**Thomas Donald Conlan**

207 JONES HALL, PRINCETON NJ 08544

(609) 258-4773• [tconlan@princeton.edu](mailto:tconlan@princeton.edu)

FAX (609) 258-6984

<https://scholar.princeton.edu/tconlan/home>

ORCID iD

[0000-0001-5926-7381](https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5926-7381)

**Curriculum Vitae**

**EMPLOYMENT**

Princeton University: Professor of Japanese History, Joint Appointment, Department of East Asian Studies and Department of History July 2013-present

Bowdoin College: Professor of Japanese History, Joint Appointment,

Asian Studies Program and Department of History July 2010-June 2013

Bowdoin College: Associate Professor of Japanese History, Joint Appointment,

Asian Studies Program and Department of History July 2004-June 2010

Bowdoin College: Assistant Professor of Japanese History, Joint Appointment,

Asian Studies Program and Department of History July 1998-June 2004

**EDUCATION**

**Stanford University**, Ph.D., History September 1998

Major concentration: Japan before 1600

Minor concentration: Japan since 1600

**Kyoto University**, Faculty of Letters, Ph.D. Program, History April 1995-September 1997

**Stanford University**, M.A., History June 1992

**The University of Michigan***,* April 1989

B.A. History and Japanese, with Highest Honors

**NATIONAL ACADEMIC AWARDS**

2025-26 John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship

2018-19 ACLS Fellowship

2019 Toshiba International Foundation grant for Sakuramotobō documents research

2011-12 Japan Foundation Japanese Studies Fellowship

2002 Suntory Foundation Grant to defray publication expenses for *State of War*

2001-2 NEH Fellowship for College Teachers

2001-2 Fulbright Senior Scholar Award

2001-2 Japan Foundation Japanese Studies Fellowship (declined)

1994-97 Japanese Ministry of Education Fellowship

1989 Phi Beta Kappa

**INTRAMURAL AWARDS**

2021 Collaborative Teaching Grant with Soojung Han for “Medieval Asian Worlds”

2021 Collaborative Teaching Grant with Megan Gilbert for “The Law in Action”

2017 David A. Gardner ’69 Magic Project in the Humanities Council grant

“The Story of Slag: Creating a Chronology of Copper Smelting for Japan 700-2000”

2017-18 Old Dominion Faculty Fellow

2016 UCHR&SS grant “Visualizing the Ōnin War (1467-77): Ten Years in Ten Minutes.”

2015-16 Old Dominion Faculty Fellow

2014 Digital Humanities Summer Stipend

2010 Bowdoin College Faculty Development Grant to defray publication expenses for *From Sovereign to Symbol*

2009 Karofsky Faculty Encore Lecture, nominated by the 2010 Bowdoin Senior Class

2007-8 Bowdoin Faculty Leave Fellowship

2000 Fletcher Family Research Grant to defray publication expenses for *State of War*

1999-2005 Freeman Fellowships

1997-98 Dissertation Fellow, Stanford Humanities Center

1997-98 FLAS Fellowship

1991-94 Full Tuition Fellowship, Stanford University

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Under Contract**

*Kinkakuji, A Cultural History of the Golden Pavilion.* Leiden: Brill Japanese Visual Culture Series, 2025.

*The [Oxford] Handbook of Ancient and Medieval Japanese History.* New York: Oxford University Press.

# Monographs

*Kings in All but Name: The Lost History of Ōuchi Rule in Japan, 1350-1569.* New York: Oxford University Press, 2024. <https://doi.org/10.1093/oso/9780197677339.001.0001>

*Samurai and the Warrior Culture of Japan, 471-1877: A Sourcebook.* Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company, 2022. <https://hackettpublishing.com/samurai-and-the-warrior-culture-of-japan-471-1877>

*Samurai Weapons and Fighting Techniques 1200-1877* [revised edition of *Weapons and Fighting Techniques*]*.* New York: Amber Press, 2022.

*Zusetsu Sengoku Jidai: Buki Bōgu Senjutsu Hyakka* (図説 戦国時代 武器・防具・戦術百科) [Japanese translation of *Weapons and Fighting Techniques*]. Tokyo: Hara Shobō2013.

*From Sovereign to Symbol: An Age of Ritual Determinism in Fourteenth Century Japan.*

New York: Oxford University Press, 2011. <https://global.oup.com/academic/product/from-sovereign-to-symbol-9780199778102?cc=us&lang=en&>

*Weapons and the Fighting Techniques of the Samurai Warrior, 1200-1877*. New York: Amber Press, 2008.

*State of War: The Violent Order of Fourteenth-Century Japan.* Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Center for Japanese Studies, 2003. <https://press.umich.edu/Books/S/State-of-War>

*In Little Need of Divine Intervention: Takezaki Suenaga’s Scrolls of the Mongol Invasions of Japan*. Ithaca: Cornell University East Asia Program, 2001. <https://www.cornellpress.cornell.edu/book/9781885445131/in-little-need-of-divine-intervention/#bookTabs=1>

**Forthcoming Book Chapters**

*Warriors and Warfare in Medieval Japan.* In Christopher Harding, ed., Oxford Illustrated History of Japan*.*

*It’s All Relative: Japan and the Enduring Influence of the Seventeen Principles of 604.* In Valentina Arena and Eric Robinson, eds., Cambridge History of Democracy vol. 1 From Democratic Beginnings to c. 1350*.*

**Book Chapters**

*Strategy and Warfare in Ancient and Medieval Japan.* In John Hosler and David Frank, eds., Routledge Handbook of Medieval Military Strategy (Routledge, 2024), pp. 266-76*.*

*Hikari to yami o koete—Nihon chūseishi no tenbō.* In Horikawa Yasufumi and Xiaolong Huang eds., Kaigai no Nihon chūseishi kenkyū(Benseisha, 2023), pp. 18-26.

*Chūsei no kassen: Dono yō ni okonaware, ika ni henka shita no ka.* In Uejima Susumu et. al. eds., Ronten Nihon Shigaku*.* (Minerva shobō, 2022), pp. 140-41.

*Myōkōji monjo as a Source for Reading and Teaching: The Experiences of Komonjo Camp* (*Myōkōji monjo o yomu, oshieru: Komonjo Kyanpu no taiken*). Myōkōji monjo no sekai(Ichinomiya, 2021), pp. 50-54.

njo as a Source for Reading and Teaching: The Experiences of Komojo Camp

*Warfare in Japan, 1200-1550.* Anne Curry and David A. Graff, eds., The Cambridge History of War, vol. 2 (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2020), pp. 523-53.

*The Rise of Warriors During the Warring States Period*. Japan: Past and Present, published by the Axel and Margarate Ax:son Johnson Foundation. (Stockholm, January 2020), pp. 314-27.

*Baishōron Introduction*. Royall Tyler, trans. Fourteenth-Century Voices II: From Baishōron to Nantaiheiki. (Middleton, DE: Blue Tongue Books, 2016), pp. 17-28.

*Myth, Memory and the Scrolls of the Mongol Invasions of Japan.* Elizabeth Lillehoj, ed., Archaism and Antiquarianism in Korean and Japanese Art (Chicago: Center for the Art of East Asia, University of Chicago and Art Media Resources, 2013), pp. 54-73.

*Medieval Warfare*. Karl Friday, ed., Japan Emerging: Introductory Essays on Premodern History (Westview Press, 2012), pp. 244-53.

*The Ashikaga Shogunate, Mongol Invasions,* and *Nanbokuchō Wars*. Gordon Martel, ed., The Encyclopedia of War (London: Wiley-Blackwell, 2011).

*Instruments of Change: Organizational Technology and the Consolidation of Regional Power in Japan 1333-1600*. John Ferejohn and Frances Rosenbluth eds., War and State Building in Medieval Japan (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2010), pp. 124-58.

*Traces of the Past: Documents, Literacy and Liturgy in Medieval Japan*. Gordon Berger, Andrew Goble, Lorraine Harrington, G. Cameron Hurst III, eds., Currents in Medieval Japanese History: Essays in Honor of Jeffrey P. Mass (University of Southern California East Asian Studies Center: Figueroa Press, 2009), pp. 19-50.

*On the Nature of Warfare in the Fourteenth Century* (*Nanbokuchōki kassen no ikkōsatsu* 南北朝期合戦の一考察), in Ōyama Kyōhei sensei taikan kinen ronshūkai, ed., Nihon shakai no shiteki kōzō kodai chūsei (Kyoto: Shibunkaku, 1997), pp. 417-39.

*Largesse and the Limits of Loyalty in the Fourteenth Century*, in Mass, ed., The Origins of Japan’s Medieval World: Courtiers, Clerics, Warriors, and Peasants in the Fourteenth Century (Stanford University Press, 1997), pp. 39-64.

**Published Articles**

*The Gods are Watching: Talismans, Oaths, and Political Allegiance in Medieval Japan.* In Medieval Worlds: Oaths in Premodern Japan and Premodern Europe*,* vol. 19 (2023), pp. 40-64.

<https://medievalworlds.net/?arp=0x003ea4f7>

*Ōuchi Yoshitaka no sento keikaku* (Ōuchi Yoshitaka’s Plan to Move the Capital). Yamaguchi ken chihōshi kenkyū 123 (June 2020), pp. 14-28.

*The ‘Ōnin War’ as Fulfillment of Prophecy*. The Journal of Japanese Studies 46.1 (Winter 2020), pp. 31-60. <https://muse.jhu.edu/article/746929>

*When Men Become Gods: Apotheosis, Sacred Space, and Political Authority in Japan 1486-1599*. Quaestiones Medii Aevi Novae2016, pp. 89-106. <https://www.ceeol.com/search/article-detail?id=901401>

*The Failed Attempt to Move the Emperor to Yamaguchi and the Fall of the Ōuchi*. Japanese Studies 35.2 (September 2015), pp. 1-19. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/10371397.2015.1077679>

*Shiryō shōkai: Yoshida Kanemigi ga utsushita Ōuchi keizu.* (The Ōuchi genealogy copied by Yoshida Kanemigi). Yamaguchi kenshi kenkyū 21 (March 2013), pp. 65-70.

*Ema : une famille samouraï*. Les Grands Dossiers des sciences Humaines, “La guerre, des origines à nos jours,” hors-série Histoire n° 1 (Novembre-Décembre 2012), pp. 52-55.

*The Two Paths of Writing and Warring in Medieval Japan*. Taiwan Journal of East Asian Studies 8.1 (June 2011), pp. 85-127. <http://tjeas.ciss.ntnu.edu.tw/en-us/journals/details/156>

*Thicker than Blood: The Social and Political Significance of Wet Nurses in Japan, 950-1330*. Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies 65.1 (June 2005), pp. 159-205.

*The Culture of Force and Farce: Fourteenth-Century Japanese Warfare*. Edwin O. Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies Occasional Papers in Japanese Studies. No. 2000-01 (January 2000).

*The Nature of Warfare in Fourteenth-Century Japan: The Record of Nomoto Tomoyuki*. The Journal of Japanese Studies 25.2 (Summer 1999), pp. 299-330.

**Review Articles**

*Layered Sovereignties and Contested Seas: Recent Histories of Maritime Japan*. The Journal of Asian Studies 76.2 (May 2017), pp. 518-29. doi:10.1017/S0021911817000250

Maiden Voyage: The Senzaimaru and the Creation of Modern Sino-Japanese Relations. By Joshua Fogel. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2014. Empires on the Waterfront: Japan's Ports and Power, 1858–1899. By Catherine L. Phipps. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2015. Lords of the Sea: Pirates, Violence, and Commerce in Late Medieval Japan. By Peter D. Shapinsky. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2014. Defensive Positions: The Politics of Maritime Security in Tokugawa Japan. By Noell Wilson. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2015.

**Book Reviews**

Randall Sasaki. The Origins of the Lost Fleet of the Mongol Empire. (Texas A&M University Press, 2015). The Historian 79.4 (Winter 2017), pp. 879-81.

Morgan Pitelka. Spectacular Accumulation: Material Culture, Tokugawa Ieyasu and Samurai Sociability. (Honolulu: University of Hawai’i Press, 2016). American Historical Review 122.3 (June, 2017), pp. 819-20.

<https://academic.oup.com/ahr/article/122/3/819/3862816/Morgan-Pitelka-Spectacular-Accumulation-Material?guestAccessKey=dd56a539-a924-482e-8472-efd789a68e59>

Kuroda Hideo. Kokuhō Jingoji Sanzō to wa Nanika 国宝神護寺三像とは何か (Tokyo: Kadokawa sensho, 2012). International Journal of Asian Studies 13.2 (July 2016), pp. 267-70.

Asuka Sango. The Halo of Golden Light: Imperial Authority and Buddhist Ritual in Heian Japan(Honolulu: University of Hawai‘i Press, 2015). Journal of Japanese Studies 42.2 (2016), pp. 393-97.

David Lurie. Realms of Literacy: Early Japan and the History of Writing (East Asian Monographs, number 335. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2011). American Historical Review 117.4 (October 2012), p. 1203.

Lori Meeks. Hokkeji and the Reemergence of Female Monastic Orders in Premodern Japan (Honolulu: University of Hawai’i Press, 2010). The Journal of Asian Studies 70.3 (August 2011), pp. 844-46.

Judith Fröhlich. Rulers, Peasants and the Use of the Written Word in Medieval Japan (New York: Peter Lang, 2007). Monumenta Nipponica 63.1 (Spring 2008), pp. 161-63.

Mikael S. Adolphson. The Teeth and Claws of the Buddha: Monastic Warriors and *Sōhei* in Japanese History (Honolulu: Univeristy of Hawai’i Press, 2007). Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies 68.1 (June 2008), pp. 182-89.

Mikael Adolphson, Edward Kamens, and Stacie Matsumoto, eds. Heian Japan: Centers and Peripheries (Honolulu: University of Hawai’i Press, 2007). The Journal of Japanese Studies 34.2 (Summer 2008), pp. 467-71.

Olaf G. Liden, Tanegashima: The Arrival of Europe in Japan (Copenhagen: Nordic Institute of Asian Studies, 2002). Monumenta Nipponica 58.3 (Autumn 2003), pp. 412-14.

Lee Butler, Emperor and Aristocracy in Japan, 1467-1680 (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Asia Center, 2002). The Journal of Asian Studies 62.4 (November 2003), pp. 1239-40.

G. C. Hurst, Armed Martial Arts of Japan (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1998).

Monumenta Nipponica 54.1 (Spring 1999), pp. 162-65.

**ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES**

Director, National Consortium for Teaching about Asia, Princeton July 2022-present

Director, East Asian Studies Program, Princeton University August 2021-June 2024

Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Officer, East Asian Studies Department, Princeton University July 2019-June 2024

Elected to the Princeton University Committee of the Library and Computing

July 2019-June 2022

Director of Graduate Studies, Princeton University Department of East Asian Studies

July 2016-June 2018

Chair, Asian Studies Program, Bowdoin College January 2004-July 2007

**Selected Presentations**

*East Asian Traders and Multiethnic Kings: The Lost History of Ōuchi Rule in Japan, 1350-1569*

Carleton College April 3, 2025

*Why Did So Many Early Photographers of Japan Become Painters? Backlash Against the “Real” in Meiji Japan.* Presented at the conference *Making it "Real:" Social and Cultural Transformations across Meiji Japan*

Princeton University March 20, 2025

*Convert, Soldier, Envoy, Exile: The Remarkable Life of Naitō Sadahiro (Dom João Naitodono) [1551-1626], and His Suit of Christian Armor*

Princeton University October 30, 2024

*The Brush and the Sword: : Ways of Writing and Fighting in Medieval Japan*

Keynote Speaker, Annual History Colloquium

Southwestern University September 26, 2024

*Cypress Bark Roofing (*hiwadabuki*): Japan’s Infinitely Reusable Resource*

Is Ise Circular? Workshp Princeton University September 13, 2024

*When East Meets West: Sixteenth Century Iberian-Japanese Armor and the Remarkable Suit of Naitō Sadahiro/Dom João Naitodono*

Creating the Samurai Workshop London/Zoom September 2, 2024

*Kinkakuji and the Changing Boundaries of Kyōto*

NHS Conference, Kyoto June 12, 2024

*Japanese and Joseon Relations during the period of Ōuchi Dominion: 1392-1551*

Chosŏn History Society (Zoom) May 8, 2024

*Kings in All but Name.* New books in Japanese Studies Podcast with Jingyi LiMarch 17, 2024

*Selected Favorite New Books Network Favorite Interviews of 2024* January 9, 2025

<https://newbooksnetwork.substack.com/p/our-favorite-interviews-of-2024>

*How Does a “Replica” become an “Original”—The History of Japan’s Second Gold Temple (Kinkakuji) 1950-1994*

Princeton University February 17, 2024

*The Appeal of Japanese History: The Ōuchi, Documents, and Medieval Warfare.* Harukidegozaimasu podcast (in Japanese) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bPNM6D4T28k> February 3, 2024

*How can Jesuits be mistaken for Buddhist monks? Ōuchi Yoshinaga’s 1552 commendation and its Portuguese and Latin Afterlives*

Comparative Diplomatics Seminar, Princeton University November 14, 2023

*When East Meets West: Thoughts on Hybrid Suits of Euro-Japanese Armor*

Creating the Samurai Workshop Program(Zoom)November 2, 2023

*How Japan Became Known as the Land of the Rising Sun: The Enduring Influence of the Seventeen Commandments of 604*

Medieval Faculty Colloquium, Princeton University October 31, 2023

*Lands of Gold: The Story of Silla (Korea) and Japan*

*Le Soléal* Sakaiminato/Matsue, Japan April 25, 2023

*Japan’s Maritime Lords: The Taira (1160-85) and the Ōuchi (1350-1569*)

*Le Soléal* Hagi Japan April 24, 2023

*Why Did So Many Early Photographers of Japan Become Painters? Backlash Against the “Real” in Meiji Japan.* Presented atthe Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies*,* Boston March 17, 2023

*Japan’s Magna Carta: Property, Inheritance and Gender in Medieval Japan* March 2, 2023

Princeton Journeys Zoom Lecture [https://vimeo.com/805294064/b9042c8d54](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fvimeo.com%2F805294064%2Fb9042c8d54&data=05%7C01%7Ctconlan%40princeton.edu%7Caf4e0c0703b34f230fb208db1febe71b%7C2ff601167431425db5af077d7791bda4%7C0%7C0%7C638138870274994092%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=LIQ%2FuwCB9FAfSza3u6myKvA6kIzG6tC%2BeYTjIuPDoh0%3D&reserved=0)

<https://alumni.princeton.edu/connect/princeton-journeys/live-lectures>

*Hikari to yami o koete chūsei nihonshi no tenbō. Kaigai no nihon chūseishi kenkyū*

Tokyo Historiographical Institute, The University of Tokyo (Zoom) March 8, 2022

*Why Did So Many Early Photographers of Japan Become Painters? Reflections on Early Photography in Japan*

Princeton University February 23, 2022

*Designing and Disseminating Digital Sources for Medieval Japan*

Kyushu University Faculty of Humanities (Zoom) May 26, 2021

Núcleo de Estudos Japoneses Brazil (Zoom) January 28, 2022

*Ashikaga Takauji and the Warrior Culture of Japan*

Wake Forest University (Zoom) April 8, 2021

*East Asian Traders and Multiethnic Kings: Uncovering a Lost History of Ōuchi Rule in Japan (1350-1569)*

Cambridge University East Asian Seminar (Zoom) March 15, 2021

*The Gods are Watching: Talismans, Oaths, and Political Allegiance in Medieval Japan*

Princeton University (Zoom) October 7, 2020

The University of Vienna (Zoom) October 23, 2021

*The Transmission of Omission: Understanding Japan’s 14th-15th Centuries Through Altered Histories*

Princeton University February 20, 2020

Penn Workshop in the History of Material Texts (Zoom) November 30, 2020

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WIqVEq8Mg0Y>

*Fraternal Succession, Fictive Naming and Trade: Ōuchi Rule in Early Fifteenth Century Japan*

Princeton University February 12, 2020

*The Warrior Culture of Medieval Japan*

Johannes Gutenberg Universitat Mainz December 18, 2019

Part of a lecture series, “Non-European Cultures of War in the Pre-Modern Period” for "Byzantium and the Euro-Mediterranean Cultures of War. Exchange, Differentiation and Reception” (<https://grk-byzanz-wars.uni-mainz.de/> )

*Miners, Traders and Multiethnic Kings: Uncovering a Lost History of Japan (1400-1570)*

Princeton University Davis Center Works in Progress December 4, 2019

University of Pennsylvania December 6, 2019

*From the Ground Up: Refining Views of Japanese History (750-1550) Through Mining*

Institute for Advanced Studies, Princeton November 25, 2019

*Japan, Europe and East Asia: Interactions and Transformations from the Mongol Invasions (1274, 1281) to the “Closure” of Japan*

Lecture for Professional Development Course *Japan Goes Global: History and the Impact of International Exchange*

Japan Society, New York October 19, 2019

*New Views of Japanese History: The Case of the Ōuchi*

Seattle Museum of Art October 4, 2019

*The Brush and the Sword: Ways of Writing and Fighting in Medieval Japan*

Seattle Museum of Art October 3, 2019

*The Journey of the Sakuramotobō Documents to Princeton*

Presented at the Symposium *New Trends in the Study of Medieval Japanese Documents.*

Princeton University July 25, 2019

*Ōuchi Yoshitaka no sento keikaku: mō hitotsu no sengoku jidai* [*Ōuchi Yoshitaka’s Plan to Move the Capital: New Views of the Warring States Era*]

Yamaguchi, Japan May 26, 2019

*Apotheosis, Sacred Space, and Political Authority in Japan 1486-1599*

Central European University, Budapest January 15, 2019

*Kings in All But Name: Ritual, Religion and Ōuchi daimyō of Western Japan 1350-1550*

University of Vienna January 14, 2019

*Understanding the Samurai through Five Documents (Two Forgeries)*

Comparative Diplomatics Workshop, Princeton University October 23, 2018

*Understanding Ōuchi Genealogies: Thoughts on the Political and Ritual Ramifications of the Oldest Surviving Version*.

Workshop on Visual and Textual Lineages in Premodern East Asia

Princeton University May 5, 2018

*In the Eye of the Beholder: On the Experience of “Colorblindness”* March 1, 2018

Princeton University

*The Story of Slag: Copper Mining in Ancient and Medieval Japan*  February 7, 2018

Princeton University

*Law and Violence in Medieval Japan*  December 9, 2017

Delaware Valley Medieval Association*,* Princeton

*Japan’s Magna Carta: The Jōei Code of 1232*

The Baronial Order of the Magna Carta, Princeton October 21, 2017

*Kings in All but Name: The Ōuchi and the Age of Yamaguchi 1408-1551*

University of British Columbia September 21, 2017

*The Question of the ‘Rise of the Warriors’ during the Warring States Era*

Axel and Margaret Ax:son Johnson Foundation seminar *The Making of the Samurai in Tokugawa Japan* Engelsberg Ironworks, Falun Sweden May 18, 2017

*Of Prophecies and Histories: Toward A New Understanding of Fifteenth-Century Japan and the “Ōnin War” (1465-78)*

Princeton University February 8, 2017

*The Arms and Armor of the Samurai*

Opening lecture Frist Center for the Visual Arts November 4, 2016

[*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pB5OlCRPHHA*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pB5OlCRPHHA)

*Digital Documents: Possibilities for Research, Teaching, and Dissemination*

Princeton University March 4, 2016

*The Creation of a Japanese Scenery: From the Northern Mountains (Kitayama) to the Golden Pavilion (Kinkakuji)*

Princeton University February 10, 2016

*When Men Become Gods: The Ritual Basis for Political Authority in Japan 1351-1551*

Princeton University February 3, 2015

Columbia University April 16, 2015

*The Age of Yamaguchi (1465-1551): Toward A New Understanding of Japanese History*

The Third Annual Joint Fudan-Princeton-Tokyo University International Conference

December 15, 2013

*The Aborted Attempt to Move the Emperor to Yamaguchi: 1551 as a Turning Point in Japanese History.*

Princeton University East Asian Studies Department Colloquium Series October 23, 2013

*Samurai, Arms, and Armor*

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston April 24, 2013

Brigham Young University September 17, 2015

*Imagining the Wars of Thirteenth Century Japan* March 8, 2013

Williams College

*From Ad Hoc to Ongoing: The Mongol Invasions and the Institutionalization of Authority of Japan*

Presented at Conference, Mongols on the Margins, UCLA February 22, 2013

<http://www.international.ucla.edu/apc/centralasia/article/130661>

*Ritual Mimesis and Performative Sovereignty in Fourteenth-Century Japan*

University of Southern CaliforniaFebruary 21, 2013

*Kings in All but Name: Japan in the Age of Ōuchi Dominion 1408-1551*

Yale University Council of East Asian StudiesOctober 4, 2012

*One More Kakitsu Disturbance* (in Japanese)

Kyoto saikyojō kenkyūkai July 8, 2012

*New Directions in the Study of Pre-Modern Japan*

Modern Japan Workshop Roundtable Discussion, Harvard University October 23, 2010

*The Two Paths of Writing and Warring in Medieval Japan*

University of British Columbia August 23, 2010

*Where West Meets East: The Courtly Warriors of the Kamakura Age*

Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Philadelphia

March 27, 2010

*Ritual Determinism in Fourteenth-Century Japan*

Presented at Columbia Center for Japanese Religion Purity Workshop, Columbia University February 19, 2010

*The History You Do Not Know: My Journey to Medieval Japan*

Karofsky Faculty Encore Lecture, Bowdoin College September 11, 2009

<https://www.listennotes.com/podcasts/common-hour-video/thomas-d-conlan-the-history--k7QqU8ixJc/>

*Sovereign Authority and the Medieval Japanese State*

Presented at the Symposium, “Text and Context: New Directions in Medieval Japanese Literary and Historical Studies,” Bowdoin College May 9, 2009

*Judicial Function of Violence in Japan (1200-1598)*

Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies Atlanta April 5, 2008

University of Massachusetts Amherst 　 March 9, 2013

*Visualizing the Past Through the Mongol Scrolls*

Franke Institute, University of Chicago November 4, 2006

*On War and Judicial Violence in Medieval Japan*

Presented at the Symposium “War and Politics in Medieval Japan,” Kyoto March 16-18, 2006

*Myth, Memory and the Mongol Invasions of Japan*

Emory University March 1, 2006

Brandeis College September 22, 2006

University of Pennsylvania March 18, 2008

Duke University October 23, 2009

# *Adapting to Endemic War: Fourteenth Century Improvements in Arms and Armor*

Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, San Diego

March 7, 2004

# *Courtly Archivists of Precedent and Political Authority in Japan 850-1350*

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor October 6, 2001

## From Sovereign to Symbol: A Liturgy of Legitimation in Fourteenth Century Japan

Stanford University May 5, 2001

*The Role of Women and Weapons in Medieval Japanese Warfare*

University of San Francisco April 14, 2000

*In Little Need of Divine Intervention*

Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, San Diego

March 11, 2000

*The Culture of Force and Farce: Fourteenth Century Japanese Warfare*

Harvard University September 24, 1999

Columbia University March 20, 2000

*Innovation or Application? The Role of Technology in War*

Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Boston

March 13, 1999

*Largesse and the Limits of Loyalty: Lordly Obligations in the Age of Two Courts*

Hertford College, Oxford University September 2, 1994

**Teaching**

Princeton University

Graduate

*Research Seminar in Ancient and Medieval Japanese History* (EAS 526)

*Readings in Ancient and Medieval Japanese History* (EAS/HIS 568)

*Sources in Ancient and Medieval Japanese History* (EAS 525/HIS 525)

*Sources in Ancient Japanese History*(EAS 528/HIS 548)

*The Warrior Culture of Japan* (EAS/HIS 511)

Undergraduate

*The Warrior Culture of Japan* (EAS 317/HIS 335)

*Conquests and Heroes: A Comparative History of War* (FS 128)

*History of East Asia Until 1800* (HIS EAS 207)

*The Origins of Japanese Culture and Civilization* (EAS 218 HIS 209)

*Medieval Asian Worlds* (EAS/HIS/MED 206)

*The Law in Action* (EAS 253/HIS 253/MED 253)

*Living in the Sixteenth Century* (EAS/HIS/MED 215)

Bowdoin College

*The Origins of Japanese Culture and Civilization*

*The Emergence of Modern Japan*

*Living in the Sixteenth Century*

*Japan and the World*

*Conquests and Heroes: A Comparative History of War*

*A Comparative History of Kingship*

*The Courtly Society*

*The Warrior Culture of Japan*

Stanford University

*The Wars of the Samurai*

**Other Academic Activities**

Organized the NCTA (National Consortium for Teaching about Asia) workshop, *Japan and the World in the Age of Shogun*. Zoom. March 29, 2025

Co-organized the conference *Making it "Real:" Social and Cultural Transformations across Meiji Japan.* Princeton University March 20-21, 2025

Chair and discussant for the panel “Bureaucracies and Record-Keeping,” *Tangible Knowledge: Japan’s Shōsōin and the Making of Manuscripts, Treasures, and Archives* Princeton University

March 1, 2025

Participated in the podcast “New Books on Japan: "Kings in All but Name: The Lost History of Ouchi Rule in Japan,” *Modern Japan History Association* (Zoom) February 27, 202550- [https://youtu.be/aVKYK4orm5U](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fyoutu.be%2FaVKYK4orm5U&data=05%7C02%7Ctconlan%40princeton.edu%7Cf41a0c684c3b4888392308dd70e4ea5e%7C2ff601167431425db5af077d7791bda4%7C0%7C0%7C638790850663345017%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=OBjqHsZc2rnv684jhMpEWm399Uuo9lRArGHUVfOk5M0%3D&reserved=0)

1569"".

Chaired the panel “Composing the Everyday” from “Ordinary People, Everyday Lives: Exploring the Mundane in Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages.

Princeton University October 26, 2024

Provided opening remarks, “Komonjo ga hiraku chūsei no Yoshino” March 10, 2024

Interviewed on the YouTube Progam “Haruki de gozaimasu” February 3, 2024 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bPNM6D4T28k>

Interviewed on YouTube concerning the Ōuchi attempt to move Japan’s capital in 1551

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9DEa3KLY0uk>

Guest editor (with Philippe Buc) *Medieval Worlds: Oaths in Premodern Japan and Premodern Europe* vol. 19 (2023) <https://doi.org/10.1553/medievalworlds_no19_2023>

Translator of *Before Written Oaths* (kishōmon)—*Oaths* (sensei) *in Ancient Japan* (Yoshikawa Shinji)*.* In *Medieval Worlds: Oaths in Premodern Japan and Premodern Europe* vol. 19 (2023), pp. 22-39*.* <https://medievalworlds.net/medievalworlds_no19_2023?frames=yes>

*Samurai: The Warrior Culture of Japan 1280-1868* November 12, 2022

*East Asian Diplomacy 1280-1600* November 12, 2022

*The Rise of the Mongols and their Invasions of Japan* April 2, 2022

November 11, 2023

National Consortium of Teaching about Asia (NCTA) Lectures Princeton University

Discussant for Holy War — War and Religion in Medieval Europe and Japan, a Symposium

University of Southern California (Zoom) March 22, 2022

Discussant for the panel “Re-envisioning the Land of the Gods: Reinterpretations of Japan's History and Religion after the Mongol Invasions”

Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies (Virtual)March 25, 2021

Organized the Symposium *New Trends in the Study of Medieval Japanese Documents.*

Princeton University July 25, 2019

Chair for the panel “Positioning Japanese Buddhism” for: *Original Thoughts: A Conference in Honor of Jacqueline I. Stone*

Princeton University May 18, 2019

Chair and discussant for the conference *Documents and Institutions Across Eurasia in Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages*

Princeton University May 7-8, 2018

Participated on a Roundtable discussion, *The Future of Digital Japanese Studies: NCC’s Evolving Role as a Catalyst for Collaborative Research.*

Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Washington DC

March 24, 2018

Helped design a professional development course for secondary school teachers entitled: *Medieval Japan: People & Systems in the World of the Shogunate.* Also gave four lectures on *Japan from the Warring States through Unification*

Japan Society, New York December 2, 2017

Organized and served as a discussant for the conference *Issues Regarding Religion and Society in Ancient and Medieval Japan* (日本古代中世の社会と宗教と言説)

Princeton University November 4, 2017

Discussant for the roundtable *Military Cultures in Japan, China, and Europe*.

Vanderbilt University. November 4, 2016

Respondent for papers written by Ebara Masaharu and Nishita Tomohiro for the symposium *Treasure from Japan: An International conference on Pre-modern books and Manuscripts in the Yale University Library* March 9, 2015

Respondent for Kawase Takaya and Uejima Susumu for *International Symposium Cultural Heritage in Religion: Its Meaning and Preservation*「人類の思想的営みとしての宗教遺産の形成に関する総合的研究 \_― 宗教遺産学の構築に向けて― 」 の研究成 Harvard University (in Japanese) October 11, 2014

Chair and Discussant for the panel, “Buddhist monks, aristocrats, and warriors in 14th and 15th century Japanese society” Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Philadelphia

March 28, 2014

Discussant for Uejima Susumu for the workshop “New Sources for the Study of Japanese Religions” Princeton University March 16, 2014

*The Changing Food Culture of Japan* and *Exploring Medieval Scrolls.* Lecture and discussion. *China, Japan, and Korea; Perspectives on East Asia*. Maine Humanities Council.

December 3, 2010

Curated “Japan and the World,” A Becker Gallery Exhibit at the Bowdoin College Museum of Art October 6, 2009

Co-organizer “Text and Context: New Directions in Medieval Japanese Literary and Historical Studies” A Colby Bates and Bowdoin (CBB) Initiative, Bowdoin College

May 8-10, 2009

*Viewing Medieval Japan: Exploring Picture Scrolls on the Web.* Part of the *Imagining Modern Japan* program at the Bangor High School October 23, 2007

*An Introduction to Japanese History and Culture.*  Brunswick (Maine) Naval Air Station

April 4, 2007

*Visualizing the Warrior Culture of Japan*. *NCTA: Teaching of East Asia*. Belfast Area High School March 17, 2007

Consulting Editor and Contributor to “Rise of the Shogun: Life in Medieval Japan,” *Calliope: Exploring World History*, vol. 16 no. 5 January 2006

Appeared on the National Geographic specials *Warrior Graveyard: Samurai Back from the Dead* (aired March 23, 2012), *Samurai: Behind the Blade* (aired December 2, 2003) and the History Channel special *Samurai* (televised December 8, 2003), along with the Discovery channel special *Ancient Assassins* (February 12, 2017). In addition, was interviewed by *Newsday* for an article about the Mongol Invasions of Japan (December 17, 2002) and appeared on the radio program “These Days” station KBBS, San Diego, December 4, 2003. Have also been interviewed by *Muy Historia* (January, 2016), the Wall Street Journal, Reuters, the LA Times, and the Sacramento Bee concerning the warrior culture of Japan and by Michael Kuhne for an Accuweather article (Nov. 21, 2014) “Archaeological evidence sheds light on Japan’s legendary kamikaze winds” <http://www.accuweather.com/en/weather-news/kamikaze-typhoon-japan-geologic-evidence/37534675> and about samurai for “How Stuff Works” <https://people.howstuffworks.com/ninja-samurai-difference.htm>  ). Was mentioned in a May 27, 2020 *The Telegraph* article ““How a beheaded samurai cursed the 2020 Olympics” a March 5, 2024 *BBC* article “Shogun: The brutal Japanese history that inspired 2024's latest TV hit” (<https://www.bbc.com/culture/article/20240305-shogun-tv-hit-fx-violent-japanese-history>), a March 12, 2024 *Esquire* article “Shōgun: A Historical Primer For 17th-Century Japan and Europe” <https://www.esquire.com/entertainment/tv/a60175106/shogun-japan-europe-world-history-true-story/> and an April 16, 2024 *Time* magazine article “How Shōgun‘s Depiction of Seppuku Compares to Real History” <https://time.com/6965135/shogun-episode-9-seppuku/>

Joined a Japan Foundation roundtable discussion, “On the past, present, and future of Japanese Studies” on July 8, 2002. Published in *Kokusai Kōryū* no. 97 (10.2002), pp. 68-79.

Organized a panel for conference for secondary school teachers, *Views of the East: China & Japan in Maine Classrooms*. Bowdoin College June 24-27, 2001

Served as an external reviewer of press manuscripts, including Harvard University Press, Columbia University Press, Oxford University Press, The University of Hawaii Press, Westview Press, *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies, Journal of Japanese Studies, Japan Studies, Monumenta Nipponica*, *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient* (Brill), *The Art Bulletin*, as well as an NEH panel to evaluate fellowships for research in East Asia. Also served as a reviewer for tenure and promotion for numerous universities, including Ivy League schools, public research institutions and private colleges in the United States and abroad.

Created Multiple Websites:

Princeton

<http://komonjo.princeton.edu>

https://komonjo.princeton.edu/kishomon/

<https://komonjo.princeton.edu/thatchroofer/index.html>

Princeton Kyoto Partnership

<http://komonjo.princeton.edu/tannowa/>

<https://komonjo.princeton.edu/suruga-date/>

<https://komonjo.princeton.edu/madarajima/>

Animated Maps

The Battles of Date Kagemune

<https://komonjo.princeton.edu/suruga-date/map.html>

The Ōnin War: Visualizing 12 Years of War in Japan, 1465-78

<http://commons.princeton.edu/onin/>

Interactive Maps-The Invasions of 1274 and 1281

<http://digital.princeton.edu/mongol-invasions/index.php?a=map>

Helped create web pages about the Mongol Invasion Scrolls

<http://digital.princeton.edu/mongol-invasions/>

Helped Create an annotated version of the Mongol Invasions Scrolls

<http://digital.princeton.edu/annotatedscrolls/>

Created a Heiji Scrolls website

<http://digital.princeton.edu/heijiscroll/>

Interviewed for the Podcast “Meiji at 150.”

<https://meijiat150.arts.ubc.ca/podcast/>

Created a website of WW2 Japanese photos

<http://learn.bowdoin.edu/japanesephotos/>

**RESEARCH INTERESTS:**

Conceptions of law, justice, and feuding; Buddhism and medieval political ideologies; international relations and ethnic identity; military, social, cultural and institutional history

**LANGUAGES:**

Japanese (fluent)

Proficiency in Classical Japanese and Classical Chinese (*kanbun*)

Paleography (ability to decipher handwritten Japanese documents and texts)