

Seminar Series: Enabling Scholarly Exchange Beyond Borders

Vol.1 with the Japan Foundation | November 16, 2022

The international mobility of researchers and the future of Japanese studies

Profiles of Speakers

Rein RAUD



Prof. Rein Raud (Tallinn University) started his academic career in 1995 as the Professor of Japanese Studies at the University of Helsinki, where he had received his doctorate after graduating from the St.Petersburg (then Leningrad) University in 1985. Since 2017, he works as the professor of Asian and Cultural Studies at the Tallinn University, which he led as the rector from 2006 till 2011. He has also been a guest professor at the Freie Universität Berlin and at the University of Tokyo, been the President of the European Association of Japanese Studies, received honorary doctorates from the Vytautas Magnus University and the University of Latvia and the Estonian National Research Award (2019) as well as several state awards, including the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star from Japan. He continues to serve on the editorial boards of several academic journals. He is also a prize-winning author of fiction, with 10 novels (three of which have been translated also into English) and 9 other books published to date. For his latest novel he has received the Estonian National Cultural Award. All in all, book-length translations of his work have appeared in 9 languages.

His research interests are broad, ranging from medieval Japanese thought and literature to cultural theory and philosophy. He is the author of 7 academic books, including *Being in Flux: A Post-Anthropocentric Ontology of the Self* (Polity 2021), *Asian Worldviews: Religions, Philosophies, Political Ideologies* (Wiley-Blackwell 2021) and *Meaning in Action: Outline of an Integral Theory of Culture* (Polity 2016) as well as numerous articles.

Yaara Elior MORRIS



Yagi Morris holds a PhD in Religious Studies from The University of London, SOAS, specializing in medieval Japanese religions. Her PhD dissertation ‘The Kinpusen Himitsuden: Space, Myth and Ritual in a Medieval Cultic Site’ examines the intertwinement of esoteric Buddhist imperial liturgies and the cultic framework of the Ōmine Mountains in a text written for the legitimation of the southern court’s emperor and situated at the crossroads of religious and political realities. In her work, she attends to the innovative and creative potential embedded in moments of crisis and tries to understand how it effects the religious landscape. She is also broadly interested in sacred landscapes and pilgrimage practice as well as in the intersections between religious and political realities. She is currently a Japan Foundation research fellow at the International Research Center for Japanese Studies (Nichibunken), Kyoto, where she continues her work on medieval texts, imperial rituals and sacred landscapes. She is also the recipient of Fondazione 1536 postdoctoral fellowship for 2022-2024 at the University of Turin, where she will participate in a project of Political Thought and the Body.

Romarc JANNEL



Romarc Jannel received his PhD from the École Pratique des Hautes Études in Paris with a thesis on the philosophy of Yamauchi Tokuryū 山内得立 (1890-1982), an important but sadly neglected Kyoto School philosopher who was a disciple of Nishida Kitarō. He assisted Augustin Berque with the French translation of *Logos and Lemma*, the only work of Yamauchi translated into a Western language to date. Dr. Jannel’s research was supervised by Professors Uehara Mayuko (Japanese philosophy), Frédéric Girard (Buddhist philology), Augustin Berque (Environmental philosophy) and Didier Franck (Continental philosophy). He is currently a Collaborating Researcher at Kyoto University’s Institute for Research in Humanities and Director of program at the Collège international de philosophie (CIPh), a French academic institution co-founded in Paris by Jacques Derrida and his colleagues.