



University of Hyogo

JAWS/ AJJ Conference 2025

Day 1 April 4 (Room C102)

13:00~13:15 Opening **Prof. Ofra Goldstein-Gidoni**, Secretary General of JAWS & **Prof. Michael Shackleton**, President of AJJ

13:15~14:00 **Keynote speech—Prof. MAYUMI SAKAMOTO, University of Hyogo:** *A Century-long Annual Ritual for Commemoration of Disaster
-1925 North Tajima Earthquake and Kinosaki, Japan*

14:00~14:10 Break

14:10~16:10 **Session 1**

Alyne E. Delaney (Tohoku University): *Maintenance of Personal Rituals in the Face of Changing Landscapes in Miyagi, Japan*

Mitchell W. Sedgwick (London School of Economics): *Human Relations of 3.11 and the Intellectual Politics of Infrastructure: Thoughts on Alyne Delaney's Fieldwork in Miyagi*

Sébastien Penmellen Boret, Hyejeong Park (Tohoku University): *Daily Lives and Copying Practices of People with Disability during the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake*

Julia Gerster (Tohoku University), **Kaoru Ueda** (Stanford University): *Coping with Trauma Through Storytelling: Insights from Disaster Kamishibai*

16:15~17:15 JAWS business meeting

17:15 **Performance by Jiguruma Group (Tenjin Matsuri, Osaka)**

18:00 Dinner at the university cafeteria

Day 2 April 5

10:00~ 11:30	Sessions 2, 3, 4, 5
11:30~11:40	Break
11:40~13:10	Sessions 6, 7, 8, 9
13:10~14:00	Lunch/ AJJ Executive Committee Meeting (Room C102)
14:00~15:30	Sessions 10, 11, 12, 13
15:40~17:10	Sessions 14, 15, 16, 17
17:20~18:00	Keynote Lecture: JOY HENDRY: <i>Symbolic Communication amongst all that Ritual: the Anthropological edge</i> (Room C102)

Room C102	Room C103	Room C104	Room C105
Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	Session 5
<p><u>Chair:</u> David Uva (Doshisha University) David Uva (Doshisha University): <i>Edo and Meiji Japan through Foreign Eyes: Historical Contextualization and Source Criticism</i> Angelica Cabrera (Osaka University): <i>Ontological ambiguity: Crisis, hyperfiction and social narratives in postmodern Japan</i> Mayumi Toguchi (Chiba University): <i>Reassessing Historical and Political Contexts in Public Spaces Where Japan's Relationship is Represented: A Study of the Nikkei Community in Peru</i></p>	<p><i>Preservation and Sustainability of Knowledge: Rituals and Learning in Peripheral Japan (PANEL)</i> Organizer: Miku Narisawa (Tohoku University) Kaeko Chiba (Akita International University): <i>Strength of Ritual in Digital Archives?</i> Miku Narisawa: <i>Transformation of Traditional Practices in Seaweed Cultivation: Towards Achieving Sustainability</i></p>	<p><u>Chair:</u> Raluca-Maria Ciolca (Osaka University) Ivan Croscenko (University of Naples 'L'Orientale', Waseda University): <i>Nō Theatre as a Ritual: 'Provincial Nō Theatre' in Yamagata and Niigata Prefectures</i> Marco Di Francesco (University of Oxford): <i>Changing Ritual Practices in the 21st-Century Rakugo World</i></p>	<p><i>Ritual Practices and Daily Rituals (PANEL)</i> Organizer: Mariangela Carpinteri (UC Santa Barbara) Alyne Delaney (Tohoku University): <i>Community Shrine Volunteerism: The Whys and Wherefores in Post-Disaster Japan</i> Mariangela Carpinteri: <i>Ōharae: Adapting a Traditional Purification Ritual</i> Ben Grafstrom (University of Oslo): <i>Rural Rituals in Demise: Elemental Changes in Akita's Miyoshi Bonden Festival</i></p>

	John Mock (Temple University Japan): <i>Ritual and Sustainability in Japanese Crafts</i>		
Session 6	Session 7	Session 8	Session 9
<p><u>Chair: Roman Pasca</u> (Akita University): <i>“All around me are familiar faces” Crops, gravel roads, and other rituals in a small Tōhoku village</i></p> <p>Hui Lok Hang (University College, London): <i>The Daily Butsudan Ritual in Rural Japan and Its Contemporary Multigenerational Relevance</i></p> <p>Laura Dales (University of Western Australia): <i>Sorokatsu as (solo) community practice in Japan</i></p>	<p><u>Chair: Raluca-Maria Ciolca</u> (Osaka University)</p> <p>Xiaoyu Zhang (University of Oxford): <i>Becoming a Shakaijin: Job-Hunting Rites and Performative Labour of International Students in Japan</i></p> <p>Miwa Sasamoto (Chiba University): <i>Prayer Practices of Papua New Guinean International Students Living in Japan</i></p> <p>Ieva Puzo, Aija Lulle (Rīga Stradiņš University): <i>Between a rock and a hard place? Making sense of workplace rituals among international scholars in Japan</i></p>	<p><u>Chair: Kathryn Tanaka</u> (University of Hyogo)</p> <p>Ben Moeller (University of Oxford): <i>The Making of a Soldier: Negotiating Change and Tradition at Japan’s Military Academy</i></p> <p>Eduardo Gonzalez de la Fuente (Kanazawa University): <i>Who is the busaganashi? Tutelary gods, karate, and the martial culture of Okinawa</i></p> <p>Esben Petersen (Kwansei Gakuin University): <i>Mobile Hotspots and the Transformation of Ritual Behaviour During COVID-19</i></p>	<p><u>Chair: John Mock</u> (Temple University Japan)</p> <p>Benjamin Wolfs (Kobe University): <i>The Micropolitics of Machizukuri: Its Historical Roots and Contemporary Impact in Tatsuno City</i></p> <p>Alejandra Rojas Barrera (Kyushu University): <i>Performing the Past: Religious and Social Rituals in Arita’s Porcelain Industry</i></p> <p>Marie Ulrich (Kanazawa University): <i>Jinmu in Mimitsu: Japan’s mythological first emperor as a constituting factor in local identity</i></p>
Session 10	Session 11	Session 12	Session 13
<p><u>Chair: Stephanie Assmann-Terada</u> (University of Hyogo)</p> <p>Chiara Rita Napolitano (Kyoto University): <i>Rituals of Domesticity: How Everyday Practices Shape Reality</i></p> <p>Anna-Maria Stabentheiner (University of Vienna, Hosei University): <i>Cultivating Mundane Rites and Shared Experiences</i></p>	<p><u>Chair: Roman Pasca</u> (Akita University)</p> <p>Florian Purkarthofer (University of Vienna): <i>The Ritualisation of Participation – or how local shared-decision-making has shifted from aspiration to routine to ritual</i></p> <p>Luka Culiberg (University of Ljubljana): <i>Green rituals: environmental practises as performative amnesia in consumerist</i></p>	<p><u>Chair: Tom Gill</u> (Meiji Gakuin University)</p> <p>Ayami Nakatani (Kwansei Gakuin University), Masafumi Motomura (Okayama University), Yuichiro Shimada (National Institute of Technology, Oshima College): <i>Reluctant to be a Burden to Others: A Multidisciplinary and Cross-Cultural Approach to the Concept of</i></p>	<p><u>Chair: Kaeko Chiba</u> (Akita International University)</p> <p>Takumi Fukaya (Kyoto University): <i>Italian Wines and Tuscany in the Japanese Wine Industry: A Case Study on Literature and Senses of Wine Production Regions over the Past 20 Years</i></p>

<p>– <i>Creative Intervention, Social Connection, and Urban Place-Making in Kyōjima, Tokyo</i> –</p> <p>Md Abdur Rahman (University of Central Florida): <i>Ritual, Mental Health, and Aging in Japan</i></p>	<p><i>societies and an idea of “Japanese Conceptions of nature”</i></p> <p>Anne Mette Fisker-Nielsen (Soka University): <i>Eating our way to ecological breakdown: ritualised conventionality of animal consumption and the maintenance of postwar Japanese patriarchy</i></p>	<p><i>"Meiwaku" and its Implications for the Japanese End of Life</i></p> <p>Sayako Ono (University of Tokyo): <i>Ritualised Approaches to Sexual Harassment Regulations in Japanese Universities</i></p> <p>Debra Occhi, Nanami Momiki (Miyazaki International University): <i>The Role of Ritual Practices in Creating an English Day Camp in Aya Miyazaki</i></p>	<p>Annemone Platz (Aarhus University): <i>Imaginaries of Japanese sustainability practices in Denmark</i></p> <p>Chloe Paberz (IFRAE, Inalco): <i>Individualized rituals: The case of mangakas’ routines</i></p>
<p>Session 14</p> <p><i>Reflecting and Revisiting 『Teaching Japan』</i> (PANEL)</p> <p>Organizer: Steven C. Fedorowicz (Kansai Gaidai University)</p> <p>Discussants: Ioannis Gaitanidis (Chiba University), Greg Poole (Doshisha University)</p> <p>Chris McMorran (National University of Singapore): <i>Japan All Around: Teaching about Japanese Society in Singapore</i></p> <p>Isabel Fassbender (Kansai Gaidai University): <i>How to Unlearn Reproductive Politics in the Classroom</i></p> <p>Jennifer M. McGuire (Doshisha University): <i>How (un)equal is Japanese Society: Thinking with Intersectionality in the Classroom</i></p>	<p>Session 15</p> <p><u>Chair:</u> Kathryn Tanaka (University of Hyogo)</p> <p>Raluca Maria Ciolca (Osaka University): <i>Ritual and Language: Is Linguistic Expression a Reflection or a Driving Force of Social Practice?</i></p> <p>Incoronata Nadia Inserra (University of Tokyo): <i>Changing Ritual Practices in Manazuru’s Kibune Matsuri: Women and Outsiders’ Roles in Sustaining Local Traditions</i></p> <p>Alina-Alexandra Hara (Independent Researcher): <i>Ritual and landscape The role of landscape in the spiritual life of post-WW2 Yaeyama “immigrants”</i></p>	<p>Session 16</p> <p><u>Chair:</u> Mary Reisel (Rikkyo University, Tokyo)</p> <p>Mayo Suzuki (Chiba University): <i>Influencer-centred collective action on social networking sites: Spirituality from the perspective of online affordance</i></p> <p>Mattias van Ommen (Doshisha University): <i>Rituals of Empathy: Emotional Expression, Ludic Action, and Social Belonging in Japanese Online Games</i></p> <p>Björn-Ole Kamm (Kyoto University): <i>Improvised Rituals in Live-Action Role-Playing Games (Larps) in Japan</i></p>	<p>Session 17</p> <p><u>Chair:</u> Stephanie Assmann-Terada (University of Hyogo)</p> <p>Heike Hoffer (Independent Researcher): <i>Dandadan, Fernando Sor, and Intertextual Ritual</i></p> <p>Celia Spoden (German Institute for Japanese Studies, Tokyo): <i>Avatar Robots as an Alter Ego: New Opportunities for Work or Technological Fixes?</i></p> <p>Barbara Holthus (German Institute for Japanese Studies, Tokyo): <i>Pet hatsumōde: Between business and enchantment</i></p>

Steven C. Fedorowicz: <i>The Visual Anthropology of Japan: In and Outside the Classroom, Revisited</i>			
--	--	--	--

Day 3 April 6

10:00~ 11:30 Sessions 18, 19, 20, 21

11:30~11:40 Break

11:40~13:10 Sessions 22, 23, 24, 25

13:10~14:00 Lunch

14:00~15:30 Tutoring sessions

14:00~15:30 AJJ meeting (AGM) (Room C102)

Session 18	Session 19	Session 20	Session 21
<p><u>Chair:</u> Roman Pasca (Akita University)</p> <p>Wolfram Manzenreiter (University of Vienna): <i>Ceremonial rigidity and organizational flexibility in a rural community ritual</i></p> <p>Andhika Wijaya (Tohoku University): <i>When Agritourism became a Ritual: The Case of Inakadate Village, Aomori Prefecture</i></p> <p>Yuki Nissato (Kobe University): <i>Shochu and Ritual Practices: Ethnographic Fragments from A Hamlet in Southern Kyushu</i></p>	<p><u>Chair:</u> Hisako Omori (Akita International University)</p> <p>Hisako Omori (Akita International University): <i>Mothering and Deathbed Conversion Rituals: A Case of Roman Catholics in Tokyo</i></p> <p>Konstantinos Zorbas (Shandong University): <i>Shifting Landscapes of North Asian Shamanic Religions: A View from Abashiri, Hokkaido</i></p> <p>Liliana Morais (Rikkyo University): <i>The contemporary allure of wood-firing:</i></p>	<p><u>Chair:</u> Greg Poole (Doshisha University)</p> <p>Ioannis Gaitanidis (Chiba University): <i>Fraud and Consumer Choice in Early Postwar Japan: A Pre-History of the "Spiritual Sales"</i></p> <p>Maria Ibari Ortega (Australian National University): <i>Performing Plasticity: Sensations and cultural haptics in a local ritual festival in Japan</i></p> <p>Guilherme Figueiredo (University of Oxford): <i>Onisube: Ritual, Community, and Art Beyond Aesthetics</i></p>	<p><i>Rituals and the (Re)making of Space: Discourse, Identity, Performance and their Spaces (PANEL)</i></p> <p>Organizer: Dylan H. O'Brien (University of California, San Diego)</p> <p>Robert Dahlberg-Sears (The Ohio State University): <i>Expanding the Place of Action: Reconsidering the Genba</i></p> <p>Dylan H. O'Brien: <i>Between Here and There: Multi-lingual and Multi-faith Audiences in Tokyo Synagogues and the Discursive Negotiation of Rituals' Space</i></p>

	<i>from an East Asian to a transnational post-modern ritual practice</i>		Maiko Kodaka (Waseda University): <i>Ritual, Virtuality, and the Emotional Labor of Oshi-Katsu</i> Evan T. Koike (University of Tokyo): <i>A Town of Miracles and Rituals: (Re)shaping Spaces and Communities in Rural Nagi-cho</i>
Session 22	Session 23	Session 24	Session 25
<i>The practice of kyōsei: More-than-human rituals of living well together (PANEL)</i> Organizer: Iza Kavedžija (University of Cambridge) Iza Kavedžija, Harry Walker (London School of Economics) <i>Growing Worlds: Urban gardening and aquascaping as world-making practices</i> Gergely Mohacsi (University of Osaka): <i>Decomposition and Reparation, or the More-than-Human Arts of Kyōsei</i> Paul Hansen (Akita University): <i>Dances with Cows: Finding Kyosei and Otherness in an Animal-Human-Machine</i>	Chair: Tom Gill (Meiji Gakuin University) Yohko Tsuji (Cornell University): <i>Ancestor Worship in Jeopardy in an Old Osaka Neighborhood</i> Oskar Dylewski (Jagiellonian University): <i>Glimpses from Kamagasaki – Lived experience and social resistance of Homeless people in Osaka</i> Luiz Garcia (Soka University): <i>Social Justice Praxis in Early Childhood</i>	<i>Green Grow the Rushes Go Environments Shaping (Ritual) Practices of Feeling with the World, Local Knowledge, and Politics (PANEL)</i> Organizer: Andrea De Antoni (Kyoto University) Chair: Paul Hansen (Akita University) Oribe Gohara (Hosei University): <i>People-wildlife conflicts in Shiiba village, Miyazaki. Hunters' Knowledge, Practices, and Beliefs about Wildlife</i> Daniela Calvo (Kyoto University): <i>Encounters of Afro-Brazilian Religions and Japanese Spirits</i> <i>Affect, Healing and Feeling with the World</i> Andrea De Antoni (Kyoto University): <i>Near Wild Heaven</i> <i>Feeling with the World, Healing, and Sentient Political Ecologies Among Okinawan Yuta</i>	Chair: Stephanie Assmann-Terada (University of Hyogo) Alistair Swale (University of Canterbury): <i>The Regulation of 'Licentious' Practices and Rituals in Late Meiji and early Taishō Japan</i> Marta Fanasca (University of Bologna, Hosei University): <i>Ritualizing Intimacy: Gender, Female Agency, and the Commodification of Desire in Contemporary Japan's Pink Economy</i> Yan Li (Osaka University): <i>The ritualized practices of parental involvement in Japanese school PTAs</i>