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I hope this letter finds you well despite the extraordinary times we all find ourselves in. The COVID-19 pandemic created a significant disruption for the activities of the Centre for the Study of Global Japan during the 2020-2021 academic year. We were forced to postpone or cancel many of our core activities, such as in-person events and the Kakehashi student exchange program. Nonetheless, thanks to the enthusiastic support of our affiliates and friends, we were able to substantially reorient Centre activities and remain a vibrant place for intellectual exchange, research, and education about contemporary Japan.

In response to the pandemic, our Centre transitioned to online webinars for the duration of the academic year. Although we missed interacting directly with our local colleagues and friends, we were delighted to see widespread interest in our events from all corners of the globe. You can read about the 11 public events we held during the academic year in this letter, which covered a diverse range of topics related to contemporary Japanese politics and foreign policy.
We also initiated a collaboration with colleagues at Dartmouth, Harvard, NYU, and Yale to inaugurate the Japanese Politics Online Seminar Series (JPOSS), which has quickly become the primary online platform for global scholars to present their research on contemporary Japan and receive professional development advice. Our Centre also continues to expand our external outreach though a variety of collaborations with partners like the Asia Pacific Foundation, Indiana University, University of British Columbia, and University of Tokyo.

This year, we also inaugurated a student affiliates program. Our student affiliates have become active members of our community despite the constraints of the pandemic, participating actively in our events and contributing in a variety of ways to Centre outreach. You can read about our wonderful student affiliates later in this letter. If you are a student at U of T interested in contemporary Japan, I hope you consider joining our community.

Although some uncertainty still remains, we are hopeful about the resumption of in-person events in the coming academic year. I look forward to seeing you in the near future, and wish you well in these challenging times.

June 2021
Phillip Lipscy
Director
Centre for the Study of Global Japan
PROGRAM & EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

The Centre for the Study of Global Japan hosted virtual events and webinars on a wide variety of topics, inviting distinguished scholars from Canada, Japan, the U.S. and Europe.

"The Iconoclast: Shinzo Abe and the New Japan"
- Book Talk by Tobias S. Harris

In collaboration with Professor Adam P. Liff, Director of the 21st Century Japan Politics & Society Initiative at the Hamilton Lugar School at Indiana University, the Centre for the Study of Global Japan invited Japan Analyst Tobias Harris to introduce his new book, The Iconoclast: Shinzō Abe and the New Japan.

Japan and EU – Stepping Up Cooperation to Save the Liberal World Order

Professor Marie Söderberg, the Director of the European Institute of Japanese Studies and an adjunct professor of Stockholm School of Economics, presented a seminar that gave a historic and contemporary perspective on Japan-EU relations. She also reflected on the role of Canada in EU-Japan relations.
"Geoeconomic Strategy in the Asia-Pacific"
- In Conversation with Saori N. Katada


New Directions in Japanese Foreign Policy: A Memorial Event Honouring OKAMOTO Yukio

CSGJ welcomed Michael J. Green (Senior Vice President for Asia and Japan Chair, Center for Strategic and International Studies), Richard Samuels (Ford International Professor of Political Science, MIT), and Tadokoro Masayuki (Professor of International relations, Faculty of Law, Keio University), to discuss new directions in Japanese foreign policy. Deanna Horton (Senior Fellow, Munk School) moderated the event. The Japan NOW event honoured the legacy of Okamoto Yukio, a dear friend of our Centre. Okamoto was a leading thinker and practitioner of Japanese foreign policymaking, who tragically passed away in April 2020 due to complications arising from COVID-19.
Japan and Asia in the Pandemic Era: RCEP

In partnership with the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada and UBC’s Centre for Japan Research, CSGJ welcomed Wendy Cutler (Asia Society Policy Institute), Shihoko Goto (Wilson Center), Michael Plummer (Johns Hopkins University), Jeff Reeves (Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada), Yves Tiberghien (University of British Columbia), and Deanna Horton (moderator), for a panel that discussed the global implications of the RCEP including its significance for Canada, the Biden Administration, and Japanese foreign policymaking.

Japanese Foreign Policy in the Abe Era and Beyond: Book Launch Event

In partnership with the Asian Institute and University of Tokyo’s Center for Contemporary Japanese Studies, CSGJ welcomed Takeo Hoshi (University of Tokyo), Adam Liff (Indiana University), Phillip Lipsky (U of T), and Mary M. McCarthy (Drake University) for a presentation to discuss the legacy of Abe Shinzo, who stepped down in September 2020 as the longest-serving prime minister in Japanese history.
Japanese Nationalism from the Ground Up: A Profile on Nippon Kaigi and Its Local-Level Activists

In partnership with the Asian Institute, CSGJ welcomed Levi McLaughlin, Associate Professor at the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, North Carolina State University, to present his research on Nippon Kaigi, focusing on the group’s local-level activists and its emphasis on the practice of cultivation.

Looking Back and Looking Forward: A Conversation on Japan and Canada’s Ageing Societies

In partnership with the Consulate General of Japan in Toronto, this webinar featured a presentation about Japan’s ageing society by Professor Hiroko Akiyama (University of Tokyo), followed by discussions with Professor Margarita Estevez-Abe (Syracuse University), Professor Michelle Silver (UTSC), and Professor Ito Peng (U of T - moderator).
Help (Not) Wanted: Immigration Politics in Japan

Michael Strausz, Associate Professor of Political Science and the Director of Asian Studies at Texas Christian University, presented his 2019 book, Help (Not) Wanted: Immigration Politics in Japan, which explores why Japan’s immigration policy remains restrictive despite economic, demographic, and international political forces that are pushing Japan to admit more immigrants.

The Business Reinvention of Japan - Why It Matters for Global Business and Politics

Ulrike Schaede, Professor of Japanese Business at the University of California, San Diego, School of Global Policy and Strategy and Director of JFIT (Japan Forum for Innovation and Technology), presented her book, The Business Reinvention of Japan – Why it Matters for Global Business and Politics. During the presentation, Schaede laid out important aspects of Japan’s business reinvention and highlighted their significance for global business and politics.
In partnership with the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada and the Asian Institute, CSGJ welcomed Nobuhiro Aizawa (Kyushu University), Stewart Beck (Asia Pacific Foundation), Elina Noor (Asia Society), and Deanna Horton (moderator), to discuss The Diplomat editor Sebastian Strangio’s book, *In the Dragon’s Shadow*, which talks about the challenges for Southeast Asia in managing the rise of China.
The Japanese Politics Online Seminar Series (JPOSS) is a virtual forum to present and discuss research-in-progress on questions related to Japanese politics, broadly defined. We intend to build a community of students and scholars who seek to foster collaboration and scholarship on Japanese politics. The organizers of JPOSS are Amy Catalinac (New York University), Charles Crabtree (Dartmouth College), Christina L. Davis (Harvard University), Yusaku Horiuchi (Dartmouth College), Phillip Y. Lipscy (University of Toronto), Frances McCall Rosenbluth (Yale University), and Daniel M. Smith (Harvard University). Administrative support is provided by the staff of Harvard University’s Program on U.S.-Japan Relations. Nicholas Fraser (University of Toronto) writes the event summaries.
JPOSS WEBINAR LIST

#1  "The New Consensus on Immigration?: Identifying the Racial Undertones of Immigrant Selection Outside the Western Context"
Nicholas Fraser (University of Toronto)

#2  "Do Firms Benefit from the Revolving Door? Evidence from Japan"
Trevor Incerti (Yale University), Hikaru Yamagishi (Yale University)

#3  "How to Frame Japan-Related Research for Publications and the Job Market"
Amy Catalinac (NYU), Charles Crabtree (Dartmouth), Christina Davis (Harvard), Yusaku Horiuchi (Dartmouth), Phillip Y. Lipsky (University of Toronto), Daniel M. Smith (Harvard)

#4  "Can University Education Cultivate Immigrant Integration? The Case of Local Enfranchisement for Foreign Residents in Japan"
Fan Lu (Queen’s University), Gento Kato (Nazarbayev University)

#5  "Agents or Advisers? Bureaucratic Structure and the Politics of Trade Protectionism"
Diana Stanescu (Harvard)

#6  "Quiet Acquisition: The Politics of Justification in Military Capability Trajectories"
Deirdre Martin (UC Berkeley)
JPOSS WEBINAR LIST

#7
"Third Party Coercion and Gray Zone Conflicts: Assessing U.S. Foreign Policy over the East China Sea, 2008-2014"
Ayumi Teraoka (Princeton)

#8
"U.S. Military Should Not Be in My Backyard: A Case of Okinawa"
Takako Hikotani (Columbia), Yusaku Horiuchi (Dartmouth), Atsushi Tago (Waseda)

#9
"Policy or Valence? Candidate or Party? Assessing Voter Preferences in Japan"
Jordan Hamzawi (University of California, Davis)

#10
"Professional Development #2: Working on Japan, Working in Japan"
Saori Katada (University of Southern California), Ellis Krauss (University of California, San Diego), Sheila Smith (Council on Foreign Relations), Gill Steel (Doshisha University)

#11
"The Clash of Traditional Values: Attitudes toward a Male-line Monarchy under a Succession Crisis"
Kenneth Mori McElwain (University of Tokyo), Yuki Shiraito (University of Michigan)

#12
"How Do Voters Perceive Female Politicians’ Abilities to Distribute Pork?"
Taishi Muraoka (Washington University in St. Louis)
JPOSS WEBINAR LIST

#13
"Selecting Legal Residents by Unemployment and Ethnicity in the Liberal Democratic State to ‘Control Unwanted Immigration’: Remigration in The Netherlands and Japan 1985-2011"
Michael Sharpe (York College/CUNY)

#14
"Shut Down Schools, Knock Down the Virus?"
Kentaro Fukumoto (Gakushuin University)

#15
"Elderly Identity and Trade Policy Preferences in an Aging Society: Evidence from Japan"
Yesola Kweon (Utah State University)

#16
"Taking Gains from Trade (More) Seriously: The Effects of Consumer Perspective on Free Trade in Contemporary Japan"
Yu Jin Woo (Waseda University)

#17
"Global Value Chains and Domestic Politics Response to Institution Building of International Trade"
Hiroki Takeuchi (Southern Methodist University)
As a PhD candidate at the University of Toronto’s Department of Political Science whose research explores Japan, I was very happy to see the launch of the Centre for the Study of Global Japan in 2017. Though I was in Japan conducting fieldwork for my dissertation (Shared Heuristics: How Organizational Culture Shapes Asylum Policy) funded by a generous fellowship offered by the Japan Foundation, I became involved in the CSGJ’s activities when I returned to Toronto the following year.

Upon completing my Ph.D., I was jubilant to become affiliated with the CSGJ and to have the opportunity to work with Professor Lipsy. While the CSGJ hosts many engaging events focused on Japanese society and politics, I have most enjoyed taking part in the Japanese Politics Online Seminar Series (JPOSS).

Initially launched as a virtual alternative to in-person workshops and conferences on Japanese politics, over the past year JPOSS has become a major forum for Japan scholars to present their research.

JPOSS is the only forum I have been a part of that enables experts and members of the public from around the world to discuss cutting-edge research in Japanese politics. The highly collegial environment combined with efficient organization and the norm of providing valuable constructive feedback rivals in-person academic conferences. Moreover, as an early-career scholar interested in Japanese politics, I found that presenting my own work on immigration to be rewarding.

The CSGJ has also been actively involved in exploring major policy questions facing Japan and other OECD countries. In this respect, I have been grateful to the staff at CSGJ and Professor Lipsy for supporting my own research on Japanese public attitudes during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Nicholas A. R. Fraser
Associate
Centre for the Study of Global Japan
Academic engagement with any contemporary social science query requires field research. Scholarship written in the quiet solitude of one’s favourite study space, whatever data is constructed and deployed, however crisp and tight the reasoning, requires confirmation in the world. How well are academic studies of Japan performing? What do we know? What needs more study?

With the closing of international borders, my strategic approach to getting on top of things was to place renewed faith in the brain.

Language learning is always fundamental. I had already buckled down before the pandemic. I studied with tutors in Tokyo and Toronto. Reading White Papers, newspapers or a political science study is a cinch, I thought. What about great novels, poetry, a Kabuki text, ideas or the unique essay style (zuihitsu) going back ten centuries or more? And what about all those subtle word and grammar changes I hear in the course of daily life in Japan?

In a period of energetic isolation my mind would become more muscular, more computer-like, with expanded memory-storage to accommodate the thousands of Kanji necessary to reach true fluency. No obscure grammatical or fuzzy use of particles would escape the processing power of my refreshed and subtle intellectual power, empowered by a vast array of language-learning books, and by a deluge of online materials written for both non-native and native speakers.

It turns out that scholars often differ among themselves about correct usage. Novelists use language in creative and unexpected ways. In a time of pandemic, medical-related Katakana words are drenching the land. Language is in flux.

The Covid-19 seclusion would allow me also to take up the cognitive challenge of catching up with the academic literature on Global Japan. Japan Studies flourishes in the humanities and social sciences.
State-of-the-field handbooks, companions to special subject areas, and edited collections help summarize the state of the art. New ideas, findings and explanations are often given birth in studies of Japan.

Digital initiatives and the proliferation of “Zoominars” engage researchers and academics and facilitate the speed with which new ideas and findings are diffused inside and outside Japan. Japanese scholars are making significant contributions to disciplinary thinking, well beyond what is being translated into the English language. It’s all but impossible to pay attention, to keep up to date, even to decide where the cutting edge might be. The modern brain is often overwhelmed.

Isolation has not meant complete loss of connection. There are plenty of newspapers online. TV Japan is a 24-hour Japanese-language television channel. NHK is my favourite. We are blessed by the great library collections at the University of Toronto and the Japan Foundation Office. Prowling the web in Japanese is an everlasting adventure for stories, ideas and events. But ‘virtual’ connections or print-based knowledge is no substitute for in-person contact. A lot is changing in Japan.

My strategic quest is still underway. It has been thrilling but also a bit misbegotten. The science writer Annie Murphy Paul asserts in her book entitled “The Extended Mind,” that in all forms of human cognition we need to recognize and expand the power of thinking outside the brain. The mind needs nourishing help in its cognitive toil. Our capacity to think is significantly “extra-neural.”

Her ideas are rooted in the findings of neuroscientists, cognitive psychologists, educators in various fields, famous authors, and creative artists among others. Humans need to think about how thinking and their own bodies are connected, about the nature of their physical and mental surroundings, about relations with others.

Her call to visit the “world,” by expanding “the power of thinking outside the brain” is an invitation to get back to Japan as soon as possible, with perhaps a different view of what is most important to observe and think about. It might help rescue your brain.

On October 23, 2020, Professor Rie Kijima was invited to present her insights about STEAM education and human resource development by the Japanese Cabinet Office committee on “Choosing the Future 2.0.” The session included expert members of the committee along with Minister of State for Economic and Fiscal Policy Nishimura Yasutoshi. They discussed the future of education, education equality, and the efforts to implement a more interdisciplinary STEM approach.

The minutes of the session are available at the Cabinet Office website (Japanese): https://www5.cao.go.jp/keizai2/keizai-syakai/future2/summary_14th.pdf

What legacy can we expect, following Abe’s ambitious agenda at home and abroad? His namesake “Abenomics” reforms sought to reinvigorate Japan’s economy through bold monetary and fiscal policy, while pursuing structural changes to areas like agriculture, corporate governance, energy, labor markets and women’s employment.

Abe also championed proactive leadership for Japan in the world, making significant changes to security policy and stepping up support for the liberal international order as traditional defenders such as the United States and the United Kingdom retreated. In our edited volume, The Political Economy of the Abe Government and Abenomics Reforms (Cambridge University Press), Takeo Hoshi and I argue that Abe took advantage of institutional changes in Japanese politics, establishing a new model of governance that his successors are likely to emulate.

Abe’s predecessors struggled to govern Japan

Japan’s political institutions underwent significant transitions over the past three decades. In 1994, lower-house electoral reform changed the incentives of Japanese politicians, placing greater emphasis on broad appeals to the median voter rather than the traditional focus on pork-barrel politics.

Administrative reforms starting in 1998 shifted power from the bureaucracy to politicians. The staff of the Cabinet Secretariat expanded threefold over the past 20 years, giving the prime minister greater independent capacity to formulate policy.

Until 2012, Japanese leaders struggled to exercise effective leadership under Japan’s new political institutions. Electoral reform in the lower house was not mirrored in the upper house, which made it difficult for parties to control both houses of the Diet, or parliament, while maintaining internal coherence. Governments of both Abe’s Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) were hampered alternatively by internecine struggles and divided government.

When Abe assumed power, Japan had seen a revolving door of six prime ministers lasting only about a year each — including Abe himself in 2006-2007. The only recent prime minister to achieve longevity was Koizumi Junichiro, but his approach — which relied on personal charisma and an orchestrated assault against his own party — was not replicable.

Abe came to power with a model to lead Japan

Abe sought to overcome these problems with three main strategies. First, he strove to maintain strong public support by pivoting to themes of Abenomics reform whenever his popularity waned, such as after passing controversial security legislation. His media strategy looked to shape popular narratives by limiting and controlling access to the prime minister, managing scandals quickly with an eye to the news cycle and pressing critical news outlets.

Second, Abe used elections as a mechanism to quell internal dissent and impose party discipline. The 2014 election set the tone, as Abe overcame opponents of a consumption-tax-hike postponement within the LDP and the Ministry of Finance by calling an election and scoring a public mandate.
His robust public support, which averaged close to 50 percent, made the threat of snap elections credible.

Third, Abe built on previous reforms by concentrating greater authority in the Cabinet Office and expanding control over personnel decisions in the bureaucracy. He also implemented a variety of practical measures to improve coordination and public messaging, such as the participation of his key lieutenants on the Diet Affairs Committee to coordinate legislative strategies.

On some goals, Abe came up short

Abe was unable to achieve his lifelong ambition of amending the Japanese constitution, despite requisite Diet supermajorities. This effort was stymied by lukewarm public support and the reluctance of Komeito, his coalition partner. Despite considerable efforts, he could not resolve the North Korean abduction of Japanese nationals or conclude a peace treaty with Russia. He sought to resolve the World War II-era “comfort women” issue “finally and irreversibly,” but it globalized, and relations with South Korea continued to deteriorate.

There were also important areas of omission. Despite shifting Japanese public opinion on social issues like same-sex marriage, dual citizenship and allowing married couples to use separate surnames, the Abe government resisted change. Abe’s policies on climate change were unambitious despite his green rhetoric. Journalists and the United Nations criticized Abe’s media strategy for compromising press freedom.

Abe also benefited from good fortune, such as the absence of major crises. A weak and divided opposition in an electoral system emphasizing single-member districts gave him a substantial structural advantage. His landslide victories came despite lukewarm public support for the LDP’s policy platform.

Abe’s coronavirus leadership got low marks from citizens

Abe’s response to the coronavirus pandemic presents an interesting conundrum. Japan’s initial response came relatively early. The government presciently emphasized high-risk situations, contact tracing and the use of masks early on, while the World Health Organization and Western authorities were providing conflicting advice. Japan avoided a full lockdown and recorded relatively few official cases and deaths — though such data should be interpreted with caution. Despite this, Japanese citizens gave Abe low marks for pandemic leadership, and his approval ratings fell to the lowest levels of his tenure in August.

What happened? The pandemic presented a perfect storm for Abe’s governance model. As his approval ratings slipped, Abe followed his standard playbook by pivoting to Abenomics growth themes. However, stimulus measures such as incentives for domestic travel proved counterproductive in the context of a contagious disease.

And Abe’s tight media strategy may have harmed his public standing by limiting direct communication to Japanese citizens during the crisis. Although Abe exercised strong authority over the central government, local governments in Japan retain considerable autonomy. The coronavirus put local governments at the front lines of response in areas like business closures and testing, giving political rivals a platform to criticize him.

Abe’s successors face the nontrivial task of heeding lessons, listening to critics, and improving on his model. The end of Abe’s rule may prompt debates about institutional rebalancing, such as strengthening the authority of Japan’s traditionally weak courts. Nonetheless, Abe will be remembered not only for his policies, but also for ushering in a new era in Japanese politics.

This piece originally appeared as “Japan’s prime minister is resigning. This is how Abe transformed Japanese politics” in The Monkey Cage at The Washington Post on September 3, 2020. https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2020/09/03/japans-prime-minister-is-resigning-this-is-how-abe-transformed-japanese-politics/
Vanessa Biklo is a 4th Year Political Science Specialist at U of T and was an integral part of the Centre as the Communications Assistant for the past year. Below is a reflection of her time at CSGJ.

“The Centre for the Study of Global Japan has fostered an ideal environment for scholars, students, policymakers, and the general public, to understand more about contemporary Japanese politics and foreign policy. During my time as the Communications Assistant with the Centre, I played an active role in promoting the Centre's inclusive approach to understanding contemporary Japan. I had the opportunity to learn from a diverse group of scholars who offered a wide range of perspectives and experiences about Japan and international politics. The Centre's interdisciplinary approach has inspired me to think more critically in the international context and engage in dialogues with diverse opinions.

As an active Student Affiliate with the Centre, the CSGJ staff and faculty have continued to be a source of support and guidance through my academic and professional journey. Events and Program Coordinator, Mio Otsuka, has been a reliable mentor, and friend, as I embark on my professional career. Professor Phillip Lipscy, Director of the Centre, has provided support and thoughtful advice as I continue to undertake various academic endeavors. Being a part of the Centre for the Study of Global Japan has helped prepare me to excel both as a student and an individual.”

Jenny Liu

Jenny Liu is a 4th Year student at U of T, double majoring in Political Science and Economics. She has joined CSGJ as a Communications Assistant for the Summer of 2021. She will be assisting with the Centre's efforts to creating an increased presence on social media platforms. We are also looking forward to her assistance in updating and maintaining our website.
MEET OUR STUDENT AFFILIATES

The students shared with us why they wanted to become a member of the CSGJ community.

Vanessa Biklo
4th Year
Political Science Specialist

"I took Professor Lipscy's class in my third year of University and I was immediately intrigued and fascinated by Japanese politics and culture. I wanted to become a student affiliate at CSGJ in order to learn more about Japan-Canada relations and Japanese politics, as well as create meaningful connections between faculty and other students."

Katie Bolissian
4th Year
Double Major in Political Science & Criminology

"I wanted to become an affiliate to encourage connections between professors and students within U of T, and to highlight many of the amazing free events that the Munk school throws that we have access to!"
MEET OUR STUDENT AFFILIATES

Christal Cheng
3rd Year
Specialist in International Relations, Minors in Contemporary Asian Studies, and Political Science

"I’ve always been drawn to the culturally, and historically diverse continent of Asia, especially East Asia. As the global landscape shifts eastward, I am interested in how Asian states are reinterpreting the international system, relations between Japan and its East Asian neighbours, as well as how the world is grappling with Asia’s rise. Becoming a CSGJ student affiliate not only would enhance my academic studies, but also allow me to be more engaged in the conversation pertaining to contemporary Japan."

Bailey Irene Midori Hoy
6th Year
History Specialist

"Being Japanese-Canadian, I’ve always been interested in the relationship between Japan and the world. After participating in the Kakehashi project last year, I was inspired to get further involved in the Centre and with like minded people!"
MEET OUR STUDENT AFFILIATES

Jenny Liu
4th Year
Double Major in Political Science and Economics

"In my third year, I took Professor Lipsy’s class on Japanese Politics. I was interested in that course because Japan was a special country for me. My father works in Japan and I used to stay in Osaka every summer to spend time with him. I had the chance to attend a seminar event hosted by CSGJ when I was taking the course. I was inspired by it and I got more interested in Japanese politics. I wanted to become a CSGJ student affiliate because I would like to attend more events like this to enhance my understanding of Japanese Politics."

Anvesh Jain
4th Year
Major in International Relations

"I wanted to become a CSGJ student affiliate to widen my understanding of Asian security dynamics (particularly Indo-Japanese, Sino-Japanese, and Korean-Japanese relations) and because I’ve been to Japan twice. I have a deep fondness for that country and want to better study its politics, people, and constitutional structure."
MEET OUR STUDENT AFFILIATES

"As a Japanese-American student, I want to understand Japan’s outlook and approach to many issues, which contrasts to the ‘Western’ perspective I have been taught."

Erica Matsui
2nd Year
Major in Diaspora Transnational Studies

"I wanted to join the CSGJ as a Student Affiliate because Japan has such an interesting political-economic history, and I am interested in exploring the nation’s contemporary challenges and successes through conversations with my peers and thought-provoking lectures and discussions."

Aisha Shafaqat
4th Year
Political Science Specialist at UTM
MEET OUR STUDENT AFFILIATES

Una Vulevic
1st Year
Double Major in Political Science and European Studies

"I’ve always been interested in Japan, from a cultural standpoint, but this year I’ve enjoyed getting to learn more about the country from a political/historical point of view in my courses."

Abena Somiah
3rd Year
Double Major in Contemporary Asian Studies and Diaspora and Transnational Studies with a minor in Political Science

"I heard about the Centre for the Study of Global Japan last year while taking POL380: Japanese Politics, and have been looking to get involved ever since! I am passionate about Japanese culture and I am looking forward to seeing how my involvement in the Centre will allow me to acquire more knowledge about Japan and its current issues."
"I’m eager to learn more about Japanese politics and East Asian international relations, especially how scholars are approaching current issues!"

Brian Wu
3rd Year
Double Major in International Relations and History

Become a Student Affiliate at the Centre for the Study of Global Japan

- Attend Invitation-Only Events
- Be Featured on the CSGJ Website and Social Media
- Opportunity to Publish Short Essays on the CSGJ Website
- Opportunity to Lead Future Student Initiatives Related to the Centre

Qualifications
- Current U of T Student
- Able to commit to attend at least two CSGJ public events per academic year
- Have taken or currently taking at least one course related to contemporary Japan at U of T (or equivalent) or participated in the Kakehashi exchange program
Nicholas A. Fraser


Deanna Horton


Rie Kijima


*Ranked in the first sextile of all applications


Rie Kijima, Scholar-in-Residence Program- Education Reformism, Jackman Institute for Humanities, University of Toronto, December 2020.


PHILLIP LIPSCY


Phillip Y. Lipscy. 2020. “Japan’s prime minister is resigning. This is how Abe transformed Japanese politics.” Washington Post (Monkey Cage), September 3.


Phillip Y. Lipscy and Mary M. McCarthy. 2021. “President Biden is hosting Japan’s prime minister in D.C. It’s a big deal for Japan — and the U.S.” Washington Post (Monkey Cage), April 15.


LOUIS W. PAULY


ITO PENG


Ito Peng, IRPP Special Feature Piece - “We can draw lessons from countries with strong long-term care systems”, June 5, 2020.


**ANDRE SORENSEN**

28 Events about Japan this academic year, including 11 CSGJ events and 17 JPOSS webinars.

25 countries represented in our global audience, including Canada, Japan, U.S., Australia, China, India, Thailand, U.K., France, Russia, Turkey and many more.

30 publications and presentations by CSGJ affiliates on a variety of topics related to Japan.

11 Student Affiliates joined the Centre and have quickly become an integral part of the CSGJ community.
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