

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

We are delighted to announce a series of public lectures and events 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 and events are open to all but please register as spaces are limited in some venues. The start time is 630pm at the RAS and 6pm for The Courtauld and SISJAC 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 and Alexander Owen

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

Thursday 18 December (SISJAC - 17.00 start time)

Building Eternity: Japanese Perspectives on Sustainability and the Sacred

Kotaro Katsuki and Kikuko Hirafuji

2026

Thursday 8 January (RAS)

Barbarians: The First Century of Encounter Between Japan and Europe

Chris Harding

Tuesday 3 February (Courtauld)

The Weight of Ephemeral Things: Paper, Memory, and Women Makers in Medieval Japan

Halle O'Neal

Thursday 12 February (RAS)

Doing Field Research in Japan: A Long View

Joy Hendry

Thursday 19 February (SISJAC)

Pilgrimage from Nara to Norwich

Susan Whitfield

Wednesday 4 March (Courtauld)

Preservation of Cultural Heritage 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

Thursday 2 April (RAS)

No theatre masks: demonstration and discussion (details TBC)

Kitazawa Hideta

Thursday 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. A contact person is given for registration and online lectures.

The Royal Asiatic Society (RAS)
14 Stephenson Way
London NW1 2HD
Mb@royalasiaticsociety.org

Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures (SISJAC)
64 The Close
Norwich NR1 4DH
sisjac@sainsbury-institute.org

The Courtauld Institute of Art
Vernon Square
Penton Rise
London WC1X 9EW
Sujatha.Meegama@courtauld.ac.uk (for 2025 lectures)
lan.pu@courtauld.ac.uk (for 2026 lectures)