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READ MORE:

Centre for the Study of Global Japan - A Year in Review

MUNK SCHOOL OF GLOBAL AFFAIRS
& PUBLIC POLICY

MESSAGE FROM
THE DIRECTOR - 1 - 3

PROGRAM / EVENT
HIGHLIGHTS - 4 - 7

KAKEHASHI PROJECT 2020 - 8

REFLECTIONS FROM
OUR AFFILIATES - 9 - 10

PUBLICATIONS - 11 - 12

REMEMBERING
OKAMOTO YUKIO - 13

ABOUT THE CENTRE - 14



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

This is the inaugural newsletter of the Centre for the Study of Global Japan. We plan to issue these newsletters on an annual basis to reflect on the activities of our Centre and affiliates during the academic year. We hope you find the information helpful, and we look forward to seeing you at our future events.

Since its establishment in 2017, our Centre has already become a vibrant place for the exchange of ideas and information about contemporary Japan. This is in great measure thanks to the leadership of interim director, Louis Pauly, who remains actively involved as a faculty affiliate. As inaugural director, I have sought to build on his efforts.

This year, we welcomed six new faculty affiliates to the Centre: Kenichi Ariga, Michael Donnelly, Deanna Horton, Rie Kijima, Ito Peng, and André Sorensen. Nicholas Fraser, who was actively involved in the Centre as a Ph.D. student at U of T, has completed his degree and joined us as an affiliate. I would like to extend a particularly warm welcome to Mio Otsuka, who is already doing spectacular work as the Centre's Events and Program Coordinator. Our affiliates are world-leading experts on the study of contemporary Japan, and we highlight some of their recent work below.



Mio Otsuka joined the CSGJ as the Events and Program Coordinator in January 2020. Mio has over 8 years of experience in administration roles in both Japan and Canada. Most recently, she was a part of the Recruitment Team for the English Language Program at U of T's School of Continuing Studies. She holds a Master of Education from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at U of T and a Bachelor of Arts from the International Christian University, Tokyo. She can be reached to assist you with any and all inquiries related to the Centre.



This year, our Centre organized thirteen events, of which four were unfortunately postponed due to the impact of Covid-19. The events covered a wide range of topics relevant to contemporary Japan, such as international security, climate change, macroeconomics, immigration, and voting behavior. We also organized a major symposium, “Innovations in Advancing Gender Equality.” We highlight several of these events below.

I have been continually impressed by the high turnout and active engagement from faculty, students, and the wider community at our events. It is inspiring to see so much interest in contemporary Japan from so many people!

In January, we began collaboration with the University of British Columbia on a joint project on Japan’s role in the liberal international order. In May, together with colleagues at Dartmouth, Harvard, New York University, and Yale, we launched the Japanese Politics Online Seminar Series, which will provide a virtual platform for the discussion of cutting-edge research on contemporary Japan.

Although physical events at the university are on a hiatus due to Covid-19, we are developing plans to continue our activities in the fall in a virtual format as needed. In the meantime, I wish you well in these challenging times and look forward to the day when we can convene again in person.

- Phillip Lipsky



Phillip Lipsky

Director, Centre for the Study of Global Japan

Professor Phillip Lipsky is the inaugural director of the Centre for the Study of Global Japan. He is an associate professor of political science and also the Chair in Japanese Politics and Global Affairs at the University of Toronto. Prior to this, he was at Stanford University, where he was actively involved in the Japan Program at the Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center. Professor Lipsky has published widely on Japanese politics and foreign policy. He co-edited a volume about the Democratic Party of Japan, Japan’s ruling party from 2009–2012, and he also has a forthcoming volume about the current Abe government. He is also an expert on international organizations, energy and climate change policy, and international political economy. His book, *Renegotiating the World Order: Institutional Change in International Relations*, was published from Cambridge University Press in 2017.



PROGRAM / EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

The Centre for the Study of Global Japan hosted a number of events throughout the year that attracted University of Toronto students, scholars, and those from the wider Toronto community.



Japan's 'Value Diplomacy' and the Rise of China

On November 21, 2019, CSGJ hosted its first official event of the year and welcomed renowned Japanese foreign policy expert Takako Hikotani. Professor Hikotani is Gerald L. Curtis Associate Professor of Modern Japanese Politics and Foreign Policy at Columbia University.

Professor Hikotani delivered a lecture about Japan's 'value diplomacy,' emphasizing the four values of universalism, developmentalism, Asianism, and pacificism. She also discussed recent shifts in Japanese policy in relation to the rise of China.

JAPAN NOW: China-Japan-US Trilateral Relationship and East Asia Order: History, Prospects, and Implications for Canada

On November 27, 2019, CSGJ hosted the latest installment of the JAPAN NOW lecture series. For this lecture, we welcomed Professor Ryo Sahashi, who is an Associate Professor of International Relations at the Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia at the University of Tokyo. Professor Sahashi discussed the shifting power balance and contemporary changes to the trilateral relationship among China, Japan, and the United States. He also discussed foreign policy implications for Canada. Professor Sahashi pointed out that the role of Japan and the United States had reversed somewhat in recent years. During the Obama administration, Japanese officials were frustrated by a limited US response to the rise of China. However, during the Trump administration and intensifying trade conflicts, Japan has reached out to China and sought better relations.



Would Japanese Voters Support Non-Japanese Candidates? Voting Experiments in Japan

On January 31, 2020, CSGJ hosted a talk on voting experiments in Japan delivered by Go Murakami, an Associate Professor from the College of Law at Ritsumeikan University in Japan. Professor Murakami presented his research on voting behaviour in Japan as it relates to the topic of ethnicity.



The question leading his research is, "Would Japanese voters support non-Japanese candidates?" in an election for public office. Professor Murakami explained his methodology, his reasoning for selecting Japan as an area of study, and discussed the importance and novelty of his research.

Security for Japan: Foreign Policy Challenges on the Korean Peninsula



On February 13, 2020, CSGJ hosted a talk by Junya Nishino, Professor, Department of Political Science, Faculty of Law and Politics, Keio University in Tokyo, Japan. He also serves as Director of the Center for Contemporary Korean Studies at Keio University. Professor Nishino delivered a presentation on Japan's "three-pillared" approach to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), an approach that includes engagement and dialogue, unilateral sanctions, and the 'defense triangle' together with the United States and South Korea. Professor Nishino emphasized the need for a stronger relationship between South Korea and Japan in order to confront the threat emanating from the DPRK, and he discussed some of the barriers that might impede the formation of such a relationship. The lecture was followed by a lively Q&A session that was moderated by Professor Rie Kijima, affiliated faculty with the Centre.

Japan's Abenomics Reforms After Seven Years

On Wednesday, February 26, 2020 CSGJ invited Professor Takeo Hoshi from the Graduate School of Economics, University of Tokyo, Japan. Professor Hoshi is the former Henri and Tomoye Takahashi Senior Fellow at the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies (FSI), Professor of Finance (by courtesy) at the Graduate School of Business, and Director of the Japan Program at the Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center (APARC), all at Stanford University. He brought his expertise to deliver a talk on Japan's Abenomics Reforms. His talk posed important questions around the success of Abenomics and what types of challenges are yet to be addressed. He explained how the Japanese economy suffered from both demand shortages and structural problems before the policy and how Abenomics is a mixture of demand stimulus and structural reforms. Professor Hoshi claims that the policy has made substantial progress toward solving the demand shortages. However, structural reforms have been limited, and thus there is more work to be done.



Japan: Climate Change Leader?

On March 4th, 2020, CSGJ held a talk in order to address the question of whether or not Japan can reemerge as a climate change leader. This panel was moderated by Professor Matthew Hoffman, Professor of Political Science, University of Toronto, with lectures provided by Professor Phillip Lipsky, Associate Professor of Political Science and Director of the Centre for the Study of Global Japan, University of Toronto, and Mari Yoshitaka, a leading expert in environment business and environment finance who has served on numerous Japanese government policy committees. Mari is Chief Environmental & Social Strategist for the Environmental Strategy Advisory Division at Mitsubishi UFJ Morgan Stanley Securities Co., Ltd. and also is a Lecturer in the Graduate School of Media and Governance at Keio University, Tokyo, Japan. Through their talks, the attendees had the opportunity to learn about climate change politics in Japan and gain insight regarding the country's climate resilience, energy security challenges and action plans for reemerging as a leader in climate change.

Innovations in Advancing Gender Equality Symposium



A symposium to commemorate this year's International Women's Day was held at the University of Toronto on March 3rd, 2020. This special symposium brought together a distinguished group of scholars, policymakers, and business leaders who are at the forefront of studying and promoting gender equality. The event highlighted innovative efforts to advance gender equality in Japan, Canada, and in a global context and was co-hosted by the Centre for the Study of Global Japan and the Rotman School of Management in collaboration with the Consulate-General of Japan in Toronto.



Sonia Kang
Associate Professor
University of Toronto



Daisuke Kan
Executive Director
Cheerio Corporation Co., LTD.



Rie Kijima
Assistant Professor
University of Toronto



Engaged Audience @ Fleck Atrium



Elizabeth Buckner
Assistant Professor
University of Toronto



Stephanie Dei
UN Women National Co-ordinator
WE EMPOWER Canada



Edward Wageni
Program Manager
UN Women HeForShe



Aya Okada
Professor
Nagoya University



Ito Takako
Consul-General of Japan in Toronto

Event summary available at :

<https://csgj-munkschool.exposure.co/innovations-in-advancing-gender-equality?source=share-csgj-munkschool>

KAKEHASHI PROJECT 2020



The Kakehashi exchange program — supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and facilitated by the Centre for the Study of Global Japan, Department of East Asian Studies and the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada — aims to build connections between the participants and increase their understanding of each other's cultures, peoples and politics. In February, a total of 24 undergraduate and graduate students from the University of Toronto travelled to Japan as part of the Kakehashi Project to deepen friendship between Canada and Japan. Participating students lived with Japanese families during their stay, attended university lectures, met with heads of industry and government, and visited rural communities and World Heritage sites.

"My most memorable experience from the program was watching the sunrise with my host family and fellow participants on the shores of Minamisanriku. The incredible experiences I shared with otousan and okaasan, in addition to the laughs I had with my homestay sisters, was a true moment of Ichigo ichie."

- Bailey Irene Midori Hoy, Kakehashi Project Participant



"My participation in this program has really given me great introduction to Japan, incredible immersion into the culture and more understanding of important political affairs. (...) I hope other students in the future would have the opportunity to take part in the Kakehashi Project as it is a life-changing experience. I know I had a wonderful impression on Japan and a desire to learn more about the culture in the future." - Judy Hu, Kakehashi Project Participant



REFLECTIONS FROM OUR AFFILIATES

We are living in the midst of the most terrifying global health crisis in our time. The infectious disease touches virtually every aspect of human life. The economic recession, which quickly followed the outbreak of the pandemic in many nations, threatens the livelihoods of millions of people.

Government policies dealing with the crisis vary from country, sub-national region and city. The scale, pace and social depth of the crisis do not allow easy description.

No single discipline promises certain explanation of how a maze of causal factors, from medical to political, interact to shape a national crisis in which fundamental purposes of Government – health and economic life – are at stake.

The overall response to the coronavirus in Japan can be described as “pragmatic, reactive improvisation.” Prime Minister Abe is undoubtedly the nation’s leader, the most powerful and accountable politician in Government.

Policy responses to the crisis are not a case study of deliberate, gradual incrementalism within established institutional routines and jurisdictions. Policy-making has not fallen into set policy arenas even as they are inseparable policy areas and fundamental to the purposes of modern Government.

The Prime Minister created a “Novel Coronavirus Response Headquarters” within the Cabinet Office and a bit later a “Novel Coronavirus Expert Meeting” to provide medical advice on the crisis.

Many commentators proclaim the Abe Administration has been slow, indecisive, and simply out of touch with society. Others are more generous, citing standard metrics regarding infection rates, hospitalizations, deaths and other quantitative figures.

Science is taken seriously. The Expert Meeting with its scientific expertise, often has more heft in decisions than any committees of the Diet, the LDP, or Government Ministry. Even at the top of the pyramid of political power, the Prime Minister and his close advisors have to bend to its scientific findings. The advisory discussion is reasonably public, transparent, and disseminated on-line in detail.



Professor Michael Wade Donnelly is Professor Emeritus of Political Science and Dr. David Chu Professor Emeritus of Asia Pacific Studies, University of Toronto. In 2014 the Government of Japan conferred on Professor Donnelly the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon, for his contributions to teaching, scholarship, academic program development, and cultural exchanges linking Canada and Japan.

For now, the country has stemmed and reduced viral spread without heavy Government restrictions. Social and economic compliance is politely requested and reasonably forthcoming: avoid closed places with poor ventilation, crowded places with many people nearby, and close-contact settings such as conversations. Indeed, proposed elements of new “life style” have been propagated for after restrictions on behavior have been lifted.

Emergency economic measures approved by the Diet in April amounted to over 20 percent of the country’s GDP, perhaps the largest economic stimulus in Japanese history. The categories of support include individuals, households, microbusinesses, and small-medium industries and include a vast array of grants, loans, subsidies, payment deferrals and exemptions of various kinds.

Still, not all of the country is pleased by policies of “pragmatic, reactive improvisation.” The Prime Minister’s standing in public opinion polls has declined in the past few months.

It is often assumed that coercion is a major characteristic of political life. As John Rawls reminded us “political power is always coercive power.” The Japan story suggests that politics can also be, as T. M. Scanlon suggests, about “What we owe to each other.” For members of a political community relationships depend not simply on political power and private advantage. Perhaps at the core of Japan and the Pandemic is a search for new conception of the Common Good, a search for what claims people can make on each other in a decent society.



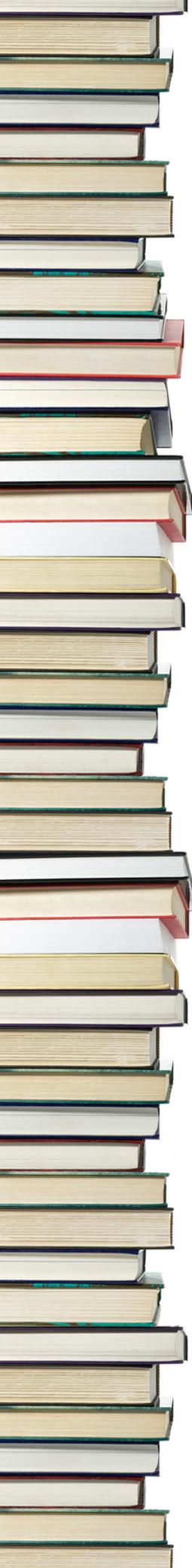
Professor Seung

Hyok Lee was lecturer in the Department of Political Science at the University of Toronto and interim program coordinator of the Centre for the Study of Global Japan in 2019. We thank him for his intellectual and administrative contributions to the Centre and wish him the best in Sendai.

I have just started my new position as an associate professor at Tohoku Gakuin University in Sendai, after some delay due to the current pandemic. It is hard to believe that I was still in Canada only half a year ago, working as the interim program coordinator of CSGJ.

Looking back, I am glad that I was able to witness first-hand CSGJ becoming an important hub of Japan studies in Canada under the leadership of the Inaugural Director Phillip Lipsy, and with the support of many friends all over the world. Although the length of time I spent as coordinator was brief, I am proud that I took part in helping the centre during this important consolidating phase. I am also grateful that I was able to gain important administrative experience before moving to a Japanese university, since universities here are well-known for expecting faculty members to assume extensive administrative tasks!

Currently, I am teaching online courses to encourage my Japanese students primarily from the Tohoku region to look outward, and to become more engaged in thinking about global affairs. Surely, the desire of many people to internationalize the region will face hardships in the coming years, and I look forward to my new role as a witness to this watershed period. Someday, I would be happy to share my thoughts on how the current pandemic ends up affecting the trajectory of Tohoku’s future in this regard.



PUBLICATIONS

Below are some recent and upcoming publications from the Affiliates of CSGJ.

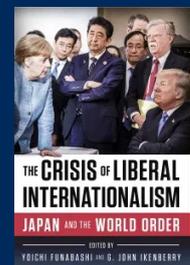
Deanna Horton – “Seeking a New Way: Canada in the Post-Pandemic Era”, June 16, 2020.



Rie Kijima, Invited presentation – “Empowering Girls - Design Thinking and STEAM Learning,” Madeleine Korbel Albright Institute for Global Affairs, Wellesley College, 2020.

Rie Kijima – “Japanese Women Shaping a Better Future”, 2020.

Phillip Y. Lipsky. 2020. “Reformist Status Quo Power: Japan’s Approach toward International Organizations.” In G. John Ikenberry and Yoichi Funabashi eds. *The Crisis of Liberal Internationalism: Japan and the World Order*, Brookings Institution Press.



Trevor Incerti and Phillip Y. Lipsky. 2020. “The Energy Politics of Japan.” In Kathleen J. Hancock and Juliann Emmons Allison eds. *Oxford Handbook on Energy Politics*. Oxford University Press.

Ito Peng, Invited presentation – “The care economy and migration in Asia: an East Asian perspective”, Workshop on Intra-regional Migration, Gender and the Care Economy: policies, institutions and organizational actors, Waseda University, November 5, 2019.



Ito Peng, IRPP special features piece – “We can draw lessons from countries with strong long-term care systems”, June 05, 2020.

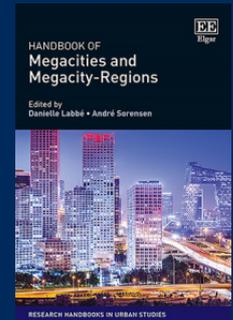


André Sorensen. 2019. “Tokaido Megalopolis: lessons from a shrinking mega-conurbation”. *International Planning Studies*, 24(1), 23-39.



Danielle Labbé & André Sorensen (Eds.), *International Handbook on Megacities and Megacity-regions*. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar.

André Sorensen. 2020. (forthcoming). "Urbanization and Developmental Pathways: Critical Junctures of Urban Transition". In D. Labbé & A. Sorensen (Eds.), *International Handbook on Megacities and Megacity-regions*. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar.



David Welch. 2019. "It's time to think boldly about Canada–Japan security cooperation". *International Journal*, 74(3), 445–452.





Remembering Okamoto Yukio (1946-2020)

We have lost a great friend. Okamoto Yukio has been our friend for many years and helped us establish the Centre for the Study of Global Japan. He passed away recently after contracting Covid-19.

Mr. Okamoto had a long, distinguished career in Japan's diplomatic corps. Among the many prominent officials he mentored over the years were Ito Takako, the current Consul General of Japan in Toronto and her predecessor, Nakayama Yasunori. After he left the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1991, he built a successful private-sector consulting firm, served as a special advisor to two prime ministers, and held distinguished research and teaching positions at Ritsumeikan University, Tohoku University, and MIT.

In March 2016, Mr. Okamoto came to Toronto to give a lecture in the Asian Institute's Japan NOW Series. A bridge builder between the United States and Japan for many decades, it was clear that he understood very well the importance of strong bilateral relations with Canada and the depth of economic and security interdependence between North America and Japan.

He became a keen supporter of the idea of helping us establish a new foundation for the study of Japanese politics and diplomacy in the Munk School and the Department of Political Science. Similar initiatives had already been supported at Columbia, MIT, and Georgetown. Our Centre would not have been inaugurated in 2017 without his wise advice and counsel.

We visited Mr. Okamoto in Tokyo last October. He was in good spirits and keenly interested in policy developments across the Pacific as well as globally. He was very much looking forward to accepting a standing invitation to visit us again in Toronto soon. We join his many friends in expressing our sorrow at his untimely passing. He will be sorely missed.

Phillip Lipsy and Louis Pauly
Centre for the Study of Global Japan
University of Toronto

ABOUT THE CENTRE

"My goal is to make our Centre the first place scholars, students, policymakers, and the general public seek out to understand more about contemporary Japan."

— Phillip Lipsky,
Director

Established on July 1, 2017 on the basis of a generous gift from the Government of Japan, the Centre for the Study of Global Japan facilitates research, teaching, and public outreach about contemporary Japan. Within the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, it helps develop research networks, convenes lectures and workshops, hosts guest researchers, and seeks out new opportunities for faculty and student exchange between Canada and Japan. The Centre aims to deepen understanding between two G-7 partners on global issues and policy challenges.



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