



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**

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: Symbolic Communication amongst all that Ritual: the Anthropological edge**

Room C102	Room C103	Room C104	Room C105
<b>Session 2</b>	<b>Session 3</b>	<b>Session 4</b>	<b>Session 5</b>
<p><u>Chair:</u> <b>David Uva</b> (Doshisha University)  <b>David Uva</b> (Doshisha University): <i>Edo and Meiji Japan through Foreign Eyes: Historical Contextualization and Source Criticism</i>  <b>Akira Shah</b> (University of Oxford): <i>Minoritization as Ritual Practice: Nihonjinron and Identity Imposition</i>  <b>Angelica Cabrera</b> (Osaka University): <i>Ontological ambiguity: Crisis, hyperfiction and social narratives in postmodern Japan</i></p>	<p><i>Preservation and Sustainability of Knowledge: Rituals and Learning in Peripheral Japan (PANEL)</i>  Organizer: <b>Miku Narisawa</b> (Tohoku University)  <b>Kaeko Chiba</b> (Akita International University): <i>Strength of Ritual in Digital Archives?</i>  <b>Miku Narisawa</b>: <i>Transformation of Traditional Practices in Seaweed Cultivation: Towards Achieving Sustainability</i></p>	<p><u>Chair:</u> <b>Alina-Alexandra Hara</b>  <b>Alina-Alexandra Hara</b> (Independent Researcher): <i>Ritual and landscape The role of landscape in the spiritual life of post-WW2 Yaeyama “immigrants”</i>  <b>Mayumi Toguchi</b> (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>Ritual Practices and Daily Rituals (PANEL)</i>  Organizer: <b>Mariangela Carpinteri</b> (UC Santa Barbara)  <b>Alyne Delaney</b> (Tohoku University): <i>Community Shrine Volunteerism: The Whys and Wherefores in Post-Disaster Japan</i>  <b>Mariangela Carpinteri</b>: <i>Ōharae: Adapting a Traditional Purification Ritual</i>  <b>Ben Grafstrom</b> (University of Oslo): <i>Rural Rituals in Demise: Elemental Changes in Akita’s Miyoshi Bonden Festival</i></p>

	<b>John Mock</b> (Temple University Japan): <i>Ritual and Sustainability in Japanese Crafts</i>		
<b>Session 6</b>	<b>Session 7</b>	<b>Session 8</b>	<b>Session 9</b>
<p>Chair: <b>Roman Pasca</b> (Akita University) <b>Roman Pasca</b> (Akita University): <i>“All around me are familiar faces” Crops, gravel roads, and other rituals in a small Tōhoku village</i></p> <p><b>Hui Lok Hang</b> (University College, London): <i>The Daily Butsudan Ritual in Rural Japan and Its Contemporary Multigenerational Relevance</i></p> <p><b>Laura Dales</b> (University of Western Australia): <i>Sorokatsu as (solo) community practice in Japan</i></p>	<p>Chair: <b>Raluca-Maria Ciolca</b> (Osaka University)</p> <p><b>Xiaoyu Zhang</b> (University of Oxford): <i>Becoming a Shakaijin: Job-Hunting Rites and Performative Labour of International Students in Japan</i></p> <p><b>Miwa Sasamoto</b> (Chiba University): <i>Prayer Practices of Papua New Guinean International Students Living in Japan</i></p> <p><b>Ieva Puzo, Aija Lulle</b> (Rīga Stradiņš University): <i>Between a rock and a hard place? Making sense of workplace rituals among international scholars in Japan</i></p>	<p>Chair: <b>Kathryn Tanaka</b> (University of Hyogo)</p> <p><b>Ben Moeller</b> (University of Oxford): <i>The Making of a Soldier: Negotiating Change and Tradition at Japan’s Military Academy</i></p> <p><b>Eduardo Gonzalez de la Fuente</b> (Kanazawa University): <i>Who is the busaganashi? Tutelary gods, karate, and the martial culture of Okinawa</i></p> <p><b>Esben Petersen</b> (Kwansei Gakuin University): <i>Mobile Hotspots and the Transformation of Ritual Behaviour During COVID-19</i></p>	<p>Chair: <b>John Mock</b> (Temple University Japan)</p> <p><b>Benjamin Wolfs</b> (Kobe University): <i>The Micropolitics of Machizukuri: Its Historical Roots and Contemporary Impact in Tatsuno City</i></p> <p><b>Alejandra Rojas Barrera</b> (Kyushu University): <i>Performing the Past: Religious and Social Rituals in Arita’s Porcelain Industry</i></p> <p><b>Marie Ulrich</b> (Kanazawa University): <i>Jinmu in Mimitsu: Japan’s mythological first emperor as a constituting factor in local identity</i></p>
<b>Session 10</b>	<b>Session 11</b>	<b>Session 12</b>	<b>Session 13</b>
<p>Chair: <b>Stephanie Assmann-Terada</b> (University of Hyogo)</p> <p><b>Chiara Rita Napolitano</b> (Kyoto University): <i>Rituals of Domesticity: How Everyday Practices Shape Reality</i></p> <p><b>Anna-Maria Stabentheiner</b> (University of Vienna, Hosei University): <i>Cultivating Mundane Rites and Shared Experiences</i></p>	<p>Chair: <b>Roman Pasca</b> (Akita University)</p> <p><b>Florian Purkarthofer</b> (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><b>Luka Culiberg</b> (University of Ljubljana): <i>Green rituals: environmental practises as performative amnesia in consumerist</i></p>	<p>Chair: <b>Tom Gill</b> (Meiji Gakuin University)</p> <p><b>Ayami Nakatani</b> (Kwansei Gakuin University), <b>Masafumi Motomura</b> (Okayama University), <b>Yuichiro Shimada</b> (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>Chair: <b>Kaeko Chiba</b> (Akita International University)</p> <p><b>Takumi Fukaya</b> (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> –  <b>Md Abdur Rahman</b> (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>  <b>Anne Mette Fisker-Nielsen</b> (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>  <b>Sayako Ono</b> (University of Tokyo): <i>Ritualised Approaches to Sexual Harassment Regulations in Japanese Universities</i>  <b>Debra Occhi, Nanami Momiki</b> (Miyazaki International University): <i>The Role of Ritual Practices in Creating an English Day Camp in Aya Miyazaki</i></p>	<p><b>Annemone Platz</b> (Aarhus University): <i>Imaginaries of Japanese sustainability practices in Denmark</i>  <b>Chloe Paberz</b> (IFRAE, Inalco): <i>Individualized rituals: The case of mangakas’ routines</i></p>
<p><b>Session 14</b></p>	<p><b>Session 15</b></p>	<p><b>Session 16</b></p>	<p><b>Session 17</b></p>
<p><i>Reflecting and Revisiting 『Teaching Japan』</i> (PANEL)  Organizer: <b>Steven C. Fedorowicz</b> (Kansai Gaidai University)  Discussants: <b>Ioannis Gaitanidis</b> (Chiba University), <b>Greg Poole</b> (Doshisha University)  <b>Chris McMorran</b> (National University of Singapore): <i>Japan All Around: Teaching about Japanese Society in Singapore</i>  <b>Isabel Fassbender</b> (Kansai Gaidai University): <i>How to Unlearn Reproductive Politics in the Classroom</i>  <b>Jennifer M. McGuire</b> (Doshisha University): <i>How (un)equal is Japanese Society: Thinking with Intersectionality in the Classroom</i></p>	<p><u>Chair:</u> <b>Kathryn Tanaka</b> (University of Hyogo)  <b>Raluca Maria Ciolca</b> (Osaka University): <i>Ritual and Language: Is Linguistic Expression a Reflection or a Driving Force of Social Practice?</i>  <b>Incoronata Nadia Inserra</b> (University of Tokyo): <i>Changing Ritual Practices in Manazuru’s Kibune Matsuri: Women and Outsiders’ Roles in Sustaining Local Traditions</i></p>	<p><u>Chair:</u> <b>Mary Reisel</b> (Rikkyo University, Tokyo)  <b>Mayo Suzuki</b> (Chiba University): <i>Influencer-centred collective action on social networking sites: Spirituality from the perspective of online affordance</i>  <b>Mattias van Ommen</b> (Doshisha University): <i>Rituals of Empathy: Emotional Expression, Ludic Action, and Social Belonging in Japanese Online Games</i>  <b>Björn-Ole Kamm</b> (Kyoto University): <i>Improvised Rituals in Live-Action Role-Playing Games (Larps) in Japan</i></p>	<p><u>Chair:</u> <b>Stephanie Assmann-Terada</b> (University of Hyogo)  <b>Heike Hoffer</b> (Independent Researcher): <i>Dandadan, Fernando Sor, and Intertextual Ritual</i>  <b>Celia Spoden</b> (German Institute for Japanese Studies, Tokyo): <i>Avatar Robots as an Alter Ego: New Opportunities for Work or Technological Fixes?</i>  <b>Barbara Holthus</b> (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>			
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**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 Sessions 26, 27, 28

**15:30~17:00 Tutoring sessions**

**15:45~17:00 AJJ meeting (AGM)**

Session 18	Session 19	Session 20	Session 21
<p>Chair: <b>Roman Pasca</b> (Akita University)  <b>Wolfram Manzenreiter</b> (University of Vienna): <i>Ceremonial rigidity and organizational flexibility in a rural community ritual</i>  <b>Andhika Wijaya</b> (Tohoku University): <i>When Agritourism became a Ritual: The Case of Inakadate Village, Aomori Prefecture</i>  <b>Yuki Nissato</b> (Kobe University): <i>Shochu and Ritual Practices: Ethnographic Fragments from A Hamlet in Southern Kyushu</i></p>	<p>Chair: <b>Mary Reisel</b> (Rikkyo University, Tokyo)  <b>Millie Creighton</b> (University of British Columbia): <i>The Way of Tea as Ritual of Rationality and Reflection of Japanese Culture</i>  <b>Liliana Morais</b> (Rikkyo University): <i>The contemporary allure of wood-firing: from an East Asian to a transnational post-modern ritual practice</i></p>	<p>Chair: <b>Greg Poole</b> (Doshisha University)  <b>Ioannis Gaitanidis</b> (Chiba University): <i>Fraud and Consumer Choice in Early Postwar Japan: A Pre-History of the "Spiritual Sales"</i>  <b>Maria Ibari Ortega</b> (Australian National University): <i>Performing Plasticity: Sensations and cultural haptics in a local ritual festival in Japan</i></p>	<p><i>Rituals and the (Re)making of Space: Discourse, Identity, Performance and their Spaces (PANEL)</i>  Organizer: <b>Dylan H. O'Brien</b> (University of California, San Diego)  <b>Robert Dahlberg-Sears</b> (The Ohio State University): <i>Expanding the Place of Action: Reconsidering the Genba</i>  <b>Dylan H. O'Brien</b>: <i>Between Here and There: Multi-lingual and Multi-faith Audiences in Tokyo Synagogues and the Discursive Negotiation of Rituals' Space</i></p>

		<p><b>Guilherme Figueiredo</b> (University of Oxford): <i>Onisube: Ritual, Community, and Art Beyond Aesthetics</i></p>	<p><b>Maiko Kodaka</b> (Waseda University): <i>Ritual, Virtuality, and the Emotional Labor of Oshi-Katsu</i></p> <p><b>Evan T. Koike</b> (University of Tokyo): <i>A Town of Miracles and Rituals: (Re)shaping Spaces and Communities in Rural Nagi-cho</i></p>
<p><b>Session 22</b></p> <p><i>The practice of kyōsei: More-than-human rituals of living well together (PANEL)</i></p> <p>Organizer: <b>Iza Kavedžija</b> (University of Cambridge)</p> <p><b>Iza Kavedžija, Harry Walker</b> (London School of Economics)</p> <p><i>Growing Worlds: Urban gardening and aquascaping as world-making practices</i></p> <p><b>Gergely Mohacsi</b> (University of Osaka): <i>Decomposition and Reparation, or the More-than-Human Arts of Kyōsei</i></p> <p><b>Paul Hansen</b> (Akita University): <i>Dances with Cows: Finding Kyosei and Otherness in an Animal-Human-Machine</i></p>	<p><b>Session 23</b></p> <p>Chair: <b>Tom Gill</b> (Meiji Gakuin University)</p> <p><b>Yohko Tsuji</b> (Cornell University): <i>Ancestor Worship in Jeopardy in an Old Osaka Neighborhood</i></p> <p><b>Oskar Dylewski</b> (Jagiellonian University): <i>Glimpses from Kamagasaki – Lived experience and social resistance of Homeless people in Osaka</i></p> <p><b>Luiz Garcia</b> (Soka University): <i>Social Justice Praxis in Early Childhood</i></p>	<p><b>Session 24</b></p> <p>Chair: <b>Hisako Omori</b> (Akita International University)</p> <p><b>Hisako Omori</b> (Akita International University): <i>Mothering and Deathbed Conversion Rituals: A Case of Roman Catholics in Tokyo</i></p> <p><b>Konstantinos Zorbas</b> (Shandong University): <i>Shifting Landscapes of North Asian Shamanic Religions: A View from Abashiri, Hokkaido</i></p>	
<p><b>Session 25</b></p> <p>Chair: <b>Raluca-Maria Ciolca</b> (Osaka University)</p> <p><b>Ivan Croscenko</b> (University of Naples 'L'Orientale', Waseda University): <i>Nō</i></p>	<p><b>Session 27</b></p> <p><i>Green Grow the Rushes Go Environments Shaping (Ritual) Practices of Feeling with the World, Local Knowledge, and Politics (PANEL)</i></p>	<p><b>Session 28</b></p> <p>Chair: <b>Stephanie Assmann-Terada</b> (University of Hyogo)</p> <p><b>Alistair Swale</b> (University of Canterbury): <i>The Regulation of</i></p>	

<p><i>Theatre as a Ritual: 'Provincial Nō Theatre' in Yamagata and Niigata Prefectures</i></p> <p><b>Marco Di Francesco</b> (University of Oxford): <i>Changing Ritual Practices in the 21st-Century Rakugo World</i></p> <p><b>Patrick S. D. McCartney</b> (University of Hiroshima): <i>Ritual Acrobatics and Agricultural Pole Climbing Rituals</i></p>	<p>Organizer: <b>Andrea De Antoni</b> (Kyoto University)</p> <p>Chair: <b>Paul Hansen</b> (Akita University)</p> <p>Oribe Gohara (Hosei University): <i>People-wildlife conflicts in Shiiba village, Miyazaki. Hunters' Knowledge, Practices, and Beliefs about Wildlife</i></p> <p><b>Daniela Calvo</b> (Kyoto University): <i>Encounters of Afro-Brazilian Religions and Japanese Spirits</i></p> <p><i>Affect, Healing and Feeling with the World</i></p> <p><b>Andrea De Antoni</b> (Kyoto University): <i>Near Wild Heaven</i></p> <p><i>Feeling with the World, Healing, and Sentient Political Ecologies Among Okinawan Yuta</i></p>	<p><i>'Licentious' Practices and Rituals in Late Meiji and early Taishō Japan</i></p> <p><b>Marta Fanasca</b> (University of Bologna, Hosei University): <i>Ritualizing Intimacy: Gender, Female Agency, and the Commodification of Desire in Contemporary Japan's Pink Economy</i></p> <p><b>Yan Li</b> (Osaka University): <i>The ritualized practices of parental involvement in Japanese school PTAs</i></p>
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