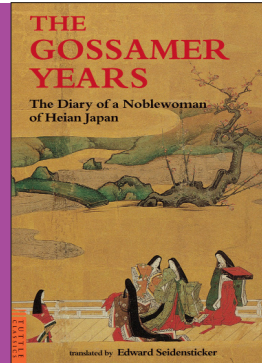
Monday 11 February 2019

7.00pm

The Japan Society  
13 / 14 Cornwall Terrace  
London NW1 4QP

Free for Japan Society Members – booking recommended

The book club is held on the second Monday of every month



*The Gossamer Years: The Diary of a Noblewoman of Heian* is the English translation of *Kagerō Nikki* (lit. the Mayfly Diary), a work of classical Japanese literature that falls under the genre of *nikki bungaku* or diary literature. Written around 974, *Kagerō Nikki* is considered the first extant work in Japanese prose written by a woman. The author was a court lady known only as the 'Mother of Michitsuna' (Michitsuna no Haha).

It focuses on the development of the author's relationship with Fujiwara no Kaneie ("the Prince") and how these experiences affect her. The diary entries detail events of particular emotional significance as well as the Mother of Michitsuna's deep feelings for Kaneie. Using a combination of *waka* poems and prose, she conveys the life of a noblewoman during the Heian period.

Scholars concur that the *Genji monogatari* by Murasaki Shikibu is indebted to *Kagerō Nikki*. Written a few decades later, *Genji monogatari* depicts the same world and reflects the same social code and patterns of thinking than *Kagerō Nikki* using a similar language.

The book club is held every month. There is no restriction on the nationality of the authors read, but books should be available in translation in both Japanese and English. The discussion is conducted mainly in English, but you can choose the language in which you read the book. The intention is simple: to explore the themes of the book, express personal opinions on the style and content, discuss how the book has changed (or not) in translation and to have a relaxed discussion with others who have similar interests

# Translating Yukio Mishima's *The Frolic of the Beasts*

Monday 18 February 2019

6.45pm

The Swedenborg Society  
20-21 Bloomsbury Way (Hall entrance on Barter St)  
London WC1A 2TH

Free – booking recommended



*The Frolic of the Beasts* (*Kemono no tawamure*) is a gripping short novel from the acclaimed Japanese author Yukio Mishima (1925-1970). Set in rural Japan shortly after World War II, it tells the story of a strange and utterly absorbing love triangle between a former university student, Koji, his would-be mentor, the eminent literary critic Ippei Kusakado, and Ippei's beautiful, enigmatic wife, Yuko. Originally published in 1961 and now available in English for the first time, *The Frolic of the Beasts* is a haunting examination of the various guises we assume throughout our lives, and a tale of psychological self-entrapment, seduction and murder.

In this lecture, British translator Andrew Clare will discuss the challenges of translating this work exploring Mishima's writing style and particular issues involving the Japanese language. He will also position the book in the Mishima canon analysing the main themes and features of *The Frolic of the Beasts* in

comparison with Mishima's other work and commenting on its critical reception in Japan and abroad. Finally, through a comparison of the cover art in the US and UK editions, Andrew will examine the marketing strategies regarding Japanese literature in translation.

**Andrew Clare** is a British translator and lawyer. After graduating in Japanese studies at the University of Sheffield he obtained a master's degree in political science from Kobe University in Japan. Andrew has developed a successful career as a lawyer working in legal and financial companies in the UK and Japan. As a translator, he has translated several short stories and novels such as *Pro Bono* (2012) by Seicho Matsumoto and Noma Prize winner *Toward Dusk and Other Stories* (2011) by Junnosuke Yoshiyuki. Andrew is also an expert practitioner of Japanese archery (kyudo) and participated in the Kyudo World Championships in Tokyo in 2018.

# Come and Sing' Japan Society Choral Workshop

Sunday 24 February 2019

2.00pm

Grosvenor Chapel  
24 South Audley Street  
London W1K 2PA

Members of the Japan Society and UK Japan Choir: £7 per head

Non Members: £10 per head

Booking deadline: Thursday 21 February



Following a popular and successful event in 2015, the Japan Society is delighted to present 'Come and Sing', a second Japan Society Choral Workshop led by Jonathan Gregory, Director of the UK-Japan Choir and Orchestra and Fellow of the Royal College of Organists.

The event is a fantastic opportunity for Japan Society members to meet and sing British and Japanese choral music in a relaxed environment. No particular musical ability is required; the workshop is suitable for both beginners and more experienced singers. Preparation will not be necessary, but for anyone who does wish to practice prior to the workshop, music can be sent out on request by email shortly before the event.

We will start with singing warm ups, including pitching and Japanese counting games, before tackling arrangements of traditional Japanese songs (written phonetically), and British madrigals such as John Dowland's *Fine Knacks for Ladies*.

**Jonathan Gregory** founded the UK-Japan Music Society and UK-Japan Choir in 1992 to promote cross cultural understanding between Japan and Britain through music. In 2017 Jonathan created UK-Japan Consort to promote young professional musicians from Japan and UK to work together and support their early careers.

Currently Jonathan is an ABRSM examiner, working in Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia regularly as well as in UK, and he is also an associate organist for London churches. Previously, he was organist at Leicester Cathedral, Great St Mary's, Cambridge and Belfast Cathedral. He has worked extensively in Britain and Ireland, conducting the Bach passions, *Christmas Oratorio*, *Handel's Messiah*, Britten's *War Requiem*, also released a number of CDs and made BBC Radio 3 broadcasts.

Jonathan is an Associate of the Royal Academy of Music, a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists and a graduate of Clare College Cambridge where he was Organ Scholar. He was given the distinguished Honour of the Order of the Rising Sun by His Imperial Majesty, the Emperor of Japan in 2011.



# Lecture by Paul Madden CMG, British Ambassador to Japan

Tuesday 26 February 2019  
(reception afterwards until 8.30pm)

6.00 for 6.30pm

Nomura International plc  
One Angel Lane  
London EC4R 3AB

Free - booking essential  
Members of the Japan Society and their guests only.

Booking deadline: Thursday 21 February



We are delighted to welcome the British Ambassador to Japan, HE Mr Paul Madden, to address the Japan Society at the end of his second year in post. In this lecture, Paul Madden will share his views on the political, diplomatic and business situation in Japan from his unique perspective as the UK's representative in Tokyo.

The Society's annual lecture by the current British Ambassador is always relevant, thought-provoking and useful to people from across its membership, as well as being extremely well attended. The Ambassador will speak for 30-40 minutes, after which there will be time for off-the-record discussion and questions.

There will be a reception immediately after the lecture. The Japan Society is extremely grateful to leading Corporate Member, Nomura International plc, for hosting this event.

**Paul Madden CMG** became British Ambassador to Japan in January 2017. He was previously British High Commissioner to Australia (2011-15) and British High Commissioner to Singapore (2007-11). He was Additional Director for Asia Pacific at the FCO in 2015 and Managing Director at UK Trade and Investment (2005-7). As Assistant Director of Information at the FCO (2003-2004) he was responsible for public diplomacy policy, including managing the FCO funding of the BBC World Service, the British Council and the Chevening Scholarships programme.

He led the team responsible for the award-winning UK pavilion at the Aichi Expo in Japan 2005. He has an MA in Economic Geography from Cambridge University, an MBA from Durham University, studied Japanese at London University's School of Oriental and African Studies, and is a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society.

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Hosted by:

**NOMURA**

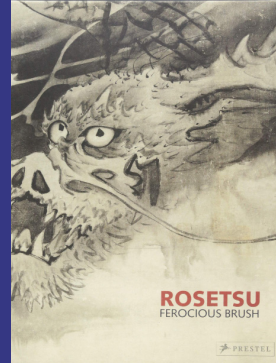
# Rosetsu's One-Inch Square Picture and the Culture of Exhibitions in 18th Century Kyoto - with Matthew McKelway

Thursday 28 February 2019

6.30pm

Rudolf Steiner House  
35 Park Road  
London NW1 6XT

Free – booking recommended



In 1798 the painter Nagasawa Rosetsu painted an image of five hundred disciples of the Buddha (*arhats*) on a piece of paper approximately one-inch square. The painting, which was rediscovered in the last decade and recently featured in the first retrospective exhibition of Rosetsu's works held outside Japan, "Rosetsu: Ferocious Brush" (Museum Rietberg, Zürich – 6 September to 4 November 2018), was itself originally created for an exhibition of contemporary paintings, part of a series held biannually in Kyoto in the 1790s.

In this lecture, Professor Matthew McKelway will explore Rosetsu's reasons for producing this remarkable image within the context of competition and collaboration in late 18th century Kyoto.

**Matthew McKelway** is the Atsumi Professor of Japanese Art History and Director of the Mary Griggs Burke Center for Japanese Art at Columbia University. He specializes in the history of Japanese painting. His studies initially focused on urban representation in screen paintings of Kyoto (*rakuchū rakugai zu*) and the development of genre painting in early modern Japan, but have extended to Kano school painting, Rimpa, individualist painters in eighteenth-century Kyoto, and paintings on folding fans. In his publications he has sought to understand Japanese paintings according to the physical and cultural contexts of their creators in order to discover the motivations, whether political, personal, literary, or philosophical, that drove them to make pictures in particular ways. He has held visiting professorships at the Free University of Berlin, the University of Heidelberg, and Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne. In 2017 he was awarded the Lenfest Distinguished Faculty Award.

In association with:



# Japan Securities Summit

Monday 4 March 2019

1.00pm to 7.00pm

The Mansion House  
Walbrook  
London EC4N 8BH

Free – to register visit [www.icmagroup.org](http://www.icmagroup.org)



The 11th Japan Securities Summit on 4 March 2019 will provide an opportunity for European institutional investors and other market professionals to better understand Japan's economy and securities market, focusing on the challenges facing Japan as well as the possibilities for future collaborative relationships between London and Tokyo beyond Brexit. It will also highlight Japan's attractiveness as an investment choice amid a financial environment of uncertainties. In addition, it will make reference to the initiatives for financial and capital markets to contribute to sustainability by facilitating the exchange of information on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and sustainable finance.

The event is particularly aimed at European institutional investors, banks, securities firms, legal and financial experts,

academic experts, government regulators, information and data vendors, and media.

The Japan Society is delighted to be associated with this event which is hosted by the Japan Securities Dealers Association (JSDA) and the International Capital Market Association (ICMA), with the support of Japan Exchange Group (JPX). The event will host a range of senior representatives from industries, financial market professionals, and regulators in the United Kingdom and Japan. The distinguished array of speakers joining us this year include Mr. John McFarlane, Group Chairman, Barclays Plc, as well as Mr. Koichiro Miyahara, President & CEO of the Tokyo Stock Exchange, Inc., Alderman Sir Roger Gifford, UK Head, Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken (SEB), and Dr. Motoshige Ito, Member of the Council on Economic and Fiscal Policy from the Cabinet Office of Japan.

Presented by:



# Joint Lunch with the JCCI – Sir Simon Fraser

Wednesday 6 March 2019

12.30 for 1.00pm

Drapers' Hall  
Throgmorton Avenue  
London EC2N 2AN



£70 per head - booking essential

Members of the Japan Society, the JCCI and their guests only

Booking deadline: Wednesday 27 February

The guest of honour at the Japan Society and the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the UK's first joint lunch of 2019, will be Founder and Managing Partner of Flint and the Former Head of the UK Foreign Office and Diplomatic Service, **Sir Simon Fraser**.

We are delighted to welcome Sir Simon to share his views on the challenges of Brexit and implications facing companies in the UK, drawn from his extensive experience at the highest level of government decision-making. Sir Simon's speech will provide an insider's view of ongoing Brexit negotiations and the various options open to the UK government.

Sir Simon Fraser is a founder and Managing Partner of Flint. He supports clients managing complex European and international policy issues. Simon leads teams which are helping clients respond to the challenges of Brexit. He is a respected policy commentator and adviser of senior corporate leaders.

From 2010 to 2015 Simon was Permanent Under-Secretary and head of the Diplomatic Service at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. In this role, he was responsible for advising the Foreign Secretary and the ministerial team on foreign policy. He has also led the UK Department for Business. Prior to that he was Chief of Staff to the European Trade Commissioner in Brussels, and Director General for European Policy at the Foreign Office. Simon is Deputy Chairman of the Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House) and is a Visiting Professor at King's College London.

**Sir Simon Fraser will speak following a two-course lunch, after which there will be time for questions until 2.30pm.**

Co-organised by:

**Jcci uk**  
Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the UK

# Japan Society Book Club: The Early Cases of Akechi Kogoro by Edogawa Rampo

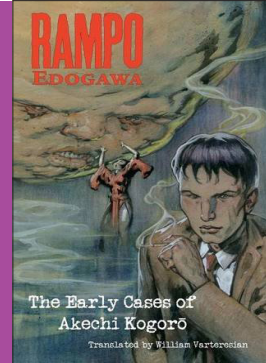
Monday 11 March 2019

7.00pm

The Japan Society  
13 / 14 Cornwall Terrace  
London NW1 4QP

Free for Japan Society Members – booking recommended

The book club is held on the second Monday of every month



*The Early Cases of Akechi Kogoro* presents four stories by Edogawa Rampo's recurring character, the great detective Akechi Kogoro. Akechi first appeared in the story 'The Case of the Murder on D. Hill' in January 1925 and Rampo never intended to make further use of the character. However the positive reactions of friends and colleagues prompted him to make Akechi the protagonist of his detective fiction for a quarter of a century. Inspired by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes, this celebrated character has been the hero of Japanese children for generations, and starred in a host of movies. *The Early Cases of Akechi Kogoro* also includes 'The Black Hand Gang', 'The Ghost' and 'The Dwarf'.

**Edogawa Rampo** (pseudonym of Hirai Tarō, 1894-1965) is one of the founding fathers of Japanese detective novels. A prolific writer, he wrote over one hundred and fifty short stories and novels in his long career and is the acknowledged grand master of Japan's golden age of crime and mystery fiction. He attended Waseda University but studied economics rather than English Literature. Influenced by early translations of Arthur Conan Doyle and Edgar Allan Poe, he became fond of the gritty, dark nature of western murder mysteries.

# Can a 'Religion' Be translated through 'Culture'? Tenrikyō's Cultural Approach in France - with Masato Kato

Monday 18 March 2019

6.45pm

The Swedenborg Society  
20-21 Bloomsbury Way (Hall entrance on Barter St)  
London WC1A 2TH

Free – booking recommended



In this talk, Masato Kato will discuss a Japanese religion known as Tenrikyō as it operates in France to explore the question of translating a religion through 'culture'. Tenrikyō traces its origin to a movement that centered on the teaching and practice of a woman named Nakayama Miki (1798–1887) and developed into a religious organisation during the period of Japan's modernisation. As with the case with many other Japanese 'new religions' (*shinshūkyō*), Tenrikyō has spread to different parts of the world including Europe, with three missionaries arriving in London as early as in 1910. After several decades following the initial attempt, Tenrikyō has formally resumed its propagation in Europe in the early 1970s by establishing its organisations in France.

Tenrikyō's propagation in France is characterised by its two-tier yet legally separate institutional structure involving 'religious' and 'cultural' associations—an

institutional demarcation necessitated by the French legal framework relating to the 1901 and 1905 laws. In the course of promoting cultural activities as a way to increase the visibility and legitimacy of the name Tenri in the French public, Tenrikyō has at times used representations and activities associated with Japan in ways that allow religious messages and representations be translated into cultural counterparts. This paper will consider the implications of using cultural resources to present a religious tradition like Tenrikyō in light of the ambiguous cultural identity that it has constructed in the decades after 1945.

**Masato Kato** is currently a Postdoctoral Research Associate at the Centre for the Study of Japanese Religions, SOAS University of London. He received a PhD (2018) from SOAS upon completing his doctoral research on the negotiation of cultural identity of Tenrikyō in relation to its propagation in France.

# Private View: Jake Tilson, Finding Tsukiji

Wednesday 27 March 2019

6.00 - 7.00pm

White Conduit Projects  
1 White Conduit Street  
London N1 9EL

Free - priority booking for members and their guests

Booking opens to non-members from Monday 18 March

Booking deadline: 12 noon, Friday 21 March



London-based artist Jake Tilson is presenting a series of new works from an ongoing project about Tokyo's famous fish market, Tsukiji, at White Conduit Projects. *Finding Tsukiji* showcases a large display of ten photo books – a visual encyclopaedia of the market, which the artist produced after travelling to Japan regularly over the past 10 years.

We are delighted to welcome Japan Society members to a special private view of Jake Tilson's exhibition *Finding Tsukiji*. Over a period of seven years, Tilson has visited the Tsukiji fish market many times, making drawings, photographs, videos, audio and collecting objects. This exhibition is his artistic archive of the final years of the legendary Tsukiji Market before it moved to its new location in Toyosu in October 2018 after 83 years of operation. The art works capture the extraordinary vibrant place with its noise, carts and forklifts, temporal fit-outs, signs and bustling auctions, and using QR codes, viewers can also listen to the sound of the market.

**Jake Tilson** is an artist, graphic designer and author. His obsession with typography and architecture extends into his design work. Rooted in everyday culture with a pervading sense of place, Tilson's practice spans collage, publishing, cultural commentary, photography and audio work and often focuses on the unremarkable and the everyday whilst purposefully avoiding any sense of spectacle. His work celebrates the survival of the particular in the face of the generic.

## Post-event dinner (optional)

We are planning to make a group booking for dinner with the artist at Japanese restaurant **Zen Mondo** after the private view. The cost for a three course meal is approximately £18, excluding drinks and service charge; you can find the menus and location at [www.zenmondo.co.uk](http://www.zenmondo.co.uk); please bring cash with you for group payment.

**If you would like to join the dinner, please let us know in your booking.**

In association with:

WHITE  
CONDUIT  
PROJECTS

# Private View: Explore the Japanese collection at the British Library

Wednesday 3 April 2019

5.45 for 6.00pm – 8.00pm

British Library  
96 Euston Road  
London NW1 2DB



£10 per head - booking essential

Members of the Japan Society only

Please note that places are limited and early booking is recommended

Did you know that British Library is the home of more than 400 manuscripts and 4,000 printed works created before the Meiji Restoration? Among the highlights of the Japanese collection are the 8th-century *Hyakumantō darani*, the oldest example of printing in Japan, lavishly illustrated *Nara ehon* manuscripts and 16th century works printed by the Jesuits.

From mediaeval materials to modern calligraphic works, from books and manuscripts in the Okinawan and Ainu languages to the latest Japan-related publications, journals, newspapers and electronic resources, the Japanese collection at the British Library is an invaluable resource for researchers, teachers and anyone interested in Japan.

The Japan Society is pleased to invite members to a special tour to explore the Japanese collection at the British Library with Hamish Todd, Head of East Asian Collections. We are grateful to Hamish and his colleagues for arranging this exciting opportunity.

Members are asked to arrive at 5.45pm for a prompt 6pm start. After a 30 minute tour of the British Library building, we will be taken to the Asian & African Studies Reading Room for a private view of highlights of the Japanese collection in a variety of formats, books, manuscripts and maps. The event will end at about 7.45pm.

## Cancellation policy

A full refund will be given where notice of cancellation is received by Friday 29 March. In other cases, refunds will be given at the discretion of the Japan Society and event partners.

In association with:

BRITISH  
LIBRARY



# Japan Society Book Club: No Longer Human / A Shameful Life by Osamu Dazai

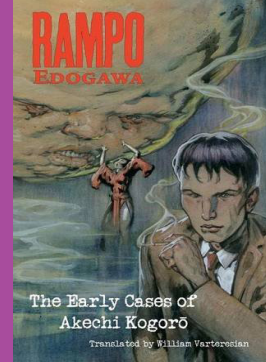
Monday 8 April 2019

7.00pm

The Japan Society  
13 / 14 Cornwall Terrace  
London NW1 4QP

Free for Japan Society Members – booking recommended

The book club is held on the second Monday of every month



*Ningen Shikkaku* is considered Dazai's masterpiece and ranks as the second-best selling novel in Japan, behind Natsume Sōseki's *Kokoro*. It is told in the form of notebooks left by Oba Yozo, a troubled man incapable of revealing his true self to others. The novel is composed of three chapters which chronicle the life of Oba from early childhood to late twenties.

This novel, despite being serialized as a work of fiction in 1948, is narrated in the first person and contains several elements which betray an autobiographical basis, such as suicide—Dazai's took his own life shortly after the last part of the book was published. According to *The Japan Times*, 'the novel has a timeless quality: The struggle of the individual to fit into a normalizing society remains just as relevant today as it was at the time of writing'.

Dazai's novel has been translated twice, one by Donald Keene under the title *No Longer Human*, and other recently by Mark Gibeau titled *A Shameful Life*.

**Osamu Dazai** (1909–1948) was a novelist and master storyteller, who became at the end of World War II the literary voice and hero of his generation. His own life ended in a double-suicide with his married mistress. In many books Dazai used biographical material from his own family background, making his self-destructive life the main subject. His daughter, Yuko Tsushima, has gone on to forge a highly successful literary career of her own.

# Threats and Opportunities in Today's Middle East – Lt Gen (Retd) Sir Tom Beckett

Tuesday 9 April 2019

6.30 – 8.00pm

IISS

Arundel House  
6 Temple Place  
London WC2R 2PG

Free – Japan Society members and their guests only

Booking deadline: 12.30pm, Monday 8 April



We are delighted to welcome Lieutenant General (Retired) Sir Tom Beckett, Executive Director of IISS–Middle East, to brief members of the Japan Society on current developments in the Middle East and the opportunities and challenges these present.

This timely briefing will be of particular relevance to Japan Society members with an EMEA responsibility as well as to all with an interest in this strategically important region.

This event will be chaired by Bill Emmott, Chairman of the Japan Society and Chairman of the IISS Trustees.

**Lieutenant General (Retired) Sir Tom Beckett** is Executive Director of IISS–Middle East. He plays a leading role in organising the annual IISS Manama Dialogue, the Dialogue Sherpa Meeting, as well as lectures and roundtables in the IISS-Middle East office. He also contributes to the Institute's research on the Middle East and North Africa. Sir Tom enjoyed a 34-year career in the British Army, focusing on policy and operations. Before joining the IISS, his most recent government appointment was as the Defence Senior Adviser to the Middle East and North Africa. He was also the Prime Minister's Security Envoy to Iraq including the Kurdistan Region.

The Japan Society is very grateful to **IISS** for kindly hosting this important meeting at its headquarters.

# "Like Bombs": Narrative, Memory, and Linguistic Terrorism in Contemporary Okinawan Fiction - Vicky Young

Monday 15 April 2019

6.45pm

The Swedenborg Society  
20-21 Bloomsbury Way (Hall entrance on Barter St)  
London WC1A 2TH

Free Lecture – booking recommended



In 2002, one year after 9.11, the Okinawan writer Sakiyama Tami published one of her most provocative essays, entitled "*Shimakotoba de kachāshi*" ("Inciting with Island Words"). Split into three parts, the essay targets standard Japanese (*hyōjungo*) as a monolithic language symbolic of hegemonic oppression and assimilation before setting out the agenda for Sakiyama's own literature: to turn the hybrid tongues of Okinawa into a site of radical difference and resistance.

Sakiyama's essay, and the works of fiction that followed it, exemplify this approach to language through their conflicted narratives written in multiple scripts. Scholars argue that these narratives develop the writing strategies of "linguistic terrorism" as defined within Gloria Anzaldúa's *Borderlands: La Frontera*. However, Sakiyama's essay invokes terroristic tropes directly, describing the writer as a "suicide bomber" who is poised to plant Okinawa's vernaculars into the Japanese language "like bombs". The destructive implications of such language are problematic and have limited the broader

readability of Sakiyama's work. Yet, they also illustrate the ongoing crises of language, memory, and resistance that inform postwar Okinawan creativity. By tracing contexts of imposed linguistic assimilation in Okinawa and right-wing historical revisionism in Japan that inform these works, this paper reads Sakiyama's fiction both as a call to resist the forces that threaten Okinawa's individual voices, and as an attempt to engage with the region's unspeakable histories of its traumatic wartime past.

**Vicky Young** is the Kawashima Lecturer in Japanese Literature and Culture at the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies (AMES) in the University of Cambridge. Her Ph.D thesis focused on the ways in which literary works by Sakiyama Tami, Yi Yang-ji, and Tawada Yōko, both occupy and challenge various borders of Japanese literature. Vicky is currently revising her thesis for publication as a book, while seeking to develop her interest in the intersections between Japanese literature and transnational discussions of translation and translatability.

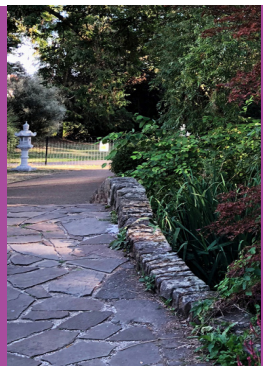
# Japanese Garden Community Picnic

Saturday 11 May 2019

12.00 – 5.00pm

Hammersmith Park – Japanese Garden  
60 Batman Close, Shepherd's Bush  
London W12 7NU

Free  
No booking required – just turn up on the day!



Join us for a spring afternoon of family fun and entertainment in the peaceful surroundings of Hammersmith Park's Japanese garden.

Bring your family, friends and your own supplies for a picnic under a tree or on the grass field and enjoy live music and performances. You can participate in a treasure trail, learn to write haiku or try your hand at folding origami animals or at writing your name in Japanese. Or just idly enjoy your food and drinks admiring the Japanese garden and (hopefully!) the nice spring weather.

**Happy Sky Bakery** will be joining us with a selection of delicious Japanese bread and snacks and **An-An Wagashi** will be demonstrating how to make traditional Japanese sweets.

The organisers are searching for performers to take part in the open mic stage at the Japanese Garden Community Picnic. Interested parties should submit proposals including:

- A description of act or group, including performance history (if applicable)
- Preferred length of performance
- Links to website, online videos, social media content

to [culture@ld.mofa.go.jp](mailto:culture@ld.mofa.go.jp) by 6.00pm, Tuesday 30 April

*Please note that this is a community event which relies on the efforts of volunteers and we are unable to provide performance fees or costs.*

Co-organised with:



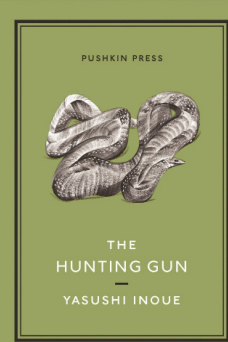
# Japan Society Book Club: The Hunting Gun by Yasushi Inoue

Monday 13 May 2019

7.00pm

The Japan Society  
13 / 14 Cornwall Terrace  
London NW1 4QP

Free for Japan Society Members



Yasushi Inoue's *The Hunting Gun* is a poised, unsentimental novella and a powerful tale with universal resonance. Written from different points of view, the story revolves around four characters, Mitsugi, the husband, his wife, his lover and his lover's daughter, and explores the impact of a forbidden passion. Letters written by each of the women offer different perspectives on the love affair, each in turn (mis) interpreting events, conversations and characters. Love, death, truth and loneliness are all intertwined in this masterpiece from one of Japan's greatest writers.

Born in 1907, **Yasushi Inoue** worked as a journalist and literary editor for many years, only beginning his prolific career as an author in 1949 with *Bullfight*. He went on to publish 50 novels and 150 short stories, both historical and contemporary, his work making him one of Japan's major literary figures. In 1976 Inoue was presented with the Order of Culture, the highest honour granted for artistic merit in Japan. He died in 1991.

# Artist Talk: Ryohei Kan in conversation with Andrew Nishiyama Taylor

Friday 17 May 2019

6.30pm

Yamamoto Keiko Rochaix  
19 Goulston Street  
London E1 7TP

Free. Priority booking for Japan Society members and their guests

Please note that spaces are limited and early booking is recommended.



Japan Society is pleased to announce a special talk by artist Ryohei Kan on the closing evening of his first UK solo exhibition, *As you see it*, at Yamamoto Keiko Rochaix in Spitalfields, East London. In conversation with Andrew Nishiyama Taylor, a practicing architect with experience of working on civic and cultural projects with artists in Japan, Kan will discuss his work on show, which investigates the issues concerning 'void' and 'reality and conceived reality'.

The works of video, mixed media installation, photography and other graphic works portray various facets of empty space within architectural structures. In his work, Kan explores the boundary between physical reality and created reality, a reality formulated according to human concepts or ideals.

As this will be the closing event of the exhibition, anyone wishing to view the exhibition is advised to do so before the event starts.

**Ryohei Kan** is an artist from Ehime, Japan, and currently teaches at Tokyo University of the Arts after spending 6 years travelling between Germany and Japan. Kan holds Diploma Meisterschüler from the Academy of Fine Arts Munich, Germany under Prof. Florian Pumhösl, as well as PhD and MFA in oil painting from the Tokyo University of the Arts.

**Andrew Nishiyama Taylor** is a practicing architect at Make Architects in London, and has worked on a variety of residential and commercial projects for the firm since joining in 2012. Prior to his time at Make, Andrew worked in the studio of Arata Isozaki in Tokyo on civic and cultural projects, including the design of a mobile concert hall to tour Tohoku in collaboration with Anish Kapoor. Outside of practice, Andrew has been a guest tutor in architecture studios of Central Saint Martins in London and the Welsh School of Architecture in Cardiff.

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Co-organised with: Yamamoto Keiko Rochaix

# The Emperor System in Japan. Origins, Evolution and the New Imperial Era

Thursday 23 May 2019

6.45pm

The Swedenborg Society  
20-21 Bloomsbury Way (Hall entrance on Barter St)  
London WC1A 2TH

Free Lecture – booking recommended

**\*\*Please note this month's lecture will be held on a Thursday\*\***



Emperor Akihito's abdication in favour of his son Crown Prince Naruhito has re-ignited a many-sided debate about the fundamental values of Japanese society and the state itself. Some commentators see Emperor Akihito's attempt to modernise the image of the Imperial family and present a liberal face on peace and reconciliation issues as at odds with Prime Minister Abe's desire to amend the postwar Constitution and assert Japan's national interests more forcefully. Others see this as a more natural progression in line with that of other monarchies.

At this moment of transition to a new imperial era — Reiwa or 'auspicious peace' — William Horsley considers the evolution of the 'emperor system' from its early origins through the Meiji constitution's designation of the emperor as 'sacred and inviolable', the Emperor-based propaganda of the Pacific war period and the establishment of a quasi-permanent conservative polity after Japan's defeat in 1945. William will argue that the long, unbroken tradition of the Japanese monarchy has helped shape the distinctive characteristics of today's nation – loyal respect for authority, the exercise of real power from behind-the-scenes, an apolitical society, and the enduring wish of some conservative nationalists to restore a more native Japanese value system.

**William Horsley** studied modern Japanese history under the respected historian Richard Storry and took a degree in Japanese Studies from Oxford University in 1971. He joined the BBC and from 1983-1990 worked as the BBC's Tokyo correspondent and bureau chief, reporting on Japan's meteoric rise as an economic superpower and numerous political scandals as well as political convulsions across East Asia, including the aftermath of the events of Tian An Men Square in 1989. Later he returned to Japan often for special coverage of World War Two anniversaries and to make programmes on the new challenges facing Japan: economic stagnation, an ageing society and the geo-political rise of China. William also reported widely from Europe for many years on the radical re-shaping of the continent in the wake of the Fall of the Berlin Wall. He left the BBC in 2007 and co-founded the Centre for Freedom of the Media at the University of Sheffield to counter threats to press freedom and freedom of expression worldwide. He is the UK chairman of the Association of European Journalists (AEJ) and the co-author, with Roger Buckley, of *Nippon: New Superpower* (BBC Books, 1990).

# Love and Desire Between Women in Girls' Manga – with Professor Yukari Fujimoto

Saturday 25 May 2019

2.30pm

The Swedenborg Society  
20-21 Bloomsbury Way  
London WC1A 2TH

Free – booking recommended  
Please note that spaces are limited



*Manga*, or Japanese comic books, is a 4 billion dollar a year industry, making up 40% of the country's published works. Yet, contrary to Western comic books which often focus on targeting male readers, in Japan, a particularly prominent and developed genre of manga is *shojo manga* (*girls' manga*), with women across the nation's demographic making up a large percentage of target readership due to its reflection of female desires and aspirations.

Celebrating the UK's biggest manga exhibition at the British Museum (23 May-26 August 2019), the Japan Foundation and Japan Society are proud to welcome Professor Yukari Fujimoto, manga expert from Meiji University specialising in gender

and feminist theory. Overviewing the girls' manga genre by talking about some notable features, she will discuss how manga has played a vital role in empowering female creativities as well as the readership body; in particular, by contextualising the way female sexuality and attraction – especially between same sex – has been drawn as women's values continued shifting.

This event will provide you with an insight into an obscure yet currently relevant terrain of manga, one of Japan's most renowned cultural imports.

*This event is planned by the Japan Foundation in association with Japan Society.*





# Japan Room Lecture: A Glimpse into East-West Relations in the Antiquarian Book Trade

Tuesday 28 May 2019

6.30pm

Lodge Room No 11  
The Freemasons' Hall  
Great Queen Street  
London WC2B 5AZ

Free for Japan Society members  
Non-members: £12

Booking essential - booking deadline: Friday 24 May



Sokol Books has a history with Japan going back some forty years and this has been at times exciting, frustrating but always enjoyable. Japan is a unique, challenging but serious market in the book trade and our guest speaker will enlighten us about this both generally and from personal experience. The lecture will commence with a brief history of East-West book relations, which has existed much longer than one may think. Next, the speaker will touch upon the present-day situation, in terms of both East-West and West-East as well as a quick glance at what the future may hold in this eclectic arena. Finally, a couple of items will be presented for the enjoyment of all attendees as we move to present the publication of the host's first book of a series of ten books planned, *The Sphinxing Rabbit: Her Sovereign Majesty*.

**Christopher Sokol** is the Founder & Proprietor of Sokol Books Ltd. For four decades, Sokol Books has delighted collectors of rare and prized items specialising in early books and manuscripts (roughly pre-1650). They have customers all over the world, including Japan and they exhibit at many international book fairs, including sometimes Tokyo. Sokol Books has retail outlets at their Chelsea shop and the World Antiquarian Book Plaza in Tokyo.

**Please let us know if you would like to take an optional tour of the Freemasons' Hall at 5.15 for 5.30pm.**

In association with:



# Japan Society Book Club: Floating Clouds by Fumiko Hayashi

Monday 10 June 2019

7.00pm

The Japan Society  
13 / 14 Cornwall Terrace  
London NW1 4QP

Free for Japan Society Members



Considered one of Hayashi's masterpieces, *Floating Clouds* adopts a nihilistic perspective in its scrutiny of the essential nature of human beings. Yukiko Koda, a young typist, and Kengo Tomioka, a technical officer, had fallen in love with each other in Japanese-occupied Indochina during the war. However, when Tomioka comes into Yukiko's life again in postwar Japan, he is a completely changed man. Yukiko is dragged into a destructive relationship with Tomioka, and they unsuccessfully attempt a double suicide. Fleeing from subsequent failed affairs, Tomioka goes off to the remote island of Yakushima to work, and Yukiko desperately follows him.

**Fumiko Hayashi** (1903–1951) was a novelist and poet born in Shimonoseki, Yamaguchi Prefecture. She was the illegitimate daughter of an itinerant peddler, and experienced abject poverty as a child. In her lonely childhood she grew to love literature, and after finishing school she moved to Tokyo to write, but barely managed to support herself there and struggled in a series of unhappy relationships. These experiences and unconventional early life influenced her works, especially *Horoki* (tr. *Vagabond's Diary*, 1930), her first semi-autobiographical novel. She reached the peak of her popularity after World War II and continued to write about the sufferings caused by war and poverty, and the misery of rootless women. She died suddenly of heart strain from overwork.

# Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – The Role of the Private Sector

Wednesday 12 June 2019

6.00 for 6.15pm start

Mitsubishi Corporation International (Europe) Plc  
Mid City Place  
71 High Holborn  
London WC1V 6BA

Free – booking essential  
Booking deadline: Monday 10 June



2019 marks four years since the United Nations (UN) member states unanimously agreed on the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** as a blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and planet by 2030. Otherwise known as the Global Goals, the SDGs are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. These 17 Goals build on the successes of the **Millennium Development Goals**, while including new areas such as climate change, economic inequality, innovation, sustainable consumption, peace and justice, among other priorities.

Although the SDGs represent an agenda that ultimately will need to be implemented by governments around the world, the private sector also has a critical role to play in the realization of the transformative ambitions of these goals. Through a series of linked seminars throughout 2019, the Japan Society will explore the role of business in contributing to this critical global framework and showcase efforts that a number of leading Japanese companies are taking to integrate this agenda into their strategic considerations.

The first seminar in our series will incorporate insight from the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) on the implications of the SDGs and the business case for private sector engagement. In addition, we will hear how Fujitsu is leveraging the SDGs to explore new business opportunities and how the Goals are influencing the company's efforts when it comes to strategy, training and innovation.

Following an open session for questions and discussion, the evening will conclude with an informal networking reception.

We are extremely grateful to Mitsubishi Corporation for generously hosting this seminar.

*The series will continue with further seminars, each one focusing on a different aspect of the Sustainable Development Goals.*

In association with:

 Mitsubishi Corporation International (Europe) Plc

# Dorozome (mud dyeing) Talk & Workshop with Dye Garden Tour

Saturday 15 June 2019

2.00pm

The Pavilion  
The Horniman Museum  
100 London Road  
Forest Hill  
London SE23 3PQ

Free – booking essential

Priority booking for Japan Society members and their guests  
Places are limited and early booking is recommended



Amami Oshima is an island in the Ryūkyū archipelago, southern Japan. It is renowned for *Oshima tsumugi*, a kimono cloth dyed by *dorozome* (mud-dyeing), an ancient technique that gives a unique black colour to textiles. The dyeing workshop **KANAI KOUGEI** specializes in *dorozome* for *Oshima tsumugi*. Alongside their own products dyed using plant materials sourced from Amami's unique natural environment, KANAI KOUGEI also dye fashion and interior objects for international contemporary designers. This is a rare opportunity to see the process of *Dorozome* by Japanese practitioners using actual materials from Amami Oshima in the UK.

This talk and workshop are initiated by designer and anthropologist **Charlotte Linton**, University of Oxford, who has invited Yukihiro Kanai (vice-president/dyer) and Akiyo Shidama (maker/dyer) from KANAI KOUGEI to present with her a lecture about Amamian traditional textiles.

Following the talk, there will be a tour of the Dye Garden with Wesley Shaw, the Head of Horticulture at the **Horniman Museum**.

**Workshop** - In addition, a small number of participants will be able to dye a furushiki (wrapping cloth) using dorozome materials brought from Amami. Due to limited materials and supervision, the workshop numbers are necessarily small. Lecture attendees are welcome to stay and watch the workshop.

*When booking, please specify if you would like to observe or participate in the workshop. Places are limited and the participants for the workshop will be selected by a ballot. Those who are selected will be contacted on **Friday 7 June**.*

Please note that this event is only suitable for children over 16.

# Family Firms as Institutions: Cultural reproduction and status maintenance among multicentenary *shinise* in Kyoto

Monday 17 June 2019

6.45pm

The Swedenborg Society  
20-21 Bloomsbury Way (Hall entrance on Barter St)  
London WC1A 2TH

Free Lecture – booking recommended



*Shinise* are firms that have survived for more than a century (often for three or four), have retained ownership within the family, and focus on traditional line of business such as sake brewing, confectionery, temple ornaments or textiles. In Japan, Kyoto is the city with the highest proportion of century-old firms which maintain a high social status in the community. While similar firms are also located in other prefectures, the prominent standing that *shinise* possess in the community of Kyoto confers upon them (and the owning families) distinctive social and economic benefits.

In this lecture, we will explore the socio-cultural processes that shape and allow the maintenance of the high social status of *shinise* in Kyoto. Our analysis will unlock the ongoing interactions through which the social order is re-enacted and reproduced, ascribing *shinise* a distinct social standing in exchange for their continued commitment to practices and structures that help the community preserve its cultural integrity and collective identity. By doing so, we will trace a connection between status maintenance and the expressive function that a category of firms performs within a community. At the same time, we will reveal a dark side of high status, by showing how their commitments lock *shinise* in a position of

‘benign entrapment’ that may impose sacrifices on family members and severe limitations to their personal freedom.

**Innan Sasaki** is Assistant Professor of Strategic Management at Lancaster University, UK and also holds an appointment at the University of Turku, Finland. She is interested in how marginalized actors (such as endangered craft, indigenous people and refugees) manage to uphold their traditions and culturally survive. More specifically, her research interests include tradition, history, and time in organizations, organizational culture and institutional theory (with the focus on marginalized actors and legitimacy).

**Davide Ravasi** is Professor of Strategy and Entrepreneurship at the UCL School of Management, University College London. His research examines interrelations among organizational identity, culture and strategy in times of change, and socio-cognitive processes shaping entrepreneurship, design and innovation. He is a co-editor of the *Oxford Handbook of Organizational Identity*.

# Britain and Europe – Post-European Union Elections Analysis, Lunchtime Lecture with Professor Anand Menon

Wednesday 19 June 2019 12.30pm sandwich lunch / 1.00pm start

Presentation Suite  
Mizuho House  
30 Old Bailey  
London EC4M 7AU

£7 per head - Members of the Japan Society and their guests  
Booking essential

Booking deadline: Friday 14 June



**Please note that spaces are limited and this is likely to be a very popular event.**

We are delighted to welcome Professor Anand Menon, to brief Japan Society members in this extremely timely event. Following the European Union elections held between 23 – 26 May, Anand Menon will share his views on the future of Brexit and the wider European Union. In light of recent political events, such as the launch of the UK Brexit Party, Theresa May's resignation as leader of the Conservative Party, and the rise of populist parties in pro-EU nations, Professor Menon's speech will investigate the relationship between the Britain and the EU, in the midst of a changing Europe.

**Professor Anand Menon** is Professor of European Politics and Foreign Affairs at King's College London. He directs the Economic and Social Research Council Initiative **The UK in a Changing Europe** and has held positions at Sciences Po, Columbia University and NYU. He is co-editor of the *Oxford Handbook of the European Union* (OUP, 2012), author of *Europe: The State of the Union* (Atlantic Books 2008) and co-author of *Brexit and British Politics* (Polity, 2017). Professor Menon has also written on many aspects of contemporary Europe for the *Financial Times*, *Prospect*, *The Guardian*, *The Daily Telegraph*, *The Times* and *Le Monde*. He is a frequent commentator on national and international broadcast media and has made several radio documentaries on contemporary politics. He is a member of the Council of the European Council on Foreign Relations and an associate fellow of Chatham House.

*The talk will be preceded by a sandwich lunch from 12.30pm.*

We are very grateful to Mizuho for kindly hosting this event.

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In association with:

**MIZUHO**

# The Japan Society Annual General Meeting 2019

Wednesday 19 June 2019

6.00pm (AGM) / 6.40pm (Book launch)

Embassy of Japan  
101-104 Piccadilly  
London W1J 7JT

Japan Society Members Only

Booking deadline: Monday 17 June



The Japan Society Annual General Meeting 2019 will be held on Wednesday 19 June at 6.00pm at the Embassy of Japan, London.

We hope to see many members at this year's AGM. Papers for the meeting will be available from our website at the beginning of June, or by post on request.

Following the formal business of the AGM there will be a special launch event and reception for *British Royal and Imperial Relations, 1868-2018: 150 Years of Association, Engagement and Celebration*, which anyone is welcome to attend. The event will feature talks by Professor Peter Kornicki and Dr Antony Best, editors of the volume with Sir Hugh Cortazzi.

We are delighted to be able to offer copies of the book free of charge to members of the Japan Society. Moreover, thanks to the generous donation by Sir Hugh Cortazzi, the Society is also able to offer free copies of the new paperback edition of *The Thames And I: A Memoir of Two Years at Oxford*. Copies of the two volumes will be available to collect on the night, while stocks last. If you are unable to attend the event, please contact [info@japansociety.org.uk](mailto:info@japansociety.org.uk) for further information on how to obtain your copies.

**Please remember that the Embassy of Japan's security policy means that you need to let us know in advance if you are planning to attend**

**Please also bring with you to the meeting a form of photographic ID together with the confirmation email we will send you.**

# Japan Society Annual Dinner

Friday 28 June 2019

Spirit of Rugby Suite  
Twickenham Stadium  
Whitton Rd, Twickenham TW2 7BA

Package 1 – Starting time: 6.00pm (see details below)

Package 2 – Starting time: 7.00pm (see details below)

Booking essential – deadline Monday 24 June



The Japan Society invites members and guests to join us for a special Annual Dinner in Rugby World Cup year at the home of England Rugby, Twickenham Stadium. We are delighted to welcome Eddie Jones, head coach of the England national rugby team, as our special guest to give his insights on what to expect this autumn in Japan.

Guests opting for Package 1 will start the evening in the World Rugby Museum, including the special exhibition *Brave Blossoms: the history of rugby in Japan*, where curator Phil McGowan will be on hand to share highlights of the museum including the Calcutta Cup and World Cup. You will then move through the tunnel to the pitch side area, to absorb the stadium atmosphere on your way to dinner.

Those opting for Package 2 will go straight to the Spirit of Rugby Suite for a drinks reception, before taking their seats for dinner.

## Cancellation Policy

A full refund will be given where notice of cancellation is received at least 72 hours prior to the event. In other cases, refunds will be given at the discretion of the Japan Society and event partners.

## Package 1 – Starting time: 6.00pm

Members under 30\*: £50  
Members (& guests): £90 per person (max. 3 guests)  
Non-Members: £125 per person

*The cost includes drinks reception in the World Rugby Museum, pitch side view of the Stadium, three course dinner, wine and coffee.*

## Package 2 – Starting time: 7.00pm

Members under 30\*: £40  
Members (& guests): £75 per person (max. 3 guests)  
Non-Members: £110 per person

*The cost includes drinks reception in the Spirit of Rugby Suite, three course dinner, wine and coffee.*

\* Special price tickets for members under 30 are limited to the first 30 members to apply.

We are very grateful to JTI for their support which enables us to offer discounted tickets to all members and a further discount to members under 30, ensuring that the event can be enjoyed by everyone.

This event is kindly supported by:





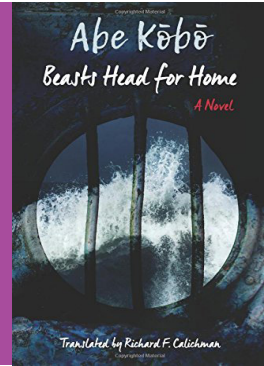
# Japan Society Book Club: *Beasts Head for Home* by Kobo Abe

Monday 8 July 2019

7.00pm

The Japan Society  
13 / 14 Cornwall Terrace  
London NW1 4QP

Free for Japan Society Members



*Beasts Head for Home* is an acute novel of identity, belonging, and the vagaries of human behaviour from an exceptional modern Japanese author. It is an excellent entry point into Abe's writing, with much of his signature tone and style. He is a master of controlling the reader's emotional investment while crafting an increasingly suffocating atmosphere of dread, resulting in a devastating reading experience. It tells the story of Kuki Kyuzo, a Japanese young man raised in the puppet state of Manchuria. In the aftermath of World War II, Kyuzo struggles to return home to Japan, an ancestral homeland he has "only ever imagined from his textbooks". What follows is a wild journey involving drugs, smuggling, chases, and capture.

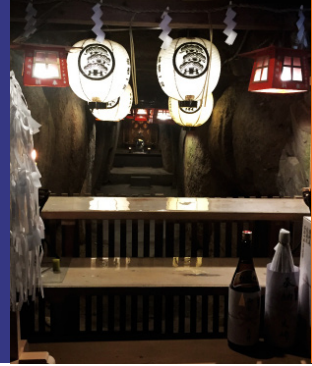
**Kobo Abe** (1924–1993) was one of Japan's greatest post-war writers, widely recognized for his imaginative fiction and plays of the absurd. Following a childhood in Manchuria, he enrolled in a medical college on returning to Japan, but abandoned his career as physician to become a writer. Over the following decades Abe collected all of Japan's major literary awards, including the Akutagawa, Yomiuri and Tanizaki Prizes. He was nominated for the Nobel Prize for Literature several times but never won. His novels often have surrealist qualities, evoking nightmarish dystopias and focusing on the dislocation of an individual from society. A number of these novels have been adapted into films, most notably in collaboration with renowned director, Hiroshi Teshigahara.

# Carmen Blacker Lecture 2019: Some Archaeological Observations on Traditional Japanese Religion

Monday 22 July 2019 6.45pm

The Swedenborg Society  
20-21 Bloomsbury Way (Hall entrance on Barter St)  
London WC1A 2TH

Free – booking recommended



The Carmen Blacker Lecture Series honours the memory and scholarship of Carmen Blacker (1924-2009) and is organised jointly by the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures and the Japan Society. Each year a senior scholar is invited to speak on a theme related to Blacker's research in the area of Japanese religion and folklore. For this year's tenth lecture we are delighted to welcome Simon Kaner, Executive Director of the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures.

The 2019 Carmen Blacker lecture will consider the relationship between myth and archaeology in Japan through two case studies: a thrilling festival in Nagano and a Museum in Shimane.

The *onbashira* festival takes place every six years in the area around Lake Suwa in Nagano prefecture. It involves the cutting down of huge cedar trees which are then ridden down the steep mountain slopes, eventually being set up in the sacred precincts of the Suwa Grand Shrine. It is one of the most exciting and more perilous of the Japanese festivals. Aspects of the festival are used in the interpretation of prehistoric wooden circles from the Jomon period. We will consider the rationale behind these analogies.

The second example is from the Izumo region, a land full of myths and legends that feature large in the *Kojiki* (Record of Ancient Matters). A visit to the Ancient Izumo Museum indicates that myth and archaeological interpretation are closely intertwined. Once again we will give some careful consideration to the relationship between myth and sacred heritage with a few comparative examples from other parts of the world. We will end with some thoughts on the perceived need for contemporary beliefs to be legitimated through the use of history and archaeology, and a brief visit to the mounded tomb at Miyajigadake in Fukuoka prefecture.

**Professor Simon Kaner** is Director of the Centre for Japanese Studies at the University of East Anglia and Executive Director of the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures, where he is also Head of the Centre for Archaeology and Heritage. He is an archaeologist specialising in the prehistory of Japan. His recent publications include *An Illustrated Companion to Japanese Archaeology* (edited, with Werner Steinhaus) (Oxford, Archaeopress, 2016) and he is currently editing the *Oxford Handbook of the Archaeology of Korea and Japan*. He is Co-Editor of the *Japanese Journal of Archaeology* and Series Editor for the Archaeopress series *Comparative Perspectives on Japanese Archaeology*.

Co-organised by:



SAINSBURY INSTITUTE  
for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures  
セインズベリー日本藝術研究所

# Ainu Othello – Special Talk & Dinner plus Theatre Performance

Tuesday 6 & Thursday 8 August 2019

7.30pm

(see below for further details)

Price (all-inclusive price for the talk & dinner as well as theatre performance)

£43 for members and their guests

£50 for non-members

Book essential – Booking deadline: Thursday 1 August 2019



The Japan Society is delighted to welcome Shimodate Kazumi, Artistic Director of The Shakespeare Company Japan, and Jatinder Verma, Artistic Director at Tara Theatre, for a special talk in conjunction with the forthcoming performance of *Ainu Othello* at Tara Theatre.

*Ainu Othello* is a stage adaptation of the Shakespearean tragedy *Othello*, which is set in 1860 in northern island of Hokkaido. The title character is transformed into an indigenous Ainu, who falls in love with a Japanese woman and is betrayed by a friend (Iago) of mixed Ainu and Japanese heritage.

See all details on [www.tara-arts.com](http://www.tara-arts.com)

## **Ainu Othello special talk & dinner**

Tuesday 6 August 2019, 7.30pm

Thenga Café (120 Cromer St, Kings Cross, London WC1H 8BS)

Guests will enjoy the talk over comforting European/Indian dinner with a drink. Thenga specialises in vegetarian / vegan dishes, but please let us know in advance if you have any specific dietary requirements.

## **Ainu Othello performance & post-performance meeting with cast and crew**

Thursday 8 August 2019, 7.30pm

Tara Theatre (356 Garratt Lane, London, SW18 4ES)

After the performance, guests will have a chance to meet the casts and crew including the Dance Group Piricap.

*\*If you cannot attend the show on 8 August, you can select an alternative performance time/date, subject to availability (performances will be held from August 7 to 10 – see all details on Tara Theatre's website).*

**Please specify which show you would like to attend when booking.**

In association with:



# Tanabata: Celebrate the Japanese Star Festival at Kew Gardens

Wednesday 7 & Thursday 8 August 2019

10.30am – 3.30pm

Bamboo Garden and Minka House  
Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew  
Richmond  
Surrey TW9 3AB



Standard Kew admission fee

**No booking required – just turn up on the day!**

Tanabata is all about celebrating the coming together of two stars, *Orihime* and *Hikoboshi*, who are in love but can only meet once a year. Join us at Kew Gardens and discover the story behind Tanabata and take part in the tradition of writing your wish on colourful *tanzaku* strips and hanging them from the bamboo, to mark this much loved summer festival.

There will be plenty to keep the whole family entertained with playful and intuitive Saori weaving workshops, trying on a type of kimono called *yukata*, calligraphy, *origami*, and traditional Japanese toys and games. Or why not follow the Tanabata Treasure Trail: hunting for clues to discover the story of *Orihime* and *Hikoboshi*. We shall also be joined by A Thousand Cranes who will reveal the fascinating story of Tanabata through *kamishibai* (Japanese storyboard theatre) performances in the historical Minka House.

Bamboo expert and Arboretum Manager at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Ray Townsend will be giving tours of the bamboo garden through the day; many of which he collected himself on expeditions to Japan. Come and discover the unknown stories behind this wonderful collection of bamboo!

**Don't miss out on taking part in the Tanabata story!**

## Tanabata Festival Programme

Events	Times (provisional)
Tanabata Story Trail	All day (drop-in)
Origami workshops	All day (drop-in)
Calligraphy workshops	All day (drop-in)
Japanese Toys & Games	All day (drop-in)
Saori weaving workshops	All day (drop-in)
Try on a <i>yukata</i>	• 10.30am – 12.30pm; • 1.30pm – 4.00pm
Bamboo tour	• Wednesday 7 August: 11.00am & 2.00pm; • Thursday 8 August: 12.00pm & 3.00pm
Tanabata <i>kamishibai</i> storytelling	• Wednesday 7 August: 1.00pm & 3.00pm; • Thursday 8 August: 11.30am & 2.00pm

In association with:

Embassy of  
**Japan**  
in the UK

Royal  
Botanic  
Gardens **Kew**

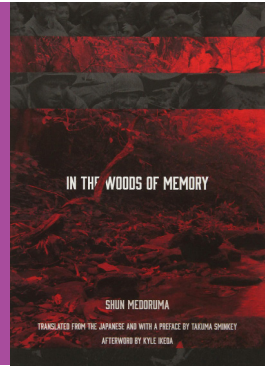
# Japan Society Book Club: In the Woods of Memory by Shun Medoruma

Monday 12 August 2019

7.00pm

The Japan Society  
13 / 14 Cornwall Terrace  
London NW1 4QP

Free for Japan Society Members



*In the Woods of Memory* is a powerful, thought-provoking novel that focuses on two incidents during the Battle of Okinawa, 1945: the sexual assault on Sayoko, 17, by four US soldiers and her friend Seiji's attempt at revenge. Narrations through nine points of view, Japanese and American, from 1945 to the present day, reveal the full complexity of events and how war trauma inevitably ripples through the generations.

**Shun Medoruma** was born in Okinawa in 1960. After graduating from the University of Ryukyu, he worked as a guard and later as a teacher until 2003. He has written novels based on Okinawan nature, history, and climate, focusing especially on the Battle of Okinawa and memories of that war experience and the impact of the US military bases on contemporary Okinawa. Another element of Medoruma's fiction is his use of *uchina-guchi* or Okinawan language. He won the Akutagawa Prize in 1997 for his short story 'A Drop of Water' (*Suiteki*).

# MANGA in a global society: the origins and development of a genre – Special Lecture with Fusanosuke Natsume, Manga Critic and Columnist

Monday 19 August 2019

6.45pm

The Swedenborg Society  
20-21 Bloomsbury Way (Hall entrance on Barter St)  
London WC1A 2TH

Free – booking recommended



In partnership with the British Museum City Exhibition Manga マンガ, we are delighted to welcome Professor Fusanosuke Natsume to give the Japan Society's August lecture.

The term manga originated in China; it was first employed in Japan in the Edo period (1608-1868). The most representative example of its use in Japan is Hokusai manga (fifteen volumes issued serially between 1814 and 1819 and then in 1830s and 1840s with the final volume appearing in 1878), however, the meaning of the word in the Edo period was not the same as the meaning of manga today. In the Meiji period (1868-1912), in response to the shock of western culture, the printing technologies, distribution and production processes were all modernized. Aware of its connections with Japan's traditional culture, the word manga was redefined as a new genre. After that, under the influence of European and American caricatures and cartoons, manga,

as a medium, came to include aspects of both. Today, when we use the word 'manga', in most of cases, we mean MANGA created after 1980s. Are the manga in Japan and manga read by a global audience the same? Or are they different?

Known in Japan as a manga critic and columnist, **Professor Fusanosuke Natsume** teaches critical studies on manga and animation at Gakushuin University. He was awarded the Tezuka Osamu Cultural Prize in 1999. During the course of his career, he has engaged in debates surrounding manga as 'anti-art' seen many attempts to create exhibitions of manga, and explored the boundaries between manga in Japan and graphic novels, bande dessinée and comics from other parts of the world.

This event is planned by the Japan Society in association with the British Museum and the Japan Foundation

In association with:

The British  
Museum

JAPAN FOUNDATION 

# The Citi exhibition Manga マンガ – private view of the British Museum exhibition with curators (Japanese or English)

Thursday 22 August 2019

8.45am for 9.00am

British Museum (Room 30)  
Great Russell Street  
London WC1B 3DG

Free – booking essential - booking deadline: 15 August 2019  
Japan Society members (+one guest)

Please indicate if you would prefer to do the visit in English or Japanese.



The Citi exhibition Manga マンガ at the British Museum (23 May – 26 August 2019) has been the Japanese art sensation of the summer in London and beyond, with thousands of visitors and a full public programme of events (including our monthly lecture with manga critic Fusanosuke Natsume on Monday 19 August and the Manga Symposium at the British Library on Friday 23 August). The Japan Society is delighted to invite its members to a private view of the exhibition with British Museum curators Nicole Coolidge Rousmaniere and Uchida Hiromi. In the last week of the exhibition, which will close on 26th August, this event is a great opportunity for a second view of the exhibition or for a last minute visit illuminated by the insights and final considerations of its curators.

**The private view will be held in two groups (one in English and one in Japanese), so when booking, please let us know your preferred language.**

The world's largest exhibition of manga to be held outside of Japan, the British Museum exhibition brings to life the art of manga, looking at how it emerged in Japan and grew to be a worldwide cultural phenomenon. It explores

manga's enduring appeal and cultural crossover, showcasing original Japanese manga and its enormous influence, from anime to gaming to 'cosplay' performance art.

With its world-renowned Japanese collections and expertise, and working in partnership with manga artists, editors, publishing houses and specialists in Japan, the British Museum is uniquely placed to take visitors on a journey through the phenomenon of manga. From earlier forms such as the comic or dramatic designs by famous Japanese artists such as Katsushika Hokusai (1760-1849), Kawanabe Kyōsai (1831-1889) and others through to the 21st century, today there is a manga for everyone. Including unprecedented loans from across Japan, the exhibition reveals the inner-workings of this billion-dollar industry.

**Please note there are limited places for this event. We anticipate that it will be very popular, so should the number of people who have requested tickets by 15 August exceed the number of tickets available, we will allocate places by ballot. Any places still available after 15 August will be offered on a first come, first served basis.**

In celebration of the Citi exhibition Manga:

The British  
Museum

# An Analysis of the Abe Administration's Policy on Russia – Evening Lecture with James D.J. Brown

Tuesday 27 August 2019

6.30pm

Presentation Suite  
Mizuho House  
30 Old Bailey  
London EC4M 7AU

Free for Japan Society members  
Non members: £5

Booking essential - Booking deadline: Friday 23 August



We are delighted to welcome James D.J. Brown to brief Japan Society members on Japan's cooperation with Russia against the background of the growing threat from China and North Korea and amidst heightened concerns of the long-term reliability of the US.

On most international issues, Japan's foreign policy broadly tracks that of its U.S. ally and other Western partners. However, with regard to Russia, Japan under Prime Minister Abe has become an outlier within the G-7 as highlighted by the recent Putin-Abe summit in Osaka. While most Western countries applied tough sanctions after Russia's annexation of Crimea, Japan introduced only token measures and continued with a policy of close cooperation. Abe also describes Russian President Vladimir Putin as someone who is "dear to me as a partner". James Brown will describe the features of the Abe administration's distinctive Russia policy and analyse its underlying causes. He will also offer conclusions about what this says more broadly regarding Japan as a contemporary international actor.

We are very grateful to Mizuho for kindly hosting this event.

**Dr James D.J. Brown** is an associate professor of Political Science at Temple University, Japan Campus. He holds a PhD from the University of Aberdeen, as well as postgraduate degrees from the universities of Edinburgh and Glasgow. His undergraduate degree is from the University of York. He was a recipient of a Daiwa Anglo-Japanese Foundation Scholarship in 2011.

Dr Brown has published widely on the topic of Japan-Russia relations, including in the journals of *International Affairs*, *Asia Policy*, *International Politics*, and *Europe-Asia Studies*. His two most recent books are *Japan, Russia and their Territorial Dispute: The Northern Delusion* (Routledge 2017) and *Japan's Foreign Relations in Asia*, edited with Jeff Kingston (Routledge 2018). He writes op-eds for *The Nikkei Asian Review*, *The Japan Times*, and *The Diplomat*, and he is regularly quoted in the media, including by *The Financial Times*, *The New York Times*, *The Economist*, and *The Wall Street Journal*. He has lived in Japan since 2011.

The talk will be followed by a drinks reception from 7:30pm.

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In association with: **MIZUHO**



# Bilingual Public Speaking Club – Pilot session

Wednesday 28 August 2019

7:00pm

Daiwa Anglo-Japanese Foundation  
13/14 Cornwall Terrace  
London NW1 4QP

Free – booking essential

Please note that spaces are limited and early booking is recommended.



The Japan Society and the Association of Speakers Clubs (ASC) are delighted to organise the first bilingual Japanese-English public speaking club in the UK. The club is open to all people who would like to improve their skills at speaking in Japanese or English and to learn techniques and tricks to expand their communication and presentation abilities. Good knowledge of Japanese and English is desirable but all levels are welcome to join us. Japanese native speakers and students of Japanese or English are encouraged to participate!

In this pilot session, we will explain and demonstrate the ASC method and its step by step programme to develop the confidence and skills to succeed in speaking in public. The first part will be in English and after a short break the second part will follow in Japanese. Participants will follow the ASC Speakers Guide introductory programme, which involves progressing through speech construction, using gestures and body language, using your voice and using humour to effectively get your point across, in addition to getting detailed feedback from evaluators at each step.

Different roles are required (speakers, evaluators, helpers) both in English and Japanese, so please let us know if you would like to be considered for any of these roles (more information will be provided in this case). Or you can just come and observe the event and participate in future sessions.

We are grateful to Graham Street, and members of the ASC public speaking club at Nomura International for their encouragement and assistance in setting up this group.

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Co-organised by:



# Rakugo Performances and Workshop with the Canary English Rakugo Company

Friday 30 and Saturday 31 August 2019  
(see below for further details)

Japan House London  
101-111 Kensington High Street  
London W8 5SA

Free – booking recommended



## Rakugo Performance: The Art of Japanese Comic Storytelling

Session 1: Friday 30 August 2019 – 6.30pm\*  
Session 2: Saturday 31 August 2019 – 4.30pm  
\*Session 1 is followed by a drinks reception

## Rakugo Workshop: Learn the Art of Japanese Comic Storytelling

Saturday 31 August 2.00pm – 3.30pm

Join us for an evening of Japanese comedy with master storyteller, Kanariya Eiraku and members of the Canary English Rakugo Company. *Rakugo* comic monologues have a long history in Japan, and have grown in popularity in recent years.

The evening's entertainment includes an introduction to *rakugo*, a selection of tales and a *tamasudare* performance. Though the humour is timeless, many stories take us back in atmosphere to earlier periods in Japanese history, with stories of masters and servants, children at school and descriptions of disappearing lifestyles. It perfectly complements the Japan House exhibition of works by Anno Mitsumasa, one of Japan's greatest children's book illustrators.

Performance Content (*subject to change*):  
Session 1: What is *Rakugo*? / Miso Beans / Praising a Child / *Tamasudare* Show / *Tenshiki* / *Otanoshimi*

Session 2: What is *Rakugo*? / *Gombe* and a Raccoon Dog / *Chiritotechin* / *Tamasudare* Show / Pot Math / *Otanoshimi*

On Saturday 31 August, a special workshop with master storyteller, Kanariya Eiraku and members of the Canary English Rakugo Company will give you the chance to learn *rakugo* storytelling skills. Learn how to conjure up a complete world and cast of characters with just a few simple props, and practice your technique in telling simple stories and jokes.

**Kanariya Eiraku** has been performing *rakugo* for over 30 years. He started teaching English *rakugo* classes in Tokyo in 2007. Since then he has performed *rakugo* in English both in Japan and abroad, including the US, Denmark and Laos. He also introduces Japanese songs in English using the ukulele. He teaches English performance at universities in Japan.

In association with Canary English Rakugo Company and Japan House London

# Joint Lunch with the JCCI: The UK-Japan 21st Century Group's 36th Annual Meeting

Thursday 5 September 2019

12.00 for 12.30pm

National Liberal Club  
Whitehall Place  
London SW1A 2HE

£60 per person for members of the Japan Society, the JCCI and their guests.

Booking deadline: Monday 2 September



The guests at the next Japan Society and JCCI Joint Lunch will be the co-Chairmen of the UK-Japan 21st Century Group, Mr Yasuhisa Shiozaki and The Rt Hon the Lord Lansley, together with other British and Japanese members of the Group.

The 21st Century Group is a non-Governmental forum. It was set up in 1984 to help cement closer links between British and Japanese politicians, business and media figures, and academics. It meets each year, alternating between Japan and the UK, to discuss issues of mutual national interest, reporting direct after each meeting to the British and Japanese Prime Ministers. Membership of the group varies from year to year but includes Members of the UK Parliament and of the Diet, experts on the issues being discussed, senior business representatives and well-known media commentators.

For this lunch, members of the 21st Century Group will be spread through tables of ten, to facilitate conversations with members of the Japan Society and of the JCCI; all attendees will be allocated seats. The co-Chairmen will make brief speeches, but the aim of the lunch will be to enable the members of the Society and the Chamber to discuss current issues of interest in UK/Japan relations directly with the members of the Group. There will be designated rapporteurs on each table, who can feed back any specific points after the lunch as necessary.

This is an important event: dialogue with the parliamentary and other delegates who will be going straight on to debate the same issues over the weekend will give our members a chance to provide input to key questions and also to ensure that the members of the Group are aware of the issues faced by those involved in UK-Japan relations here in the UK.

In association with:

**Jcci uk**  
Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the UK

Monday 9 September 2019

7.00pm

The Japan Society  
13 / 14 Cornwall Terrace  
London NW1 4QP

Free for Japan Society Members



*Go* follows the story of Sugihara, who is a *zainichi chosenjin* (North Korean national in Japan), who falls in love with a Japanese girl. The story revolves around Korean/Chinese racism in Japan with Sugihara changing his Korean name and moving to a Japanese school. As a Korean student, Sugihara has had to defend himself against all kinds of bullies. But nothing could have prepared him for the heartache he feels when he falls hopelessly in love with a Japanese girl named Sakurai. Torn between a chance at self-discovery that he's ready to seize and the prejudices of others that he can't control, Sugihara must decide who he wants to be and where he wants to go next.

**Kaneshiro Kazuki** (b. 1968) is a *zainichi* Korean novelist who was born in Kawaguchi, Saitama. He studied in North and South Korea connected schools in Japan and graduated in Law at Keio University. He started his professional writing career in 1998 by winning the Shōsetsu Gendai Prize for New Writers for *Revoryūshon No. 3*. Along with *Furai, dadi, furai* and *Speed*, the novel is part of the "Zombies" series, named after a group of teenagers in a high school for underachievers. In 2000, Kaneshiro won the Naoki Prize for *Go*, which was extremely popular among younger readers and was later adapted for film.

# Saori Freestyle Weaving Workshop

Tuesday 10 and Wednesday 11 September 2019  
(see below for further details)

Craft Central  
397-411 Westferry Road  
London E143AE

£35 per person - booking essential

Booking deadline: Thursday 5 September



The Japan Society is delighted to present Saori freestyle weaving workshop, led by Ena Janine, who has kindly offered these workshops to Japan Society members at a significantly discounted price. During this special three-hour workshop, you will be introduced to the intuitive art of Saori weaving.

Developed in Japan during the late Sixties by Misao Jo (1913-2018) Saori weaving is unique and different from other traditional styles of hand weaving. Whilst commercial factories are only eager to produce “flawless” fabric, the irregular selvage and accidental skip of thread add the unprogrammed character to the Saori cloth.

Using sustainable yarns and working in a small group under Janine’s supervision, the participants will explore the creative possibilities offered by the relatively simple wooden floor looms. The looms are pre-threaded so all participants need do is choose the colours and textures for your own unique cloth. This workshop is suitable for beginners, no previous weaving experience needed.

**Erna Janine** has been involved with natural textiles for over 20 years. She studied hand spinning with animal and plant fibres, botanical dyes and Viking age textile construction: warp weighted looms, tablet weaving, nalbinding etc. at the Icelandic College for Traditional Handcrafts in Reykjavik. For the last four years she has been visiting Japan regularly to study Saori freeweaving. Janine has been running the Freeweaver Saori Studio in London since 2017 where people can use floor looms to make simple garments of art pieces from recycled and natural yarns.

**Tuesday, 10 September 10.30am -1.30pm**  
**Tuesday, 10 September 2.00pm-5.00pm**  
**Wednesday, 11 September 10.30am-1.30 pm**  
**Wednesday, 11 September 2.00pm-5.00pm**

*\*Please specify which date/time you would like to participate when booking.*

In association with:

Freeweaver  
**SAORI**  
Studio

# The Art of Culinary Diplomacy with the Mid-19th Century. Britain and Japan at the Table with Yoshiko Goto

Monday 16 September 2019

6.45pm

The Swedenborg Society  
20-21 Bloomsbury Way (Hall entrance on Barter St)  
London WC1A 2TH

Free – booking recommended



National food and cuisine are important aspects of cultural diplomacy and hospitality. Celebratory banquets and feasts have always been part of the life of politicians, ambassadors, and monarchs, who often share delicacies and elaborate dishes representing national culinary excellence while discussing political matters and international affairs. In this lecture, Professor Yoshiko Goto will explore the history of culinary exchanges between Japan and the UK focusing on a particular episode dating back to the late Edo period.

On 3 February 1867, a meeting was held at Mitajiri in Western Japan between the leaders of the Choshu Domain (modern-day Yamaguchi Prefecture), Mori Takachika and his son Mori Motonori, and Vice-Admiral George King, commander-in-chief of the Royal Navy's China Station. On the following day, Vice-Admiral King entertained the Choshu leaders aboard H.M.S. Princess Royal, anchored in Mitajiri Bay. Records survive of the food served on these two occasions. The menu served by the Choshu side included a wide variety of seafood and vegetables, while the food prepared by the British included meat dishes and puddings.

Professor Goto took on the challenge of recreating the dishes listed on the menus for these banquets. In this lecture she will offer insights into Japanese and British cooking styles in the mid-nineteenth century, studying the transformation of eating habits between then and now. In the 1860s Japan was basically self-sufficient in food production and the diet of most Japanese people consisted mainly of domestically produced grain. After the Meiji Restoration, many new ingredients and foods came into Japan from other countries, stimulating a sudden change in the eating habits.

**Professor Yoshiko Gotō**, is a Professor in the Faculty of Education at Yamaguchi University. Born in Hofu City, Yamaguchi Prefecture, Professor Goto completed a master's degree and a doctorate on Food Science and Nutrition at Nara Women's University. Her field of expertise is food science and nutrition, with a particular research interest in the region of the Choshu Domain at the end of the Edo era.

# Japan Matsuri 2019

Sunday 29 September 2019

10.00am – 8.00pm

Trafalgar Square  
Westminster  
London  
WC2N 5DN

Free - no booking required, just turn up on the day!



London's very own festival of Japanese culture – Japan Matsuri – returns on Sunday, 29 September 2019 in Trafalgar Square in the centre of the city. A regular fixture now in the London calendar, this free annual festival brings people together to enjoy Japanese food, music, dance, and activities for all the family.

Everything kicks off at 10.00am and runs through till 8.00pm. With two stages, there is plenty to see all day. The programme of stage performances for this year is still being finalised and will feature exciting new acts as well as the return of favourites from previous Matsuri.

On the main stage, expect performances from *Joji Hirota & The London Taiko Drummers* and the 'Hilarious & Bonkers & Brilliant' *Ichi* with his one man band! Special performance from Japan for 2019 is the *Otsu Kagura Troupe*, bringing the enthralling tale of Orochi the Giant Serpent.

See the Japan Matsuri website for more information - [www.japanmatsuri.com](http://www.japanmatsuri.com)

As usual, Japan Matsuri will offer a range of authentic festival flavours, including takoyaki, yakisoba, kara-age, kakigori and much more. Special for 2019 sees the first tasting in London of *MOS burger*, who will be serving two of their most popular dishes – Yakiniku rice burger and Teriyaki chicken burger!

**Come and meet Japan Society staff at our stall on the north terrace in front of the National Gallery (opposite St. Martin in the Fields), to find out more about the Society and to take part in our activities.**

Japan Matsuri is organised jointly by the Japan Association, Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Japan Foundation, the Japan Society and Nippon Club, with support from the Embassy of Japan.



# Bilingual Public Speaking Club

Wednesday 2 October 2019

7:00pm

Civil Service Club  
13-15 Great Scotland Yard  
London SW1A 2HJ

Free – booking essential

Please note that spaces are limited and early booking is recommended.



Following a very successful pilot event in August, the Japan Society and the **Association of Speakers Clubs (ASC)** are delighted to announce the formal inaugural meeting of a new bilingual Japanese-English public speaking club in the UK. All are welcome, whether or not you were able to join us for the pilot, to what we hope will be a regular monthly event. The club is open to anyone who would like to improve their skills at speaking in Japanese or English and to learn techniques and tricks to expand their communication and presentation abilities. Good knowledge of Japanese and English is desirable but all levels are welcome to join us. Japanese native speakers and students of Japanese or English are encouraged to participate!

The Bilingual Public Speaking Club is based on the ASC method and its step by step programme to develop the confidence and skills to succeed in speaking in public. The first part of the session will be in English and after a short break the second part will follow in Japanese. Participants will follow the ASC Speakers Guide introductory programme, which involves progressing through speech construction, using gestures and body language, using your voice and using

humour to effectively get your point across, in addition to getting detailed feedback from evaluators at each step.

Different roles are required (speakers, evaluators, helpers) both in English and Japanese, so please let us know if you would like to be considered for any of these roles (more information will be provided in this case). Or you can just come and observe the event and participate in future sessions.

We are grateful to Graham Street, and members of the ASC public speaking club at Nomura International for their encouragement and assistance in setting up this group.

You can find more information and details about public speaking clubs in the ASC website - [www.speakersclubs.uk](http://www.speakersclubs.uk)

Co-organised by:



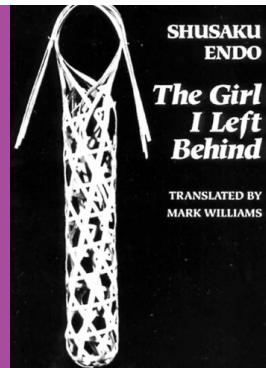


Monday 14 October 2019

7.00pm

The Japan Society  
13 / 14 Cornwall Terrace  
London NW1 4QP

Free for Japan Society Members



An early novel written some 50 years ago, *The Girl I Left Behind* tells of the choices made by young adults who are learning who they are and what they want in life, prefiguring themes of Endo's later works. The protagonist, Yoshioka Tsutomu, is a student, not much interested in his studies, short on cash and long on sexual desire. Eventually he will settle down in a career and marry his boss's niece. Yet he begins to hear a voice in his head that sparks a memory of Mitsu, the credulous village girl whom he once seduced and abandoned—and whose path continues to cross his long years.

**Shusaku Endo** (1923-1996), was raised by his mother and an aunt in Kobe where he converted to Roman Catholicism at the age of eleven. At Tokyo's Keio University he majored in French literature, graduating in 1949, before furthering his studies in French Catholic literature at the University of Lyon from 1950 to 1953. Endo is often compared to Graham Greene; many of his characters struggle in some way with the Catholic faith, and all of them face complex moral dilemmas, their choices often producing tragic results. Endo was the recipient of many of the top Japanese literary awards, including the Akutagawa Prize, the Mainichi Cultural Prize, the Shincho Prize, and the Tanizaki Prize.

# Saori Freestyle Weaving Workshop

Sunday 20 and Monday 21 October 2019  
(see below for further details)

Craft Central  
397-411 Westferry Road  
London E143AE

Booking essential  
Members: £35  
Non-members: £45

Booking deadline: Thursday 17 October



The Japan Society is delighted to present the second series of Saori freestyle weaving workshops, led by Janine, who has kindly offered these workshops to Japan Society members at a significantly discounted price. During this special three-hour workshop, you will be introduced to the intuitive art of Saori weaving.

Developed in Japan during the late Sixties by Misao Jo (1913-2018) Saori weaving is unique and different from other traditional styles of hand weaving. Whilst commercial factories are only eager to produce “flawless” fabric, the irregular selvage and accidental skip of thread add the unprogrammed character to the Saori cloth.

Using sustainable yarns and working in a small group under Janine’s supervision, the participants will explore the creative possibilities offered by the relatively simple wooden floor looms. The looms are pre-threaded so all participants need do is choose the colours and textures for your own unique cloth. This workshop is suitable for beginners, no previous weaving experience needed.

**Erna Janine** has been involved with natural textiles for over 20 years. She studied hand spinning with animal and plant fibres, botanical dyes and Viking age textile construction: warp weighted looms, tablet weaving, nalbinding etc. at the Icelandic College for Traditional Handcrafts in Reykjavik. For the last four years she has been visiting Japan regularly to study Saori freeweaving. Janine has been running the Freeweaver Saori Studio in London since 2017 where people can use floor looms to make simple garments of art pieces from recycled and natural yarns.

## WORKSHOPS

(a) Sunday 20 October – 10.30am-1.30pm

(b) Sunday 20 October – 2.00pm-5.00pm

(c) Monday 21 October – 2.00pm-5.00pm

(d) Monday 21 October – 6.00pm-9.00pm

*\*Please specify which date/time you would like to participate when booking.*

In association with:

Freeweaver  
**SAORI**  
Studio

# Japan Room Lecture: Nazani Tea Time from Ancient Greece to Mugicha

Tuesday 29 October 2019

6.30pm

Lodge Room No 11  
The Freemasons' Hall  
Great Queen Street  
London WC2B 5AZ

Free for Japan Society members  
Non-members: £12

Booking essential - Booking deadline: Friday 25 October



**Guest Speaker:** Arleen Ouzounian, Founder of Nazani Tea

**Book Presentation:** *The Sphinxing Rabbit* by Pauline Chakmakjian, MA

For all tea lovers, Nazani Tea will host an evening bridging the tea and infusion traditions of the East and West. Though Nazani Tea has a wide award-winning range of infusions, the evening will focus on Kykeon (both modern and traditional recipes), an ancient Greek blend commonly drunk 2,500 years ago, resurrected and sold for the first time in modern history, as well as Nazani Tea's roasted spring barley, also originally from ancient Greece but now well-known as mugicha in Japan. The health benefits and the importance of herbal infusions and flowers will also be covered. Nazani Tea will gift tea samples for the enjoyment of all attendees to take away with them as we move to present the publication of the host's first book of a series of ten books planned, *The Sphinxing Rabbit: Her Sovereign Majesty*.

**Nazani Tea** is based on the three principles of luxury, integrity and elegance. Nazani Tea is focused on resurrecting ancient herbal blends and bringing new concepts to the UK such as colour-changing infusions and a new type of mint. Nazani Tea's wild mountain mint (from Armenia), organic olive leaf (from Naxos, Greece), organic chamomile (from Scotland) and both Kykeon™ blends have won Great Taste Awards from the Guild of Fine Food.

**Please let us know if you would like to take an optional tour of the Freemasons' Hall at 5.15 for 5.30pm.**

**Host:** Pauline Chakmakjian, Visit Kyoto Ambassador.

In association with The Japan Room and Nazani Tea



# Sixth Form Japan Day 2019

Thursday 7 November 2019  
(Registration from 10.00am)

10.20am to 4.00pm

SOAS University of London  
Russell Square Campus  
London WC1H 0XG

Free of charge to schools

Booking deadline: Monday 28 October 2019



The Japan Society's Sixth Form Japan Day will be returning to SOAS this autumn on Thursday 7 November.

The Japan Society, in association with Ritsumeikan University (UK) and SOAS, is pleased once again to invite Sixth Form students to attend its popular FREE one-day course about Japan, its culture and its role in the global community.

The day is designed to give an insight into aspects of Japan, traditional and modern, through lectures and practical workshops. It is aimed at students who are studying Japanese, but will also be of interest to those who have not had the opportunity to do so formally at school, but who are considering Japanese studies at universities in the UK, or applying to do other subjects at universities in Japan. Students will also have the chance to speak one on one with representatives from a range of universities offering Japanese studies.

The course will feature a keynote address by Fumio Obata, London-based graphic novelist/illustrator and author of *Just So Happens*, a highly acclaimed graphic novel which has now

been translated and published in 8 different countries. The day will also include a lecture by a special guest speaker from Ritsumeikan University and a talk by Dr Jennifer Coates from University of Sheffield.

Elective practical workshops in small groups will allow students to take part in a range of activities, including: Calligraphy, Cookery (Sushi), Oekakinden (Smart Wearable Sports Technology), Manga (Drawing), Martial Arts (Aikido), Japanese Taiko (drumming), and a language focused workshop led by the Japan Foundation exploring the use of Kanji in everyday Japanese conversation.

## Booking information

Places will be issued on a first-come-first-served basis. Students may attend on their own or be accompanied by a member of staff.

For more information about the workshops and to apply, please visit our website and download the booking form: [www.japansociety.org.uk/schools/sixth-form-japan-day/](http://www.japansociety.org.uk/schools/sixth-form-japan-day/)

In association with

**R** RITSUMEIKAN  
UNIVERSITY



**SOAS**  
100 Years  
School of Oriental and African Studies

# Japan Society Book Club: The Nakano Thrift Shop by Hiromi Kawakami

Monday 11 November 2019

7.00pm

The Japan Society  
13 / 14 Cornwall Terrace  
London NW1 4QP

Free for Japan Society Members

TRANSLATED BY ALISSON HARKIN POWELL  
HIROMI KAWAKAMI



THE NAKANO  
THRIFT SHOP

Subtle, graceful, wise.  
Lisa Rothman, author of *The House at the Edge of the World*

*The Nakano Thrift Shop* tells a funny, heart-warming story about love, life, and human relationships that features a delightfully offbeat cast of characters. The protagonist is Hitomi, an inexperienced shop assistant who works the register at Mr. Nakano's thrift shop. She has fallen for her co-worker, the oddly reserved Takeo. Unsure of how to attract his attention, she seeks advice from her employer's sister, Masayo, whose sentimental entanglements make her a somewhat unconventional guide. Animating Kawakami's playful novel is Mr. Nakano himself, an original, entertaining, and enigmatic creation whose compulsive mannerisms, secretive love life, and impulsive behaviour defy all expectations.

**Hiromi Kawakami** (b. 1958) is a Japanese writer known for her off-beat fiction. Born in Tokyo, she first began submitting stories to science-fiction magazines and taking on editorial work while majoring in biology at Ochanomizu University. Her literary coming of age arrived in 1994, when she won the Pascal Short Story Award for New Writers, an all-online competition, for *Kamisama* (God Bless You). In 1996, she received the Akutagawa Prize for her short story *Hebi o fumu* (tr. *Record of a Night Too Brief*), which established her among the standard bearers of the Japanese literary world.

# Minyo Crusaders at Jazz Café – Pre-show Talk

Monday 11 November 2019

8:00pm (Doors open 7.00pm)

The Jazz Cafe  
5 Parkway  
London NW1 7PG

A valid ticket for Minyo Crusaders at Jazz Café entitles the holder to attend the event.

Discount for Japan Society members - see below for details



To celebrate their first show in the UK, the members of Minyo Crusaders in conversation with Professor Dr David W Hughes, specialist in the field of Japanese music, particularly its folk traditions, will discuss how they developed their unique music style.

Minyo Crusaders rework traditional Japanese folk songs (minyō) with Latin, African and Caribbean rhythms to create some of the most infectious music anywhere between Latin America and Japan. The punchy and inventive arrangements of this ten-piece big band seamlessly blend Afro-Cuban and Caribbean rhythms with old Japanese minyō to create a compellingly modern sound. Since label Mais Um released the band's debut album *Echoes of Japan* in April the acclaim has been universal.

The band's sound could be described as having a retro Japanese feel influenced by a hefty dose of worldwide music. Otemoyan, a well-known folk song from southern Kumamoto Prefecture about a young maiden marrying a man with a pockmarked face, is reshaped into a reggae track with dub sensibilities. Akita Nikata Bushi from northern Akita Prefecture takes its cue from Ethiopian funk, while Fukuoka Prefecture's Tanko Bushi

swings to the sound of boogaloo. All the while, however, minyō's distinctive stylised form of singing is maintained, providing a sense of authenticity despite the melange of rhythms.

**For more information visit:**

[www.comono.co.uk/live/minyo-crusaders/](http://www.comono.co.uk/live/minyo-crusaders/)

[www.thejazzcafelondon.com/event/minyo-crusaders/](http://www.thejazzcafelondon.com/event/minyo-crusaders/)

**\*\*Japan Society members and friends can receive £3 off £18 tickets by entering the code 'JSOC' when booking at the following address:**

[www.ticketweb.uk/event/minyo-crusaders-jazz-cafe-tickets/9624235?pl=JC](http://www.ticketweb.uk/event/minyo-crusaders-jazz-cafe-tickets/9624235?pl=JC)

# Panel Discussion: Art and Political Censorship in Japan

Tuesday 12 November 2019

6.30pm

Thenga Café  
120 Cromer Street  
Kings Cross  
London WC1H 8BS

Japan Society members: £7 (Select 'concession' when booking)  
Non-members: £10

Booking essential



Join us for a panel discussion where special guests will discuss the issues of freedom of expression, censorship and self-censorship in the arts in Japan, in response to the shutdown, earlier this summer, of the *After 'Freedom of Expression?'* section of the Aichi Triennale. Ironically, this section of the exhibition looked at the history of censorship of artworks in Japan and, although it reopened during the triennale, the question of censorship remains as the government and city of Nagoya both withdrew previously approved funding.

In this event, Art Action UK 2019 Residency Award winner Satoshi Hashimoto will bring fresh insights from Japan, and sociologist Dr Yoshitaka Mori will share his analysis of the current situation in videoconference from Japan. Hashimoto and artist, curator and writer Morgan Quaintance will then discuss their perspectives on the issues. The discussion will be chaired by Jenny White, head of Head of Visual Arts Programme at the British Council.

Since 2011, Art Action UK has been supporting artists, who have been affected by natural and manmade disasters, and many of its artists and associates are directly affected by the shutdown. International artists have stood with local artists; some protested against this censorship by withdrawing their exhibit from the Triennale, while others modified their exhibition by setting up alternative projects and coordinating demonstrations on the street.

**Vegan canapé and drinks will be provided by Thenga Café, and this will also be an opportunity to meet and exchange views with Art Action UK artists and other guests.**

**Art Action UK** is a collective of artists, curators, gallerists and writers who are exploring various means to show solidarity and support for artists who have been affected by natural and manmade disasters. The 2011 Japanese earthquake, tsunami and subsequent Fukushima nuclear fallout has been the catalyst for Art Action UK. AAUK has been awarding artists residency opportunities in the UK and delivering a wide range of events.

This event is organised by Art Action UK in association with Japan Society.

**ARTACTION UK**

# Farewell Reception for Ambassador & Madame Tsuruoka

Tuesday 12 November 2019

7.00pm – 9.00pm

Barber-Surgeons' Hall  
Monkwell Square  
Wood Street  
Barbican  
London EC2Y 5BL

£60 per person - Japan Society members and their guests only

Booking essential



Ambassador and Madame Tsuruoka will shortly be returning to Japan and the Japan Society will hold a drinks reception to thank them for their support over the past three years and to give members the chance to say farewell.

Ambassador Tsuruoka has been an active and committed President of the Society during his tenure in London, and we have many memories of enjoyable times spent together.

We will be partnering with the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Nippon Club on this event and do hope as many members as possible will be able to come. Ambassador and Madame Tsuruoka have been staunch supporters of the Society and its activities and we will miss them.



# Bilingual Public Speaking Club

Wednesday 13 November 2019

7.00pm – 9.00pm

Nomura International plc  
One Angel Lane  
London EC4R 3AB

£5 per person

Booking essential



Following the successful events in August and October, the Japan Society and the **Association of Speakers Clubs (ASC)** are delighted to invite you to another session of the first bilingual Japanese-English public speaking club in the UK. All are welcome, regardless of whether you were able to join us before, to what we hope will be a regular monthly event. The club is open to anyone who would like to improve their skills at speaking in Japanese or English and to learn techniques and tricks to expand their communication and presentation abilities. Good knowledge of Japanese and English is desirable but all levels are welcome to join us. Japanese native speakers and students of Japanese or English are encouraged to participate!

The Bilingual Public Speaking Club is based on the ASC method and its step by step programme to develop the confidence and skills to succeed in speaking in public. The first part of the session will be in English and after a short break the second part will follow in Japanese. Participants will follow the ASC Speakers Guide introductory programme, which involves progressing through speech construction, using gestures and body language, using your voice and using

humour to effectively get your point across, in addition to getting detailed feedback from evaluators at each step.

Different roles are required (speakers, evaluators, helpers) both in English and Japanese, so please let us know if you would like to be considered for any of these roles (more information will be provided in this case). Those wishing to attend and simply observe are also welcome.

## Light refreshments will be provided.

We are grateful to Graham Street, and members of the ASC public speaking club at Nomura International for their encouragement and assistance in setting up this group. You can find more information and details about public speaking clubs in the ASC website <http://speakersclubs.uk/>

Co-organised by:



In association with:

**NOMURA**

# Why Does Japan Still Use 'Orphanages' Rather Than Family-Based Foster Care and Adoption? – with Michael Rivera King

Monday 18 November 2019

6.45pm

The Swedenborg Society  
20-21 Bloomsbury Way (Hall entrance on Barter St)  
London WC1A 2TH

Free Lecture – booking recommended



In contemporary Japan, approximately 85 per cent of children in alternative care are placed in large institutions. This contrasts with global discourse, encapsulated in the UN Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children, and with practice in most OECD countries, which use family-based foster care more extensively. Explanations for Japan's outlier status often focus on a homogenous national culture, yet there is significant regional variation between local authorities in how policy is implemented, most readily visible in the percentage of those entering care who are placed into foster care.

To understand this puzzle Dr Michael Rivera King spent one year conducting ethnographic research in child guidance centres in Japan. In these centres the decision is made on whether or not to remove the child from the family and, if so, on whether they will enter foster care or institutional care. There is significant regional variation in policy implementation here, explained by differences in resources, norms, and the organisational cultures of the child guidance centres.

Despite these differences one value was found to be universal: the construction of the family-bond, between child and 'parent'.

Michael argues that this is central to our understanding of why institutions are used over family-based foster care.

This is a 'hot topic' in welfare at present, with politicians and the Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare urging change on national and local levels. In this lecture, Michael will argue that these efforts are likely to have a limited impact unless they take this construction of the family-bond into account and focus on redefining the function of foster care.

**Dr Michael Rivera King** is the CEO of **Ashinaga Association in the UK** (registered charity number: 1183750). During his time on JET (2006-2011) Michael set up Smile Kids Japan, a volunteer group that saw over 3,000 people volunteer sustainably in their local 'orphanages'. Following the 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami Michael raised over \$900,000 for those affected. Michael contributed to the 2016 revision to the Child Welfare Act, on foster care and adoption, and completed his doctorate at the University of Oxford in 2017. His book *'Child Guidance Centres in Japan: Alternative Care and the Family'* will be published by Nissan Routledge next year.

# Saori Freestyle Weaving Workshop

Sunday 8 and Monday 9 December 2019  
(see below for further details)

Craft Central  
397-411 Westferry Road  
London E143AE

Booking essential  
Japan Society members: £35  
Non-members: £45

Booking deadline: Wednesday 4 December



Following the successful sessions in September and October, the Japan Society is delighted to present the third Saori freestyle weaving workshop, led by Erna Janine. During this special three-hour workshop, you will be introduced to the intuitive art of Saori weaving.

Developed in Japan during the late Sixties by Misao Jo (1913-2018) Saori weaving is unique and different from other traditional styles of hand weaving. Whilst commercial factories are only eager to produce “flawless” fabric, the irregular selvage and accidental skip of thread add the unprogrammed character to the Saori cloth.

Using sustainable yarns, the participants will explore the creative possibilities offered by the relatively simple wooden floor looms. All looms are pre-threaded so all you will have to do is choose your colours and textures for your own unique cloth. This workshop is suitable for beginners, no previous weaving experience needed.

**Erna Janine** has been involved with natural textiles for over 20 years. She studied hand spinning with animal and plant fibres, botanical dyes and Viking age textile construction: warp weighted looms, tablet weaving, nalbinding etc. at the Icelandic College for Traditional Handcrafts in Reykjavik. For the last four years she has been visiting Japan regularly to study Saori freeweaving. Janine has been running the Freeweaver Saori Studio in London since 2017 where people can use floor looms to make simple garments of art pieces from recycled and natural yarns.

## WORKSHOPS

(a) **Sunday 8 December – 10.30am-1.30 pm**

(b) **Sunday 8 December – 2.00pm-5.00pm**

(c) **Monday 9 December – 2.00am-5.00 pm**

(d) **Monday 9 December – 6.00pm-9.00pm**

*\*Please specify which date/time you would like to participate when booking.*

In association with:

Freeweaver  
**SAORI**  
Studio

# Japan Society Book Club: Sweet Bean Paste by Durian Sukegawa

Monday 9 December 2019

7.00pm

The Japan Society  
13 / 14 Cornwall Terrace  
London NW1 4QP

Free for Japan Society Members



*Sweet Bean Paste* is a moving novel about the burden of the past and the redemptive power of friendship. Its protagonist Sentaro spends his days in a tiny confectionery shop selling dorayaki. He has a criminal record, drinks too much, and his dream of becoming a writer is just a distant memory. But everything changes when he meets Tokue, an elderly woman with a troubled past who teaches him how to make the best sweet bean paste Sentaro has ever tasted. As their friendship flourishes, social pressures become impossible to escape and Tokue's dark secret is revealed.

**Durian Sukegawa** (b. 1962) is a Japanese writer, poet and musician born in Tokyo. He grew up in Kobe and Nagoya and studied oriental philosophy at Waseda University, before going on to work as a reporter in Berlin and Cambodia in the early 1990s. He has written a number of books and essays, TV programmes and films.

The book club is held every month. There is no restriction on the nationality of the authors read, but books should be available in translation in both Japanese and English. The discussion is conducted mainly in English, but you can choose the language in which you read the book. The intention is simple: to explore the themes of the book, express personal opinions on the style and content, discuss how the book has changed (or not) in translation and to have a relaxed discussion with others who have similar interests.

# Japan Society Christmas Party

Tuesday 10 December 2019

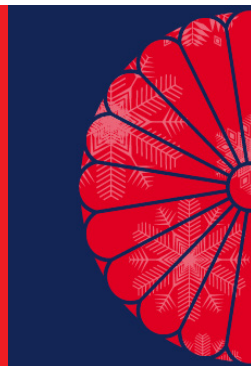
6.30 to 8.00pm

Embassy of Japan  
101-104 Piccadilly  
London W1J 7JT

£25 per head

Japan Society members and their guests only

**Booking essential – deadline Friday 6 December 2019**



This year's Christmas Party will once again be held in the Ballroom of the Japanese Embassy, by courtesy of The Ambassador.

We hope that many members will join us for this festive occasion. This annual gathering provides members with a great opportunity to catch up with friends at the close of the year and start thinking ahead to new challenges in 2020. Members may bring guests but space may well be limited, so early booking is advised; places will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis.

We are extremely grateful to our host the Embassy of Japan.

Names are required for the Embassy security in advance therefore early booking is advised. You will be sent a confirmation of your booking to print out and show on arrival.

**Please note that guests will not be admitted without a form of photographic identification (passport, driving licence etc).**

## **Cancellation policy**

A full refund will be given where notice of cancellation is received by Friday 6 December 2019. In other cases, refunds will be given at the discretion of the Japan Society and event partners.

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This event is kindly supported by:

Embassy of  
**Japan**  
in the UK

# Colin Alexander McVean, a Scottish engineer in early Meiji Japan – with Colin Houston

Monday 16 December 2019

6.45pm

The Swedenborg Society  
20-21 Bloomsbury Way (Hall entrance on Barter St)  
London WC1A 2TH

Free Lecture – booking recommended



Colin Alexander McVean (1838-1912) was the son of a Free Church minister on the island of Iona, on the western coast of Scotland. He trained as a civil engineer and following some time with the Admiralty survey and the building of railways in Bulgaria and parts of the Ottoman Empire, he headed to Japan as one of the first civil engineers from Scotland at the time of the Meiji restoration. McVean was involved in the construction of lighthouses, had his own foundry business for a period of time and latterly was then appointed Surveyor in Chief to the Emperor of Japan. He was responsible for the first nationwide triangular surveys of Japan as well as public buildings in early Meiji period, including redevelopment scheme of burned Ginza district and construction of the first technical college buildings (the Imperial College of Engineering). He founded the meteorological and astronomical section in the Survey Office, brought in the latest observation instruments including seismographs and in his spare time, as a keen bird watcher, published some works on the ornithology of 'Yedo' (aka Edo, the current Tokyo). In total, McVean spent 8 years in Japan, from 1868 to 1876, and achieved an

enormous amount in that time, passing on his skill and enthusiasm to a young team of Japanese recruits in the survey department. Never forgetting his Scottish roots, he took every opportunity to celebrate Scotland and share with others his traditions and culture.

In this lecture, his great-grandson, Colin Houston, will explore the fascinating history of his ancestor in the context of Anglo-Scottish-Japanese relations in Meiji Japan. He will examine personal and archival documents and photos by Colin Alexander McVean revealing a little-known aspect of Japanese modernisation in the late 19th century.

**Colin Houston** has worked in tourism in Scotland for over 37 years. He is currently an international tourism consultant and co-founder of Aurora Spirit Distillery, situated in Arctic Norway. Colin has a keen interest in genealogy and tracing his family history. When his aunt died in 1998 he discovered boxes of diaries, papers and also a unique photo album from his Great -Grandfathers time in Japan. Colin has set about transcribing and digitising much of this archive material.