

**THE PRINCE TAKAMADO JAPAN CENTRE FOR TEACHING AND
RESEARCH**

**ANNUAL REPORT
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MISSION OF THE CENTRE

Prince Takamado Japan Centre for Teaching and Research continues its efforts to fulfill the following revised mandate:

1. To provide opportunities for interdisciplinary study and research which promote Japan Studies, including language, business, culture, politics, history, technology and science;
2. To strengthen research which situates Japan in a global, transnational and/or comparative context;
3. To become the focus of a network of expertise in these areas in Canada

SUMMARY

During the 2017-2018 academic year, PTJC began several new initiatives academically and administratively. Our goal was to expand our on-campus network of Japan researchers and to strengthen the governing structure. At the administrative level, it welcomed several new members to the Prince Takamado Memorial Fund's Advisory Council, while reengaging with its existing members. In addition, the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and the Director visited Japan to attend the Japan-Canada Academic Consortium's Student Forum and to meet several important stakeholders, including Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado.

Academically, the centre has completed its programs, including the Japan-Canada Academic Consortium Student Forum at J. F Oberlin University in Tokyo, which dealt with the Humanities in the age of technology and innovation. The highlight of this year was a series of brown bag lunch seminars in which UAlberta researchers on Japan studies, including graduate students, met together to share their projects. PTJC also hosted the first annual lecture, which was attended by approximately seventy-five people, including scholars and students from the Faculty of Arts, the Faculty of Law, and the Faculty of Education, members of the Japanese-Canadian community and the Alberta government.

For community outreach, PTJC organized the National Japanese Speech Contest, which was sponsored by Mitsui Canada, HIS Travel Inc., Japan Foundation Toronto, and the Consul-General of Japan in Calgary. It was a significant event, which connected the University with nation-wide community, and which was attended by approximately seventy people including the Consul-General. It offered Japanese language professors and students a place to expand their networks and knowledge.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS (2017-2018)

Major Achievements:

Academic / Research

- Submitted an edited book project on nuclear energy, nuclear weapons, and history based on the 2015 Hiroshima Conference to the University of Alberta Press
- Worked on Japanese-Canadian history projects (1 research assistant)
- Funded projects on linguistics and culture

Programs and Events

- Hosted four brown bag lunch talks for graduate students (1 MA, Department of East Asian Studies,, 1 PhD, Modern Languages and Cultural Studies, 1 MA, Department of History and Classics, 1 PhD, Department of Linguistics) on campus
- Hosted the Annual Lecture by Professor Jordan-Stanger Ross, University of Victoria
- Sponsored a guest lecture for the Department of East Asian Studies
- Organized two Japanese Language Proficiency Tests
- Organized and hosted the National Japanese Speech Contest
- Sent 5 students to Ritsumeikan Summer Program, offering 5 scholarships
- Sent 12 students to Ritsumeikan field school

Japan-Canada Academic Consortium

- Co-organized the ninth Japan-Canada Academic Consortium Student Forum with the JF. Oberlin University, Tokyo

- Began preparation for the tenth forum with Kansei Gakuin University and Queen's University

Undergraduate Scholarships:

Ritsumeikan Summer Program Scholarships:

University of Alberta: Geng Xie, Yuxin Chen, Kaytlin Wu, and Mitt Robinson

JPEX/JACOS Scholarships In Engineering:

University of Alberta: Yan Yang, Huachao Li, Cong Ning Deng, Si Yao Chen

Keyano College: Allison Pottie, Paige Hughes, Taylor Reid

University of Calgary: Eric Mclure, Janet Le, Jie Ma, Victor Zheng

Essay Contest Awards:

First Place Prize: Rina Tsuboi, Hokkaido University, Canada-Japan cooperation to overcome issues of refugees

Second Place Prize: Nina Nomura, Kobe City University of Foreign Studies, A Worldwide Marketing Summit for Student Leaders

National Japanese Speech Contest Grand Prize (Travel Grant):

Mingxue Nan, University of Alberta

Event Details:

July 2, 2017: Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT)

This was the fifth year the University of Alberta hosted a summer edition of the JLPT. As the sole institution that organizes this exam in summer, we received 159 applicants from many parts of North America. It provided both high school and university students with a great opportunity to visit the U of A campus. At the same time, it offered U of A students who took courses as the Department of East Asian Studies a chance to get qualifications to search for jobs in Japanese industries and to study in Japanese universities.

August 16-17, 2017: Annual Conference of the Canadian Association of Japanese Language Education

In an effort to promote research, PTJC sponsored two graduate students, Kanza Tariq and Saori Daiju, which allowed them to present their papers at the annual international conference of the Canadian Association for Japanese Education in Calgary. They are currently working with Professor Yoshi Ono at the University of Alberta. Kanza's research explores the "fuzzy boundaries" between categories in grammar, focusing on

how Japanese adjectives are conjugated by native Japanese speakers on the Internet. She became interested in Japanese when she was an undergraduate student at the University of Alberta. “The atmosphere in the Japanese language classes,” she said, “was infectious as the teachers were enthusiastic.” She continued, “I began discovering many facets of Japanese society via study of the language. That has been a very rewarding part of my Japanese career.” Saori’s study examines the unspecified use of demonstrative *are* in Japanese everyday talk. Her research reveals different uses of *are*. Speakers, she points out, sometimes use *are* without it having a specific reference in the discourse and do not have any problem continuing the conversation. Her abstract won the CAJLE’s second prize to graduate students. To conclude the event, Consul-General Kunihiko Tanabe hosted a reception to celebrate the promotion of Japanese language education in Canada.

December 4, 2017: Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT)

PTJC organized the winter edition of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test. 103 people applied for the test. It was the largest number of applicants that we have ever had in Winter, suggesting an increasing interest in Japanese language at the University of Alberta.

January 2018: Princess Takamado Essay Contest

This year, the theme of the contest was: “Both Japan and Canada are playing leading roles in the world, as host nations of the G7 in 2018 and the G20 in 2019. In 2018-2019, the two countries also celebrate the 90th anniversary of diplomatic relations. How can they work collaboratively for a better world? The First Prize winner was Rina Tsuboi, Hokkaido University, and the Second Prize winner was Nina Nomura, Kobe City University of Foreign Studies. The winner will be taking part in the English Language School at the Faculty of Extension, University of Alberta.

January 25, 2018:

Professor Gordon Houlden (China Institute) and PTJC co-organized a lecture by Professor Yoshiro Matsuda, Professor of International Politics at the University of Tokyo, Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia. Professor Matsuda specializes in political and diplomatic history of Asia, politics and foreign relations in Cross-Strait Relations, and Japan’s foreign and security policies, including tri-lateral relations between Canada, China and Japan. Approximately eighty people attended this talk, including undergraduate students.

February 12, 2018: Annual Lecture by Professor Jordan Stanger-Ross, University of Victoria

“Beyond Sorry: Japanese Canadian Redress, Research, and Historical Injustice in the Age of Apology”

PTJC started its annual lecture series this year to bring interested scholars and community people to our centre. Our first speaker was Professor Jordan Stanger-Ross (University of Victoria), an award-winning historical scholar of race and ethnicity. Dr. Stanger-Ross has

written many books and articles including the recently published collection with Pamela Sugiman, *Witness to Loss: Race, Culpability, and Memory in the Dispossession of Japanese Canadians* (McGill-Queen's University Press, 2017). He is currently the director of the Landscapes of Injustice research project. Based on the new archival findings, this talk examined an irony of political apology: official acknowledgements of wrongdoing tend to encourage the production of new knowledge that undermines the closure sought in the act of apology itself.

February 16-24, 2018: Japan-Canada Academic Consortium Student Forum

The Japan-Canada Academic Consortium held its ninth annual Student Forum under the theme, "The Crisis in the Humanities: Reconsidering the Humanities in the Age of Technology and Innovation," at the J. F. Oberlin University in Tokyo. With support from the Japan Foundation, the Embassy of Canada in Japan, the Alberta-Japan Office, Japan Student Services Organization and JACAC membership universities, we had a successful forum. Fourteen student participants from the consortium's ten Canadian universities joined fourteen students from Japanese universities to discuss the issues of immigration and national borders. Through a week of sessions that included lectures, discussion and group work at J. F. Oberlin University and fieldwork in the Tokyo area, students produced final presentations.

March 14, 2018: Department of East Asian Studies Lecture Series, "Anxious Bodies in Postwar Japanese Art," by Dr. Namiko Kunimoto

PTJC sponsored a lecture by Namiko Kunimoto, Assistant Professor of History of Art, Ohio State University. She gave a very insightful lecture that examines the work of Katsura Yuki (1913-1991), a Tokyo-based painter and assemblage artist. Katsura enacted political resistance by representing contentious issues such as self-sacrifice in times of war, the United States Castle Bravo nuclear test, the representation of gay lovers, and the status of women in Japan. This presentation focused specifically on her paintings from the 1930s-1960s, as well as her illustrations of the James Baldwin novel, *Another Country*, that were featured in the *Asahi Journal* in the 1960s. Katsura's body of work evaded the overdetermined masculine heroics of abstract expressionism and action art that had taken Japan by storm in the postwar period, forging an innovative mode of expression that was whimsical and strange in its tone, but nonetheless bore a potent political thrust.

March 4, 2017: Alberta District Japanese Speech Contest

The PTJC organized the 27th Alberta Japanese District Speech Contest at the University of Calgary, which attracted approximately 100 participants. It received financial support from the Consulate-General of Japan in Calgary, Alberta Japanese Business Association, and Mitsui Canada Foundation. Consul-General Kunihiro Tanabe and Mr. Takashi Ogawa, President of Sumitomo Corp participated in the event. It also offered a place for students and Japanese language instructors from five universities: University of Alberta,

University of Calgary, University of Lethbridge, Mount Royal University, and University of Saskatchewan. Participants presented excellent Japanese speeches that were highly praised by the audience.

March 24, 2018: National Japanese Speech Contest

The PTJC hosted the 29th National Japanese Speech Contest at the University of Alberta. The event was attended by more than seventy people, including students, instructors, and community members. Consul-General Kunihiro Tanabe attended the event as a Chief judge. Its contestants represented more than ten universities from seven districts (Atlantic, Quebec, Ontario, Ottawa area, Manitoba, Alberta-Saskatchewan, and British Columbia).

May 15 -June 15, 2018: Ritsumeikan Summer Program

Five students were selected to attend this year's Ritsumeikan Summer Japanese Program, which took place in Kyoto, Japan. PTJC offered four scholarships this year to qualified participants with high GPAs. These students participated in a language course, field trips, and Japanese cultural classes.

June 18-29: INT D 225 Ritsumeikan Summer Field Course

This year, twelve students attended a field course held at Ritsumeikan University. Professor Chris Reys-Chikuma (MLCS) taught this course on the topic of "Western Comics vs Japanese Manga." Students participated in both lectures and field works which took place in the Kyoto International Manga Museum and the Kyoto Museum. They also explored many different used bookstores in Kyoto as part of a research project.

November 2017-March 2018: PTJC Brown Bag Lunch Talk Series

PTJC organized four lunch-time talks in order to create a place for UAlberta professors and students to get together. It was the first time that PTJC organized such event, but it was quite successful. Presentations included:

- Mimi Okabe, Ph.D. Candidate, MLCS, "Manga, Murder & Mystery: Mapping the Boundaries of Detective Fiction."
- Yoichi Mukai, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Linguistics, "The Effect of Speech Style on Phonetic Reduction on Nasal and Voiced Stops in Japanese"
- Letitia Johnson, MA student, Department of History and Classics, "Health Care and Japanese Canadians During World War II"
- Saori Daiju, MA student, Department of East Asian Studies, "Not Say Exactly What It Is Sometimes Good Enough: The Unspecified Use of Demonstrative *are* in Japanese Everyday Talk"

DIRECTOR'S MISSIONS

Organized Meetings/Events:

22 November 2017: Brown Bag Lunch Talk I, Edmonton
3 December 2017: Japanese Language Proficiency Test, Edmonton
12 January 2018: PTJC Annual Lecture by Professor Jordan Stanger-Ross, Edmonton
24 January 2018: Brown Bag Lunch Talk II, Edmonton
25 January 2018: Guest Lecture by Professor Yasuhiro Matsuda, Edmonton
14 February 2018: Brown Bag Lunch Talk III, Edmonton
17-26 February 2018: Japan-Canada Academic Consortium Student From, Tokyo
24 March 2018: National Japanese Speech Contest, Edmonton
28 March 2018: Brown Bag Lunch Talk IV, Edmonton

Meetings (external)

28 September 2017: Concordia University, Montreal
28 September 2017: Université de Montréal
29 September 2017: Queen's University
11 October 2017: Professor David A. Welch, Munk Centre, University of Toronto
12 October 2017: Toronto Japanese Association of Commerce and Industry
13 October 2017: Ms. Janice Fukakusa, Canada Infrastructure Bank, Ms. Christine Nakamura, Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada (Advisory Council members)
13 October 2017: President, Mitsui Canada Co.
1 December 2017: Mr. Kimihiro Ishikane, Ambassador of Japan in Ottawa
5 December 2017: Mr. Kunihiko Tanabe, Consul-General of Japan in Calgary
5 December 2017: Mitsui Canada Co. Calgary
5 December 2017: Mr. Takashi Ogawa, President, Sumitomo Corp, Calgary
18 January 2018: Kwansai Gakuin University, J.F. Oberlin University, and the Embassy of Canada in Tokyo (video)
21 February 2018: Ministry of Education, Tokyo
21 February 2018: UAlberta Alumni, Tokyo
22 February 2018: PTJCMF Advisory Council, Tokyo
22 February 2018: Japanese Canadianists, Japan Alberta Office, Tokyo
27 April 2017: Mr. Shigenobu Kobayashi, Consul-General of Japan in Calgary
6 May 2018: National Japanese Speech Contest Organizing Committee (video)
6 May 2018: Kwansai Gakuin University (video)
11 June 2018: Mr. Kiichiro Nagatani, CEO Sunflex Nagatanien, Tokyo
12 June 2018: Mr. Kaoru Ishikawa, Former Japanese Ambassador to Canada, Tokyo
12 June 2018: Professor Masakazu Iwakura, Hitotsubashi University, Tokyo
12 June 2018: Ms. Christine Callahan and Ms. Patricia Ockwell, Embassy of Canada, Japan
13 June 2018: Mr. Morihiko Otaki, Former President, Johnson and Johnson Japan and Hiroo Saionji, President, Goi Peace Foundation, Tokyo

Event Appearances:

13-14 July 2017: Princess Ayako's visit to the 50th Anniversary of the Nikka Yuko Centennial Garden, Lethbridge
16-17 July 2017: The Canadian Association for Japanese Language Education's Annual Conference
12-15 October 2017: The Annual Conference for the Japan Studies Association of Canada
26 October 2017: 5th Asia Maritime Security Forum, China Institute, Edmonton
23 November 2017: Emperor's Birthday Reception, Consulate-General of Japan in Calgary
30 November – 1 December 2017: Association for Canadian Studies Conference, Gatineau, QC
3 March 2018: Alberta District Japanese Speech Contest, University of Calgary
17-18 May 2018: Edmonton Lifelong Learning Association (as a lecturer)
30 May 2018: Employment Equity and Diversity Program, Tax Services Office, Edmonton (as a lecturer)