



# Japanese Studies Association of Australia

April 2015

---

Editor: Catherine Hallett

## Conferences

### **JSAA 2015 Conference - Registration due by 17 April 2015**

The 19th Biennial Conference of the Japanese Studies Association of Australia will be held at La Trobe University's Melbourne (Bundoora) Campus from 30 June to 3 July 2015, hosted by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences with the support of La Trobe Asia. The closing date for registration is 17 April 2015. For further information, please visit the conference [website](#).

### **Wounds, Scars, and Healing: Civil Society and Postwar Pacific Basin Reconciliation**

The Wounds, Scars, and Healing: Civil Society and Postwar Pacific Basin Reconciliation Conference will be held from 30 September to 2 October 2015 at the University of Sydney. The organising committee is currently calling for papers for the conference. The due date for submission of the panel proposals and individual papers is 30 April 2015. For further information, please visit the conference [website](#).

### **Ninth International Convention of Asia Scholars Conference, ICAS9 2015**

The International Convention of Asia Scholars (ICAS) 2015 will take place from 5 to 9 July 2015 at the Adelaide Convention Centre. It will be hosted by the University of Adelaide, Flinders University, and the University of South Australia. It is supported by the Asian Studies Association of Australia. Registration for the conference is currently open. For further information, please visit the conference [website](#).

---

## Featured Publication

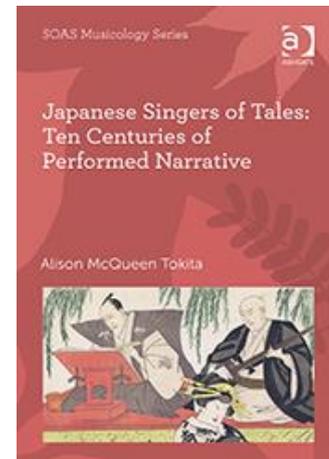
## Japanese Singers of Tales: Ten Centuries of Performed Narrative by Alison Tokita

Alison McQueen Tokita presents a series of case studies that demonstrate the persistence of Japanese sung narratives in a multiplicity of genres over ten centuries, including the way they flourished and declined, together with factors contributing to development and change in narrative performance.

Performed narratives are examples of a shared cultural heritage, which in the past have given people a sense of belonging to a community. Narratives that were continually re-told and recycled in different versions and formats over a long period of time served to build people's sense of a common identity over space (the geographical extent of 'Japan') and time (the enduring power of many specific narratives such as The Tale of the Heike). Much scholarly attention has focused on Japanese pre-modern literature and drama, but the tradition of oral narrative has barely been touched.

Tokita argues that it is possible to identify a continuous tradition of performed narrative in Japan from the tenth to the twentieth centuries. The elements of variation and change relate to the move away from oral narrative to text-based performance, and from a simple narrative situation with one performer to complex theatrical narratives with dancers, singers and other musicians. The resulting complexity led to the pre-eminence of the musical aspects in some cases, and of dramatic or dance aspects in others. Tokita includes substantial musical analysis and exploration of theoretical issues, as well as documentation of important performance traditions, all of which are extant.

[Further Information.](#)



---

## Positions Available

### College Fellow in Pre-modern Japanese Humanities, Harvard University

Harvard's Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations is seeking applications for a College Fellow in the study of pre-modern Japanese humanities. The College Fellows Program at the Faculty of Arts and Sciences identifies exceptional scholars who have recently completed their doctoral work and have demonstrated excellence in teaching. Scholars in the following fields are encouraged to apply: history before 1600; Edo or pre-Heian literature; or the archaeology of the Kofun through Nara periods; applications from scholars whose research puts Japan into regional perspective are particularly welcome. Teaching duties will include two undergraduate courses and a graduate seminar. Twenty-five percent of the appointment is reserved for the Fellow's own research. The Fellow may also advise and evaluate senior theses. Candidates are required to have a Ph.D. or an equivalent terminal degree by the expected start date. The appointment is for one year, with the possibility of renewal for a second year. Complete applications, including a current CV, research and teaching statements, teaching materials, syllabus drafts for the above-mentioned courses, plus three letters of reference, must be submitted by 15 April 2015.

[Further information.](#)

### **Director, East Asian Library, Princeton University Library**

The Princeton University Library is seeking a director for the East Asian Library. For further information on the position, please visit the Princeton University [website](#).

### **One-Year Visiting Instructor, Western Washington University**

The Western Washington University is seeking a One-year Visiting Instructor/Assistant Professor of History beginning on 16 September 2015 through 15 June 2016. The position is open to historians of Japan. The deadline for applications is 1 May 2015. [Further information.](#)

### **Assistant Professor/Instructor, History of East Asia, Knox College**

The Department of History at Knox College invites applications for a one-year replacement appointment at the rank of visiting assistant professor / instructor effective 1 September 2015, with specialization in the field of East Asian history, with a preference for Japan. PhD expected, but ABDs will be considered. Candidates should have experience in or commitment to working with diverse populations of students. Review of applications will begin on 15 April 2015 and continue until the position is filled. [Further information.](#)

---

## **Events**

### **Australia-Japan Foundation Grant Program for 2015-16**

The Australia-Japan Foundation's Grant Program for 2015-16 will open on Friday 27 February at 4:00 pm (AEST) and 2:00 pm (JST) to Monday 20 April at 11:00pm (AEST) and 10:00pm (JST) for projects commencing from July 2015 and no later than 30 June 2016. Full information, funding guidelines and the smartygrants application form are available [online](#).

### **New National Library of Australia Fellowships for researchers and scholars**

Applications are now open for several National Library of Australia Fellowships. There are four newly endowed Fellowships to support collections-based research on any topic. There are also two trust-funded Fellowships for research on Australian literature and for Japan Studies. Fellowships are available to established and early career researchers and to Australian and international scholars with a demonstrated need to use the Library's collections. Applications close 17 May 2015. [Further Information.](#)

---

If you do not want to receive future emails from us, please [unsubscribe](#).

---