

CENTRE FOR
THE STUDY OF
GLOBAL JAPAN

munkschool
OF GLOBAL AFFAIRS & PUBLIC POLICY



JULY 2023 - ISSUE 4

**CENTRE FOR
THE STUDY OF
GLOBAL JAPAN:
A YEAR IN
REVIEW**



Table of Contents

- 2 Message from the Director
- 5 Program and Event Highlights
- 11 Japanese Politics Online Seminar Series
- 13 G7 in Japan
- 17 Initiative for Education Policy and Innovation
- 20 Reflections from Our Affiliates
- 31 Reflections from the Kakeshashi Trip
- 34 Kakeshashi Academic Day
- 35 Hachioji Higashi High School Learning Trip
- 36 CSGJ Student Affiliates 2022-23
- 38 Student Affiliate Spotlights
- 43 Publications and Presentations
- 48 Contact Us



Message from the Director

I hope this letter finds you well. The 2022-2023 academic year marked the 5th year anniversary of the Centre for the Study of Global Japan. Although our Centre is relatively new, we have already developed a thriving intellectual community and continue to expand the scope of our programming. This is all thanks to the affiliates, students, supporters, and engaged audience members who enrich our Centre and facilitate our wide-ranging activities, some of which we summarize in this newsletter. Thank you to all of you!

This academic year marked the full return of in-person activities at the University of Toronto. Our Centre also conducted most of our activities in-person while selectively holding virtual and hybrid events to continue engaging with our global audience.



**Phillip
Lipsky**”

People-to-people exchange is core to our Centre’s mission: we are so happy to inspire a new generation of students and create essential connections that will form the bedrock of deepening Canada-Japan ties.

“

We were particularly thrilled to resume in-person student exchanges. This included the Kakehashi project, which saw our students traveling to Japan and hosting a reciprocal Japanese delegation at University of Toronto. People-to-people exchange is core to our Centre's mission: we are so happy to inspire a new generation of students and create essential connections that will form the bedrock of deepening Canada-Japan ties. You will see some of the inspiring reflections by our students below.

This year, our Centre hosted 14 public events as part of our own event series. One highlight was the U7+ conference in advance of the Hiroshima G7 Summit, which featured a variety of prominent speakers and culminated in a meeting between University of Toronto President Meric Gertler and Prime Minister Kishida Fumio in Tokyo. The Initiative for Education Policy and Innovation, directed by Rie Kijima, was formally inaugurated this year, and it has substantially expanded the scope and breadth of our programming. We are deeply grateful to Richard and Satoko Ingram of the Newton Foundation for their generosity and vision in supporting this initiative. We also co-hosted 8 events as part of the Japanese Politics Online Seminar Series, our virtual collaboration with colleagues at Columbia, Dartmouth, Harvard, NYU, and Yale. You can read more about the full range of our events below.

Within the academy, some colleagues sometimes ask me, "Why study Japan?" Three decades ago, Japan's importance seemed self-evident: the country had grown rapidly to become the second largest economy in the world, and scholars and policymakers alike sought to better understand Japanese political, economic, and cultural institutions.

Today, the case for studying Japan is different but no less compelling. Japan is a dynamic leader in various areas, such as geo-economic strategy, public transportation infrastructure, and robotics. Aside from this, Japan often experiences many challenges before others in the international system and can offer valuable lessons for other countries. I recently published an article on this topic in the Japanese Journal of Political Science titled “Japan: The Harbinger State,” and offer some additional thoughts in a column below.

Our Centre has a spectacular group of enthusiastic student affiliates who contribute actively to our events, programming, and social media. If you are a University of Toronto student interested in Japan, please consider joining us by reaching out to Sophie Bourret-Klein, our wonderful Events and Program Coordinator (csgj.munk@utoronto.ca). We would love to have you join our community!

We look forward to seeing you at our events in the coming academic year and many more to come.

Phillip Lipsy
Director, CSGJ
July 2023

Program and Event Highlights

- July 13, 2022

Shinzo Abe and the Future of Japanese Politics



[WATCH FULL WEBINAR.](#)

In this talk, panelists discussed the legacy of Japan's longest serving Prime Minister, Shinzō Abe, and implications for the future of Japanese politics. The panelists included CSGJ director Phillip Y. Lipsky, Tobias Harris, senior fellow for Asia at the Center for American Progress, and Deanna Horton, senior fellow at the Munk School and global fellow at the Wilson Center in Washington DC. The panel was moderated by Peter Loewen, director of the Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy.

- September 19, 2022

Maritime Security Issues in Asia and Japan's Security Policy



[WATCH FULL WEBINAR.](#)

This talk analyzed the evolution of China's domestic administration system regarding the sea. Following the presentation by Chisako T. Masuo (Kyushu University), the panelists Jonathan Berkshire Miller (Japan Institute of International Affairs), Eric Heginbotham (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), and Phillip Lipsky (University of Toronto) discussed ways in which Japan's security policy should be aligned with the drastic changes in maritime security in Asia. This event was co-sponsored by the Consulate General of Japan in Toronto.

- September 30, 2022

The U.S.-Japan Alliance and Taiwan



During the first in-person event of the year, Adam Liff (Indiana University Bloomington and Brookings Institution) examined the historical evolution of Japanese perspectives on the potential roles of the U.S.-Japan security alliance and the Japan Self Defense Force in a Taiwan contingency. The event was co-sponsored by the East Asia Seminar Series of the Asian Institute. Diana Fu (University of Toronto) introduced the speaker, and Phillip Lipsy (University of Toronto) moderated the event.

- November 03, 2022

Destruction from Above: Contemporary Socioeconomic Legacies of the Tokyo Air Raids



Daniel M. Smith (Columbia University) delivered a presentation about his forthcoming publication, which began with the central research question: does war enhance or impede the long-term community level development of social capital? Smith concluded by stating that his findings have implications for not only understanding the long-term effects of destructive events, but also for aiming to prevent social inequities from taking root in the aftermath of future wars. Following the presentation, there was a lively question and answer period.

- November 14, 2022

The Politics of the Kishida Cabinet in the Post-Abe Era



[WATCH FULL WEBINAR.](#)

Takako Hikotani (Gakushuin University), Rieko Kage (University of Tokyo), David Leheny (Waseda University), Kenneth McElwain (University of Tokyo), and Andrew Horvat (University of British Columbia) delivered remarks about the Kishida government, with Yves Tiberghien (University of British Columbia) and Phillip Y. Lipsky (University of Toronto) moderating. This event was co-sponsored by the UBC Centre for Japanese Research and the University of Tokyo's ISS Methodology of Social Sciences Project.

- November 18, 2022

Special Duty: A History of the Japanese Intelligence Community



The Centre for the Study of Global Japan welcomed Richard J Samuels (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) to deliver a talk about his book, "Special Duty: A History of the Japanese Intelligence Community." Samuels discussed the evolution of Japan's intelligence community, the impacts of major global events like the Cold War on Japan's intelligence establishment, subsequent reforms, and the state of play today. The event was moderated by Phillip Lipsky.

- January 27, 2023

Digital China Effect: Belt and Road Initiative and cyber protectionism in emerging countries



How does China's system of governance, which has achieved rapid economic growth through a one-party system, impact other countries? In this talk, Asei Ito (University of Tokyo) examined this "China Effect," with a particular focus on the global progress of digitalisation in the 2010s and cyber protectionism. This event was co-sponsored by the Asian Institute and Belt & Road in Global Perspective.

- February 28, 2023

Remapping Global Education in Japan



[WATCH FULL WEBINAR.](#)

Panelists reflected on both historical examples of global education reform and the future of inquiry-based learning for youth in Japan. Rie Kijima (University of Toronto) hosted and started the event with opening remarks. Gary Mukai (Stanford University), Kazuaki Iwabuchi (Tokyo Metropolitan University), Keiko Okawa (Keio University), Kenshiro Hama (Kyoto Prefecture) all delivered speeches on Japan's internationalization reform in the education sphere as a prime case study to discern the possibilities and challenges faced when changing curriculums. Following the panel discussion, there was a lively question and answer period with viewers from around the globe. The event was co-sponsored by the Consulate General of Japan in Toronto.

- March 01, 2023

Varieties of New Labor Politics: Comparing Employment Policy Reforms in Japan and South Korea



Juyoung An (Ryukoku University) delivered a presentation comparing employment policy reforms in Japan and South Korea, arguing that Japan's traditional membership models are still entrenched, and there is less strike action compared to South Korea. An answered audience questions concerning the demographics of public opinion towards the gig economy, why labor strikes are more common in South Korea than in Japan, and how the notion of union membership will continue to shift in both countries. The event was co-sponsored by the Centre for the Study of Korea.

- March 08, 2023

Political Reform Betrayed in Japan



Toshi Shinkawa (Hosei University) delivered a presentation about attempts by successive Japanese governments to implement political reforms. Shinkawa opened his presentation by reviewing historical attempts by Japanese governments to reform the political system. The talk concluded with Shinkawa's assessment that political reform attempts in Japan have ushered in an era of stagnant politics and futile democracy instead of the revitalization once promised. Shinkawa answered questions about top Liberal Democratic Party leaders, why smaller political parties have been unable to form strong alliances, and how the political opinions of younger Japanese citizens are shifting from historical norms. The Centre for Global Social Policy co-sponsored this event.

- March 27, 2023



[WATCH FULL WEBINAR.](#)

Canada-Japan Relations: A Historic Turning Point?

A panel of experts discussed the historical relationship between Canada and Japan and whether we are witnessing a turning point for diplomatic ties. The event marked the 5th year anniversary of the Centre for the Study of Global Japan and was graciously co-sponsored by the Consulate General of Japan in Toronto. Phillip Lipsky (University of Toronto) opened the event, and Louis Pauly (University of Toronto) moderated. Takuya Sasayama (Consul-General of Japan), Yuichi Hosoya (Keio University), David Welch (University of Waterloo), and Rie Kijima (University of Toronto) presented remarks on the topic and engaged in a lively Q&A session.

- March 27, 2023



Canada's Indo-Pacific Strategy: What Does it Mean?

An expert panel gathered to discuss Canada's recently published Indo-Pacific strategy. Janice Stein (University of Toronto) and Kim Nossal (Queen's University) discussed what they believe the significance of the Indo-Pacific Strategy is and how it will shape Canadian relations with countries in the region. Panelists discussed whether there is a distinctive 'Canadian' approach to the Indo-Pacific region, Canada's response to the changing security landscape of the region, and recent reports suggesting that Canada could be seeking a "Quad"-like diplomatic framework with Japan, South Korea, and the United States. This event was co-sponsored by The Bill Graham Centre for Contemporary International History.

JPOSS WEBINARS



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. Lipsky (University of Toronto), and Daniel M. Smith (Columbia University). The late Frances Rosenbluth (Yale) was also a co-organizer until 2022. Administrative support is provided by the staff of Harvard University's Program on U.S.-Japan Relations, and Jiajia Zhou (University of Toronto) writes the event summaries.

Introduction - Conspiracy theories in Japan

- Conspiracy theory-driven demonstrations in Japan
 - Who were they? What drove them to the streets?



Nationally Prioritized Migrant Groups and Public Perception

Evidence from Framing & Conjoint Experiments in East Asia

Jaehyun Song Yujin Woo

Kansai University, Hitotsubashi University

June 9/10, 2022

JPOSS WEBINARS

#32

THE POLITICS OF OMOTE AND NAISHO: PERFORMATIVE COMPLIANCE AND SPACES OF IMPUNITY IN MEIJI JAPAN

- *Reo Matsuzaki (Trinity College)*

#33

FOLLOWING PEERS AND COMPETITORS: HOW BUSINESS MANAGERS EVALUATE FIRM WITHDRAWALS FROM RUSSIA

- *Christina Davis (Harvard University)*

#34

THE PRETTY PRAGMATIC PUBLIC: JAPANESE PUBLIC OPINION DURING THE AFGHANISTAN EVACUATION

- *Yusaku Horiuchi (Dartmouth College)*
- *Atsushi Tago (Waseda University)*

#35

JAPAN: THE HARBINGER STATE

- *Phillip Y. Lipsky (University of Toronto)*

#36

SHOW ME THE MONEY: EXPLAINING FISCAL CAPACITY BUILDING IN LATE 16TH CENTURY JAPAN

- *Austin Mitchell (University of Tokyo)*
- *Weiwen Yin (University of Macau)*

#37

GOOD NEWS OR BAD NEWS? POLITICAL SOCIAL MEDIA MESSAGING DURING THE TOKYO OLYMPICS

- *Etienne Gagnon (University of Tokyo)*

#38

COMPARATIVE ONE-PARTY RULE: JAPAN AND MEXICO COMPARED

- *Hiroki Takeuchi (Southern Methodist University)*
- *Keely McNeme (Southern Methodist University)*

#39

MODERATING ROLE OF COUNTRY-OF-ORIGIN STEREOTYPES ON ATTITUDES TOWARDS IMMIGRANTS

- *Boyoon Lee (Vanderbilt University)*



G7 IN JAPAN

On February 15, 2023, the Centre for the Study of Global Japan at the University of Toronto co-hosted a public symposium, “Prospects and Possibilities for Japan’s G7 Summit 2023: How Can Universities Contribute?” The event brought together leading thinkers to consider how universities could contribute to the Hiroshima G7 meeting, which took place later in May 2023. The event was organized jointly with the Initiative for Education Policy and Innovation, Office of the Vice-President, International, G7 Research Group, the Asian Institute, and the U7+ Alliance, a global coalition of university presidents committed to taking concrete, collective action to address global challenges.

Phillip Lipsy (Director of the Centre for the Study of Global Japan), opened the event by welcoming attendees and delivering a land acknowledgment. This was followed by further opening remarks by Meric Gertler (President of the University of Toronto), Madeline Koch (Executive Director of the G7 Research Group), and Phillip Lipsy.



A keynote address was delivered by Japanese Ambassador to Canada, H.E. Yamanouchi Kanji, who noted the critical role University of Toronto had played 35 years earlier as host of the 1988 G7 meeting in Canada. He observed how much the world had changed between the previous G7 meeting hosted by Japan in 2016 and 2023, including major developments such as the war in Ukraine, COVID-19, rapid technological advancement in areas like artificial intelligence, and the adoption of net-zero commitments by major countries. He argued that the single most important objective of the Hiroshima G7 Summit would be to express solidarity behind the significance of the free and open international order based upon the rule of law. It would also be critical to reach out to countries of the global south and enlist their support. He noted that the location of the summit in Hiroshima would be important in sending a message about aspirations toward nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. He also highlighted the deepening cooperation between Canada and Japan to address global challenges, as reflected in the Canadian Indo-Pacific Strategy and Japan's National Security Strategy as well as various bilateral initiatives to strengthen collaboration. He closed by expressing hope that universities will continue to foster innovative solutions to global problems through research, communication, and education.



David Morrison, Canadian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and G7 Sherpa, followed up the Ambassador's remarks by offering a Canadian perspective. He noted that although the economic weight of G7 countries has declined, they still retain important agenda setting power on global issues. An important example was Canada's proposal to create a Gender Equality Advisory Council as hosts of the 2018 G7 meeting, which has now become a permanent feature. He also pointed out that the G7 can play a big coordination role during times of crises, which has been critical in responding to the war in Ukraine. He expressed hope that universities will contribute to the G7 by identifying long-term issues and gaps in the agenda, communicating early with host countries to shape the priorities of future meetings, and helping to compensate for the lack of a G7 secretariat by communicating G7 priorities and values, particularly to countries in the global south.

The second session of the symposium focused on key issues in G7 global governance. Louis Pauly (J. Stefan Dupré Distinguished Professor of Political Economy at the University of Toronto and former Interim Director of the Centre for the Study of Global Japan), chaired the session. The panelists were Satoshi Ezoë (Director, Global Health Strategy Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Japan), Miranda Schreurs (Chair, Climate and Environmental Policy, Bavarian School of Public Policy, Technical University of Munich), and David Welch (University Research Chair, University of Waterloo and Balsillie School of International Affairs). The panelists discussed issues such as the global health architecture in the aftermath of COVID-19, climate change policy in light of the energy security challenges created by the war in Ukraine, and the future of the world order along with potential flashpoints, such as Taiwan and the South China Sea.



The third session focused on innovation, education, and human capital as important priorities for the G7 as well as a major area in which universities can make an important contribution. The session was chaired by Rie Kijima (Assistant Professor at University of Toronto and Director, Initiative for Education Policy and Innovation at the Centre for the Study of Global Japan). The panelists were Keiko Honda (former CEO of the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency and Adjunct Professor, Columbia School of International and Public Affairs), Moussa Blimpo (Assistant Professor, Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy), and Elizabeth Buckner (Assistant Professor, Ontario Institute of Studies in Education, University of Toronto). The panelists covered topics such as how education can support diversity and inclusion in the workplace, scaling up the role of G7 universities to overcome education challenges in the global south, and how to reestablish the legitimacy of G7 countries to speak out on global issues.

The second keynote of the symposium was delivered by Ron Daniels, the President of Johns Hopkins University. Drawing on his book, *What Universities Owe Democracy*, Daniels emphasized the role universities play in sustaining democratic norms during a period of global democratic backsliding. He observed that autocrats sometimes more readily recognize the importance of universities, citing the expulsion of Central European University by Viktor Orbán in Hungary. He observed that both liberal democracies and universities place a premium on freedom of speech and thought, tolerance for dissent, and the free flow of information and ideas. He argued that universities should refocus their attention on educating students in the values, virtues, and philosophical foundations of liberal democracy and presented some of the initiatives he has implemented at Johns Hopkins in support of these objectives.



The fourth session of the symposium focused on how external actors can engage and influence the G7 agenda, with an eye to elevating the role of the U7+ Alliance as a mechanism through which universities can shape the course of future policymaking.

The session was chaired by Gwen Burrows (Assistant Vice-President, International Engagement & Impact, University of Toronto) and included the following panelists: Christopher Sands (Director, Wilson Center Canada Institute), Atsuko Miwa (Co-Chair, W7 Japan 2023), Jean-Christophe Martin (Director, Institute of Peace and Development, Université Côte d'Azur; UNESCO Chair: Peace and Development through Law), Jonathan Fried (Senior Advisor with Bennett Jones, LLP and the Albright Stonebridge Group), Joseph Wong (Roz and Ralph Halbert Professor of Innovation, Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy; Vice-President, International, University of Toronto), and Motohiro Tsuchiya (Vice-President for Global Engagement, Keio University). The session featured a lively debate on topics such as: How can universities contribute to addressing global challenges through multilateral governance? How can the U7+ become a more influential player in the G7 process? Given the specific priorities and possibilities for 2023, how can universities contribute? Joe Wong concluded the symposium with a summary of his observations and an agenda for the future.

Following the symposium, University of Toronto President Meric Gertler traveled to Tokyo and presented the U7+ Tokyo Statement on Peace and Security to Prime Minister Kishida Fumio, encouraging political leaders to leverage the power of education and research in the global mission to advance peace and security. The Centre for the Study of Global Japan thanks the participants, co-hosts, and audience members that made this event a great success.



Initiative for Education Policy and Innovation

We are delighted to bring you the latest news and achievements from the Initiative for Education Policy and Innovation (IEPI). Launched in July 2022 with a generous gift from The Newton Foundation, IEPI is committed to driving education reform in Japan and beyond through evidence-based policy initiatives with global impact.

IEPI's mission is to accelerate:

1. Research on education reform;
2. Understanding the role of education in sustainable human development, equity, and inclusion globally;
3. Intellectual exchange to advance innovative solutions to contemporary policy challenges, with a particular focus on Japan.

It has been an exceptional first year of operations for IEPI. We are thrilled to share some highlights from this year!

U7/G7 Event leading up to the Hiroshima Conference

IEPI co-sponsored and hosted the G7/U7 Event at the University of Toronto, along with the support of University of Toronto's Centre for the Study of Global Japan and G7 Research Group, the University 7+ Alliance, and the University of Toronto's Asian Institute.

We organized a panel on education which included Professor Keiko Honda from Columbia University, School of International and Public Affairs, previously CEO of the World Bank's Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), Professor Moussa Blimpo, Assistant Professor at the Munk School, and Professor Elizabeth Buckner, Canada Research Chair in Higher Education for Sustainable Global Development. This culminated in U of T President Meric Gertler presenting the U7+ Tokyo Statement to Prime Minister Kishida.

Participation in Global Ideas Institute organized as a trilateral partnership between UTS, OISE, and the Munk School

In April, Dr. Kijima had the privilege of serving as the Challenge Expert and Judge for the Global Ideas Institute (GII), a global education research program for high school students. This event was organized by the Munk School, hosted at UTS, and supported by faculty and student mentors from OISE.

Implementation of STEAM and Design Thinking Programs in Kyotangoshi & Okinawa

We signed a memorandum of understanding with the Board of Education in Kyotangoshi and SKY Labo in 2022. We launched our three-year partnership to bring new pedagogical approaches to the City of Kyotango. We administered the first human-centred STEAM curriculum for middle and high school students in the Fall 2022. We will be implementing the second workshop in the summer of 2023.

Establishment of the IEPI Advisory Committee

We established the IEPI Advisory Committee. This Committee consists of Daisuke Kan (Japan), Mio Takaoka (Japan), and Rosemary Evans (Canada). We discussed programming and strategy for the upcoming academic year.

IEPI's First Webinar

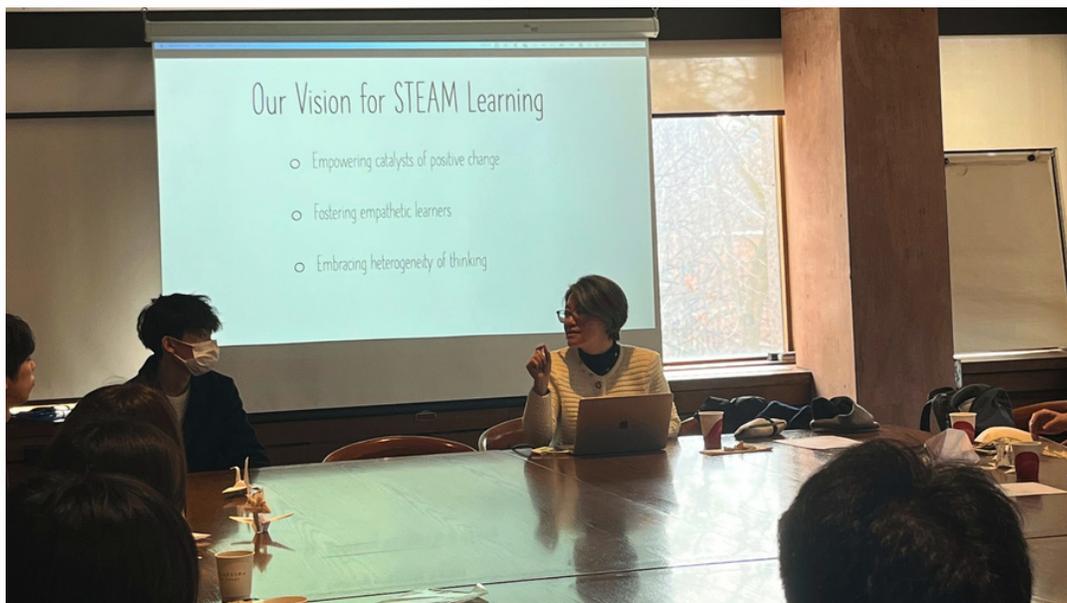
The Initiative for Education Policy and Innovation successfully hosted its inaugural online panel event, shedding light on ongoing initiatives and innovations in education that empower youths in Japan. The panelists were Dr. Gary Mukai, Director of the Stanford Program on International and Cross-Cultural Education at the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies at Stanford University, Dr. Kazuaki Iwabuchi, Assistant Professor, University of Tokyo, Graduate School of Education, Dr. Keiko Okawa, Professor of Keio University Graduate School of Media Design, Director of Research Institute for Digital Media and Content, Keio University, and Mr. Kenshiro Hama, Vice Mayor, City of Kyotangoshi, Kyoto Prefecture, Japan.

The webinar explored themes such as global education reforms, globalizing education at tertiary and secondary levels, and the localization of global education efforts.

Extensive research training of undergraduate and graduate students at the University of Toronto

We are proud to share that IEPI supports research related to education reform, cultivating prosocial tendencies, empathy in learning, and active learning. We have hired more than 8 graduate students and 11 undergraduate students from the University of Toronto to support our research agenda. We are thrilled to announce that two undergraduate students, Allison Zhao and Mohamed Dasu, were the recipients of the prestigious University of Toronto Excellence Award from the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, recognizing their outstanding academic achievements and their research support on the education reform project.

Looking ahead, we are excited to announce our upcoming public events scheduled for Fall 2023. These include the Symposium on Gender and STEM Education, which will be supported by the Consulate-General of Japan in Toronto. In September 2023, we will be hosting a seminar on Reforms in Teacher Policies, featuring Professor Aki Sakuma from Keio University and Professor Motoko Akiba from Florida State University. Additionally, in November 2023, we will co-organize the Engendering Success in STEM Conference in collaboration with University of British Columbia and U of T's Rotman School of Management. We hope that many of you will be able to join our events in 2023-24!



Reflections from Our Affiliates



Michael Wade Donnelly

Professor Emeritus
of Political Science and Dr. David Chu
Professor Emeritus of Asia Pacific Studies,
University of Toronto

Talk More Widely About Money in Japan

Money has been woven into all aspects of human life for thousands of years. It is one of the world's oldest social inventions. Since Aristotle philosophers of various persuasions have pondered its meaning. Yet money remains a topic of deep perplexity, a matter of unending dispute.

What exactly is money?

For non-technical people, money's meaning is not especially mysterious. Query people and you will get a quick reply. "Money? You don't know yet? You need it and the more the better."

They sometimes add something like "Have you seen the price of eggs these days? Do you know how much it costs to rent or buy a house in this city? Money makes the world go round, professor!"

Seems clear.

Money is needed for survival. People need money for food, a place to live and material support for all the varied necessities required for a safe, healthy, and decent life." Alas, some surveys indicate that people's knowledge of how the monetary and financial worlds works remains poor.

Money is a fundamental requirement for human cooperation. Without the certainty of money, the future for all will be cloudy and probably precarious. Incompetent or mischievous management of money can lead to financial crisis, inflation, and depression.

Standard academic money talk is significantly under the intellectual jurisdiction of mainstream economics. With its refined tools of analysis, money is defined as anything that can perform three economic functions.

In abstract terms, it should serve as a neutral medium of liquid exchange, unit of measurement and account, and a store of value. People can use it to buy and sell from each other, can save and use it later, and can serve as an efficient, common measurable way to keep track of economic phenomena, especially prices. Very often money is used to quantify a nation's progress and state of well-being.

The utilitarian view adds other important properties. To work well money should be divisible, interchangeable with other monies, portable, durable, widely acceptable and limited in supply. The viability of a stable monetary system, which include in these digital days a proliferation of new forms money, requires governmental legitimacy and support,

appropriate laws and effective public policy.

In such technical terms, the idea of money is slotted into the larger theoretical paradigms of economics as a human science.

Economics remains preeminent in public policy debates about money, solidified by assumptions about human rationality, sustained by quantification techniques of econometrics and supported by computer science, statistics, and mathematics. Unremitting and technical dialogue is also a driver of understanding.

But doubts remain. How possible is it to make verifiable statements about something that has no specific material or shape?

Economics is not pure science. There is plenty of debate, including on matters of money. Professors in universities, and sometimes professional specialists dealing daily with money, have animated, sometimes heated discussion about how best to understand national and world monetary and financial systems.

Uncertainties have been raised about human decisions. How reasonable is it to assume that in market exchanges decisions are made by autonomous, self-interested

and rational calculators with unlimited wants and access to complete and verifiable information?

A subfield of behavioral economics, with its scientifically sophisticated study of cognition and psychology, uncovers behavioral tendencies in individual decision-making beyond assumed utility-maximizing rationality. The subfield raises serious doubts about assuming human behavior free from emotion, cognitive bias, culture, and social relations.

Money seems to have become simply “a made-up thing,” a creation out of nothing, confirmed by the wide use of debit and cash cards, mobile-phone based money transfer services, Google Wallet, Apple Pay and, most recently, cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin. Digitalization is pervasive, changing how individuals, governments and businesses deal with money and payments, borrowing and lending.

Perhaps money is simply a matter of faith, belief and trust. The money talk agenda needs broadening.

The preeminent economic sociologist Viviana Zelizer has joined economic sociologists on a foundational challenge to broaden the study. They recently issued a call to “advance money talks” beyond the entrenched assumptions



of previous, especially economic writings.

In a nutshell, money life is as social as politics, religion, family and even religious life. The 'functions' of money arise in complex social processes. Money in daily use is integrated into "interpersonal relations, cultural practices, moral concerns, legal regulation, historical variation, religious meaning, and political disputes." (see Money Talks: Explaining How Money Really Works). The proposal assumes society and economy and not separate spheres. They are mutually constitutive.

In Japan Studies the current money talk has seemingly not caught on. This is a puzzle as Japan has often been described, in various versions, as a form of "cultural capitalism." In graduate school I recall all the assignments describing business and commerce and how Japan does not fit standard models. Society and culture mattered significantly.

As Sugimoto suggests, the country was considered by some as a monocultural society and, until recently, not marked by serious cultural divergences and sharp class distinctions. This view of unified Japan is no longer accurate, if it ever was.

Anti-capitalistic social norms were discovered such as "life-time employment"

as when companies provided social security measures such as keeping redundant regular workers inside the organisation.

Studies in political economy, whether in adjunct or opposition to standard models, remain abundant if too often framed narrowly in terms set by standard economics. Recall the Developmental State.

A good deal can be offered in studies of Japan to "new" money talk.

And lots more can be learned in Japan Studies, about the top of society and below.

How is money contested in Japan? How is money "earmarked" for specific purposes by individuals, families and even government? Have beliefs, faith and trust in money deteriorated since the collapse of the economic bubble? How much Bank of Japan talk addresses an audience beyond government and business? Does the new money talk, with its emphasis on belief, faith and trust, empirically hold in studies of the Finance Ministry.

Hopefully, Japan research will enrich and deepen rather than bewilder comparative money talk.

Approaching the Indo-Pacific and the Elephant(s) in the Room



Deanna Horton

Senior Fellow, Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy

(Based on work by Nicolas Bouchard and in preparation for an upcoming joint article to be published by the Wilson Center, Washington, DC)

In 2023, I was an outside thesis adviser for Munk (and Sciences-Po) master's student Nicolas Bouchard on the Indo-Pacific. We decided that it would be useful to compare Canada's Indo-Pacific strategy with that of Japan.

Japan, of course, is the initiator of the Indo-Pacific concept, when the late Prime Minister Abe Shinzo talked of a "free and open Indo-Pacific" back in 2016. The Americans soon jumped on the bandwagon, along with other countries, and judging from the most recent G7 meeting where various leaders added concepts like "stable" and "prosperous" to the concept of "free and open", Indo-Pacific is now firmly entrenched in international discourse.

What is interesting, however, in

comparing Japan and Canada's Indo-Pacific Strategies (IPS), is the fact that Japan's strategy does not explicitly focus on China. In fact, the Japanese document does not mention China, instead making an oblique reference by warning "any attempt to unilaterally change the status quo by force". Canada's IPS makes particular mention of China, overall conveying a mixed cooperative and competitive view of the Indo-Pacific.

Another variation, which could be said to reflect a difference in cultural norms: "Canada will, at all times, unapologetically defend our national interest"—Japan is not explicit on national interest, but it is fair to say that it also has national interests in mind.

In fact, while security interests would dictate that both Canada and Japan (along with South Korea) align with the USA, economic interdependence with China also means that each country has to steer a course that doesn't impinge on the economic benefits it derives from both relationships. For political reasons, Canada's IPS and the statements upon its release are much more direct in its criticism of China's role. Japan is of necessity more circumspect.

Humanitarian and official development assistance (ODA) is another element in both strategies and a relevant indicator of the level of engagement each country is seeking in the region. Japan, the third-largest OECD donor country in absolute terms and the largest in Asia, focuses its assistance on Asian countries, which receive 60% of its bilateral ODA overall. Meanwhile, the majority of Canada's bilateral ODA goes to sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East in the form of peace, security, humanitarian, and development assistance.

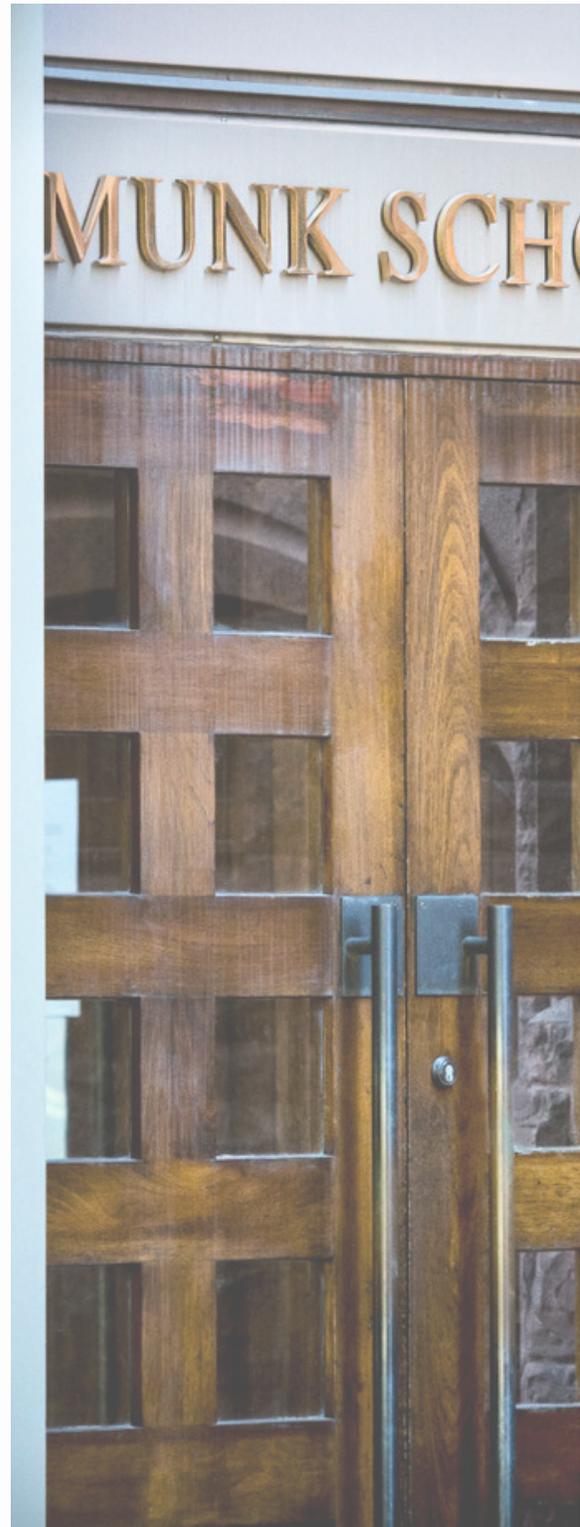
Canada should capitalize on Japan's leadership in infrastructure development, budgeting \$200 billion in public and private capital 2017 to 2021 for infrastructure projects, in response to the major demands from regional partners and the significant gap that remains in financing to meet their needs.

The Japanese focus on "quality" infrastructure in low- and middle-income countries in the region has been seen as a counterbalance to China's global infrastructure-intensive Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and its strong regional influence. Beyond infrastructure development, Japan pursues soft connectivity goals through trade agreements while offering expert training in security- and economic-related fields and achieving joint statements, partnerships, and engagement announcements with partner countries. The difference here is that Canada's IPS strategy generally does not contain commitments to concrete actions. Canada's most hands-on initiatives are in trade with the CPTPP, the launching of a Canadian Trade Gateway in Southeast Asia, a series of large-scale Team Canada trade missions, the Indigenous Peoples Economic and Trade Cooperation Arrangement (IPETCA), and the steps taken toward joining the Digital Economic Partnership Agreement (DEPA) with Singapore, New Zealand, and Chile. And there is a large discrepancy in financial commitments between Japan's more than \$75 billion in public and private funds in the Indo-Pacific region by 2030 on infrastructure projects alone and Canada's global initial investment of almost C\$2.3 billion over the next five years.

Led by Japan, “economic security” and “economic coercion” are now firmly part of the Indo-Pacific lexicon. Japan took the lead in using its G7 role as Chair to include language on economic resilience and security, and on de-risking and diversification—all, of course, related to China.

On top of its G7 Chairmanship, Japan played a role in the recent Quad meeting (along with India and Australia) which was pushed forward with President Biden’s early departure from Asia due to overriding domestic political concerns. Indo-Pacific loomed large there as well, of course, Biden speaking of the region in terms beyond “free and open” to that of “opportunity, prosperity and stability” and in a region “where all countries are free from coercion”. This reflects the G7 Leaders statement which also adds “inclusive” (likely at Canada’s behest) to the long list of Indo-Pacific qualities.

Overall, the Indo-Pacific strategies of Canada and Japan reflect the objectives of two like-minded trade-dependent middle powers steering between economic interdependence with major powers and a wish to create opportunities without risking economic coercion from major powers. The elephants in the room are here to stay—but diversification and de-risking could mitigate their impact.



Japan: The Harbinger's Curse



Phillip Y. Lipsky

Director, Centre for the Study of Global Japan

Chair in Japanese Politics and Global Affairs

Professor, Department of Political Science and Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy

“First mover” is often associated with positive connotations. The first firm to enter a market with scale economies or network effects – such as operating systems or internet search – can benefit from sustainable competitive advantages. Nations that develop breakthrough military innovations – from the stirrup to stealth aircraft – enjoy a battlefield edge against potential adversaries. First-ever achievements like the Tale of Genji and Sputnik are celebrated as a matter of national status and pride.

However, being early also brings nontrivial challenges. Policy innovation, like innovation in the private sector, is a messy process requiring experimentation and many dead ends. Being early has

important implications for how we understand and assess policymaking in contemporary Japan. The country faces unique challenges that might be called the “harbinger’s curse.” Even if Japanese policymakers achieve a measure of success in responding to novel challenges, they will appear incompetent and slow compared to their international peers. It is important to recognize and acknowledge this dimension when we assess contemporary Japanese policymaking.

In a recent article in the Japanese Journal of Political Science, I argued that Japan is often a “harbinger state,” which engages in the politics of particular issues prior to other countries.

This makes Japan a compelling country for scholars to study: it offers an opportunity to develop new theories and conduct early research about issues that will eventually emerge elsewhere. Being early also has important implications for how we understand policymaking.

The basic idea of Japan as a first mover is certainly not new. After the Meiji Restoration, Japan became the first non-Western country to industrialize and join the ranks of the great powers. This came with distinct challenges – among other things, adapting Western institutions and technologies in a new social and cultural context, gaining status and acceptance in an international system dominated by the West, and confronting racist hierarchies and white supremacy. Similarly, Japan's postwar developmental state and industrial policy offered important lessons for other countries seeking to engineer rapid economic growth.

Japan's era of miracle growth is now a thing of the past, but the country's status as a harbinger remains as relevant as ever. The "lost decade" of the 1990s became a crucial source of lessons as policymakers across the world confronted deflationary financial crises of their own after 2008. Japan is at the forefront of demographic shifts that will have serious implications for economic growth, public finances, and the global balance of power.

The country has also been compelled to respond proactively to the rise of China on account of its geographic proximity and sources of friction such as territorial and history disputes.

In 2007, the former president of the University of Tokyo, Komiyama Hiroshi, described Japan as a *Kadai Senshinkoku*, an advanced country in problem-management. This language has often been incorporated into subsequent Japanese public policymaking. More recently, journalists have described Japan as a "Country on the Frontlines" and observe "Japanification" as other countries belatedly encounter problems that initially appeared uniquely Japanese. Examining Japan today often helps us understand tomorrow's challenges.

However, being early can also be a curse. In a 2013 article, Hirofumi Takinami and I argued that Japan's response to the 1990s financial crisis was affected by "first-mover disadvantage." There are a variety of plausible explanations for the ineffective response to the crisis, such as macroeconomic policy mismanagement, institutional rigidities, and structural problems. However, Japanese policymakers also struggled because they confronted deflationary stagnation that could not be easily resolved using conventional policy tools.

Japan's policy innovations like quantitative easing were adopted only after a long period of policy experimentation and failure. In contrast, US financial authorities quickly implemented the same measures at large scale in 2008, explicitly drawing lessons from the Japanese experience.

Japan confronts a similar "harbinger's curse" across several domains today. For example, Japan's demographic transition to an aging society foreshadows analogous shifts elsewhere among many high-income countries and China. However, countries that grow old later will have the benefit of learning from Japan's mistakes, selectively adopting solutions and innovations that demonstrate success. Japan does not have this luxury. The story is similar for social issues that appeared early in Japan – initially attributed to cultural idiosyncrasies and popularized with phrases like parasite single, hikikomori, soshokukei, kodokushi, kasoshuraku etc. – which have now emerged across a wide range of countries.

The harbinger's curse presents a major challenge for Japan, but it can also be a source of opportunities. Being an early testing ground for innovation can confer economic advantages if Japanese firms get a head start in new markets with global reach.



However, Japanese firms have a discouraging track record of “Galapagos” innovation – cutting-edge Japanese products often fail to expand beyond the domestic ecosystem and get wiped out once global competitors catch up. Japanese Galapagos keitai (Galapagos cell phones) were driven to near extinction by the iPhone and Android despite a formidable head start, and products like high-definition televisions, e-readers, and IC cards have followed similar trajectories. Reversing this track record will be crucial for Japan to turn its curse into a blessing.

There are similar opportunities in foreign policy. Japan has a long track record of promoting regional initiatives with a mixed record of success. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) can be counted as success stories, but there were many notable flops like the Asian Monetary Fund proposal and the Arc of Freedom and Prosperity. Japanese policymakers traditionally pursued quiet diplomacy and consensus-building behind the scenes rather than seeking to emphasize their country’s leadership.

In recent years, Japanese foreign policymaking has become more dynamic and proactive – initiatives like the Free and Open Indo-Pacific, Partnership for Quality Infrastructure, and the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue have gained substantial international support and buy in. As countries across the global belatedly reorient their foreign policies around new realities in the Indo-Pacific, Japanese initiatives have increasingly attracted attention. This is in no small measure because Japan has been at the forefront of responding to geopolitical and geoeconomic shifts in the region, including the rise of China.

How Japan responds to the harbinger’s curse will influence the country’s position within the 21st century international order. Will Japanese firms occupy center stage in new and dynamic markets? Will Japanese policymakers exert domestic and international leadership in confronting consequential challenges? The stakes are high not only for Japan but also for others following closely in the country’s footsteps.

This piece was originally published in the Tokyo Review.

Reflections from the Kakehashi Trip

The Kakehashi exchange program – supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and facilitated by the Centre for the Study of Global Japan 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. Visit our [website](#) for the full reflections and more information.



"From visiting the shopping districts of Harajuku to visiting major temples like the Naritasan Shinshoji Temple, each day presented new possibilities to learn about different aspects of Japanese culture and lifestyle. The expertly crafted itinerary allowed us to learn about traditional customs like tea ceremonies and washi paper making while also allotting us free time every day to explore Tokyo ourselves."

Katie Bolissian

[Read Katie's full reflection.](#)

"Our group had the privilege of meeting Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado at the Imperial Palace. This enlightening interaction set the tone for the rest of our stay as it allowed us to engage with the Princess on issues of mutual importance to Canada and Japan. As a group, we were really glad to begin our trip on this note and that day is going to live long in our memories."

Jude Asare

[Read Jude's full reflection.](#)



"Kakehashi's project showed me a different Japan, not the one portrayed in popular media or perpetrated by Japonism fantasies. Rather, the Kakehashi project displayed the real Japan. A country just like any other country, a country with contradictions. And it is through this reality, that allows our cohort to forever become the "Kakehashi" between the two nations of Japan and Canada."

Leo Zhu

[Read Leo's full reflection.](#)

"The host family was very welcoming and eager to tell us about their home, as well as hear about our lives in Canada. Honestly, interacting with all of these people truly made me understand the meaning of Kakehashi, being a bridge between the two countries. I hope to have the chance to meet these wonderful people again in the future."

Amelia Gipp

[Read Amelia's full reflection.](#)



"One of the most interesting afternoons was spent at TEPIA Advanced Technology Gallery, where we dipped our toes into the world of Japanese robotic technology. As part of the exhibit, we did some coding to create commands for mini-robots to test on an obstacle course. Afterward, we watched a mini-documentary on the design and construction of the Tokyo Skytree."

Grace Ho Lang Chong

[Read Grace's full reflection.](#)

Takehashi Academic Day

The Centre for the Study of Global Japan was excited to welcome students from Tohoku University and Kanda University for International Studies on March 14, 2023 for the Academic Day of their Takehashi exchange program. For many students it was their first time abroad and seeing what an international university looked like. To acknowledge the curiosity students had about the University of Toronto, the day started with a guided tour of the St. George campus, where UofT 2023 Takehashi Alumni lead the group of about 30 Japanese students to notable spots on campus such as The Fisher Rare Book Library, Hart House, and Convocation Hall.



The students from Tohoku University presented on the importance of traditional Japanese cultural practices such as calligraphy and origami, later leading a step-by-step guide on how to fold popular origami designs for the Canadian students. After the presentations a break for lunch occurred, where Japanese students got to mingle with Canadian students and ask them questions about what it is like to study at the University of Toronto, and living in Canada more generally. The last portion of the day was back at the Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy where Professor Rie Kijima gave a presentation to Japanese students about her experience researching global education and the potential benefits of Japan incorporating STEAM learning into school curriculums. The Centre for the Study of Global Japan would like to thank the students from Tohoku University and Kanda University of International Studies for their engaged participation throughout the day, and for the participation of several UofT 2023 Takehashi Alumni in the day's programming.

Hachioji Higashi High School Learning Trip

The Centre for the Study of Global Japan was excited to welcome students from Hachioji Higashi High School on March 24, 2023. The visit was organized with the objective of fostering cultural exchange and facilitating mentorship relationships between Japanese and Canadian students. For many of the students, it was their very first time traveling abroad from Japan and seeing what North American academic institutions look like.



The high school students were assigned to diverse groups through a random selection process, in which they actively participated in group reflective activities centered around their experiences in Toronto. The aim was to encourage them to distill their newfound knowledge and contemplate how they would share their exchange trip with their peers upon returning home.

Following the presentations, a refreshment break ensued, allowing the students to intermingle and engage in meaningful conversations. They enthusiastically discussed their academic and personal interests and exchanged thoughts on the similarities and differences between their respective countries. The students from Hachioji Higashi High School exhibited a genuine curiosity, posing numerous inquiries about the Canadian education system and the vibrant international student community at the University of Toronto.



CSGJ Student Affiliates 2022-23

This year, we had a group of 16 Student Affiliates actively engaged with our Centre. They are a diverse group of both undergraduate and graduate students at the University of Toronto.



Katie Bolissian



Kristi Deki



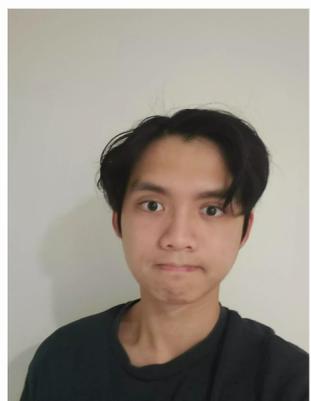
Amelia Gipp



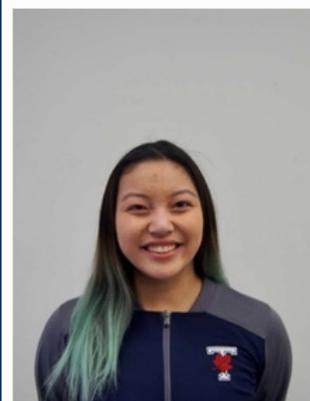
Taisei Inoue



Mei Kanda



Young Luke



Erica Matsui



**Samantha Moura
Novais de Quadros**

CSGJ Student Affiliates 2022-23



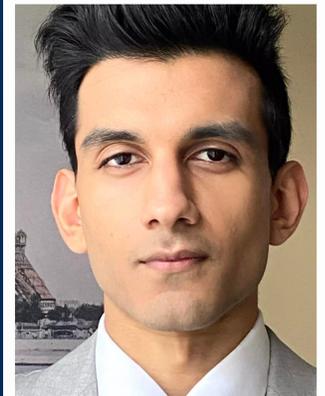
Arnaud Nsamirizi



Dania Asahi Ogie



Jackie Pang



Jai Singh



Leo Teng



Una Vulevic



Thomas Yue



Elva Tsz Pui Yung

Student Affiliate Spotlight – Arnaud Nsamirizi

I had the privilege of engaging in stimulating and eye-opening conversations on Japanese society and its global implications. From voting preferences to immigration policy and minority social movements, the center has provided a platform for diverse discussions that have broadened my perspective.

Under the guidance of the center's director, Philip Y. Lipsy, and affiliated faculty Rie Kijima, I had the opportunity to pursue my passion for Japan's economic relations with Africa. With their support, I conducted research for my thesis, exploring the effectiveness of Japan's foreign aid in unlocking foreign direct investments in Africa, an area where Japanese private sector involvement is relatively limited.

One of the most valuable aspects of my affiliation with the center has been the chance to connect and hear directly from distinguished individuals from scholars, to high-ranking government officials, to policymakers. Equally important has been the opportunity to interact with fellow students who share a common interest in Japan but bring diverse disciplines and perspectives to the table, all of which were fascinating.



Arnaud Nsamirizi

Arnaud is a recent graduate of the Master of Global Affairs program at the Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy.

Furthermore, the center provided me with an unforgettable experience through the Kakehashi project. This academic and cultural exchange allowed me to visit Japan in February 2020 during reading week. From a homestay in the picturesque countryside to engaging conversations with government officials, the program exposed me to aspects of Japanese society and culture that I wouldn't have been able to experience on my own.

I am particularly grateful to Professor Philip Y. Lipsky, whose passion for Japan's politics and policies transformed my superficial interest in Japanese pop culture into a profound academic and professional pursuit. His kindness, approachability, and unwavering support shine through as he consistently finds time to engage with his students, despite the numerous responsibilities he carries.

My affiliation with the Centre for the Study of Global Japan has not only enriched my academic journey but has also shaped my career aspirations. It has inspired me to pursue a path dedicated to fostering and strengthening Japan's human and economic ties with Africa, and I am grateful for the experiences it has provided me.



Student Affiliate Spotlight - Katie Bolissian



Katie Bolissian

Katie is a recent graduate of the Master of Public Policy (MPP) program at the Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy. She was also the Work Study Student for CSGJ during the 2021-2023 academic years.

As the Centre for the Study of Global Japan celebrates its 5th Anniversary this year, I feel incredibly lucky to have been in close proximity to the Centre that continues to push scholastic boundaries and inspire countless students, academics, and members of the public every year. In my second year of being the Centre's Communications Assistant I reflected on how far this Centre has come and how proud I am to have been a small piece of the equation that encourages excellence and innovation when disseminating Japanese issues to Canadian audiences.

From being a Student Affiliate for three years, an employee for 2, and to have been 1 lucky individual selected to participate in the 2023 Japan-Canada Kakehashi project, my memories of my time and experiences of the Centre will go far beyond the time I was privileged to have spent here. I feel incredibly grateful to have worked closely with the passionate Sophie Bourret-Klein, the Events and Program Coordinator for the Centre who we were lucky to onboard in January 2023. Sophie has exemplified what it means to be a strong leader and compassionate mentor, always challenging me to think creatively and pursue my dreams.



I would also like to thank Professor Phillip Lipsky, Director of the Centre, for being a wonderful teacher and inspiration to the many students that look up to his leadership and remarkable achievements. If only we knew in 2017 how much the Centre and the interest in Japanese politics and diplomacy would exponentially grow at the University of Toronto, in no short due to Professor Lipsky's continuous dedication and hard work. Additionally, I have learned tremendously from my fellow Affiliates over the years and feel proud to join our growing alumni network that is reflective of the diversity and interests that led us to the Centre in the first place. Whatever journeys I find myself and my graduating colleagues on in the future, I know our time at the Centre was a crucial chapter in the development of being lifelong learners.

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

Student Affiliate Spotlight – Erica Matsui

As an undergraduate student studying Diaspora and Transnational Studies, Human Geography, and Economics, the CSGJ student affiliate program was a field of opportunities. Being a student affiliate allowed me to learn and at times reconsider my understanding of not only politics and news but also thoughts on larger systemic and future-present problems. With seminars by amazing speakers on current topics, it was not only a joy to hear their opinions but also with the cohort, create an intimate environment for understanding and critical questioning.

As a Japanese-American student in Canada, the centre has allowed me to create a contextual understanding of Japan, U.S., their relations, and the additional grey 3rd space of diaspora. More than anything, the centre allowed my intellectual curiosities of policy and developing sense of diasporic identity collide and blossom. From this August, I will step into a Masters of Arts in International Relations program in Johns Hopkins University to learn more about international policymaking and its consideration of diaspora. I am thankful for all the support and vast amounts of knowledge the centre has given me.



Erica Matsui

Erica is a recent graduate of Diaspora & Transnational Studies student, Minors in Human Geography & Economics programs.

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