

# Japanese Studies Past, Present and Future 2025–6 Lecture Series



Monks performing shōmyō in front of a reproduction of a painting of the bodhisattva Kannon from Hasedera. Part of the SISJAC *Nara to Norwich* exhibition at The Forum, Norwich, May 2024.



View of Akabane, Yedo, early evening  
Women and children in an open space in front of a line of buildings and a wood-yard. Kunisato. Triptych. 1855.  
[RAS 077.001, 037-039]



Courtauld MA students with monks and nuns at Murōji (Muro Temple), Japan, on their study visit in May 2025

**A series of lectures, open to all, covering many aspects of Japanese studies in the UK and beyond**

**Japanese Studies: Past, Present and Future  
2025–6 Lecture Series**

We are delighted to announce a series of public lectures over 2025–6 covering the many aspects of Japanese studies in the UK and beyond. This series is a collaboration between the Royal Asiatic Society (RAS), the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures (SISJAC) and The Courtauld Institute of Art. Lectures will be held at all three locations and will also be streamed live from the RAS and SISJAC. A few will be online only.

Lectures are open to all but you please register as spaces are limited in some venues. The start time is 630pm the RAS and SISJAC and 6pm for The Courtauld unless otherwise indicated.

**2025**

**Tuesday 9 September (RAS)**

*Studying Japan from the UK: New Challenges and Historical Precedents*  
Jennifer Coates

**Thursday 18 September (SISJAC online only)**

*Tradition Reimagined: Okinawan Art and Kōgei in the 21st Century*  
Eriko Tomizawa-Kay

**Thursday 16 October (SISJAC online only)**

*The Art of Manga*  
Nicole Coolidge Rousmaniere

**Tuesday 21 October (Courtauld)**

*TBC: Conservation and installation project of a Japanese bodhisattva*  
Rosina Buckland

**Friday 7 November (RAS)**

*Shiro 城: A Photographic Exploration of Japanese Castles*  
Bashar Tabbah

**Wednesday 3 December (Courtauld)**

*The Lives and Afterlives of Buddhist Icons: Deactivation and Reactivation Rituals in Medieval Japan*  
Benedetta Lomi

**Thursday 11 December (RAS)**

*Japanese Mythology Across Cultures: Gods, Encounters, and Global Views*  
Kikuko Hirafuji

## **2026**

### **Thursday 8 January (RAS)**

*Barbarians: The First Century of Encounter Between Japan and Europe*

Chris Harding

### **Tuesday 3 February (Courtauld)**

*TBC*

Halle O'Neal

### **Thursday 12 February (RAS)**

*TBC: Doing Field Research in Japan: A Long View*

Joy Hendry

### **Wednesday 4 March (Courtauld)**

*Conservation Practices in Japan*

Yuki Russell

### **Thursday 19 March (RAS/SISJAC online only)**

*Surviving the Apocalypse: Catastrophe Archaeology in Ancient Japan*

Junzo Uchiyama

### **Thursday 26 March (RAS)**

*Hidden knowledge: why Edo-period Japan was not a print society*

Peter Kornicki

### **Tuesday 14 May (Closing lecture at RAS AGM )**

*Towards 150 years of Japanese archaeology and its broader Asian connections*

Simon Kaner

**Lectures to be held at the following places, as indicated. A contact person is given for registration and online lectures.**

The Royal Asiatic Society (RAS)

14 Stephenson Way

London NW1 2HD

[Mb@royalasiaticsociety.org](mailto:Mb@royalasiaticsociety.org)

Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures (SISJAC)

64 The Close

Norwich NR1 4DH

[sisjac@sainsbury-institute.org](mailto:sisjac@sainsbury-institute.org)

The Courtauld Institute of Art

Vernon Square

Penton Rise

London WC1X 9EW

[Sujatha.Meegama@courtauld.ac.uk](mailto:Sujatha.Meegama@courtauld.ac.uk) (for 2025 lectures)

[ian.pu@courtauld.ac.uk](mailto:ian.pu@courtauld.ac.uk) (for 2026 lectures)