

# THE PRINCE TAKAMADO JAPAN CENTRE FOR TEACHING AND RESEARCH

## ANNUAL REPORT 1 JULY 2021 - 30 JUNE 2022

Affiliated Faculty: Faculty of Arts

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### 1. MISSION OF THE CENTRE

Prince Takamado Japan Centre for Teaching and Research (PTJC) was established by the Prince Takamado Japan Canada Memorial Fund in 2004 with an agreement between Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado and former President Roderick D. Fraser. As one of few Asian centres in Canada, it continues its efforts to promote the diversity of fields in the Faculty of Arts, focusing on academic collaboration and exchange of students and scholars between Japan and Canada, with the following mandate:

1. To provide opportunities for interdisciplinary study and research which promotes 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

### 2. SUMMARY

The academic year of 2021-2022 was very busy year for the PTJC. Its key events include the co-hosting of two international conferences in August Replaying Japan: the 9<sup>th</sup> International Japan Game Studies Conference and the Annual Conference of the Canadian Association for Japanese Language Education in August. It also hosted an EDI webinar series funded by the Consulate-General of Japan in Calgary, “The Path to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion: Approaches in Japan and Canada.” In February, PTJC co-organized the 13<sup>th</sup>

Japan-Canada Academic Consortium Student Forum with the University of Waterloo/Renison College under the theme, “Japan-Canada Peace and Security Cooperation in the Asia/Indo-Pacific,” featuring several experts as guest speakers. In March, the Centre organized the 31<sup>st</sup> Alberta District Japanese Speech Contest as well as the 33<sup>rd</sup> National Japanese Speech Contest funded by Mitsui Canada Co, Japan Foundation, and the Consulate-General of Japan in Calgary. We also hosted two brown bag lunch seminars in which UAlberta researchers on Japan studies, including graduate students, met together to share their projects.

### 3. ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

#### 3.1 Academic / Research Related Events:

- Replaying Japan Conference
- Annual Conference for the Canadian Association for Japanese Language Education
- Asian Studies Brown Bag Lunch series

#### 3.2 Public Events:

- Webinar Series: The Path to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion
- Anti-Racism Theatre: Hold These Truths
- Anti-Racism Dialogue

#### 3.3 Students’ Programs:

- Japanese Language Proficiency Tests
- The 13<sup>th</sup> Japan-Canada Academic Consortium Student Forum
- Alberta District Japanese Speech Contest (funded by the Japan Foundation, Mitsui Co Foundation and the Consulate-General of Japan in Calgary)
- Canadian National Japanese Speech Contest

### 4. SCHOLARSHIPS / GRANTS

#### 4.1 Ritsumeikan Summer Program Scholarships:

No scholarship was offered due to the COVID-19

#### 4.2 JPEX/JACOS Scholarships in Engineering:

University of Alberta: Benjamin David Corenblum, Joshua Rene Du Plessis, Katherine Yu Lin, and Qianyu Yang

Keyano College: Zeeshan Hamayun, Priscilla Gallagher, and Aisha MacKay

University of Calgary: Mohammed Mustafa, Linh Vu Ai Tran, Mariel Kylie Palaganas, Muhammad Rafeh Khan

#### 4.3 Princess Takamado Essay Contest

- Luca Paolo Bruno, Leipzig University

“Artificial Intimacy: Gynoid and Artificial Intelligence as Visual Novel Game Character Templates”

- Yang Siyu, Ritsumeikan University  
“China’s Governmental Restrictions and Game Players’ Countermeasures to it: The Virtual Place Created in Battlefield 4.”
- Bianca Chui, University of British Columbia  
“Eating Your Way Through Sugoroku: Imaginary Travel in a Japanese Board Game”

#### 4.4 National Japanese Speech Contest Grand Prize

- Tielia Young, University of British Columbia

### 5. Event Details:

#### 5.1 International Conferences/Forum (online)

- Replaying Japan Conference, 9-13 August  
The PTJC co-hosted the 9<sup>th</sup> Replaying Japan: Japan Game Studies Conference with the AI Society Signature Area, the Kule Institute for Advanced Studies at the University of Alberta, the Ritumeikan Centre for Game Studies, the University of Delaware, Bath Spa University, Seijoh University, University of niversity of Liège, Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM) and DiGRA Japan. This year’s conference theme was “Artificial Intelligence in Japanese Game Culture”. Particular attention was paid to how AI is represented in Japanese games, the evolution of game AIs, and how big data analytics have changed the game industry.
- Annual Conference of the Canadian Association for Japanese Language Education, 17-19 August  
PTJC hosted the annual conference of CAJLE 2021 from August 17-19 under the theme, “Japanese Language Education in the Post-COVID-19 Era - Opportunities for Change and Growth.” Through the lectures and teacher training workshops by the invited lecturers, as well as presentations of innovative research and teaching practices, we provided participants with opportunities to reconsider their teaching practices and to explore the direction that Japanese language education should take in a changing environment due to the global pandemic. The conference also organized social gatherings on Gather.Town to network beyond the framework of universities, high schools, and heritage schools. Our invited speakers included, Dr. Shinichiro Yokomizo, Seinan Gakuin University, Ms. Keiko Yoshikawa, Alberta Education and JF Senior Japanese Language Advisor, and Dr. Joanne Robertson, Fraser Valley University. Ms. Elena Kamenetzky from Eastern High School, Kentucky gave her pre-conference talk.
- The 13<sup>th</sup> Japan-Canada Academic Consortium Student Forum, 18-26 February  
In February, PTJC also co-organized the 13<sup>th</sup> Japan-Canada Academic Consortium Student Forum with the University of Waterloo/Renison College under the theme, “Japan-Canada Peace and Security Cooperation in the Asia/Indo-Pacific.” This forum was led by Dr. Kimie Hara, Professor of Political Science and the Renison Research

Professor in East Asian Studies, Renison College, University of Waterloo. Twenty participants from Japanese and Canadian universities engaged in a lively discussion with each other. They also had chance to exchange their ideas with our invited speakers – Mr. Sasayama Takuya, Consul-General of Japan in Toronto, Captain Hugues Canuel, Royal Canadian Navy, Canadian Defense Attaché to Japan, Dr. Akiko Fukushima, Senior Fellow, The Tokyo Foundation for Policy Research, Dr. Phillip Y. Lipsy, Director, Centre for the Study of Global Japan, University of Toronto, Dr. Jonathan Berkshire Miller, Senior Fellow, Japan Institute of International Affairs, and Dr. David Welch, University Research Chair and Professor of Political Science, University of Waterloo and Balsillie School of International Affairs. During the forum, the world received the very shocking news about Russian invasion of Ukraine, urging all participants to think about how to maintain and promote global peace and cooperation. Many thanks to Professor Hara, Dr. Iuliia Kysla, and six graduate students at the Balsillie School of International Affairs, University of Waterloo/Renison for making this event successful! You can watch the winning presentation by students [here](#)

#### 5.2 Asian Studies Brown Bag Talks (online)

PTJC organized two lunchtime talks to create a place for UAlberta professors and students to get together. It was the fourth year that PTJC organized such an event and we hosted two presentations by graduate students:

- “Jolyon Baraka Thomas and Religious Freedom: The Development of Japanese Buddhism and Christianity in pre-1947 Japan,” Yutao Lu, Department of East Asian Studies, 16 February
- “Quotations in Japanese Conversations,” Keisuke Harada, Department of East Asian Studies, 7 December

#### 5.3 Webinar Series: “The Path to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion: Approaches in Japan and Canada” funded by the Consulate-General of Japan in Calgary

Since 2020, PTJC organizes webinar series sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Japan. In this Webinar series, two scholars in Canada and Japan exchange their ideas on common interests. This year, we hosted three webinars with six speakers whose areas focus on EDI issues. We received a wide range of audience.

- Series 1: “Indigenous Cultural Heritage and Museum” by Dr. Maddie Knickerbocker, Professor, Kwantlen Polytech University and Dr. Shiro Sasaki, Executive Director, National Ainu Museum, 26 October
- Series 2: “Migration and Intersectionality,” by Dr. Naomi Hyunjoo Chi, Associate Professor, Graduate School of Public Policy, Hokkaido University and Dr. Sara Dorow, Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Alberta, 13 January
- Series 3: “Immigrants, Welfare, and Care,” by Dr. Reiko Ogawa, Professor, Graduate School of Social Sciences, Chiba University, and Dr. Bukola Salami, Associate Professor, Faculty of Nursing and the Director of Intersection of Gender Signature Area, University of Alberta, 2 March

#### 5.4 Language Programs

- Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT), 3 December  
Commissioned by the Japan Foundation, December exam was held in-person at the University of Alberta. Approximately 200 applicants took the exam.
- Alberta District Japanese Speech Contest, 5 March  
PTJC organized the 31st Alberta Japanese District Speech Contest online, which attracted approximately 20 contestants and 100 viewers. It received financial support from the Consulate-General of Japan in Calgary, and Mitsui Canada Foundation. Consul-General Tatsukuni Uchida participated in the event. It offered an opportunity for students from four universities: University of Alberta, University of Calgary, and Mount Royal University. Participants presented excellent Japanese speeches that were highly praised by the audience.
- Canadian National Japanese Speech Contest, 26 March, 2022  
PTJC supported the 33rd National Japanese Speech Contest in person for the first time in two years. 26 contestants represented more than ten universities from seven provinces (Atlantic, Quebec, Ontario, Ottawa area, Manitoba, Alberta-Saskatchewan, and British Columbia) and 20 volunteer students participated in this event. Approximately 100 people viewed its live-streaming.

Cancelled Events (Due to COVID-19)

May 2022: Ritsumeikan Summer Program

June 2022: INT D 225 Ritsumeikan Summer Field Course

Upcoming Year: Planned events

- Webinar series with the Consulate-General of Japan in Calgary
- Annual JACAC Student Forum in Tokyo in February 2023
- Asian Studies Brown Bag Series

**People**

Director

- Dr. Aya Fujiwara

Research Associate

- Dr. Iuliia Kysla

Administrative Assistant

- Ms. Rei Kondo
- Mr. Nikita Sleptkov

Administrative Board

- Dr. Marie Carriere, Associate Dean Research, Faculty of Arts
- Dr. Walter Davis, Inerim Chair, Department of East Asian Studies
- Dr. Sandra Bucerius, Director Centre for Criminological Research, Department of Sociology

Research Committee

- Dr. Chris Reys, Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies
- Ms. Jia Wang, Deputy Director, China Institute

- Dr. Taka Masuda, Department of Psychology
- Dr. Merek Michalak, Department of Biochemistry

Advisory Council (CANADA)

- Dr. Randy Goebel, Associate VP (Research) & Associate VP (Academic), University of Alberta (Chair)
- Dr. Steve Patten, Interim Dean, Faculty of Arts, University of Alberta Vice-Chair)
- The Hon. Dan Hays, Member of the PTJCMF Advisory Committee, Former Speaker of the Senate
- Ms. Christine Nakamura, Director, Public Relations, Marketing and Policy Coordination, Asia-Pacific Foundation
- Ms. Jia Wang, Interim Director, China Institute, University of Alberta
- Dr. David Welch, President of Japan Futures Initiative, Chair of Global Security at the Balsillie School of International Affairs and Professor, Department of Political Science at the University of Waterloo
- Dr. X lie Yang, Professor, Department of Linguistics, Languages and Culture, University of Calgary