

Issue 1
Spring 2013

Inside this issue:

Welcome	1
Chair's Address	2
Upcoming Events	3
Featured Article: "The Bible Through Japanese Eyes" by Dr. Doron B. Cohen	6
Past Events	9
IAJS Grads	14
New Scholar in Focus: Yaara (Yagi) Morris	16
New Publications	19

Welcome to the first issue of the Israeli Association for Japanese Studies (IAJS) Newsletter!

We are delighted to present the very first issue of our newsletter coinciding with the celebration of the first anniversary of the founding of IAJS. The aim of the newsletter is to provide information about the latest developments in the field of Japanese Studies in Israel. Each spring and autumn we will inform you about future events, report on previous events, advise you of new publications and highlight certain projects and researches carried out by our members.



IAJS | האגודה הישראלית ללימודי יפן
 イスラエル日本学会
 الجمعية الإسرائيلية لدراسة اليابان
 Israeli Association for Japanese Studies

For feedback, ideas, information about conferences, publications or other related material to be considered for inclusion in future newsletters, please contact the editor at iajs.newsletter@gmail.com

The Israeli Association for Japanese Studies Newsletter is a biannual publication that aims to provide information about the latest developments in the field of Japanese Studies in Israel.

We welcome submissions from IAJS members regarding institutional news, publications and new researches in the field of Japanese Studies. Please send your proposals to the editor at: iajs.newsletter@gmail.com.

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The Israeli Association of Japanese Studies (IAJS) is a non-profit organization seeking to encourage Japanese-related research and dialogue as well as to promote Japanese language education in Israel.

For more information visit the IAJS website at: www.japan-studies.org

CHAIR'S ADDRESS

Dear Colleagues,

It is our great honor to present the first newsletter of the Israeli Association for Japanese Studies (IAJS). IAJS was established on February 26, 2012, at a meeting in Tel Aviv of approximately 100 enthusiastic scholars and students. We all felt that Japanese Studies in Israel had reached a certain level of maturity that called for greater collaboration between Israeli scholars and institutions. It was time to take Japanese studies in Israel to the next level.

Japanese studies have come a long way in the past few decades and have become one of the most thriving fields in the faculties of Humanities and Social Sciences in Israel. From its modest beginning in the Department of Chinese and Japanese Studies established at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem in the early 1960s, the field has dramatically expanded over the past 15 years; today it includes three major departments of Asian (or East Asian) Studies at the universities of Jerusalem, Tel-Aviv and Haifa, offering comprehensive BA and MA programs in Japanese Studies, and an increasing number of Japanese programs and courses offered by other universities and colleges throughout Israel. Extraordinarily high enrollment figures in these departments and programs attest to their outstanding popularity among young Israelis.

Compared with the size of its population (7.5 million), Israel may have one of the world's highest percentage of researchers and students focusing on Japan. There are more than 30 professional scholars with a PhD in Japanese Studies or in other disciplines with a research focus on Japan, and about 250 students who major in Japanese Studies within the departments of East Asian/Asian Studies. In addition, a few hundred students enroll in

one or more university courses on Japan every year.

IAJS aims to address the growing interest in the field of Japanese studies in Israel. It seeks to encourage Japanese-related research and



dialogue, to promote Japanese language teaching, to organize symposiums, workshops and conferences in the field of Japanese studies, and to advance the academic ties and collaboration with Japanese studies scholars, associations, and academic institutions abroad. Most importantly, IAJS wishes to maintain a lively community in the field of Japanese Studies in Israel and hopefully in the wider Middle East as well.

In this issue we outline a few projects undertaken by IAJS and IAJS Grads over the past year, and some other conferences and initiatives scheduled for 2013. This issue also features an article by Dr. Doron Cohen (Dōshisha University) on the translations of the Bible in Japan, and an interview with Ms. Yaara (Yagi) Morris, a PhD student at SOAS researching Japanese Medieval religion. The last part of the Newsletter introduces recent books published by IAJS members.

I hope that we can highlight some of our achievements through this newsletter and introduce not only IAJS, but also showcase our continued commitment to producing high quality research in the field of Japanese Studies.

Dr. Nissim Otmazgin (PhD Kyoto University)
IAJS Chair

UPCOMING EVENTS

The First IAJS Conference: “Urbanity, Urban Space, Urban Culture: Economical, Political and Cultural Perspectives on Japan, Past and Present”

Location: Haifa, 5-6 May 2013

Language of the Conference: Hebrew and English

Keynote Speaker:

Prof. Yoshimi Shunya, Tokyo University

Urbanism is a key word which seems self-evident, while in fact, it is a reference to a dynamic socio-cultural and economic construct characterized by heterogeneity, deep contradictions and incoherence. Urbanism as a reference to social and physical space and as a constitutive cultural awareness, is the result of on-going socio-cultural structuring, and hence, it bears the traces of dialectical processes. Urbanism should not be viewed only as a reference to particular demographics and built environments, but it should also be examined as a political arena of power-struggles.

Throughout history, the rhythm and dynamism of urban centers have revolutionized means of production, promoting the undermining of socio-political structures, and creating the conditions for the emergence of innovative, experimental avant-garde in art, culture and politics. Within urban centers, multi-dimensional relations have emerged between physical spaces, ideological state apparatuses, economic structures, grass-root movements, fashions, aesthetics and new tastes. Along with economic and industrial developments, urbanization and urbanism in

Japan is deeply connected to the development of modernism and later postmodernism, reflecting as well as affecting the development of capitalism and late-capitalism, consumer culture, mass leisure culture, transportation infrastructures, architecture, communication industries, information industries and cultural industries. In addition, urbanization and urbanism have had an impact on all walks of civilization in Japan with particularly dramatic consequences on ecology and resource utilization.

Lastly, in the past two decades, the physical borders of urban spaces are redefined by overlapping virtual spaces that enhance and transform reality, the relationships among people and urban culture itself. In light of these functional transformations of urban spaces, some refer today to post-urbanity.

The first annual conference of the Israeli Japanese Studies Association aims to explore the complexity and changing functionality of urbanism, urban space and urban culture in Japan in historical and synchronic perspectives, allowing unique points of view on economic, political, social and cultural processes. Beyond debating specific case studies, we hope to further explore the possibilities in using urbanism, urban space and urban culture as key concepts in social theory.

Organizer: Dr. Michal Daliot-Bul, University of Haifa

The IAJS Biannual Conferences are organized by the IAJS Academic Committee and rotate between different universities in Israel.

UPCOMING EVENTS

International Workshop on “Passages: Continuity and Change in Edo Arts”

Location: The Hebrew University of Jerusalem,
26-31 May, 2013

Language of the workshop: English and Japanese

Keynote Speaker:

Prof. Joshua Mostow, University of British
Columbia

The workshop "Passages" brings together scholars from around the world, whose work contributed to new modes of interpretation, contextualization, and understanding of Japanese arts. The keynote speaker, Joshua Mostow of the University of British Columbia, is a leading scholar in the field of Japanese classical poetry and its visual interpretations throughout history. Other panels also concentrate on the role of literary, religious, and scholarly texts as means of interpreting the changing iconography of paintings and illustrated books. These include scholars from leading institutions from Japan, USA, Austria, England, Russia, and the Netherlands. The workshop will be held in cooperation with the Tikotin Museum of Japanese Arts (Haifa), and the Israel Museum (Jerusalem).

The purpose of this workshop is to identify, analyze, and examine transmissions and passages, as broadly construed, within Edo-period visual images in all forms of visual media, through the consideration of how they were shaped by, and in turn did shape, a particular context of time and place. The concept of passage can be used in both synchronic and diachronic analysis, in terms of historical and geographical passages, or passages as a mode of deciphering the image.

The themes that will be discussed in the workshop include messages conveyed by continuity and discontinuity; contextualization of iconographies within political, social, cultural, and geographic changes; transmissions of media; concepts of passage imbedded in the process of interpretation.

Confirmed Speakers:

- Irit Averbuch, Tel Aviv University
- Galit Aviman, Ben Gurion University
- Shalmit Bejarano, Hebrew University
- Rosina Buckland, National Museum of Scotland
- Monika Dix, Saginaw Valley State University
- Ury Eppstein, Hebrew University
- Susanne Formaneck, Vienne University
- Sherry Fowler, Kansas University
- Naoko Gunji, Augustana college
- Alfred Haft, British Museum
- Kazuko Kameda-Madar, Hawaii Pacific University
- Rotem Kowner, Haifa University
- Sepp Linhart, Vienne University
- Alexandra Linster, Vienne University
- Yukio Lippit, Harvard University
- Ryoko Matsuba, Nanzen University
- Eva Machotka, Leiden University Institute for Area Studies
- Matthew McKelway, Columbia University
- Yuki Morishima, University of Pittsburgh
- Joshua Mostow, University of British Columbia
- Evgeny Steiner, National Research University, School of Asian Studies, Moscow
- Jun Suzuki, National Institute for Japanese Literature
- Ayelet Zohar, Tel Aviv University

Organizer: Dr. Shalmit Bejarano, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

For further details please see:

<http://www.japan-studies.org/Edo-Arts.html>

For registration (required) please contact:

edo.in.jerusalem@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

“Crazy Talks”: Conference in honor of Prof. Jacob Raz

Location: Tel-Aviv University, June 10, 2013

This conference is held to mark the retirement of our friend and colleague Prof. Jacob Raz. Prof. Raz has made a significant contribution to the field of Japanese studies, as well as to the general understanding of East Asian culture in Israel. In the course of many years of teaching, Prof. Raz has educated, inspired and mentored thousands of students. On the occasion of his retirement many of his friends and former students wish to honor Prof. Raz by participating in a thought-provoking conference to be held at Tel-Aviv University. The conference will include several panels and individual speakers who will discuss various topics related to Prof. Raz's interests and research. The conference will feature three panels: The first will be dedicated to various aspects of Buddhism, the second will concentrate on the aesthetics of the imperfect in Japanese arts, and the third will focus on Buddhist approaches to peace making. We hope that this event will serve not only as an opportunity to express our gratitude and esteem for Prof. Raz's work, but will also contribute to the further development of these fields in Israel and abroad.

Organizer: Mr. Erez Joskovich

Jacob Raz is a Professor of Japanese Studies at Tel Aviv University. His diverse research interests include Literature, Poetry, Aesthetics, Cultural Anthropology, Buddhism and Psychology, and Zen Buddhism. In 2006 he was awarded The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with a Neck Ribbon for his prolific research of Japanese culture.

International Conference on “Travelling Food and Beverages: In and Out of Japan”

Location: The Hebrew University of Jerusalem,
November 3-5, 2013

During the past three decades there has been an intense globalization of Japanese cuisine that has continued in spite of the deteriorating national economy. The conference will explore the variety of issues centred on how food and beverages have “travelled”; that is, circulated, flowed, interacted, and transformed in and out of Japan. Such a perspective may be examined through the following themes: Regulation of food movements, travelling culinary expertise, circulating recipes, playful fusions in the kitchen, traffic in the implements of cooking and eating, food and media, food as soft power, the transfer of knowledge about nutrition, international competitions and interchanges, cuisine and its relation to social mobility or inequality, flows and networks characterizing infrastructures for food and beverages, technologies allowing flows of products, biographies of victuals and drinks (movement along time), or portable foods (lunchboxes for example).

Organizer: Dr. Helena Grinshpun, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Call for papers:

Proposals (both individual and panel proposals), including name, institutional affiliation, the title of the paper and an abstract of 400 words (with relevant keywords listed) should be sent **by March 15** to:

helena.grinshpun@mail.huji.ac.il

FEATURED ARTICLE

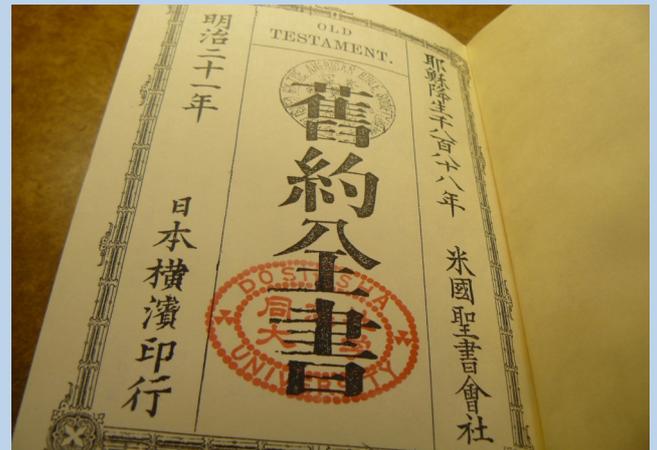
The Bible Through Japanese Eyes

Dr. Doron B. Cohen

“The Lord is my shepherd” (Psalm 23:1) is one of the most recognized biblical phrases throughout the world, in a multitude of languages. It invokes a feeling of security and tender protection, of being lead safely through the obstacles of life. But does it also do so in cultures where sheep were never raised, and in languages in which the very term “shepherd” may sound unfamiliar? Japan is such a country, and this example is one of many illustrating the difficulties faced by translators who wish not only to translate a text from one language to another, but also to transfer its theological message and transplant it in unfamiliar soil.

With a few exceptions, such as the Jewish translations done for the benefit of non-Hebrew speaking communities (Greek and Aramaic in antiquity, Arabic in the Middle Ages, Western languages in modern times), the translation of the Bible has always been a Christian project, and it was the missionaries of the various churches who carried it to all corners of the earth and strived to translate it into more languages than any other book. Christianity was introduced to Japan in two very different circumstances: By the Catholic missionaries in the 16th century, and after a long hiatus, during which the religion was proscribed, by Protestant, Catholic and other missionaries who arrived in Japan soon after its reopening to the West in the mid-19th century. For various reasons, the early Catholic mission, although it produced many translations of instructive nature

for its converts, did not strive to translate the Bible as a whole, and left only some fragmentary translations. On the other hand, the Protestant missionaries, who had been flocking to Japan since 1859, considered such a translation to be one of their first priorities, and indeed, with the aid of their Japanese assistants were able to translate and print the whole Christian Bible by 1887. Since then, and particularly following WWII, Japan has been flooded by a steady stream of full and partial translations of the Bible by various denominations and individuals, and more are yet to come.

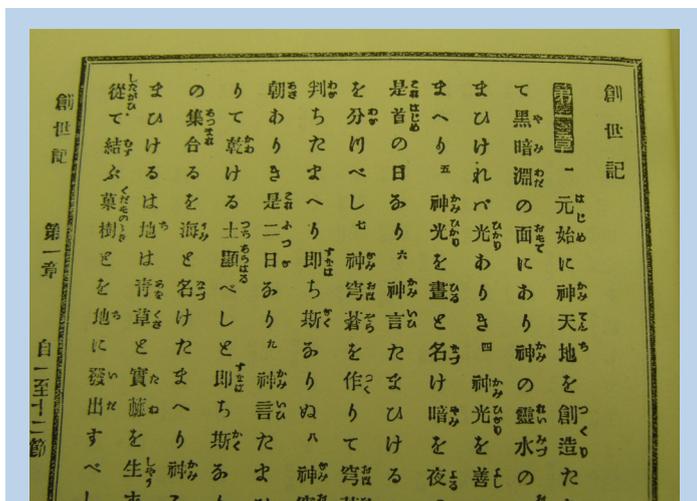


A facsimile of the first edition of the Bible published in 1887

Contrary to the missionaries' expectations, only a small minority of Japanese adopted Christianity, but still the Bible is being translated repeatedly and many copies are sold. Could it be that the Bible is recognized as a source of world culture rather than religion? The answer to such a question cannot be a simple one; on one hand, the Bible is still associated in Japan chiefly with Christianity, and the translations, usages and sales of the Greek Scripture (New Testament) far outnumber those of the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) or of the whole Christian Bible. On the other hand, some specific translations do approach the book as

FEATURED ARTICLE

part of human heritage at large, and strive to introduce it as such. One such moving example is a small, forgotten booklet published soon after the end of WWII on poor quality paper and containing an independent translation of the books of Proverbs and Ecclesiastes, through which the translator, Ogaeri Yoshio, declaring himself to be a non-Christian, wished to lift the spirits of his defeated compatriots with ancient words of wisdom offered in their everyday language.



A facsimile of the first page of Genesis 1, first edition of the Bible, 1887

I grew up reading the Hebrew Bible in my own mother tongue, and was always fascinated by the ways in which its familiar expressions found a foreign guise. As a translator I became interested in the work of those people who were brave enough to shoulder such a formidable task of translating this text into other languages, sometimes not even their own. These are some of the reasons that lead me to conduct such a study, resulting in the publication of a book titled *The Japanese Translations of the Hebrew Bible: History, Inventory and Analysis*, in which I attempted to find answers to some of the questions that have intrigued me for many years. The book focuses

on the translation of the Hebrew Bible, listing and describing dozens of full as well as partial and fragmentary translations, but those of the New Testament are also mentioned, with the history of the Christian mission in Japan as background. And since the Chinese Bible served, to a certain extent, as a model for the Japanese one, its translations in the 19th century are also included in the historical review and examined throughout the study. In the analysis part, specific biblical verses from the various Japanese translations are quoted, compared with each other, with the original Hebrew and with translations in other languages, leading to various theological and linguistic discussions and observations. Psalm 23 is one of these examples, including the fascinating history of the word (indeed, words) created in Japanese for “shepherd” since the 16th century. Certain general tendencies in translation into Japanese are then observed, offering some reflections on Japanese society and its need to formulate absorbed notions and texts into familiar patterns. For example, the Japanese language contains an elaborate layer of honorifics, expressing, among other things, the social position of speaker and interlocutor, a feature that biblical Hebrew does not share; for the majority of translators it seemed necessary to add various honorifics to the dialogue and even to the narrative parts of the Bible, thus bringing the translation closer to the sensibilities and expectations of Japanese readers, at the expense of fidelity to the source text. There are also some scholarly translations in Japan with minimal use of honorifics, but these are not acceptable for church use, and are mostly limited to academic circles. However, debates over this and many other features of Bible translation are still ongoing in Japan.

FEATURED ARTICLE

Translation is our way of knowing the other; the ways in which we conduct our translations can also teach us about ourselves. My study offers certain angles for looking at these phenomena, and my hope is that future studies will further our understanding of this complex field.



Dr. Doron B. Cohen giving a talk at Dōshisha University

Doron B. Cohen received his Th.D. (2011) from Dōshisha University, Kyoto, where he currently lectures on the history of Japanese Christianity. He has published extensively on religion and literature, and has translated Japanese novels and poetry into Hebrew. His latest translation is Tanizaki Junichiro's *In Praise of Shadows*.

PAST EVENTS

A summary of Japan-related academic events in Israel

IAJS Inauguration

The Israeli Association for Japanese Studies (IAJS) was established in February 2012, and the inauguration ceremony took place on May 8 2012 on the occasion of an International Symposium commemorating 60 years of diplomatic relations between Israel and Japan.

Dr. Nissim Otmazgin, the chair of IAJS council, introduced the organization stating that its aim is to address the growing interest in the field of Japanese studies in Israel, and the need for better coordination among the various researchers and academic institutions working in the field.

Mr. Hara Hideki congratulated IAJS on behalf of The Japan

studies in Israel are now entering a new stage of development, just as both countries are entering a new era of bilateral relations. The inauguration ceremony also included a round-table discussion on Japanese studies in Israel chaired by Professor Reuven Amitai, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, with the participation of Professor Ben-Ami Shillony (HUJI), Professor Jacob Raz (TAU), and Professor Rotem Kowner (HU).



IAJS inauguration ceremony. From left to right: Dr. Nissim Otmazgin, Mr. Hara Hideki, prof. Reuven Amitai, prof. Rotem Kowner, prof. Emeritus Ben-Ami Shillony

Foundation, on what he perceives as a very important initiative that will promote the area of Japanese studies in Israel and the dialogue between the two countries. His Excellency The Ambassador of Japan, Mr. Sato Hideo, also extended his congratulations, and noted that IAJS is the second national academic association for Japanese studies in the Middle East after Turkey, and that Japanese



IAJS Inauguration Ceremony

A video of the IAJS inauguration ceremony is available on the Hebrew University YouTube channel:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L14XnDee-1U>

For pictures from the international symposium on The Occasion of Sixty Years of Diplomatic Relations, including the IAJS Inauguration Ceremony follow these links:

[Day 1](#), [Day 2](#), [Day 3](#).

PAST EVENTS

International Symposium on the Occasion of Sixty Years of Diplomatic Relations: "Japan and Israel: Regional, Bilateral, and Cultural Perspectives"

On the occasion of 60 years for the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Israel, a special symposium was held on May 7-9, 2012 at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. The symposium, organized by Dr. Shalmit Bejarano and Dr. Nissim Otmazgin, brought together a group of 58 distinguished scholars from Israel and abroad in order to reflect on the history of relations and discuss future opportunities. The symposium, the largest of its kind to ever take place in Israel, was a milestone in the cultural and educational relations between Israel and Japan, and an intellectual project with broad academic value.



Prof. Sheldon Garon of Princeton University giving the keynote speech at the symposium

Special Issue:

“Japanese Studies in Israel as a Micro-Cosmos of Japanese Studies in Other Parts of the World “

Based on the lectures delivered at the Israel-Japan Symposium (May 7-9, 2012, Hebrew University), a special issue was compiled, edited by Helena Grinshpun, Shalmit Bejarano and Nissim Otmazgin. 14 selected papers introduce the main thematic and analytical foci discussed at the Symposium, and encompass a wide range of topics and disciplines that reflect on the various linkages connecting Japan and Israel. The papers are organized around three clusters: The first, *Political Encounters*, examines the historical and diplomatic dimensions of Japanese-Israeli relations since the late nineteenth century, and discusses the virtues of comparing certain aspects of the two countries' political and international conduct. The second cluster, *Social Crossroads*, analyzes important socio-cultural developments characterizing the relationship between Japan and Israel concerning collective memory, popular culture, media and urban space. The third cluster, *Betwixt and Between*, examines Japanese-Israeli connections through the lenses of literature, translations and language, showcasing productive interactions within the Japanese and Israeli academic and cultural spheres.

The contents of the Special Issue will soon be available on the IAJS website IAJS website:

<http://www.japan-studies.org>

PAST EVENTS

JLPT Test in Israel for the first time

On December 2, 2012 the Japanese Language Proficiency test was held for the first time in Israel. 70 students of the Japanese language from around the country registered for the test held at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. The test was organized jointly by IAJS and the Japanese Embassy.

This was the first major event organized by IAJS, and the organization proved successful due to the close cooperation of instructors of the Japanese language from all over the country, headed by Ms. Noa Oppenheim and the IAJS secretary Ms. Dafna Czerwacki. Special thanks go to Dr. Helena Grinshpun, Ms. Masako Moskovich, Ms. Sigal Schneider and Ms. Anna Wolfson, who supervised the test and contributed to its success. The next JLPT will be held in December 2013 at the University of Haifa.



Meeting of Japanese language instructors in Israel

More News

- We would like to congratulate Prof. (Emeritus) Ben-Ami Shillony, IAJS Honorary President, on his acceptance to The Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities.
- We would like to congratulate Dr. Nissim Otmazgin for receiving “The Ben-Porat Presidential Award for Outstanding Young Researcher 2012-2013” (Hebrew University).
- We are happy to announce that starting this year Tel-Hai Academic College in the Upper Galilee offers a B.A. program in East Asian Studies, currently focusing on Japan and China.
- We would like to thank our secretary Ms. Dafna Czerwacki for her hard work over the past year. And we welcome our new logistics and technology staff members: Ms. Avia Amir, Mr. Yiftach Hargil, Ms. Ruthi Lamfrom, Ms. Bat Ami Karo and Ms. Tali Hamburger.

PAST EVENTS

Other Japan Related Activities

International Conference on "American Occupation in Comparative Perspective: Japan and Iraq, Differences, Similarities, and Theoretical Implications"

On March 13-14, 2012, an international conference was held at the Hebrew University on the subject of the American occupation in Japan and Iraq. While the word "occupation" has many connotations in Israel, this conference took a different approach towards this issue by viewing occupation through the lens of American and world history. The conference, developed from a well-received symposium held the year before, compared American occupation in Japan and Iraq, and also touched upon the subject of Germany after World War II. 21 Israeli and foreign researchers from the fields of Japanese Studies and Middle East Studies came together to explore the relations between occupation and state transformation, nation building and democratization.



Kusunoki Ayako, Kwansei Gakuin University, delivering a paper on "Formation of Japan's Security Policy under American Occupation"

Organizers: Dr. Nissim Otmazgin (Hebrew University) and Dr. Noga Efrati (Hebrew University)

Seminar "From Israel to Korea and Japan: Sport, Society and Politics in Asia"

The seminar was held on January 9, 2012 in Haifa University. Leading scholars from Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Bar-Ilan University and Haifa University presented their papers on identity and politics in Japan, Korea and Israel as reflected in sports, and discussed ways in which international sporting events influence and are influenced by the local political and social climate.

Organizer: Dr. Guy Podoler (University of Haifa)

Symposium Commemorating the March 2011 Disaster

The symposium was held on March 3, 2012 in Tel-Aviv University with the presence of Counselor Mitsuhiro Shinomiya of the Embassy of Japan. Among the participants was His Excellency Mr. Nissim Ben-Shitrit, the Israeli Ambassador in Japan, who spoke of the Israeli relief efforts. In the first part of the symposium, members of the Israeli trauma and relief team and several eyewitnesses described their experiences. The second half of the evening was devoted to an academic discussion of the events from religious, social and political perspectives.

PAST EVENTS

Seminar “Infirmity and Disability — Japanese Perspective”

The seminar was held on February 20, 2013 in Bar-Ilan University as part of a series of seminars held by a Rehabilitation and Health graduate program. Speakers from various fields covered a wide range of topics pertaining to cultural perceptions of health, infirmity and disability in Japanese society. Discussions ranged from “traditional” perceptions of abnormality and disability as reflected in traditional arts, through infirmity and its manifestations in the Imperial family, to modern perceptions of disabilities. These were examined through a specific case of integration in society of a woman with Down syndrome, through attitudes to A-bomb victims as reflected in photography, and patterns of medical administration of pregnancy in modern Japanese medical practice as mirroring attitudes towards possibilities of raising children with special needs.



Dr. Tsipy Ivry from Haifa University presenting a paper on “Pregnancy Experience in Japan in the Shadow of Prenatal Diagnostic Technologies”

Featured Papers:

"Between Disability and Holiness: The Two Faces in Japanese Culture"

Prof. Jacob Raz, Tel-Aviv University

"Aya and Eyal - Dialogue with literature Written by Parents of People with Special Needs in Japan"

Dr. Shunit Shahal-Porat, Bar-Ilan University

"Pregnancy Experience in Japan in the Shadow of Prenatal Diagnostic Technologies"

Dr. Tsipi Ivry, Haifa University

"*Hibakusha*: A-Bomb Survivors and the Attitude of the Japanese Society Towards Those Who Stayed Alive"

Dr. Ayelet Zohar, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

"The Beauty of Imperfection in Japanese Design"

Mr. Arie Kutz, Tel-Aviv University

"Blindness in Traditional Japanese Theater and in Japanese Cinema"

Prof. Zvika Serper, Tel-Aviv University

"Disease and Its Revelation in Imperial Family"

Prof. (Emeritus) Ben-Ami Shilony, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Organizers: Dr. Liora Findler, Director of the MA Rehabilitation Program, School of Social Work (Bar Ilan University) and Mr. Arie Kutz, Chair of the Israel-Japan Friendship Association

IAJS GRADS

IAJS Grads Workshop

IAJS Grads is a network of graduate and research students supported by IAJS. The network activities are initiated by the students for the students, with the supervision and support of leading scholars in the field of Japanese Studies in Israel.

The mission of IAJS Grads is to promote research domains that are not addressed by existing academic frameworks. IAJS Grads offers a forum for debating research topics, assistance in locating bibliographical sources, assistance with academic connections, information on studying abroad, and more. With the support of IAJS, members of IAJS Grads will initiate activities designed to provide students with practical support and council for the promotion of academic research and academic careers.

Research Students' Methodological Workshop

IAJS Grads initiated Bi-Annual Workshops to facilitate gatherings of graduate and research students and provide a forum for discussing their research. These workshops serve as a means to address methodological concerns shared by students, and to provide practical information regarding the pursuit of academic careers.

During the initial phase, the workshops will rotate among the three universities that presently offer a comprehensive program in Japanese studies: The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Tel Aviv University, and The University of Haifa. In due course, the workshops will take place in other

universities and colleges where a department of Asian Studies will be established.



Prof. Zvika Serper (Tel-Aviv University)

First Workshop

The first IAJS Grads methodology workshop was held at Tel-Aviv University on January 27, 2013.

The first part of the workshop was devoted to student presentations and discussion, and in the second part, Professor Zvika Serper of Tel Aviv University provided an overview of the process of publication of academic articles in the field of Japanese studies.

The three presenters were: Ms. Julia Stolar, MA student at Tel-Aviv University, who spoke about "Japan-South Korea Relations as Represented in TV Series"; Mr. Ari Yashar, MA student at the Hebrew University who presented a paper titled "From *Kensei* (Holy Swordsman) to Wanderer: Re-Imagining of Miyamoto Musashi in Modern Japan"; and Ms. Einat Cohen, PhD student at Haifa University who presented her developing research entitled "Entrepreneurship and Industry Education in Japan: Investigation of Entrepreneurship Education Methods as Local Development Mechanisms".

IAJS GRADS

The discussion following each presentation provided a unique opportunity for the students to hear comments and suggestions from their peers as well as from established scholars about their research. The lively conversation, exchange of opinions and brainstorming that took place in the workshop was beneficial not only for the presenting students, but to all participating students in different stages of research work.

IAJS Grads Journal

In 2013, IAJS Grads plans to launch an international academic journal that will be dedicated to articles by research students in the field of Japanese studies. The journal will be titled *Innovative Research in Japanese Studies* and offered online. The journal aims to become a pioneering international journal, showcasing outstanding papers on Japan written by graduate students; It is one of the few existing publications with such a mission. We accept original articles from all academic disciplines pertaining to Japan, including but not limited to politics, international relations, economics, history, literature, cultural studies, anthropology and the arts. Papers submitted to *Innovative Research in Japanese Studies* will be fully reviewed by our editorial board, supported by the Israeli Association for Japanese Studies. Authors of the selected articles will enjoy personal, step by step guidance until publication by a member/s of the editorial board.



left to right: Julia Stolar, Einat Cohen and Ari Yashar

Next Workshop

The next Grads Workshop will take place at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem at the end of this academic year. This workshop will focus on the art of presentation at international conferences; therefore, speakers will be asked to present their papers in English, and the discussion will concentrate on developing relevant skills. The workshop will be divided into two parts: In the first part research students will present their research, and in the second part, a visiting scholar will talk about participation in international conferences. Further details will be announced soon.

IAJS Grads current representatives are Naama Eisenstein (MA, Tel Aviv University), Einat Cohen (PhD, Haifa University), and Yiftach Govreen (PhD, Hebrew University).

For more details please visit our web site at:

<http://www.japan-studies.org/IAJS-Grads.html>

or contact us at: iajapanstudies@gmail.com

NEW SCHOLAR IN FOCUS

Yaara (Yagi) Morris

PhD Student,
Department for the Study of Religion
SOAS, University of London

As part of IAJS's commitment to promote new scholarship, each issue will introduce an emerging scholar. In this issue, interview with Yaara (Yagi) Morris who researches the relations between cosmology and geography during the Nanbokuchō and Muromachi periods.

What made you interested in Japan?

I was drawn to Japan from a very young age. It all started with a children's picture-book about a girl from Japan which I used to read every night at bedtime, even before I knew how to read. I felt that in some mysterious way I belonged in Japan. My interest grew further when I found an old book of Japanese folktales at home. They were poetic, fantastic, strange, often cruel, and they manifested a different world which I wanted to know more about. Many years later, while studying at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, I returned to the magical foxes, beasts, and dragons, which I first encountered in this book.

Can you tell us about your academic studies?

I have a BA in (Western) Art History and East Asian Studies, and an MA in East Asian Studies, but my goal was to combine the two fields and study Japanese visual culture. Since there was no such field in Israeli Academia, I found myself wandering to other fields – Noh theatre, mythology, and folktales – and was drawn especially to

narratives that featured a pilgrimage, a strange divinity, or a sacred mountain. During the years I spent in Japan as a Monkashō student, I often pursued the pilgrimages of the heroes and heroines appearing in these narratives or visited the places of manifestation of the divinities I was interested in. Gradually, I came to know various cultic sites, ritual practices, and pilgrimage routes throughout the country.



Yaara (Yagi) Morris

Is there a particular pilgrimage you would like to tell us more about?

As my time in Japan drew to an end, I decided to undertake the *henro*, the Shikoku pilgrimage. It is a 1,300 km route circumscribing Shikoku island and linking the 88 shrines and temples associated with Kobo Daishi, or Kukai (774-835), founder of the Shingon School of esoteric Buddhism, in a symbolic structure that leads the pilgrim through a process of death, regeneration and birth. Even though the pilgrimage landscape is not quite as majestic or awesome as that which one finds in other areas of Japan, more than any other pilgrimage, it is the *henro* that continues with me today, perhaps because it was there that I first felt a sense of belonging.

NEW SCHOLAR IN FOCUS



Shikoku pilgrims resting by the roadside

On one of the hottest days of the pilgrimage, feeling that I was about to faint, a strange man invited me for a cold drink at his home, which turned out to be a mental institution. He introduced me to the nurses who kindly offered me a place to rest from the unbearable heat outside. A fire alarm sounded as I was having my second glass of juice, while watching a woman shouting at the window and pulling out her hair. Within minutes, a group of police and firemen arrived and helped the nurses and doctors evacuate the patients. I thought that it was time for me to leave before someone mistakes me for a patient, but the doctors suggested that I stay until the end of the fire drill. As I stood outside in the courtyard, clad in the traditional pilgrim attire and surrounded by policemen, firemen, doctors, nurses and mental patients, I realized that for them I was simply part of the island's landscape, a landscape in which the pilgrimage occupied a central position.

During the pilgrimage I often visited places that were not part of the official route such as museums, hot springs, graveyards, restaurants, private houses, and once, in the absence of a cheap hotel in the city, even a Karaoke arcade. Imprinted with pilgrim's footsteps, I found that

these places, perhaps more than the shrines and temples traditionally visited by pilgrims, serve to embed the "sacred" landscape of the pilgrimage in the "profane" social and geographical landscape of Shikoku. The interconnectedness of the profane and sacred landscapes of the pilgrimage aroused my interest in the formulation of sacred landscapes at large. A few weeks later, I started a PhD program at SOAS, University of London, in the Department for the Study of Religion under the supervision of Dr. Lucia Dolce.



Shugendo pilgrims returning from the Autumn Peak at Haguro

Can you explain more about your research?

My research concerns the relations between cosmology and geography, and between indigenous and Buddhist mythologies in the Yoshino-Ōmine-Kumano area during the Nanbokuchō and Muromachi periods. The Ōmine mountain range in the Kii Peninsula is the first example known today of "mandalization" in Japan on a large scale, that is, the projection of the esoteric Buddhist mandala upon a geographical terrain. Beginning in the Heian period, the Yoshino area came to be perceived as the Diamond World mandala, while the Kumano area as the Womb World mandala; the two great mandalas of esoteric Buddhism that together constitute the universe.

NEW SCHOLAR IN FOCUS

One of the main texts I have analyzed is *The Secret Transmission of the Golden Peak (Kinpusen Himitsuden)*, written by the monk Monkan Kōshin (1278-1357), a guardian monk, or *gojisō*, of Emperor Go-Daigo (1288-1339). It was compiled in 1337, at the beginning of the Nanbokuchō period (1336-1392), when Japan was divided between the warring Southern and Northern Courts. The text symbolically transforms the Yoshino Palace to which Emperor Go-Daigo fled following the downfall of his Kenmu regime (1333-1336) into a cosmic palace, and the Emperor into a *cakravartin*, a Universal Golden Wheel-Turning Monarch, symbolically reaffirming the Emperor's sovereignty over Japan as a tantric state.



A Shrine at the summit of Mount Tsurugi

What kind of difficulties did you encounter during your research?

One of the greatest difficulties in studying medieval Japan is, of course, the language. When I first started my research I had no knowledge of Kanbun (classical Chinese) or classical Japanese. Rather than being sources and foundations, the texts were obstacles to overcome. Having received the Einstein Grant from the Hebrew University, I returned to Japan where I had the opportunity to study Kanbun at Waseda University under

the instruction of Prof. Ryoshun Okubo. Upon my arrival, Prof. Okubo informed me that during the first year he does not expect me to understand anything and yet I am to audit all his courses. In the second year of Kanbun studies I tried another approach – I started reading and translating the texts that I was interested in with the guidance of Nobumi Iyanaga, a fascinating scholar of medieval Japan, and Mayuri Rinzan, a post graduate student of Prof. Okubo's. Laboriously reading word by word, text by text, proved a more productive means of studying this complex language.

What are your plans for the future?

I plan to pursue the study of Japanese mythology, cosmology and sacred space. However, the work involved in writing the dissertation, and my experience as a pilgrim in Shikoku, made it clear that I want to understand not only how people formulate their perception of space in writing, but also how people create sacred and profane spaces through their actions within religious and secular contexts. I hope that in my future research I will combine my love of Japanese mountains and pilgrimages with my fascination with legends, myths, and human beings.

Interviewed by Irit Wienberg

Photos: Yaara (Yagi) Morris

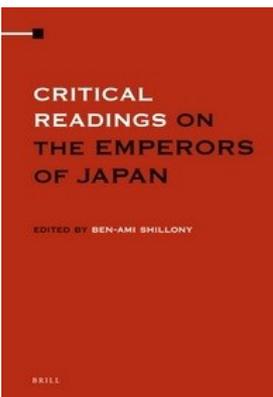
NEW PUBLICATIONS

A selection of publications by IAJS members

Ben-Ami Shillony (ed)

Critical Readings on the Emperors of Japan (Leiden: Brill, 2012), 4 vols, 1,400 pp.

ISBN: 9789004208865



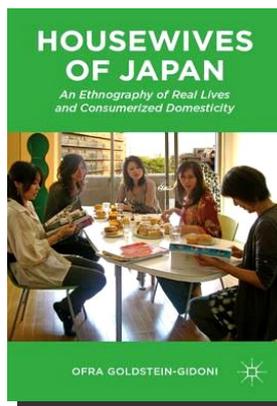
This publication concentrates on the emperors of Japan and brings together in 4 volumes the scholarship of a variety of authors addressing ancient and classical Japan, feudal Japan, imperial Japan, and postwar Japan. Each volume opens with a special

introduction. It is a one stop reference resource, presenting high quality scholarship in English on the subject of the Japanese emperors by experts in this field. By selecting the best material published to-date from a huge pool of sources, and contextualizing them thematically, the editor creates a unique tool for rapid access not only to seminal works but also to less familiar texts. The publication carries an extensive bibliography, a glossary, and constitutional documents.

Ofra Goldstein-Gidoni

Housewives of Japan: An Ethnography of Real Lives and Consumerized Domesticity (Palgrave Macmillan, 2012), 300 pp.

ISBN 9780230340312



Women in postwar Japan have never felt completely free from the traditional concept of the housewife. Drawing on a unique ethnographic inquiry, Ofra Goldstein-Gidoni explores the complexities of the relationship between socially and culturally

constructed roles bestowed on Japanese women by a variety of state agents, including the market and the media, and their real lives. With a novel approach to the use of the Internet and email in the production of ethnographic knowledge, this book gives voice to the lives and thoughts of "professional housewives." The central position given to the life and voice of Mariko, a coauthor, though not a co-writer, challenges ideas of hierarchies and authority in the production of such knowledge.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Meron Medzini

Betzel Ha'shemesh Ha'ola (Under the Shadow of the Rising Sun-Japan and the Jews During the Holocaust)
(Ben Shemen: Modan, 2012), 186 pp. [Hebrew]



Even before Japan entered into an alliance with Germany, the Japanese authorities notified the Nazi government that "the view of the Jews held by the Japanese public radically differs from the official German stance... [and that] our government cannot take

a step that might be interpreted as a support for racial discrimination or to take a stand against the Jews". This policy did not change even after Japan joined the Axis, created by Germany and Italy, and even after Japan joined the war of both these countries against the democratic Western states and became Germany's ally in World War II. Forty thousand Jews who found themselves under Japanese rule in the Japanese islands and in the occupied territories in Manchuria, China etc., have survived during the war, while millions of others were exterminated by the Nazi Germany in Europe.

Under the Shadow of the Rising Sun follows the developments in Japanese attitudes towards Jews, starting from the beginning of the twentieth century, investigates the roots of the favorable attitude towards Jews held by the Japanese, and the emergence of anti-Semitic tendencies in Japan. In addition, the book tries to clarify why the Japanese governments ignored the explicit demands from the Nazi authorities to strike the Jews and get involved in the Final Solution.

Ehud Harari

Japan: A Maturing Democracy (Raanana: Open University, 2012), 316 pp. [Hebrew]



In his book, Ehud Harari surveys the development of democracy in modern Japan, from the middle of the nineteenth century to present day. Japan is the pioneer of modernization in the non-Western world; it is also one of the countries belonging to the

"second wave of democratization" in the first decades after World War II. Similar to India, and as opposed to other countries belonging to the second wave of democratization in the West, Japanese democracy survived to this day, after overcoming childhood pains and maturation difficulties.

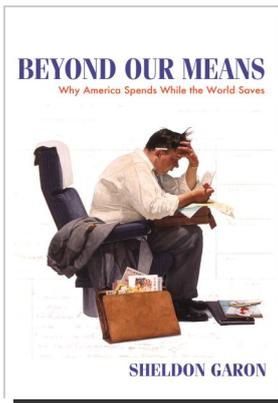
In the Japanese case, the myths overshadow the facts, and Ehud Harari, based on existing historical and social science research, as well as on his own inquiries, set out to distinguish myths from facts. The book offers a succinct review of Japanese society and state in pre-modern and modern times, and guides the readers through various complex aspects of Japanese democracy since the end of World War II.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Sheldon Garon

Beyond Our Means: Why America Spends While the World Saves (Princeton University Press, 2012), 272 pp.

ISBN: 9789971696009



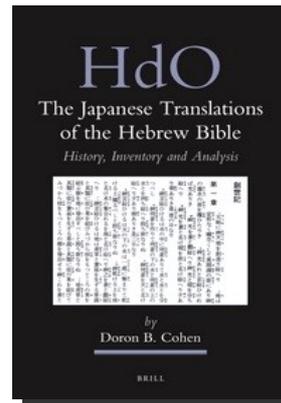
A historian of Japan, Sheldon Garon here embeds Japan in a global history about the spread of ideas and institutions in the modern world. This original account tells the story of how Americans came to privilege consumption and credit, while

Europeans, Japanese, and other Asians aggressively encouraged countrymen to save money and restrain spending—by means of special savings institutions, education, and campaigns. What brings together the thrifty societies of East Asia and Europe is not a common heritage, but a common transnational history of molding economic behavior to create self-reliant citizens and powerful nations. Tracing the development of such programs across three continents from the nineteenth century to the present, *Beyond Our Means* reveals why some nations save so much, and others so little. The book has attracted media attention in the U.S., Japan, Germany, the U.K, Australia, and Israel, and its ideas have influenced policy discussions on how to improve the financial stability of American households.

Doron B. Cohen

The Japanese Translations of the Hebrew Bible: History Inventory and Analysis (Brill, 2013), 452 pp.

ISBN 9789004243477



The Japanese Translations of the Hebrew Bible: History, Inventory and Analysis, the first book of its kind in English, recounts the story of the translation of the Bible into Japanese, with particular focus on the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament). It includes a detailed

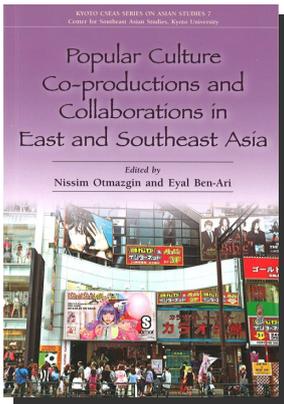
inventory of both full and partial OT translations into Japanese, describing the history of their making and the identity of the translators. Numerous quotations from the various translations are compared with the Hebrew original and with other versions, and analyzed linguistically and theologically. The analysis exposes the ways in which translators sought to bridge the wide linguistic and cultural gaps between the Hebrew Bible and Japan, and the ways in which their translations reflect certain aspects of Japanese society and the place of the Bible in it.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Nissim Otmazgin and Eyal Ben-Ari (eds.)

***Popular Culture Co-productions and Collaborations in East and Southeast Asia* (Singapore: NUS Press and Kyoto University Press, 2013), 272 pp.**

ISBN: 9789971696009



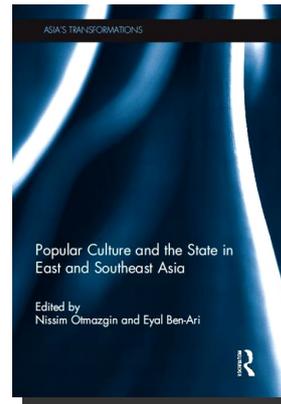
This volume is the first to examine the characteristics, dynamics and wider implications of recently emerging regional production, dissemination, marketing and consumption systems of popular culture in East and Southeast Asia. Through

discussions of Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Philippine and Indonesian culture industries, the authors describe a major shift in Asia's popular culture markets toward arrangements that transcend autonomous national economies by organizing and locating production, distribution, and consumption of cultural goods on a regional scale. Specifically, the authors deal with patterns of co-production and collaboration in the making and marketing of cultural commodities such as movies, music, comics, and animation.

Nissim Otmazgin and Eyal Ben-Ari (eds.)

***Popular Culture and the State in East and Southeast Asia* (Routledge , 2012), 210 pp.**

ISBN 9780415679695



This volume examines the relations between popular culture production and export, and the state in East and Southeast Asia, including the urban centers and middle-classes of Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, China,

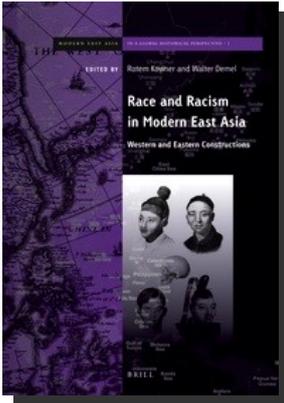
Thailand, and the Philippines. It addresses the shift in official thinking towards the role of popular culture in the political life of states brought about by the massive circulation of cultural commodities and the possibilities for attaining "soft power".

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Rotem Kowner and Walter Demel (eds.)

Race and Racism in Modern East Asia: Western and Eastern Constructions (Leiden: Brill, 2012), 594 pp.

ISBN 9789004237292

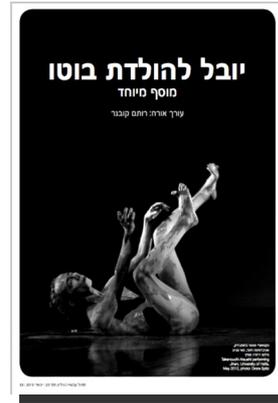


Race and Racism in Modern East Asia juxtaposes Western racial constructions of East Asians with constructions of race and their outcomes in modern East Asia. It is the first endeavor to explicitly and coherently link constructions of race and racism

in both regions. These constructions have not only played a decisive role in shaping the relations between West and East Asia since the mid nineteenth century, but also exert substantial influence on current relations and mutual images in both the East-West nexus and East Asia. Written by some of the field's leading authorities, this groundbreaking 21-chapter volume offers an analysis of these constructions, their evolution and their interrelations.

Rotem Kowner (guest editor)

Butoh Semicentennial Anniversary. Special Supplement in Dance Today 23 (2013): 53-99 [Hebrew].



This collection of scholarly articles is devoted to the dance genre known as *butoh*, its Japanese origins, its global expansion, and its artistic and cultural influence overseas and in Israel. The ten articles and short essays in this issue mark the first time

that *butoh* receives such scholarly attention in Israel. Seeking to reexamine and reassess this form of art, this issue aims also to enrich the local discourse on contemporary Japanese culture and its global contribution, alongside the intercultural dialogue it engages in.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Ayelet Zohar (guest editor)

Trans Asia Photography Review 2.1 (2011)



Edited by Ayelet Zohar, this special issue titled *The Eva[lu]sive Portrait: In Pursuit of Photographic Portraiture in East Asia and Beyond*, focuses on the notion of portrait, or more precisely, the impossibility of the singular portrait. The introduction dis-

cusses the idea of the *Eva[lu]sive*, followed by an extensive article on contemporary Japanese portrait photography, both written by Ayelet Zohar. Other articles in the issue include David Hogge's review of CiXi theatrical portraits taken by Xunling in the late 19th century; Namiko Kunimoto's discussion of Western and Japanese travelers dressed in Tibetan Lama gowns in the early 20th century; Choi Youngsook's text on Subversive Portraits of National Heroism in Contemporary Korean Photography; Yomi Braester's interview with Gang Xin discussing his *Identity Exchange* series; Murtaza Vali's review of South Asian contemporary portrait photography; Kim Jeeney on Noh Suntag portraits of the deceased, and finally, Kip Fulbeck's *Hapa Project*. This rich issue can be reached online at:

[http://quod.lib.umich.edu/t/tap/7977573.0002.1*?
rqn=main;view=fulltext](http://quod.lib.umich.edu/t/tap/7977573.0002.1*?rqn=main;view=fulltext)