Thomas Donald Conlan
207 JONES HALL, PRINCETON NJ 08544
(609) 258-4773 • tconlan@princeton.edu
FAX (609) 258-6984
https://scholar.princeton.edu/tconlan/home

Curriculum Vitae

EMPLOYMENT

Princeton University: Professor of Medieval Japanese History, Joint Appointment, Department of East Asian Studies and 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  August 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, B.A. History and Japanese, with Highest Honors  April 1989

PUBLICATIONS

Forthcoming Monographs

Monographs


Published Articles

*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.


*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](https://muse.jhu.edu/article/746929)


Review Articles


Book Reviews


**NATIONAL ACADEMIC AWARDS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Award Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018-19</td>
<td>ACLS Fellowship</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Toshiba International Foundation grant for Sakuramotobō documents research</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011-12</td>
<td>Japan Foundation Japanese Studies Fellowship</td>
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<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Suntory Foundation Grant to defray publication expenses for <em>State of War</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>2001-2</td>
<td>NEH Fellowship for College Teachers</td>
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<tr>
<td>2001-2</td>
<td>Fulbright Senior Scholar Award</td>
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<tr>
<td>2001-2</td>
<td>Japan Foundation Japanese Studies Fellowship (declined)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1994-97</td>
<td>Japanese Ministry of Education Fellowship</td>
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<td>1989</td>
<td>Phi Beta Kappa</td>
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**INTRAMURAL AWARDS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Award Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>Collaborative Teaching Grant with Soojung Han for “Medieval Asian Worlds”</td>
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<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>Collaborative Teaching Grant with Megan Gilbert for “The Law in Action”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>David A. Gardner ’69 Magic Project in the Humanities Council grant</td>
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<td></td>
<td>“The Story of Slag: Creating a Chronology of Copper Smelting for Japan 700-2000”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-18</td>
<td>Old Dominion Faculty Fellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>UCHR&amp;SS grant “Visualizing the Ōnin War (1467-77): Ten Years in Ten Minutes.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-16</td>
<td>Old Dominion Faculty Fellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Digital Humanities Summer Stipend</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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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

ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

Director, East Asian Studies Program, Princeton University August 2021-present

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

Elected to the Princeton University Committee of the Library and Computing July 2019-June 2022

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

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

*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

National Consortium of Teaching about Asia Princeton University November 12, 2022

*Hikari to yami o koete chūsei nihonshi no teibō. Kaigai no nihon chūseiishi kenkyū* March 8, 2022

Tokyo Historiographical Institute, The University of Tokyo (Zoom)

*Why Did So Many Early Photographers of Japan Become Painters? Reflections on Early Photography in Japan* February 23, 2022

Princeton University

*Designing and Disseminating Digital Sources for Medieval Japan* May 26, 2021

Kyushu University Faculty of Humanities (Zoom)
Núcleo de Estudos Japoneses (Brazil) 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 Universität 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
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”
Princeton University
March 1, 2018

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

Law and Violence in Medieval Japan
Delaware Valley Medieval Association, Princeton
December 9, 2017

Japan’s Magna Carta: The Ōbei 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
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=pB5OlCRPfH4

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

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 Brigham Young University April 24, 2013 September 17, 2015

Imagining the Wars of Thirteenth Century Japan
Williams College March 8, 2013

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 California February 21, 2013

Kings in All but Name: Japan in the Age of Ōuchi Dominion 1408-1551
Yale University Council of East Asian Studies October 4, 2012

One More Kakitsu Disturbance (in Japanese)
Kyoto saikyojō kenkyūkai July 8, 2012

New Directions in the Study of Pre-Modern Japan
October 23, 2010
Modern Japan Workshop Roundtable Discussion, Harvard University

_The Two Paths of Writing and Warring in Medieval Japan_  
Presented at the University of British Columbia Workshop “Civilian vs. Military in East Asia”  
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_  
Karlofsky Faculty Encore Lecture, Bowdoin College  
https://www.listennotes.com/podcasts/common-hour-video/thomas-d-conlan-the-history--k7QqU8ixJe/

_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) and University of Massachusetts Amherst (March 9, 2013)

_Visualizing the Past Through the Mongol Scrolls_  
Presented at the Symposium “Reinventing the Past: Antiquarianism in East Asian Art and Visual Culture,” 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), September 22, 2006 (Brandeis College) March 18, 2008 (University of Pennsylvania), October 23, 2009 (Duke University)

_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_  
Presented at a Workshop “Experts and Expertise in Pre- and Early Modern Societies,” University of Michigan, Ann Arbor  
October 6, 2001

_From Sovereign to Symbol: A Liturgy of Legitimation in Fourteenth Century Japan_  
May 5, 2001

The Role of Women and Weapons in Medieval Japanese Warfare
April 14, 2000
Presented at the Symposium of Comparative Medieval History, University of San Francisco

In Little Need of Divine Intervention
March 11, 2000
Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, San Diego

The Culture of Force and Farce: Fourteenth Century Japanese Warfare
September 24, 1999 and March 20, 2000
Presented at the Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies, Harvard University and The Donald Keene Institute, Columbia University

Innovation or Application? The Role of Technology in War
March 13, 1999
Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Boston

Largesse and the Limits of Loyalty: Lordly Obligations in the Age of Two Courts
September 2, 1994
Presented at a Symposium on Fourteenth Century Japan, Hertford College, Oxford University

Teaching

Princeton University
Graduate
Research Seminar in Ancient and Medieval Japanese History (EAS 526/HIS 525)
Readings in Ancient and Medieval Japanese History (EAS/HIS 568)
Sources in Ancient and Medieval Japanese History (EAS 525/HIS 520)
Sources in Ancient Japanese History (EAS 528/HIS 548)

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 206 HIS 206 MED 206)
The Law in Action (EAS 253/HIS 253/MED 253)

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

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”
Association for Asian Studies March 25, 2021

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 May 7-8, 2018
Princeton University

Participated on a Roundtable discussion, The Future of Digital Japanese Studies: NCC’s Evolving Role as a Catalyst for Collaborative Research. March 24, 2018
Presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Washington DC

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) November 4, 2017
Princeton University

Discussant for the roundtable Military Cultures in Japan, China, and Europe. November 4, 2016
Vanderbilt University.
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


Chair and Discussant for the panel, “Buddhist monks, aristocrats, and warriors in 14th and 15th century Japanese society” Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Philadelphia March 28, 2014

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


Curated “Japan and the World,” A Becker Gallery Exhibit at the Bowdoin College Museum of Art October 6- November 8, 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.* BNAS (Brunswick Naval Air Station) April 4, 2007

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


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


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/

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

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)