



# JSPS SAN FRANCISCO NEWSLETTER

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## New JSPS SF Director Appointed

On September 1, 1987, I, together with my wife and eight-month-old son, stepped on American soil for the first time in my life. During my three years of postdoctoral work at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, I met many students and researchers and had very productive interactions with them which inspired me to devote myself to science.

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# New JSPS SF Director Appointed

## Message from Director

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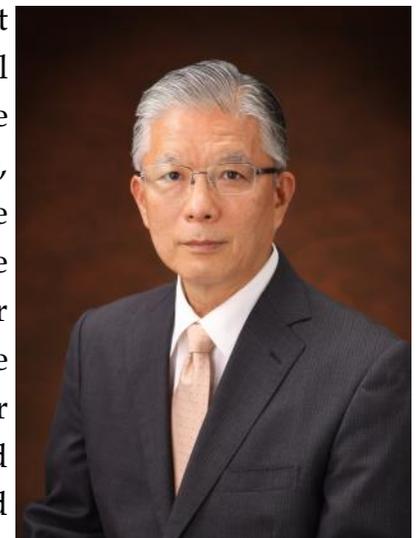
**YUSAKU NAKABEPPU**

**Director, JSPS San Francisco Office**

**I**n 1990, I returned to Japan and continued to work for more than 30 years at the Faculty of Medicine and Medical Institute of Bioregulation, Kyushu University until my retirement in March 2022.

I used to attend international conferences held in Asia, the US, and Europe a couple of times per year, however, after September 11, 2001, I momentarily refrained from attending such conferences because of global uneasiness about going abroad. Around 2010, my participation in international conferences gradually recovered to the same level as before. Unfortunately, due to the COVID19

pandemic, most international conferences were canceled after 2020, and recently since it has become the norm for conferences to be held online, I never considered traveling abroad for these past two



years. As I was approaching the retirement age from Kyushu University in such a difficult situation, I expected only a quiet life in Japan after my retirement.

Under such circumstances, in November 2021, I received a recommendation from Kyushu University to join a foreign office of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) in April 2022, and I was elected as the director of the JSPS San Francisco Office. At the time, the fifth wave of the COVID19 pandemic had settled down in Japan, so I did not think it would be so



difficult for me to travel to the United States. However, as the year 2022 began, more than 100,000 new cases of COVID19 infection were reported every day in Japan, and traveling abroad came to be restricted. In addition, Russia launched an invasion of Ukraine on February 24, and prospective travel to the US in April was uncertain until the middle of March. Fortunately, the number of COVID19 infections had decreased slightly, and my wife and I were able to land at San Francisco International Airport on April 1, as scheduled, after receiving complete vaccinations and negative confirmations of COVID19 infection.



Two months have passed since our arrival in the US, and we have almost gotten settled into our new life here and I am getting on in my duties in the JSPS office. However, from April to May, due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the Japanese Yen has been depreciating rapidly, and we are now in a situation where we feel insecure about our daily lives.

We can only imagine the hardships faced by students and researchers who have experienced the global situation and are now studying and conducting research abroad. There are many issues that need to



be addressed, such as how to resume international exchange for students and researchers that had been interrupted, how to ensure safe environments for daily life, study, and research, as well as securing financial support for them. We now hope to support international exchange for students and researchers by communicating with members of institutes and universities in the US to understand the current situations for those who are studying or wish to study in either the US or Japan, and thus resolving these issues step by step. We have five new staff members in our San Francisco Office, with the member who has been here the longest only beginning in September of 2021. I am looking forward to working hard to resolve the aforementioned issues with the new office staff.



# Recent Activities

Center for Japanese Studies  
University of California, Berkeley

March 4, 2022 | 4:30 PM PST  
March 5, 2022 | 9:30-11 AM JST

**Language, Indigenous Knowledge and Cultural Landscapes of the Ainu: Perspectives from Nibutani, Hokkaido**

**PART 1**  
**Indigenous Rights and the Importance of Ainu Language Education**

- The meeting will start in about three minutes as we wait for our guests to trickle in...
- All attendee mics will be muted during the webinar.
- Q/A will take place after the talk. Please send questions along by using the Q/A Function.

## 2022 CJS-JSPS Symposium

“Language, Indigenous Knowledge and Cultural Landscapes of the Ainu”

**T**he Center for Japanese Studies of the University of California, Berkeley, and the JSPS San Francisco Office presented a three-day online lecture series by speakers from Nibutani, Biratori Town, Hokkaido. Recent discussions of indigenous rights highlight the critical roles that indigenous cultural landscapes, traditional knowledge, and indigenous languages play in restoring the

identity of indigenous peoples and promoting diversity, equity and inclusion. Three distinguished speakers from Nibutani presented lectures on their ongoing efforts and future approaches to revitalize the Ainu culture, language, and cultural landscapes. Each presentation was followed by comments from a scholar working on aspects of Ainu and/or indigenous cultures and languages and concluded with Q&A sections.

**Part 1:** Indigenous Rights and the Importance of Ainu Language Education (March 4)  
Speaker: Shiro Kayano - Director, Kayano Shigeru Nibutani Ainu Museum  
Discussant: Chie Sakakibara - Native American and Indigenous Studies Program,  
Syracuse University

The number of participants: 124

**Part 2:** Current Status of Ainu Language Education (March 7)  
Speaker: Kenji Sekine - Director, Ainu Culture Learning Section, Board of Education of  
Biratori Town

Discussant: Takayuki Okazaki - Faculty of International Studies, Kindai University  
The number of participants: 107

**Part 3: The Ainu and the Problems of Dam Construction (March 8)**

Speaker: Koichi Kaizawa - Executive Director, National Trust Cikornay; Member, Permanent Indigenous Peoples Committee (PIPC) of the FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) Asia-Pacific Region; President, Biratori Ainu Culture Preservation Association

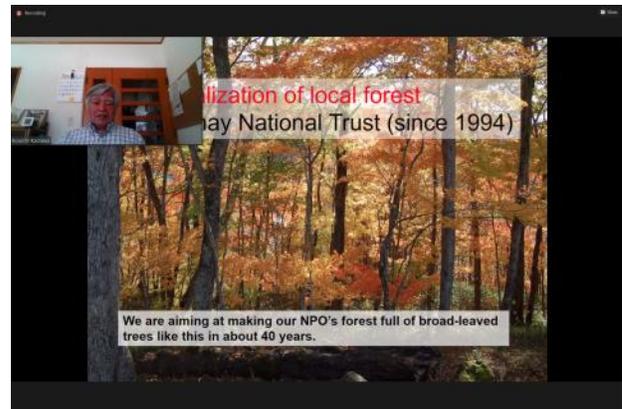
Discussant: Ann-Elise Lewallen - Department of Pacific and Asian Studies, University of Victoria

The number of participants: 108

**Part 1** began with opening remarks from Junko Habu, the Chair of CJS. She gave some context and background to the theme presented by the speaker, Shiro Kayano. Mr. Kayano explained the history and current situation of Ainu language education in Nibutani. After that, the discussant, Chie Sakakibara commented on the presentation of Mr. Kayano. She emphasized the uniqueness and importance of Ainu language education and expressed that the Ainu language would only get more important as a keystone of the resilience of Ainu culture and identity. She also articulated that the younger generation of the Nibutani community is the hope for the future of the indigenous community.



**Part 2** started with opening remarks from Junko Habu, Chair of CJS, and Toru Tamiya, the former director of JSPS SF.

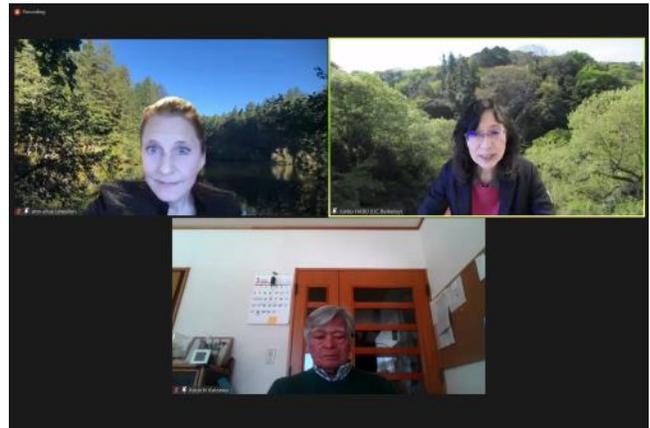


Then the speaker, Kenji Sekine, started with an introduction of himself and Hokkaido prefecture and explained about the Ainu language class in the Nibutani elementary school where he teaches. Following this, the discussant, Takayuki Okazaki, commented on Mr. Sekine's lecture. He reflected on how Mr. Sekine had contributed to Ainu language education in Nibutani. He concluded his remarks by saying that Mr. Sekine's work has been very important for Ainu language speakers and he looks forward to seeing increasingly more young people in Nibutani becoming speakers of the Ainu language with Mr. Sekine's hard work and dedication.

For **part 3**, the speaker, Koichi Kaizawa, first introduced himself and the Nibutani district of Biratori Town briefly. He then began to discuss the problems of dam construction there. Mr. Kaizawa has been

against dam construction not only because it contributes to the destruction of the natural surroundings but also because it deprives the Ainu people of their culture. He has been working on the revitalization of local forests since 1994.

Following his presentation, the discussant, Ann-Elise Lewallen, reflected on the topic of indigenous knowledge and culture. She illustrated from Mr. Kaizawa's presentation that Ainu indigenous knowledge should be seen as science. She emphasized that the Ainu has a set of ancestral relations that guides the relationships between themselves and the natural or non-human world, where the spiritual beings that reside in the natural world are also able to communicate with humans. She also hoped we might be reminded that understanding the relationships between humans and nature is itself a native science with its own logic which is a model we can all learn from.



The videos of a part of the symposium are now available from the following link.

<https://ieas.berkeley.edu/language-indigenous-knowledge-and-cultural-landscapes-ainu-0>

The symposium was a successful collaboration between the research communities in Japan and the US and bodes well for the potential future joint efforts in this exciting and important field. JSPS San Francisco will continue to support such symposia while maintaining its close relationship with UCB and CJS.

## **Fellowship Information Sessions (Online)**

- University of California, Santa Cruz (May 18th, 2022)
- University of California, Irvine (May 25th, 2022)
- University of California, San Diego (June 15th, 2022)

For more information about upcoming info sessions, please visit our website or contact us directly (<https://www.jspsusa-sf.org/>).

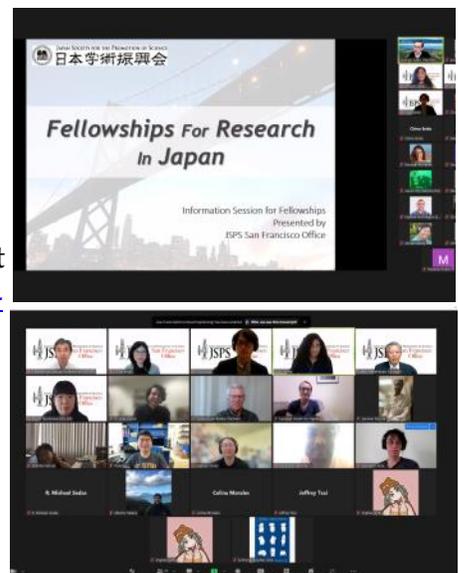
Also, here are some helpful links for the fellowship program.

-JSPS International Fellowships for Research in Japan  
(<https://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-fellow/index.html>)

-JSPS Fellows Plaza  
(<https://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-plaza/index.html>)

-US and Canada JSPS Alumni Association (<http://www.jspsusa-alumni.org/>)

-FAQ (<https://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-fellow/faq.html>)



# JSPS Fellow in America

## KAZUHITO SATO

**K**azuhito Sato received his Ph.D. from the University of Tokyo in 2018 while studying as a JSPS research fellow (DC2). He also received a M.D. from the University of Tokyo in 2008. After training in colon surgery, he joined the Washington University in St. Louis as a JSPS Overseas Research Fellow in 2022. He and his colleague at the University of Tokyo found that fusion kinases accounted for 55% (11/20) of *MLH1*-methylated colorectal tumors lacking oncogenic *KRAS/BRAF* missense mutations.

- His Research Field: *BAP1* is known as a tumor suppressor gene in kidney cancers and as a prognostic marker. The fact that *BAP1* suppresses *SLC7A11* and promotes ferroptosis was reported by analyzing the cancer genome atlas (TCGA) cohort in 2018. Sato's colleague

analyzed the transcriptome of the NCI Clinical proteomic tumor analysis consortium (CPTAC)<sup>¶</sup> cohort and found that the transcript of gene X is highly expressed in *BAP1* mutants. Currently, his main research topic in the Ding lab is if gene X is an oncogene in *BAP1* mutant kidney cancers. Thus, he is doing a functional assay to see if the gene knockdown or knockout of cells make cell lines less invasive in order to investigate if gene X is targetable or not in *BAP1* null cell lines. His curiosity also drives him to pursue other numerous side projects based on cancer biology.

<sup>¶</sup>CPTAC is the first large-scale project to integrate genomics and proteomics data, with the goal of understanding cancer creating events. As one of CPTAC3's proteogenomic data analysis centers, the Ding lab contributes to genomic data processing and analysis and, at the same time, is actively building expertise in proteomics and phosphoproteomics.

• His Research Interest: He is interested in computational analyses of cancer and the functional assay of candidate genes.



Figure 1

**Q1: Why did you decide to research in the U.S.?**

Communication in English is essential to make research output easy. I want to have training in working in English. Washington University is a world-leading research institute which produces a lot of Nobel Prize laureates. Their photos are listed on the front entrance wall (Figure 1). Principal investigators (PI) in the U.S. have their own minds and their output is extraordinary. My

research interest lies in computational analyses and Dr. Ding has been known for computational analyses in human cancers such as TCGA. Through its connections, the Ding lab participates in other consortiums such as CPTAC and Human Tumor Atlas Network (HTAN)\*. A consortium can collect tumors from all over the U.S. I am involved in the HTAN consortium and conduct all of the total RNA extraction. I think one of the merits of studying abroad is direct networking in this large consortium and knowing how to organize such a large project. For example, we utilize Google Sheets for sample collection and tracking sample preparation to get everyone on the same page (Figure 2).

\*HTAN project at Wash U integrates cutting-edge technologies to study breast and pancreatic cancers. The project takes advantage of the most advanced technologies, such as single-cell sequencing, making possible studies that could not be conducted until recently. The Ding lab plays a leading role in this effort at Wash U, performing a variety of bioinformatics.



Figure 2

**Q2: What is your impression of the research environment in the U.S.?**

First, in my view, the budget for human cancer research is huge in the U.S. They take on challenges in new scientific fields such as multi-channel immunofluorescence. In comparison, I am a little conservative and afraid of new fields. I think American researchers take their private time more seriously than Japanese researchers. Because their budget is big, they can hire professional technicians and construct a core. A core is a research supportive facility we can ask to perform experiments. There are more than 50 cores in Wash U such as the animal behavior core and imaging core. Workers in the core are very professional. Researchers can learn from workers in a core. The U.S. invests some of its large national budget in human science.

Second, compared with Japan, the barrier of starting collaboration research is very small (Figure 3). In terms of finance, core or equipment sharing is good because each lab can cut the cost to have the same equipment.

Third, the presentation skill of Ph.D. students is excellent. If a presentation is good, then they may feel the projects are good and vice versa. I desire to receive training in presenting.

**Q3: How do you take advantage of your experiences in the U.S. and apply it to your research or career?**

In my Ph.D. course in Japan, my bosses kindly showed me solutions every time I faced a problem. I just followed their directions and achieved a good publication under their instruction. I'm now having a hard time selecting a good theme. I have discussed the research theme with my PI and

coworkers often. I learned how important research theme is in publishing works.

I understand that scientific presentation in English is important. To think of research themes, I read lots of papers. Through this process, I can now find good themes and labs. Research construction will be important in my



Figure 3

future research. After I go back to Japan, I will mainly do clinical work. I'd like to continue research and do bioinformatics or functional assay applied to clinical questions.

Finally, I appreciate Dr. Mano in the Division of Cellular Signaling, National Cancer Center Research Institute, Japan, Dr. Kawazu in the Division of Cell Therapy, Chiba Cancer Center Research Institute, and Professor Ishihara in the Department of Surgical Oncology, the University of Tokyo for their instruction.

# The Latest from Universities in Japan



## HIROSHIMA UNIVERSITY

### ***Hiroshima University organizes first effectuation conference in Asia***

**I**n March, Hiroshima University organized Asia's first conference on effectuation, the method expert entrepreneurs use to create ventures that thrive under highly unpredictable situations.

The two-day [conference](#) was held on March 8-9 at HU's Phoenix International Center MIRAI-CREA and online. The "Women in Entrepreneurship Education Symposium" was conducted on the first day of the event to mark International Women's Day, followed by the main "Effectuation Conference" the next day.

Speaking at the conference was University of Virginia Darden School of Business Professor Saras Sarasvathy, who first articulated effectuation 20 years ago under the supervision of Nobel laureate in Economics, Herbert Simon.

Amid hurdles posed by the pandemic, HU

Associate Professor Emi Makino, one of the event's organizers, said Japan's first effectuation conference came at the perfect time. As a mode of entrepreneurial action and logic, effectuation is gaining attention in the country's startup community, as well as among marketers and management consultants.

"I think the timing was ripe. And Japan has been investing heavily in entrepreneurship education for the past, maybe six or seven years," she said.

Makino, who teaches business courses such as technology marketing, explained that entrepreneurship education in Japan has evolved in a way that it has become mainly about tech-based startups.

"But it's not. It's really something that applies to everybody, especially in times of uncertainty, when you cannot predict the future," she said.

“So, when you’re in a situation like COVID-19, where you really can't predict anything, then planning can actually be detrimental.”

In the panel Makino moderated, where Hiroshima Prefecture’s governor and Sarasvathy had a stimulating dialogue, one of the key takeaways was education’s importance.

“Japan is behind the curve in terms of entrepreneurship education in general. For example, in Europe, there’s a huge push to require entrepreneurship education at all levels of schooling starting from elementary school. You also have Ph.D. degrees in entrepreneurship, which is normal in the United States. It’s not normal yet in Japan,” she said.

“And one of the issues we've always run into, and this is not just about Japan but also elsewhere, is that it's really hard to get women students to take courses in entrepreneurship.”

Makino cites that because the role models dominating the field like Elon Musk are all in

the high-tech startup world, entrepreneurship isn’t seen as an attractive choice for women.

“This is the sort of mistaken perception of entrepreneurship. It’s not just about startups. It’s about creating value, right? So, you're creating value from things where value did not exist before,” she remarked.

Makino hopes to continue having the symposia on a regular basis, rotating from one university to another, and to start developing a community of people interested in cultivating more women entrepreneurs and female entrepreneurship educators.

“We all learn the scientific method at school, even though we're not going to become scientists. Even if you don’t become a scientist, the scientific method is useful. Similarly, the entrepreneurial method is also going to be useful, even if you're not going to become an entrepreneur,” she said.

The event was co-organized by Hiroshima Prefecture, Waseda University EDGE-NEXT and T-UNITE programs, Kyushu University EDGE-NEXT IDEA program, and Nagoya University Tongali program.



*Organizers held the “Women in Entrepreneurship Education Symposium” on the first day of the two-day effectuation conference. (Hiroshima University)*

# Office Member Greeting

## NOBUTAKE NIITA

*(International Program Intern from KEK, July, 2019 - June, 2022 )*

**F**irst of all, I would like to express my appreciation to all of my colleagues who supported my stay here in the US. It was truly an amazing one, where I was able to work in a variety of situations with executives, scientists, and administrators of universities and laboratories to promote our long history of science and technology cooperation between Japan and the US. Although the exchange of personnel was and still is limited in this pandemic, it is very encouraging to see the science community from both sides continuing their collaboration in the possible ways that are available. But the deregulations, which have been taken in Japan in the recent month, have seemed to enable the restarting of researchers traveling to the US which I hope will bring “light at the end of a tunnel” style hope for the fruitful

by-lateral collaboration.

Initially, my stay was scheduled for two years, but due to the unforeseen pandemic, my term was extended for an extra year. During these three years, the shelter-in-place that took place in the early phase of the pandemic, and the remote working circumstances were like nothing that I have experienced in my life, needless to mention the food and culture, and the great nature of the West Coast that I was able to appreciate. Also, in contrast to the star-studded sky seen at the night around the desert, the orange sky that I saw created by a wildfire was another unforgettable day that I went through that I would like to note here as part of my precious memories of my stay in the US.

Through the experience that I was able to have, I believe that I came to have a stronger understanding of the culture and the ways of thinking here, and I am confident that it will give me a boost in my work back in Japan. I hope that this wonderful opportunity will continue for future Japanese staff who aim to work to further international collaborations.



## ABIGAIL JONES

*(Liaison Officer, April, 2022 -)*

**H**ello! I'm Abigail Jones, and I joined the JSPS San Francisco Office as the Liaison Officer in April! I graduated from the Honors College at William Paterson University in New Jersey in 2020 with a GPA of 4.0. My bachelor's degrees are in History and East Asian Studies, focusing on Japanese Language. In the Honors College, I presented my thesis called: *Kawaii! The Cute Monster Rears its Many Heads*. Here is an abstract of my thesis: "My research focused on Hello Kitty, Pikachu, Gudetama, and Aggrestuko who demonstrate the evolution and the growing reach of kawaii as a cultural phenomenon. My findings highlighted how these characters have shaped and are continuing to mold the identity of people globally who love and identify with them, creating a lasting emotional attachment to kawaii culture."

I have been dreaming of Japan since my father introduced me to Studio Ghibli and other animation productions when I was little. I was unable to go to Japan when I graduated because of the pandemic but I hope to visit in the future.

I just moved across the country from New Jersey to California for the position of Liaison Officer. Just before I moved, I got engaged and will be changing my last name to Hughes when I get married to my fiancé in July. In my spare time, I like streaming TV, such as Detective Conan, listening to pop and Japanese music like Gesu no Kiwami Otome, hanging out with new friends in the Bay Area, taking pictures of people and cherry blossoms, and studying Japanese culture. I often try to read and write in Japanese too. I am so honored to be working alongside such wonderful and hardworking people at JSPS. I hope to increase awareness of JSPS, the influence of the fellowships, and at the same time grow in my Japanese studies.



## ASUKA TACHIBANA

*(International Program Associate,  
April, 2022 - March, 2023)*

**H**ello everyone! I'm Asuka Tachibana. I joined JSPS San Francisco this April as an **International Program Associate**. I've worked at JSPS Tokyo headquarter office for about one year and I was in charge of JSPS overseas offices there. I'm originally an administrative staff of Hokkaido University, which is located in Sapporo, Hokkaido, the north area of Japan.

Here at the JSPS San Francisco office, I'm in charge of accounting, speaking at information sessions for people who are interested in researching in Japan and coordinating events such as 'Japanese Researchers' Exchange Meetings ("Nihon-jin Kenkyusha Kouryukai" in Japanese), which are held in the summer and winter.

I'm really glad to be here because I was unable to come to the US for two years due to COVID-19. I suppose many of you have had

the same experience and for some of you there are fewer opportunities for interaction since COVID-19 happened. I'll do my best to create chances to gather in-person or online and help promote exchanges among researchers here. Our door is open for anyone who is interested in researching in Japan and coming here from Japan for research! Please feel free to contact us anytime. I'm looking forward to seeing and talking to you all!



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## YUKI ANDO

*(International Program Associate,  
April, 2022 - March, 2023)*

**H**ello, everyone! My name is Yuki Ando, and I joined the JSPS San Francisco office as an **International Program**

**Associate on April 1, 2022. It is great to meet you all!**

My first overseas trip was to the West Coast of the US during high school, so I am really glad to be able to come back and start my career here. I want to learn about the culture of the US and broaden my perspective through work experience at JSPS SFO and via

daily life in the US.

My main duties involve facilitating monthly meetings, preparing for lectures and processing applications to JUNBA, Japan University Network in the Bay Area. In my previous position, I managed monthly meetings in a research institute for three years, so I am sure my work experience will be helpful in this job.

I will do my best to carry out the mission of JSPS. I am looking forward to seeing you all soon!



## CHINO ENDO

*(International Program Associate,  
April, 2022 - March, 2023)*

**H**ello! This past April, I joined the JSPS San Francisco Office as one of the International Program Associates. Before accepting this role, I had been working at the University of Tsukuba, in Ibaraki prefecture, Japan.

I was originally scheduled to come here in 2021, but due to Covid-19, it was postponed and I did not know until the last minute whether I would be able to travel to the U.S. this year. Therefore, I am so glad to finally be able to come to the U.S. I am also grateful to JSPS headquarters and the University of Tsukuba for granting me permission to travel to the U.S.

I really hope that the situation will soon become better for those who wish to travel from Japan for study, research, business, or pleasure, as well as for those who wish to travel to Japan from abroad.

I am going to be the main person in charge

of publishing this Newsletter for this year. I am also involved in several events that we hope will promote the relationships between the international academic communities in Japan and the Americas.

I look forward to working hard with the other members of the office over the next year, while also taking care of our health and safety. I am very excited to meet you all soon!



# English Loan Words in Japanese

**Abigail Jones**

**Liaison Officer, JSPS San  
Francisco Office**



**E**nglish speakers, have you ever been listening to a Japanese conversation and suddenly be struck by a word that is clearly not Japanese in origin?

Japanese speakers, have you ever heard a word that did not sound Japanese but you know it is also Japanese now? My dear readers, that is the beauty and horror of 外来語 (*gai rai go*) which is Japanese for loan words.

Japanese speakers have been integrating foreign words into the vocabulary for many years. Arguably this was intentional. However, it has gotten to be that some people, specifically elders, have been turned off by the number of words that are borrowed. Recently, I read that an older Japanese gentlemen sued a news company for the stress that he endured because of the amount of loan words that were used in news blasts. As I learn Japanese and continue to teach my wonderful coworkers how to improve their English

pronunciation, I am shocked to learn of all of the words that sound Japanese that I can understand. For clarity, my coworkers are far more fluent in English than I am in Japanese, though I hope to grow to be *ペラペラです* (*pera pera desu.*) Every day since I brought up the topic in my office, I learn more English words that my Japanese coworkers use when they speak Japanese. The other day my supervisor asked me if I used the word ‘dumbbell’ as a way to say weights. The answer was yes of course, with a little surprise that he knows that word. In our globalized world, it is hard to find a language that does not do any sort of language transfer; we are more connected than ever before. Omar Shalina puts it beautifully in his paper “The Social and Functional Role of English Loanwords in Japanese”, “Language contact is one of the most influential, if not the most influential, forces driving language change. When languages come into contact with each other language borrowing occurs.” However,

it might be my hyper-fixation on all things Japanese, but I have noticed so many English words entering into the Japanese language. This language exchange happens much more frequently than to any other language I have noticed.

The concept that is most interesting to me about this is that in some instances, there is already a Japanese word for the borrowed word before it is borrowed. An example courtesy of Omar Shalina: “The word *yakyū* 野球 ‘baseball’ [is] composed of the element *ya* 野 ‘field’ and *kyū* 球 ‘ball’. It is interesting to note that this term coexists with the English loan *bēsubōru* ベースボール ‘baseball.’” If there is already *yakyū*, why would you need *bēsubōru*? In my research, it would appear that these words are useful for a sort of cool factor, that if you know these words you may be considered well-educated, as you know English words as well as Japanese. That leads to a sort of stigma, and a generational divide between young people who have learned so much English due to SNS, and older people who feel hopeless to learn more language than they already know.

Some of these words come into use because they designate a smaller usage or different usage than the word that was there already. For instance, I called phones ‘携帯電話’ for a long time, until I was told that it indicates a large variety of mobile phones not simply smart phones. In fact, the word used commonly now, is スマートフォン (*suma-tofōnn*) or スマホ (*suma-ho*) for short.

What makes all of this so confusing is that there are multiple and many different versions of *gairaigo*. Linguists do a far better job at categorizing this than I do, and do be



Image courtesy of Global Skills

sure to check out some of the articles I will reference at the bottom for some quality reading on the topic, but there is a sister category to *gairaigo*, which is *wasei eigo* or Japan-made English.

Laura Miller in her paper, “Wasei eigo: English ‘loanwords’ coined in Japan” helped me understand this fact a little easier. “...Even if all English *gairaigo* are not truly borrowed, some have been re-worked and re-fashioned to such an extent that they are linguistically marked as genuine Japanese offspring, hence we find separate designations such as *wasei eigo* and *katakana eigo*.” This is to say that some English sounding Japanese words are not in fact English at all, but words that are combined to create something that is unique to Japan.

My question to you dear readers, and please respond back to me, I would love to hear your answers, is do you often use words that are English in origin, and if you do, do you know that they are not Japanese? Do you think that the Japanese language is being diminished by its usage of loanwords or that it is benefitting from such borrowings?

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## Upcoming Events Information (\*Details to be announced)

July 8th (PDT, EDT), 9th (JST), 2022

Summer Gathering of Japanese Researchers in the U.S. (日本人研究者交流会・夏)

<https://www.jspsusa-sf.org/news/?p=2364>

September, 2022

The 1st JUNBA Webinar 2022

October - December, 2022

Workshop for Japanese University Administrative Staff in the U.S.

(在米大学職員研究会)

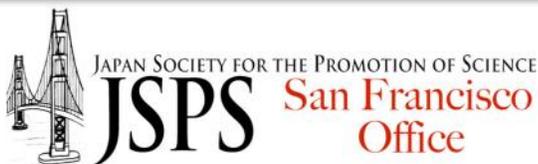
December, 2022

The 2nd JUNBA Webinar 2022

February, 2023

Winter Gathering of Japanese Researchers in the U.S.

(日本人研究者交流会・冬) / Bridge Award Ceremony



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