

How to Prepare an NEAC Grant

Below you'll find an example of a successful "Small Scholarly Conference Grant" that I submitted in 2015 for an event that took place in September 2016. This provides one model for how to write a grant for this competition.

Please note that your home institution may have specific rules about how to apply for funds like this. At my institution, the university requires that AAS distribute the funds to the school. This allowed Penn to cover the expenses in the short term (saving my credit card bill) while allowing AAS/NEAC to reimburse in the longer term.

At the end of the document is the report I submitted after the event was done. I've redacted some contact information and left out the receipts, but I did include a final budget including the breakdown of expenses.

AAS NORTHEAST ASIA COUNCIL (NEAC)

Grants for Japanese and Korean Studies

For eligibility, budget limitations, and other requirements for the various categories of support, please consult the guidelines for NEAC Japan Studies Grants and NEAC Korean Studies Grants on the AAS website or published in the *Asian Studies Newsletter*.

IMPORTANT: Only one application per individual, per geographic region (Japan or Korea), will be accepted in any one grant application round (spring or fall). Please type all information.

Name and Affiliation of Applicant: Jolyon Thomas, University of Pennsylvania

Title of Proposed Project: What Isn't Shinto? Understanding Shinto through Its Others

**PLEASE PLACE AN "X" AFTER THE SPECIFIC TYPE OF SUPPORT REQUESTED
(ONLY ONE TYPE OF SUPPORT PER APPLICATION)**

NOTE: For the categories marked with a red asterisk* please assess your language ability in Japanese or Korean.

My fluency is (choose "native," "excellent," "good," "fair," or "none"):

JAPANESE STUDIES PROGRAM
Research Travel within the USA*
Short-term Research Travel to Japan*
Seminars on Teaching about Japan:
Instructional Materials:
Small Scholarly Conferences on Japanese Studies: X

KOREAN STUDIES PROGRAM
Research Travel within North America*
Short-term Research Travel Outside North America*
Workshops and Conferences:
Projects that Enhance Korean Studies Teaching:

Name: Jolyon Thomas

Title (Professor, Dr., Mr., Mrs., Ms.): Assistant Professor

Mailing Address:

Dept. of East Asian Languages & Civilizations, University of Pennsylvania
847 Williams Hall, 255 S. 36th Street

City, State/Province, Postal Code, Country:

Philadelphia, PA 19104-6305
USA

Telephone: Office: 215.746.3140

Telephone Home: 

Fax: 215.573.9617

E-Mail: jolyon@sas.upenn.edu

Current Affiliation: University of Pennsylvania

Current Position: Assistant Professor

Highest Degree: Ph.D.

Date completed or expected: May 2014

Citizenship and/or visa status (NOTE: for Japan grants, applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents. Institutional applicants must be located in the USA):

U.S. citizen

Congressional district and name of Congressperson (required only for Japan grant applicants):

Pennsylvania 2nd District, Chaka Fattah

If currently a degree candidate, please list name, telephone number, and e-mail address of primary advisor:

Advisor's Name:

Advisor's Telephone Number:

Advisor's E-Mail Address:

Are you a current AAS member?

If yes, please include member number: 506721

NOTE: Current AAS membership is required to apply for the Japan and Korea domestic and international RESEARCH TRAVEL grants.

Have you previously received support from NEAC?

If yes, year and category of support: Graduate Student Travel Grant, AAS Conference 2011

Amount requested from NEAC: \$5,000

Dates of Project: 29 September – 1 October 2016

Project location(s)/itinerary: A two-day event (one-day workshop; one-day symposium) to be held at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

If you are applying for a RESEARCH TRAVEL grant, please provide a schedule of expected completion of project and/or publication.

Abstract of Proposed Project (MAXIMUM OF 250 WORDS):

In a moment characterized by attempts to “green” Shintō by linking it to environmentalism or to mobilize Shintō concepts in the service of rightwing Japanese nationalist agendas, the exigency of clarifying the precise nature of Shintō is clear. While recent scholarship has elucidated the origins of *kami* worship and the historical emergence of “Shintō” as a discrete religion separate from Buddhism, the relationship between Shintō and other spheres of social life in modern and contemporary Japan remains insufficiently understood. Depending on who one asks, Shintō is either the indigenous religion of the Japanese archipelago, the irreducible core of Japanese culture, a tiny subset of Japanese Buddhism, an oppressive political ideology linked to the emperor system, an environmentalist ethic, or some combination of these. Our project brings together historians, anthropologists, and scholars of religion for a one-day private workshop and a one-day public symposium to address a simple question with a complicated answer: “What *isn't* Shintō”?

Signature of applicant:

Date: 29 September 2015

To complete your application please attach:

(1) A project statement not exceeding 1,000 words that describes the topic of this project and the role that NEAC support will play in enabling the project's completion.

For **research travel applications**, the project statement should indicate the specific research or professional activities you will be engaged in, what archives, libraries, or other research facilities you intend to use, your tentative itinerary and a schedule of expected completion of project and/or publication. Please also indicate: Is this your first trip to the planned research site or a follow-up trip

to collect information not obtained on an earlier visit? Is this particular research trip crucial to completion of your project? Why?

Any applicant's research project that requires IRB or similar approval by law or institutional practice should receive this approval from the applicant's institution or sponsoring organization prior to conducting the research for which this NEAC grant application is made. NEAC (or the AAS by extension) bears no responsibility or liability for awarding any NEAC Research Travel Grant for projects where this IRB approval should have been secured.

(2) A budget statement, delineated by type of expense. Please list all other sources and amounts of support you have obtained for this project as well as all pending applications for support. All applicants **must** seek additional support. **NEAC grants are meant to supplement other funding sources, where available. NEAC grants will NOT support expenses for the following: equipment purchases (cameras, video recorders, USB devices, etc.), gifts, book purchases, shipping expenses, or payments for research assistants to aid in an applicant's research travel project.**

PLEASE NOTE: AAS grants take the form of REIMBURSEMENT AFTER the project has been completed and all reports submitted, rather than payment in advance. ORIGINAL receipts need to be retained and (only) those supporting the NEAC grant reimbursement requested need to be submitted (receipts for expenses supported by other sources need not be provided). Digital e-ticket receipts are acceptable as original documentation. Reimbursement is only for actual expenses incurred UP TO THE AMOUNT OF THE GRANT AWARD.

NOTE ABOUT INDIRECT COSTS: THE AAS IS UNABLE TO SUPPORT FUNDING REQUESTS FOR INDIRECT COSTS from applicants to its grant programs. The AAS is a membership organization, rather than a funding agency, and conducts its grant programs as a service to the field through the voluntary help of its members. Funds for all grant programs originate from outside agencies, and individual awards are quite modest. We therefore ask applicants' home institutions to waive their normal indirect cost requirements.

(3) A current Curriculum Vitae not exceeding three pages for the applicant, conference organizer, project director and/or principal participants.

(4) For GRADUATE STUDENT APPLICANTS, a letter of recommendation from an advisor is required. This letter must be mailed by the advisor to the AAS (Attn: Alicia Williams, CFO) at the address below, to be received by the application deadline. Only one copy of the advisor letter is required.

Do not submit appendices or other supporting material except for applications requesting support for instructional materials.

Send ELEVEN DOUBLE-SIDE PRINTED HARD COPIES of this completed application and all supporting materials TO BE RECEIVED IN THE ANN ARBOR OFFICE to:

NEAC Small Grants Program
Association for Asian Studies
825 Victors Way, Suite 310
Ann Arbor, MI 48108 USA

Applications **RECEIVED BY OCTOBER 1** will be considered by NEAC for the Fall/Winter awards.

Applications **RECEIVED BY FEBRUARY 1** will be considered for the Spring/Summer awards.

NOTE: If the deadline falls on a weekend, it will be extended to the Monday following the weekend.

Notification of awards will be made in late November for the fall/winter awards and late April for the spring/summer awards. **Successful applicants are required to submit a final report to NEAC and the AAS.**

For specific grant application questions not answered here, please contact Jackie Page, jpage@asian-studies.org.

What *Isn't* Shintō?

ABSTRACT

In a moment characterized by attempts to “green” Shintō by linking it to environmentalism or to mobilize Shintō concepts in the service of rightwing Japanese nationalist agendas, the exigency of clarifying the precise nature of Shintō is clear. While recent scholarship has elucidated the origins of *kami* worship and the historical emergence of “Shintō” as a discrete religion separate from Buddhism, the relationship between Shintō and other spheres of social life in modern and contemporary Japan remains insufficiently understood. Depending on who one asks, Shintō is either the indigenous religion of the Japanese archipelago, the irreducible core of Japanese culture, a tiny subset of Japanese Buddhism, an oppressive political ideology linked to the emperor system, an environmentalist ethic, or some combination of these. Our project brings together historians, anthropologists, and scholars of religion to address a simple question with a complicated answer: “What *isn't* Shintō”?

NARRATIVE PROPOSAL

The basic premise of the project is that determining what Shintō actually *is* becomes much easier when the boundaries around the category can be sharply drawn. While definitions of Shintō have shifted over time, each participant's research elucidates the nature of modern Shintō by showing how interest groups have attempted to define the tradition in relationship to something else. Collectively, collaborators' research projects cover attempts to either link Shintō to—or disaggregate Shintō from—militarist ethics, public school education, new religions, nature conservation, and overseas development projects.

Recent scholarship has already problematized the timeworn explanatory rubrics of “State Shintō” as totalitarian politics and Shintō as “Japan’s indigenous religion.” Yet in a year marked by the 70th anniversary of the close of the Pacific War and unprecedented legislative reinterpretations of Japan’s postwar constitution, these outmoded paradigms are being resuscitated by journalists, politicians, and academics eager to bend Shintō to the domestic and international politics of today. And although demographers have marked a steady decline in Japanese religiosity in the decades since the close of the Pacific War (1945), Shintō remains a persistent and irrepressible force in Japanese social and political life. Lobbying organizations such as the Shintō Seiji Renmei (Shintō Political Alliance) exert considerable pressure on politicians. Issues of succession in the imperial household capture the attention of the reading public. Major Shintō shrines such as Meiji Jingū (Tokyo) attract millions of domestic and foreign tourists each year.

Although simplistic narratives of neo-nationalist Shintō “resurgence” and romantic idealizations of *kami* worship as a venerable vestige of Japan’s premodern past deserve suspicion and critique, the precise nature of Shintō can be clarified by examining how Shintō traditions, lineages, and ideas have been mobilized in pursuit of political, economic, and environmentalist agendas. Simply put, Shintō is not solely defined by shrine priests’ attempts to enforce orthodoxy or the demarcation of the geographical boundaries of shrine precincts. It is also defined by the red meat pandering of politicians to the nationalist right and the greening of Shintō to appeal to the left. “Shintō” emerges as a discrete thing in the world when these interest groups juxtapose the amorphous tradition of *kami* veneration with humanitarian outreach, militarist jingoism, and public school education.

We seek \$5,000 to hold a private workshop featuring pre-circulated papers and one-day public symposium at the University of Pennsylvania in Fall 2016. Primary contact Jolyon Thomas is seeking matching funds for this public symposium from the Northeast Council of the Association for Asian Studies and the School of Arts and Sciences at Penn, where the event will be held with administrative support from Penn’s new Center for the Integrated Study of Japan.

The typical outcome of a collaborative research project is an edited volume, but we aim to produce a dynamic product that reaches a broader audience, and faster than an edited volume usually allows. Participants will share their research on a scholarly website featuring short blogs and downloadable slideshow presentations as well as through monographs and journal articles.

TOTAL WORKSHOP/SYMPOSIUM BUDGET

The total budget for our project is estimated at around \$12,600. Primary contact Jolyon Thomas is also applying for research support from the American Academy of Religion (\$5,000) and the University of Pennsylvania (\$5,000). Funds from these sources will be allocated as follows:

- The AAR collaborative international research grant will be primarily used for workshop participants' airfare, local travel, and may partially cover lodging expenses.
- AAS Northeast Asia Council funds will be primarily used to cover expenses related to workshop participants' lodging and meals.
- University of Pennsylvania University Research Foundation and/or School of Arts and Sciences Conference support funds will be used for promotional supplies, logistical support, and a post-symposium reception for participants and Japan studies faculty at Penn and nearby institutions (Princeton University, Temple University, Haverford College, Villanova University, Swarthmore College, Bryn Mawr College, and others).

ESTIMATED AIRFARE

Takashi Miura (TUS–PHL)	\$450.00
Aike Rots (OSL–PHL)	\$1050.00
Mark Teeuwen (OSL–PHL)	\$1050.00
Sarah Thal (MSN–PHL)	\$415.00
Chika Watanabe (MAN–PHL)	\$1350.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$3965.00</u>

ESTIMATED LOCAL TRAVEL

Transport to and from PHL airport	5 @\$50.00
Transport to and from local airports	5 @\$50.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$500.00</u>

ESTIMATED LODGING

5 guests @ The Inn at Penn, 3600 Sansom	
\$250/night for 3 nights	
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$3750.00</u>

MEALS

Hotel breakfasts (3 days; 5 people)	\$300.00
Catered lunches (2 days; 40 people)	\$800.00
Dinners (2 days; 15 people)	\$1400.00
Coffee/ Snacks (2 days; 40 people)	\$200.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$2700.00</u>

MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES

Reception (60 people)	\$1500.00
Printing (posters and flyers)	\$100.00
Initial web domain setup	\$100.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$200.00</u>

Oops! Try to avoid mistakes like this.

PROJECT BUDGET TOTAL: \$12,615.00

PERSONNEL

PRIMARY CONTACT AND WORKSHOP ORGANIZER

Jolyon Thomas

Assistant Professor of East Asian Languages & Civilizations, University of Pennsylvania

847 Williams Hall, 255 S. 36th Street

Philadelphia, PA 19104 USA

jolyon@sas.upenn.edu

COLLABORATING CONTRIBUTORS

Takashi Miura

Assistant Professor of East Asian Studies, University of Arizona

102 Learning Services Building

1512 E. First Street

Tucson, AZ 85721-0105 USA

tmiura@email.arizona.edu

Aike P. Rots

Associate Professor of East Asia Studies, University of Oslo

Department of Culture Studies and Oriental Languages (IKOS)

University of Oslo

P.O. Box 1010 0315

Blindern, Oslo Norway

a.p.rots@ikos.uio.no

Sarah Thal

Associate Professor of History, University of Wisconsin-Madison

4026 Mosse Humanities Building

455 N. Park Street

Madison, WI 53706 USA

thal@wisc.edu

Chika Watanabe

Lecturer in Social Anthropology, University of Manchester

Arthur Lewis Building, Room 2.046

Oxford Road

Manchester M13 9PL UK

chika.watanabe@manchester.ac.uk

DISCUSSANT/SENIOR ADVISOR

Mark Teeuwen

Professor of East Asia Studies, University of Oslo

IKOS, P.B. 1010 0315

Blindern, Oslo

Norway

M.j.teeuwen@ikos.uio.no

EDUCATION

2014 PhD, Religion, Princeton University
2008 MA, Asian Religion, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa
2001 BA, Religious Studies, Grinnell College

EMPLOYMENT

Current Assistant Professor, East Asian Languages and Civilizations
University of Pennsylvania
2014–2015 A.W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in the Humanities
University of Wisconsin–Madison

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Monograph

2012 *Drawing on Tradition: Manga, Anime, and Religion in Contemporary Japan*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press.

Journal Articles

In press “The Buddhist Virtues of Raging Lust and Crass Materialism in Contemporary Japan: Media Outreach at the Tokyo Temple Ryōhōji,” *Material Religion*. 20 pp.
2015 (Dec 2014 issue) “Free Inquiry and Japanese Buddhist Studies: The Case of Katō Totsudō,” *Japanese Religions*, 31–51.
2014 “Religions Policies during the Allied Occupation of Japan, 1945–1952,” *Religion Compass* 8, no. 9: 275–286.
2014 “Review Article: The Concept of Religion in Modern Japan: Imposition, Invention, or Innovation?” *Religious Studies in Japan* 2: 3–21.
2012 “Horrific ‘Cults’ and Comic Religion: Manga after Aum,” *Japanese Journal of Religious Studies* 39, no. 1: 127–151.
2008 “Manga to shūkyō no genzai: ‘Nijū seiki shōnen’ to nijūisseiki no shūkyō ishiki.” *Gendai shūkyō 2008*: 120–142.
2007 “*Shūkyō Asobi* and Miyazaki Hayao’s *Anime*.” *Nova Religio* 10, no. 3: 73–95.

SELECTED SCHOLARSHIPS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND GRANTS

2013–2014 Mrs. Giles Whiting Foundation Fellowship
2012–2013 Fulbright-IIE Graduate Research Fellowship (Japan)

MEMBERSHIPS

American Academy of Religion
Association for Asian Studies
International Association for Buddhist Studies
Japanese Association for Religious Studies

Takashi Miura

University of Arizona
Department of East Asian Studies

tmiura@email.arizona.edu
(520)626-6468

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Princeton University (Religion), 2015.
M.A., Princeton University (Religion), 2013.
M.A., University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa (Religion), 2010.
B.A., with distinction, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa (Religion), 2008.

EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor, East Asian Studies, University of Arizona, 2015-present.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Academy of Religion
Association for Asian Studies

SELECT FELLOWSHIPS & HONORS

Mrs. Giles Whiting Foundation Fellowship, 2014-2015.
Dean’s Fund for Scholarly Travel Grant, Princeton University, 2014.
Department of Religion Teaching Award, Princeton University, 2013.
J.D. Rockefeller Jr. Fellowship, Princeton University, 2010-2011.
Phi Beta Kappa, Alpha of Hawai‘i Chapter, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, 2008.
Regents Scholarship, Board of Regents, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, 2004-2008.

SELECT PUBLICATIONS

Translation into English, with Mathias Vigouroux: “Yang Shoujing and the Kojima Family: Collection and Publication of Medical Classics” by Mayanagi Makoto. In Benjamin Elman et al., *Antiquarianism, Language, and Medical Philology* (Brill 2015), p. 186-213.

Translation into Japanese: “Shohyō, Review of Mark Rowe’s *Bonds of the Dead*” by Stephen Covell, *Nihon Bukkyō Sōgō Kenkyū* 12 (May 2014), p. 143–146.

Translation into English: “The Stereotyping of Religion in Contemporary Japan” by Ishii Kenji, *Journal of Religion in Japan* 2.1 (May 2013), p. 63–83.

Book Review: “Benjamin Dorman, *Celebrity Gods: New Religions, Media, and Authority in Occupied Japan*,” *Journal of Religion in Japan* 1.3 (December 2012), p. 247–252.

Translation into Japanese: “Pinku gurōbaraizēshon: Taiheiyō o wataru Nihon no kyūto/kūru o saikō suru” by Christine Yano, *Kokusai Bunkakaikan Kaihō*, Vol. 20, No.2 (December 2009), p. 32–46.

CURRICULUM VITAE

Name: ROTS, Aike Peter

Current position: Associate Professor in Contemporary Japanese Culture
Work address: Department of Culture Studies and Oriental Languages (IKOS)
 University of Oslo
 P.O. Box 1010
 0315 Blindern, Oslo
 Norway

E-mail: a.p.rots@ikos.uio.no / aikerots@gmail.com
Phone: +47 22858385 (work) / +47 48258023 (mobile)

Work experience:

2015: Associate Professor in Contemporary Japanese Culture, University of Oslo, Norway
 2014-'15: Lecturer in Contemporary East Asia Studies (Japan), University College Cork, Ireland
 2013-'14: Postdoctoral research fellow, University of Oslo
 2010-'13: Doctoral research fellow, University of Oslo
 2009-'10: English language teacher, Cleverlearn Vietnam, Hanoi, Vietnam
 2009: Japanese language teacher, Phan Chau Trinh University, Hoi An, Vietnam
 2004-'05: Dutch language teacher, Japan-Netherlands Institute, Tokyo, Japan

Higher education:

2010-'14: Ph.D., Japanese Studies / Religious Studies, Department of Culture Studies and Oriental Languages, University of Oslo
 2007-'08: MA Japanese Religions (*with distinction*), School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London, UK
 2002-'07: BA Japanese Language and Culture (*with distinction*), Leiden University, the Netherlands
 2002-'07: BA World Religions (*with distinction*), Leiden University
 2004-'05: One-Year Study Abroad Program, School of International Liberal Studies, Waseda University, Tokyo

Research grants and awards:

2015: Research travel grant, IKOS, University of Oslo
 2015: Grants for organising the international workshop 'Formations of the Secular in Japan', IKOS and Interfaculty Research Network 'PluRel', University of Oslo
 2013: Research travel grant, Institute for Comparative Research in Human Culture, Oslo
 2013: Research travel grant, Interfaculty Research Network 'PluRel', University of Oslo
 2011: First prize, Shinto essay competition, International Shinto Foundation
 2011: Research travel grant, Faculty of Humanities, University of Oslo
 2010-'13: Recipient of doctoral research fellowship from the Interfaculty Research Network 'PluRel', University of Oslo
 2007: Recipient of the MA Japanese Religions Bursary, Centre for the Study of Japanese Religions (CSJR), School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London
 2006: First prize, Japanese Public Speaking Contest, Embassy of Japan in the Netherlands

Membership of academic organisations:

- European Association for Japanese Studies (EAJS)
- European Association for the Study of Religions (EASR)
- International Association for the History of Religion (IAHR)
- Dutch Association for Religious Studies (NGG)

Name: Mark Teeuwen
Date of birth: 09-02-1966

Contact address: IKOS, P.B. 1010 Blindern, 0315 University of Oslo.
M.j.teeuwen@ikos.uio.no

Home page: <http://www.hf.uio.no/ikos/personer/vit/markt/index.html>

Degree: PhD, University of Leiden, The Netherlands (1996). Title of dissertation:
Watarai Shintō: An Intellectual History of the Outer Shrine in Ise.

Current position: professor, University of Oslo (1999-)
Earlier positions: lecturer, University of Wales College of Cardiff (1994-99)
PhD candidate, University of Leiden (1991-94)

Memberships: IAHR, EAJS, AAS

Main academic publications (only books in English are included):

Mark Teeuwen and John Breen, *A Social History of the Ise Shrines: Divine Capital*, London: Bloomsbury, forthcoming (under contract).

Mark Teeuwen and Kate W. Nakai, eds, *Lust, Commerce, and Corruption: An Account of What I Have Seen and Heard, by an Edo Samurai*, 473 pp., New York: Columbia University Press, 2014.

Mark Teeuwen and Henk Blezer, eds, *Buddhism and Nativism: Framing Identity Discourse in Buddhist Environments*, 290 pp., Leiden: Brill, 2013.

Mark Teeuwen and Anna Beerens, eds, *Uncharted waters: Intellectual life in the Edo period*, 259 pp., Leiden: Brill, 2012.

John Breen and Mark Teeuwen, *A new history of Shinto*, 264 pp., Wiley Blackwell 2010.

Bernhard Scheid and Mark Teeuwen, eds, *The culture of secrecy in Japanese religion*, 397 pp., London: Routledge 2006.

Mark Teeuwen and John Breen, *Shinto -- a short history* (adapted translation), xv + 223 pp., London and New York: RoutledgeCurzon, 2003.

Mark Teeuwen and Fabio Rambelli, eds., *Buddhas and kami in Japan: Honji suijaku as a combinatory paradigm*, vii+370 pp., RoutledgeCurzon, London and New York 2003.

Mark Teeuwen & Hendrik van der Veere, *Nakatomi Harae Kunge: Purification and Enlightenment in Late Heian Japan*, monograph, vi+118 pages, iudicium verlag, München 1998.

Watarai Shinto: An Intellectual History of the Outer Shrine in Ise, 471 pages, Research School CNWS, Leiden 1996.

Motoori Norinaga's "The Two Shrines of Ise, An Essay of Split Bamboo", Translated and Annotated, 165 pages, Harrassowitz, Wiesbaden 1995.

Main administrative positions

2014- Elected board member of the Department of Cultural Studies and Oriental Languages

2013- Head of the Japanese section within the Department

2011-13 Member of the Research Board of the Faculty of Humanities

2009-12 Board member of the interfaculty network PluRel (Religion in Pluralist Societies)

2005-08 Board member of the PhD programme Culture Studies

Sarah Thal

Employment

2007- Associate Professor of History, University of Wisconsin-Madison
2005-2007 Assistant Professor of History, University of Wisconsin-Madison
1999-2005 Assistant Professor of History, Rice University

Education

October 1999 Ph.D. in History, Columbia University
October 1991 M.A. in History, Columbia University
July 1990 B.A. First Honours in History, SOAS, University of London
June 1988 B.Sc. in Languages and Linguistics, Georgetown University

Selected Publications

“*Sankei no kindai*.” [The modernization of pilgrimage.] Invited chapter in *Shirizuru Nihonjin to shūkyō: kinsei kara kindai e*, edited by Shimazono Susumu, Takano Toshihiko, Hayashi Makoto, and Wakao Masaki. Tokyo: Shunjunsha, 2015. Pp. 209-242.

“Shinto: Beyond ‘Japan’s Indigenous Religion.’” *Religious Studies Review*, 32:3 (July 2006): 145-150.

Rearranging the Landscape of the Gods: the politics of a pilgrimage site in Japan, 1573-1912. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, January 2005.

Selected Grants

2008-09 Fulbright-Hays Faculty Research Grant
2007-08 NEH Advanced Research in the Social Sciences on Japan Fellowship
1995-96 Japan Foundation Dissertation Research Fellowship

Current Service to the Field

2015-present Editorial Board, Bloomsbury Shinto Studies series
2013-2015 Committee on the John K. Fairbank Prize in East Asian History, American Historical Association
2011-present Advisory Board, H-SHUKYO listserv for the study of Japanese religion, 2011-present.
2011-present International Advisory Board, *Japan Review*, 2011-present.

Memberships in Scholarly Organizations

American Historical Association
American Academy of Religion
Association for Asian Studies
Society for the Study of Japanese Religion

CHIKA WATANABE

Social Anthropology

University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PL, UK

chika.watanabe@manchester.ac.uk

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2014- Lecturer (permanent position), Social Anthropology, University of Manchester
2013-4 Postdoctoral Associate, Inter-Asia Program and Anthropology, Yale University

EDUCATION

2013 Ph.D., Anthropology, Cornell University (Ithaca, NY).
2005 M.Sc., Forced Migration, Oxford University (Oxford UK).

GRANTS

2015 Humanities Strategic Investment Fund (H-SIF), University of Manchester. For the workshop “East Asian Humanitarianisms: Past and Present,” held June 2015. £13,500.

PUBLICATIONS (SELECTED)

N.d. *Muddy Labor: Nonreligion and the Moral Imaginaries of Aid Work in a Japanese NGO in Myanmar.* Book manuscript. (In preparation)

Forthcoming “Porous Persons: The Politics of a Nonreligious Japanese NGO.” In *Global Secularisms in a Post-Secular Age*. M. Rectenwald, R. Almeida, and G. Levine, eds. Berlin: De Gruyter.

2015 “Commitments of Debt: Temporality and the Meanings of Aid Work in a Japanese NGO in Myanmar.” *American Anthropologist* 117(3): 468–479.

2015 “The Politics of Nonreligious Aid: A Japanese Environmental Ethic in Myanmar.” In *Religion and the Politics of Development*. R. Bush, M. Feener, P. Fountain, eds. Pp. 225–242. London: Palgrave MacMillan.

2014 “Muddy Labor: a Japanese Aid Ethic of Collective Intimacy in Myanmar.” *Cultural Anthropology* 29(4): 648-671.

2013 “Past Loss as Future?: The Politics of Temporality and the ‘Non-Religious’ by a Japanese NGO in Burma/Myanmar.” *Political and Legal Anthropology Review (PoLAR)* 36(1): 75-98.

2011 Social Science Research Council. Essays in “Notes from the Field,” *The Immanent Frame*.

INVITED LECTURES AND WORKSHOPS (SELECTED)

2015 “Muddy Labor: Nonreligion and the Making of Persons as Aid Work,” Nissan Institute of Japanese Studies, University of Oxford, November 13.

2015 “Moral Imaginaries of Oneness: a Japanese NGO in Myanmar,” Department of Anthropology, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), November 11.

2015 Workshop participant, “Against Insularity: Moving Beyond ‘Japanese Religions,’” Western Michigan University, March 29-30.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

American Anthropological Association
Association for Asian Studies

Burma Studies Group
British Association for the Study of Religions

ACADEMIC REFERENCES

[REDACTED]

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

(Workshop Participants Listed in Alphabetical Order by Surname)

Takashi Miura, Assistant Professor of East Asian Studies, University of Arizona

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

Aike P. Rots, Associate Professor of East Asia Studies, University of Oslo

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

Mark Teeuwen, Professor of East Asia Studies, University of Oslo

[Redacted text block]

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Sarah Thal, Associate Professor of History, University of Wisconsin-Madison

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Jolyon Thomas, Assistant Professor of East Asian Languages and Civilizations, University of Pennsylvania

[Redacted text block]

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Chika Watanabe, Lecturer in Social Anthropology, University of Manchester

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Post-Event Reports

Due to requirements put in place by the Japan-US Friendship Commission (JUSFC), recipients of NEAC grants are required to submit post-event reports indicating what funds covered. As this report shows, there is a small amount of flexibility regarding how funds are ultimately allocated, but the funds must be spent according to NEAC rules.

**ASSOCIATION FOR ASIAN STUDIES, INC.
825 VICTORS WAY, SUITE 310
ANN ARBOR, MI 48108
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**NEAC GRANT REPORT FORM
JAPAN SEMINAR/WORKSHOP/CONFERENCE GRANTS**

NAME & CURRENT AFFILIATION: Jolyon Thomas, University of Pennsylvania

NAME OF SEMINAR: *What Isn't Shintō?*

PURPOSE OF SEMINAR: To bring leading scholars of Shintō together to discuss works in progress in a workshop setting and then share findings of cutting-edge research in a public symposium that included presentations by undergraduate and graduate students.

LOCATION(S): University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia

DATE(S): September 23–24, 2016

PARTICIPANTS: Mark Teeuwen (University of Oslo), Sarah Thal (University of Wisconsin-Madison), Chika Watanabe (University of Manchester), Aike Rots (University of Oslo), Takashi Miura (University of Arizona), Jolyon Thomas (University of Pennsylvania) + 3 student presenters from University of Pennsylvania: John Grisafi, Tianran Hang, and Kaitlyn Ugoretz. The public symposium had 44 registered non-presenter attendees; the total number of participants was between 50 and 60 people.

PLEASE DESCRIBE THE ORGANIZATION OF THE SEMINAR(S)

Participants met for a casual dinner on Thursday 9/22 to get acquainted. Friday 9/23 featured a full-day workshop of participants' pre-circulated papers (about 45 minutes for each paper), with comments led by Professor Teeuwen. Participants continued the conversation over lunch and dinner. Saturday 9/24 was a public symposium featuring 9 20-minute presentations on Shintō. Each one-hour session paired a presenter from Penn with a distinguished guest and left about 15–20 minutes for Q&A. All attendees had lunch together in the conference room for casual conversation and networking, and about 40 attendees stayed for a reception and further conversation at a nearby Japanese restaurant.

PLEASE PROVIDE A BRIEF EVALUATION OF THE EVENT FROM THE DIRECTOR'S POINT OF VIEW.

While not without some difficulties related to planning, logistics, and attendee travel, this event was an undeniable success. Faculty workshop participants were unanimous in saying that the event was helpful for developing their respective research projects (in all cases, participants were developing book manuscripts or articles for publication). Audience members at the public symposium on Saturday consistently said that they had learned a great deal. Moreover, the event was an opportunity to foster junior scholars who presented at the event.

DESCRIBE THE SEMINAR ACTIVITIES AND THE WAYS IN WHICH THE NEAC GRANT WAS HELPFUL TO PARTICIPANTS AND ATTENDEES.

The event was first and foremost of great benefit to the three student presenters who had a chance to share original research with a constructively critical audience of experts. All of the student presenters are considering Ph.D. training in Japanese or East Asian studies, and they unanimously commented on the value of the event for their professional development. (One of these students had a "research epiphany" in the wake of the event and now plans to write his dissertation on Shintō in colonial Korea.) Several of the visiting faculty mentioned that the workshop was one of the most productive intellectual exchanges that they had experienced in many years. Audience members from the University of Pennsylvania, Temple University, the Community College of Philadelphia, Princeton University, the City University of New York, Bryn Mawr College, and the University of Washington asked questions of the presenters and continued the conversation at the reception.

DESCRIBE THE RESULTS OF THE SEMINAR(S), INCLUDING FINDINGS, PAPERS, OR OTHER WRITINGS PUBLISHED OR IN PROGRESS:

Four of the workshop participants are junior faculty who are working on monographs or journal articles related to the presentations they gave. Professor Thal also used the event as an opportunity to workshop part of a new book manuscript. I plan to publish a short conference report in an appropriate venue in the coming months. Meanwhile, the conference website (<http://web.sas.upenn.edu/shintosymposium/>) will serve as a place for notifying attendees of related publications as they come out.

Within 60 DAYS following the conference/workshop/project, please send this NEAC grant report along with the Conference Expense Reimbursement Form and your receipt copies/accounting system digital documentation to jpage@asian-studies.org. Extra pages may be attached to this form.

**ASSOCIATION FOR ASIAN STUDIES, INC.
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COST SHARE

JAPAN US FRIENDSHIP COMMISSION- NORTHEAST ASIA COUNCIL

To: Recipients of Japan-United States Friendship Commission grants through Northeast Asia Council of the AAS

From: NEAC Chair

RE: Cost-sharing information

NEAC's grant from the Friendship Commission requires that our recipients seek additional funds for their projects beyond our grants. We therefore must require all grantees to provide the following basic information. Thanks very much for your cooperation.

Name Jolyon Baraka Thomas

Descriptive title of project, workshop, other grant activity:
What *Isn't* Shintō? A Scholarly Workshop and Symposium on a Misunderstood Japanese Tradition

Amount of support from NEAC	<u> \$4943.36 </u>
Support from your own institution	<u> \$5000.00 </u>
Support from other external funders	<u> \$0 </u>
Other support (personal funds, etc.)	<u> \$1582.26 (personal research fund) </u>
Project total	<u> 11582.26 </u>
NEAC/Friendship Commission percentage	<u> 43% </u>

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JAPAN REGIONAL SEMINAR/WORKSHOP/CONFERENCE
EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT FORM

Name Jolyon Baraka Thomas

Seminar What Isn't Shintō?

Dates: From 9/23 To 9/24

Upon completion of the seminar, please attach University accounting system supporting documents and receipt copies

Amount Granted: \$ 5,000

Expenses \$ 4358.77 (travel)
\$ 2331.00 (lodging)
\$ 4178.49 (meals)
\$ 714.00 (facilities)

Misc Expenses (Itemize on reverse side) \$ _____

Total Expenditure \$ 11582.26

Deduct any part of the expenses covered
by a university or other source (-6638.90)

Total Due Grantee: \$ \$4943.36

Signed _____

Make Check Payable to _____

Address _____

For Office Use Only: Payment approved by _____

Account charged _____

Date paid _____

Check number _____

Within 60 DAYS following the conference/seminar/project, please send this expense reimbursement form along with the NEAC Grant Report and your receipt copies/accounting system digital documentation to jpage@asian-studies.org

