

Curriculum Vitae, Erica Baffelli

Education

February 2005 Dottorato di Ricerca in Civiltà dell'India e dell'Asia Orientale (PhD in East-Asian Studies); Università Ca' Foscari di Venezia, Dept. of East-Asian Studies, Venice, Italy.

November 2000 Laurea *summa cum Laude* in Lingue e Letterature orientali (BA Hons. in East Asian Languages and Literatures with a specialization in Japanese Language and Japanese Religions), Università Ca' Foscari di Venezia, Dept. of East-Asian Studies, Venice, Italy.

Employment history

Current Professor of Japanese Studies, School of Arts, Languages and Cultures, University of Manchester

2013- 2020. Senior Lecturer (Associate Professor) in Japanese Studies, School of Arts, Languages and Cultures, University of Manchester (from August 2021- Professor of Japanese Studies)

2007-2013. Lecturer/ Senior Lecturer in Asian Religions, Department of Theology and Religion, University of Otago, New Zealand.

2005-2007 Visiting Researcher and Post-doctoral Fellow of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS), Hosei University, Faculty of Social Science, Tokyo.

Scholarships, awards and research grants (selected)

2020 Japan Foundation- Japanese Studies Fellowship (short-term).

2020 JSPS Bridge Fellowship (declined)

2019 UKRI AHRC-ESRC UK-Japan Connection Grant (PI), Title: “Religion and Minority: lived religion, migration and marginalities in secular societies” 50k

2019 Fellow (February-June) at the Centre for Advanced Study at the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters, Oslo (Norway) for the Project “The Demise of Religions” 3.5million NOK (c.£350K); 223,000NOK (c.21K) to Manchester for teaching replacement

2019 HSIF Funding to organize the Manchester-Copenhagen Workshop/Writing Retreat; ““The Aesthetics of Religious Belonging: Asian Perspectives”

2018 Chaire Asie Recipient, ULB, Brussels (Belgium)

2017 Japan Foundation Endowment Committee Research Grant.

2017 The Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation Research Grant. Research Project

2016 Visiting Professor Fellowship. Ochanomizu University, Institute for Gender Studies. Research project: “Women, Religion and Violence in Japan” (all expenses covered in Tokyo, accommodation, travel expenses plus a research grant to conduct fieldwork in Japan)

2016 The Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation Research Grant. Research Project: “New Religions in 1980s and 1990s Japan: Competition, Interaction and Rivalry”

2015-2016 Erasmus Teaching Mobility Programme. Grant awarded to teach one week at Napoli Federico II University (Italy) in April 2016

2015 Japan Foundation Local Project Funding for the “Digitisation of Japanese Maps at the John Rylands Library” project.

2015 The Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation Grant for the “Digitisation of Japanese Maps at the John Rylands Library” project.

2014-2016 (with Jane Cagle). British Inter-University Chinese Centre (BICC) and the White Rose East Asia Centre (WREAC). Funding for a network on *Sacred models: Authority and representation in Asian Religions*. 15k

2013-2014 Erasmus Teaching Mobility Programme. Grant awarded to teach one week at Bologna University (Italy) in April 2014

2013-2014 Japan Foundation Endowment Committee Research Grant. Research project: Sacred models: Shifting Patterns of Authority in Japanese “New Religions”.

2011-2014. Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT). Research project on ‘Religious Studies in Modern Japan. A re-examination from an International Perspective’. The research project is based at the Nanzan Institute for Religion and Culture, Nanzan University (Nagoya) and I was in charge, with four other researchers (from Japan, New Zealand and the UK), of the research area on post-modern religions. The entire project received ¥ 46,410,000 (ca £350,000).

2010. Japan Foundation- Japanese Studies Fellowship (long-term). Research project: ‘Media, religion and culture in Japan. A study of Japanese “New Religions” after 1995’. Host institution: University of Tokyo. ¥370000 (c.£2800)/monthly per 3 months plus travel expenses

2009 Thyssen Foundation, Germany. Conference funding. Joint principal investigator with Dr. Birgit Stammer, Tübingen University and Professor Ian Reader, Manchester University, Workshop title: ‘Religion 2.0 in Japan: Shifting Patterns of Authority’. 10k

2008. University of Otago- University of Otago Research Grant- Research project: ‘Can Media Make Religion? Religious Discourse and New Media in Japan’.

2005-2007. Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS)- JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship for Foreign Researchers. Research project: ‘Nihon no shinshūkyō ni okeru masu-media wo riyō shite no māketingu senryaku no kenkyū’(The Marketing Strategy of Japanese New Religions by the Mass-Media). Host institution: Hosei University. ¥390,000 (ca £2900)/monthly for 2 years, plus travel expenses.

2003-2004. Canon Foundation in Europe Research Fellowship. Research project: ‘The Relationship between Religion and Mass-media. The Case of the New Religions in Contemporary Japan’. € 27,000.

2001-2004. Università Ca’ Foscari di Venezia, Full Postgraduate Scholarship (3 years).

Publications

Books, edited issues and edited volumes

Erica Baffelli, Jane Caple, Levi McLaughlin, and Frederik Schröer, eds. “The Aesthetics and Emotions of Religious Belonging: Examples from the Modern Buddhist World.” Special issue *NVMEN: International Review for the History of Religions*, 68, 5-6

Erica Baffelli, Andrea Castiglioni and Fabio Rambelli eds. 2021 *Handbook of Religion in Japan*. London: Bloomsbury.

Erica Baffelli and Jane Caple (eds.) 2019 Special Issue “Religious Authority in East Asia: Materiality, Media and Aesthetics.” *Asian Ethnology* 78,1

Erica Baffelli and Ian Reader. 2019. *Dynamism and the Ageing of a Japanese ‘New’ Religion: Transformations and the Founder*, London: Bloomsbury

Erica Baffelli. 2016. *Media and New Religions in Japan*. London & New York: Routledge

Erica Baffelli, Ian Reader (eds.) 2012. *Aftermath: The Impact and Ramifications of the Aum Affair in Japan*. Special Issue of the *Japanese Journal of Religious Studies*, 39/1.

Erica Baffelli, Ian Reader, Birgit Staemmler (eds.). 2011. *Japanese Religions on the Internet: Innovation, Representation, and Authority*. London & New York: Routledge, pp.243.

Articles in Peer- Reviewed Journals

Erica Baffelli and Frederik Schröer 2021 “Communities of Absence: Emotion and Time, and Buddhism in the Creation of Belonging.” *NVMEN: International Review for the History of Religions* 68, 5-6: 436–462

Erica Baffelli, Jane Caple, Levi McLaughlin, and Frederik Schröer 2021 “The Aesthetics and Emotions of Religious Belonging: Examples from the Modern Buddhist World.” *NVMEN: International Review for the History of Religions*, 68, 5-6: 421–435

Erica Baffelli, “Living Aum: Austerities, Emotion, And The Feeling Community Of Female Ex-Aum Members”, *Nova Religio* (accepted, forthcoming 2021)

Erica Baffelli and Frederik Schröer, 2021 “Spatio-Temporal Translations: Practices of Intimacy under Absence”, *Anthropology in Action*, 28, 1: 57-62.
<https://www.berghahnjournals.com/view/journals/aia/28/1/aia280111.xml>

Erica Baffelli, “Buddha e Gesù in vacanza a Tokyo. 2020. *Seinto Oniisan* come parodia religiosa nel Giappone contemporaneo”, *Il Giappone*, 1: 17-35.
<http://www.serena.unina.it/index.php/giappone/article/view/7936>

Erica Baffelli and Jane Caple 2019 ““Religious Authority in East Asia: Materiality, Media and Aesthetics.” *Asian Ethnology* 78,1 : 1-23

Erica Baffelli. 2017 “Contested Positioning: ‘New Religions’ and Secular Spheres” *Japan Review* 30, 129-152.

Erica Baffelli. 2012. ‘Hikari no Wa: A New Religion Recovering from Disaster’ *Japanese Journal of Religious Studies* 39/1: 29–49.

Erica Baffelli and Ian Reader. 2012. ‘Editors’ Introduction. Impact and Ramifications: The Aftermath of the Aum Affair in the Japanese Religious Context’ *Japanese Journal of Religious Studies* 39/1: 1–28.

Erica Baffelli and Ian Reader. 2011. 'Competing for the Apocalypse: Religious Rivalry and Millennial Transformations in a Japanese New Religion' *International Journal for the Study of New Religions* 2/1:5-28.

Erica Baffelli. 2010. 'Sōka Gakkai and Politics in Japan' *Religion Compass* 4/12:746-756.

Erica Baffelli 2010. 'Japanese New Religions and the Internet: A Case Study' *Australian Religious Studies Review* 23/3:255-276.

Erica Baffelli 2007. 'Mass Media and Religion in Japan: Mediating the Leader's Image' *Westminster Papers in Communication and Culture* (WPCC), 4,1:83-99.

Erica Baffelli 2002. 'Il sacro in Internet. L'esempio delle Nuove Religioni giapponesi' *Annali di Ca' Foscari* 33: 239-264.

Book Chapters

Baffelli, Erica. 2021. "The Android and the Fax: Robots, AI and Buddhism in Japan." In *Itineraries of an Anthropologist. Studies in Honor of Massimo Raveri*, edited by Giovanni Bulian and Silvia Rivadossi. Venezia: Edizioni Ca' Foscari, pp. 1-16.

Baffelli Erica, Andrea Castiglioni and Fabio Rambelli. 2021. "Introduction." In *The Bloomsbury Handbook of Japanese Religions*, edited by Erica Baffelli, Andrea Castiglioni, and Fabio Rambelli. London: Bloomsbury, pp. 1-12.

Kaitlyn Ugoretz and Erica Baffelli. April 2021. "Media and Technology." In *The Bloomsbury Handbook of Japanese Religions*, edited by Erica Baffelli, Andrea Castiglioni, and Fabio Rambelli. London: Bloomsbury, pp. 137-144.

Erica Baffelli, 2020. "Did Aum Shinrikyō Really End?," in Michael Stausberg, Carole M. Cusack, Stuart A. Wright eds. *The Demise of Religion : How Religions End, Die or Dissipate*. London: Bloomsbury, pp.49-66.

Erica Baffelli, "Failures and Successes: a Japanese New Religion's Reactions to Uncertainty" in Kim Knott and Matthew Francis eds. *Minority Religions and Uncertainty*. London: Routledge 2020, pp.56-69

Yumi Murayama and Erica Baffelli, "Religion and gender in Japan" in Mark Pendleton, Jennifer Coates and Lucy Fraser eds. *The Routledge Companion to Gender and Japanese Culture*, Routledge, 2019, pp.146-154

Erica Baffelli, 'Aum Shinrikyō, in Lukas Polorny and Franz Winter, *Handbook of East Asian New Religious Movements*, Brill, 2018, pp.193-210.

Danilo Giambra, Erica Baffelli. 2015. 'Mapping Japanese Religions on the Internet' in Stan Brunn ed. *Changing World Religion Map*, Springer, 3857-3867.

Erica Baffelli. 2013. "Aum Shinrikyō and Hikari no Wa" in Eileen Barker ed. *Revisionism and Diversification in New Religious Movements*. Ashgate, 127-140.

Erica Baffelli. 2012. 'Japanese New Religions Online: Hikari no Wa and "Net Religion"'. In Heidi Campbell ed. *Digital Religion: Understanding Religious Practice in New Media Worlds*. New York and London: Routledge 207-214.

Erica Baffelli. 2011. 'The Gakkai is faith; the Kōmeitō is action' Sōkagakkai and 'Buddhist politics'. In Roy Starrs ed. *White Lotus, Red Sun: Politics and Religion in Japan*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 216-239.

Erica Baffelli, Birgit Staemmler. 2011. 'Aum Shinrikyō, Aleph, Hikari no Wa'. In Ulrich Dehn and Birgit Staemmler eds. *Establishing the Revolutionary: An Introduction to New Religions in Japan*, Münster-Hamburg-Berlin-Wien-London-Zürich: LIT, pp.276-293

Erica Baffelli. 2011. 'Kōfuku no kagaku'. In Ulrich Dehn and Birgit Staemmler eds. *Establishing the Revolutionary: An Introduction to New Religions in Japan*, Münster-Hamburg-Berlin-Wien-London-Zürich: LIT: pp.259-275

Erica Baffelli 2011. 'Charismatic blogger? Authority and New Religions on the Web 2.0'. In Erica Baffelli, Ian Reader and Birgit Staemmler eds. *Japanese Religions on the Internet: Innovation, Representation, and Authority*. London & New York: Routledge, pp.118-135.

Erica Baffelli, Ian Reader and Birgit Staemmler. 2011. 'Media and Religion in Japan'. In Erica Baffelli, Ian Reader and Birgit Staemmler eds. *Japanese Religions on the Internet: Innovation, Representation, and Authority*. London & New York: Routledge, pp.7-19.

Erica Baffelli, Ian Reader and Birgit Staemmler. 2011. Internet and Religion in Japan: Innovation, Representation and Authority. In Erica Baffelli, Ian Reader and Birgit Staemmler eds. *Japanese Religions on the Internet: Innovation, Representation, and Authority*. London & New York: Routledge, pp.20-38.

Erica Baffelli, 'New Religions in Italy'. In Miroslav Lojda ed., *Europe and the New Religious Movements. II*, Bratislava, Ustav pre Vzťahy statu a cirkvi, pp.57-61, 131-135.

Erica Baffelli 2003. 'La spiritualità contemporanea e l' "Oriente religioso". Proposta di analisi del caso della regione Veneto'. In Massimo Raveri ed. *Verso l'altro. Le religioni dal conflitto al dialogo*, Venezia: Marsilio, pp. 197-214.

Bibliographies , online works and other publications

オウムからの声: 元信者たちと彼らの体験 in *A4: または麻原・オウムへの新たな視点* .
Tatsuya, M. (ed.). 2017 p. 223-233

Erica Baffelli 2014. "Hikari no Wa", *World Religion and Spirituality Project*.
<http://www.has.vcu.edu/wrs/profiles/HikariNoWa.htm>

Erica Baffelli 2013. "Buddhism and New Religions in Japan (Shinshūkyō)". In *Oxford Bibliographies Online: Buddhism*,
<http://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/view/document/obo-9780195393521/obo-9780195393521-0172.xml>

Conference Proceedings

Erica Baffelli 2008. 'I manga delle nuove religioni: dalle serie degli anni Sessanta ai reigekiga di Kuroda Minoru' *Atti del XXX Convegno di studi sul Giappone Galatina (Le): Congedo Editore*, pp. 47-61.

Erica Baffelli 2002 'La pubblicità religiosa: strategie di suadanza e costruzione dell'immagine delle Nuove Religioni giapponesi' *Atti del XVI convegno di Studi sul Giappone*, Venezia: Cartotecnica Veneziana Editrice, pp.55-76.

Book Reviews

Jolyon Thomas. 2013 *Drawing on Tradition: Manga, Anime and Religion in Contemporary Japan*, University of Hawai'i Press, 2012. *Nova Religio: The Journal of Alternative and Emergent Religions*, 18, 1, pp. 105-107

Nancy K. Stalker, *Prophet Motive: Deguchi Onisaburō, Oomoto, and the Rise of New Religions in Imperial Japan* Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2008. *Japanese Studies*, 28/2, pp.247-248.

University Service at current university (selected)

- North West Consortium Doctoral Training Partnership (founded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council) Director (2017-2020)
- Research Director for the Department of Modern Languages and Cultures (2015-2020)
- Pathway lead for ESRC NWSSDTP LBAS Pathway (2014-18)
- East-Asian Studies Programme Director (2016-17)
- Pathway lead for AHRC North West Consortium Doctoral Training Partnership (NWCDDTP) Pathway for Chinese, Japanese, Arabic, Hebrew, Persian (2014-17)
- Residence Abroad Tutor for Japanese Studies (2014-16; 2020- current)
- Member of the hiring committee for a Associate Professor position in Japanese Studies, Napoli "L'Orientale" University (Italy). 2016.
- Member of the hiring committee for a Lecturer position in Religion Studies, Groningen University (The Netherlands). 2015.
- Member of several hiring committees at the University Manchester at both Divisional and School level.
- East Asian Studies representative for Postgraduate related matters (such as studentship selections)
- East Asian Studies Examination Officer, University of Manchester (2013-15).

Postgraduate Supervision at Manchester

Robert Hume (Primary Supervisor), 1+3 studentships from ESRC NWSSDTP

Yumi Miyata (co-supervisor);

Paulina Kolata (primary supervisor) – joint AHRC NWCDDTP and ESRC NWSSDTP - passed with Minor Corrections, 2019

Aura di Febo (primary supervisor)- AHRC – passed with Minor Corrections, 2019

Yutaka Yoshida (co-supervisor, 50%) – JASSO and Sasakawa Studentships

At Otago University I have supervised to completion one PhD and one MPhil and three MA students.

Professional activities

BAJS (British Association For Japanese Studies) Honorary Secretary – 2016-2020

Reviewer for Horizon 2020 ERC grants

Reviewer for Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

Member of AHRC (Art and Humanities Research Council) Peer Review College (2014-17; 2019)

Co-director (with Ian Reader and Birgit Staemmler) of the Japanese New Religions section of the *World Religions and Spirituality Project* Virginia Commonwealth University.

Associate Fellow of the Centre for the Study of Religion and Asia and co-convenor of the Research Cluster on Religion and the Media in East Asia, University of Groningen, The Netherlands.

Advisory board member for the Network for New Media, Religion and Digital Culture Studies (<http://digitalreligion.tamu.edu/>). 2010- current

EAJS (European Association for Japanese Studies), co-convenor of the Religion Section (in charge of reviewing and selecting paper proposal for the Association conference, 2013-2017).

EAJS (European Association for Japanese Studies), Senior Advisor for the 10th PhD Workshop (Ljubljana, 22-25 August 2014)

Bloomsbury Shinto Studies series. Editorial board member, current

Palgrave Macmillan Religion and Society in Asia Pacific advisory board member, current

Japanese Journal of Religious Studies, editorial consultant, 2018-current

Religious Studies Review, advisory board member, 2019-current

International Journal for the Study of New Religions. Editorial advisory board member. 2009- current.

Relegere: Studies in Religion and Reception. Editorial advisory board member. 2010-current.

I have reviewed books and article manuscripts for Routledge, Bloomsbury, International Journal for the Study of New Religions, Journal of the Oxford Centre for Buddhist Studies; Japanese Studies; Religion; Religions; Space and Polity; Crosscurrents: East Asian History and Culture Review, Japanese Journal of Religious Studies, Numen, Routledge, Ashgate, Hawai'i University press, Japan Forum, International Journal for the Study of New Religions, Asian Ethnology, Sites-A Journal of Social Anthropology & Cultural Studies, New Zealand Journal of Asian Studies.

Invited talks (selected –

“‘I Would Do it all Again’: Former Members’ Experiences in Aum Shinrikyō.” Keynote address at postgraduate symposium, Chester University, 9 December 2020 (online).

“The Android and the Fax: AI and Buddhism in Contemporary Japan.” Invited speaker at the conference *Artificial Intelligence and Religion*, 3-5 March 2020. (Conference cancelled due to Covid-19; paper presented online on 25 November 2020).

“Living Aum Shinrikyō after Leaving It: Time, Emotion, and Community.” Princeton University East Asian Lecture Series, 21 November 2020 (online).

“Japanese Religion in Time of Crisis.” Invited speaker with Levi McLaughlin, Japan Zoominar Series at the Japan Forum for Innovation and Technology, University of California San Diego, 16 June 2020 (online).

“Aum Women” Invited presenter at the workshop “Bridging the Methodological Gap: Devising Collaborative Quantitative and Qualitative Research Projects on Japan”, Michigan University, November 1-2 2019

“The Sense of an Ending: Women in Aum Shinrikyō” , Invited talk at Oslo University, April 5, 2019

“Values in the securitization and culturalization of religion in Japan” invited speaker at the conference Values in European and Japanese politics”, Brussels, 8-9th March 2019

“Dynamism and the Ageing of a Japanese ‘New’ Religion”, Invited talk at Edinburgh University, January 16, 2019

““This is not a religion: negotiating (non)religious identities in contemporary Japan” Keynote speaker at Nonreligion and Secularity Research Network Conference, King’s College London, July 5-6, 2018

The Future of religion: a comparison Europe/Japan: new generations, new religions, new media. Conference Series at ULB, Bruxelles, May 8-9, 2018

“Pilgrimage and Sacred Places in Japanese "New" Religions: Celebration, Tourism and Belonging, presentation at workshop on Landscapes, Pilgrimages and the Creation, Representation and Transformation of the "Sacred", ULB, May 17-18 2018

“Loosing the Leader and Finding a New Buddha: a New Japanese Religion in Transition” Invited talk at Bristol University, December 5, 2017

With Chiara Ghidini “Mostri che proteggono: I 500 Arhat (Gohyaku rakan 五百羅漢) di Murakami Takashi”, keynote speaker at Nippop 2017, University of Bologna, May 28, 2017.

“Transforming the Spirits: New Religions and Spirit Beliefs in Contemporary Japan”, keynote speaker at symposium on religion and the secular in Japan, University of Groningen, May 19, 2017.

“Making Charisma, Branding Narratives: Media and (New) Religions in Contemporary Japan.” Invited talk at University College Cork, March 3, 2017

With Ian Reader . “Getting old and losing the founder: The ageing process in the life-cycle of a new religion”, Tübingen University January 18, 2017 (public talk)

“Women, religion and violence in international perspective: Women in Aum Shinrikyō”. Tübingen University January 17, 2017

With Ian Reader: “Religion in transition: rivalry, conflict and interactions among Japanese ‘new religions’ towards the turn of the millennium”, Tübingen University January 17, 2017

Women in Aum Shinrikyō. Tokyo University, December 15, 2016

Finding your Place: Reflections on Doing Fieldwork on Japanese New Religions, Ochanomizu University, December 14, 2016

Are ‘New religions’ (*shinshūkyō*) still new? Developments and changes in the last 20 years”, Invited talk, Meiji Gakuin University, November 16, 2016

New Religions and Japanese Identity. AKC Lectures, King’s College London. February 29, 2016

The Importance of Being Visible: Media and Religion in Contemporary Japan. The Japan Society, London, 21 March 2016

Everything but Nirvana’: Young Buddhist Priests and Representations of Buddhism in Contemporary Japan Symposium “Being Young in Ageing Societies – Japan and Europe”, Ca’ Foscari University of Venice, 12- 13-14 November 2015.

Contested positioning: “New religions” and secular spheres workshop on “Formations of the secular in Japan”, invited speaker, Oslo University, June 18-19, 2015.

New (charismatic) authorities, celebrity gods and networks: Japanese “New Religions” online. Open Lecture at the University of Groningen (Netherlands), December 1, 2014
Masterclass on : Master class: religion and media in East Asia?, University of Groningen (Netherlands), December 2, 2014

Virtual temples and divine leaders: media and “new religions” in 1980s-1990s Japan, Open Lecture at the University of Cardiff, November 13, 2014

Sacred models: authority and media in Japanese "New Religions", Open Lecture at Oxford Brookes University, October 29, 2014

(New) Religions and Media in 1980s-1990s Japan, Miyazaki International College, July 17, 2014

(with Ian Reader) Competing for the Spotlight. New Religions and Media Interactions in Japan. Lancaster University, 26 February 2014.

Intersection of Religion and Media in 1980s-1990s Japan. School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, 30 January 2014

Seinto oniisan: Buddha e Gesù in vacanza a Tokyo. Open Lecture at NipPop, Bologna University, 21 June 2013.

Being There Without Being There: Agonshū's rituals and satellite broadcastings. Open lecture at the Nanzan Institute for Religion and Culture, Nanzan University, Japan, 11 May 2012.

Mediating (Buddhist) rituals: The Case of Agonshū and Satellite Broadcasting. Invited talk at the workshop: *Major 'Booms' and Minor Trends in Modern Religious Practices: An Open Workshop in Honour of Ian Reader*, University of Manchester, 27–28 February 2012.

The Latest and Newest. Media and Religions in Japan. Invited seminar at the University of California, Santa Barbara, 16 February 2012.

Nyūjirando no daigaku ni okeru Blended Learning to shūkyō bunka kyōiku — daigaku tōchingu no saikō (Blended Learning and Education in Religious Culture in a New Zealand University: Rethinking University Teaching), Invited speaker for the International Forum *Dijitaru eizōjidai no shūkyō bunka kyōiku—akareta nettowāku ni yoru torikumi* (Education in Religious Culture in the Digital Age: Proposal for an Open Teaching Network) Kokugakuin University, 16 October 2011.

Hikari no Wa: the birth of a (non) New Religion, paper presented at the public event *Aftermath: Religion in the Wake of Aum*, Deutsches Institut für Japanstudien (DIJ), Tokyo, 31 August 2011.

Nyūjirando no daigaku ni okeru nihon no genzai shūkyō ni kansuru kyōiku (Teaching Japanese Modern Religions in New Zealand universities) . Invited talk at the Research Group on Education on Religious Cultures (Shūkyō bunka kyōiku kenkyūkai), Kokugakuin University, 8 January 2010.

Can Internet make religion? Japanese ‘New Religions’ online. Invited talk at Scuola Italiana di Studi sull'Asia Orientale ISEAS/École Française d'Extrême-Orient EFEO (European Consortium for Asian Field Study, ECAF) Kyoto Lectures series 2010, Institute for Research in Humanities (IRH), Kyoto University, 16 December 2010.

Il leader virtuale. Aum Shinrikyō e Internet nel Giappone post-1995 (The virtual leader: Aum Shinrikyō and the Internet in post-1995 Japan). Open lecture, Bologna University, 25 October 2010.

Aum after Aum: Internet and New Religions in post-1995 Japan. Invited speaker at the workshop: *Mediating (New) Religions in Contemporary Japan*. School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, 21 October 2010.

Religion and Web 2.0: Representing Aum Shinrikyō's leaders in Video Sharing Websites. Open lecture, Tübingen University, 13 October 2010.

Religion, Terrorism and the Internet: Japanese New Religions after 1995. Invited seminar at Massey University, 20 May 2010.

Charismatic blogger? Authority and New Religions in the Web 2.0. Invited talk at the International workshop: *Religion 2.0 in Japan: Shifting Patterns of Authority*, Tübingen University, 11-13 June 2009.

(with Keiko Yamaki) Maids in Akihabara: Fantasy, Consumption and Role-Playing in Tokyo. Invited talk at the international workshop: *Consumers, Marketplaces and Urban Creativity: Place-Bound and Global Dynamics of Value Transformations* School of Modern Languages and Cultures, University of Hong Kong, 30 April-1 May 2009.

(with Keiko Yamaki) ‘Akihabara meido café’ Jmise ni tsuite no ikkōsatsu’ (Maid cafés in Akihabara. First consideration about the Jshop). Invited talk at Research group on creative industries, Hosei University, Tokyo (Japan), 24 November 2006.

Shinshūkyō no shinwa keisei to kaishateki māketingu (Construction of myths in New Religion and company-like marketing). Invited talk at the research group on Anthropology of Administration: company and myths, National Museum of Ethnology, Osaka, 26 May 2006.

Nouvelles Religions Japonaises et mass-media (Japanese New Religions and mass-media). Invited lecture at the seminar *Culture et idéologie dans le Japon moderne*, Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris, 7 November 2002.

Shinshūkyō intānetto riyō- kommyunikēshon, shūkyōkōi, shūkyōmāketingu (The use of the Internet by the new religions: communication religious activity and religious marketing). Invited talk at the research group on Religion and the Internet (Intānetto to shūkyō) of the Shūkyō to Shakai Gakkai/ Japanese Association for the Study on Religion and Society meeting, Nishihonganji, Kyoto, 10 March 2001.

Conference presentations (selected)

Roundtable co-organizer ““Aesthetics of Buddhist Belonging in/through Objects and Action”. UKABS 2021 Conference Online July 1-2

Panel organizer: “The Aesthetics and Emotions of Religious Belonging: Case Studies from Buddhist Communities.” *American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting*, 29 November – 10 December 2020 (online).

“Healing and Charisma: Healing Narratives in Japanese New Religions” EASR Bern June 17-21, 2018

““Cleaning bad karma”: Women in Aum Shinrikyō”, *Joint East Asian Studies Conference*, SOAS 7-9 September 2016

Japanese ‘New Religions’ and the media: dynamic and changes since 1980s. INFORM conference *Minority Religions: [11] SEP Contemplating the Past and Anticipating the Future*, London, January 31-February 2, 2014.

Mediating (Buddhist) rituals. ‘Sacralized screens’ and Agonshū’s satellite broadcasting. *Religion, Science and Technology IAHR conference*, Trondheim, 1–2 March 2012.

Religious anime? Discussing anime and Japanese New Religions. *New Zealand Association for the Study of Religions (NZASR)/ Australasian Association of Buddhist Studies (AABS)* joint conference, Queenstown, December 9–11 2011.

Hikari no Wa: the birth of a (non) New Religion. *13th International Conference of the European Association for Japanese Studies (EAJS)*, Tallin University, August 24–27 2011.

Post-Aum 'New Religions' in Japan. The case of Hikari no Wa. *The 19th New Zealand Asian Studies Society International Conference 2011*, Massey University, 2–4 July 2011.

Happy Science: Japanese 'New Religions' in New Zealand. JAWS (Japanese Anthropology Workshop) Otago 2011 Regional Workshop *Beyond Oceans: Re-thinking Japan's Place in Pacific Anthropology*, University of Otago, July 10–11 2011.

Panel convenor: Religion Goes Pop: Manga and Religion in Post-1995 Japan. Paper: New Religions in/and Manga. *Association for Asian Studies (AAS) and International Convention of Asia Scholars*. Honolulu, March 31–April 3 2011.

Panel convenor (with Eric Repphun): Religion and Media in Translation. Paper: Playing with Asahara. Representing Japanese New Religious Movements in Video Sharing Websites. *XXth International Association for the History of Religions (IAHR) Quinquennial World Congress*, Toronto, August 15–21 2010.

Panel Convenor: Japanese New Religions in the media. Paper: New Religions and media in conflict: the case of *Kōdansha jiken* (Kōdansha affair). *7th International Conference on Media, Religion and Culture*, Ryerson University, Toronto, 9–13 August 2010.

'The guru is the truth': Aum Shinrikyō and the Internet. *7th International Conference on Media, Religion and Culture*, Ryerson University, Toronto, 9–13 August 2010.

Religion and (Cyber)society. New Zealand Association for the Study of Religions (NZASR) 2010 Conference: *A Century from Durkheim: Perspectives from the Pacific*, Victoria University of Wellington 30 June–2 July 2010.

Land of Peace: Pacifism and Japanese New Religions. International Conference: *Visions of Peace: The West and Asia*, University of Otago, 10–12 December 2009.

From *kyōso* to blogger: charismatic leadership and post-1995 Japanese New Religions. *The 18th New Zealand Asian Studies Society International Conference 2009*, Victoria University of Wellington, 6–8 July 2009.

Panel convenor (with Dr. Birgit Staemmler): (Re)presentation: Religious Discourse and New Media in Japan; paper: (Self)presentation: Japanese New Religions Online. *12th International Conference of the European Association for Japanese Studies (EAJS)*, Salento University, Lecce, September 20–23 2008.

Sōkagakkai and 'Buddhist politics'. NZASR 2008 Conference: *Being Heard, Being Engaged: Religious Diversity and the Diversity of Religious Studies Research*, Rotorua 2-4 July 2008.

Mediating Religious Innovation: New Religious Movements, Media and Society in Contemporary Japan. International Conference: *Religious Innovation in East-Asia*, The Australian National University, Canberra, November 28–30 2007.

Religion, Media and Public Image: the Example of New Religious Movements in Japan. *17th New Zealand Asian Studies Society International Conference 2007*, University of Otago, November 22–25 2007.

Telling about *religious selves*: conversion stories and their role in new Japanese religious movements. *New Zealand Association for the Study of Religions (NZASR) Conference*, Queenstown, June 7–8 2007.

Panel convenor: Materializing Dreams: Performing Imagination through Consumer Culture; paper: Welcome home, master! Meido cafés, moe and Akihabara (sub)culture. *The 18th Japan Anthropology Workshop (JAWS)*, University of Oslo, March 14–17 2007.

The Construction of Religious Group Image Through the Media. The Role of Advertising, Satellite

Broadcasting and Videos in the *Image Strategy* of Agonshū. The Fifth International Conference on Media, Religion, and Culture: *Mediating religion in the context of multicultural tension*, The Sigtuna Foundation, Sigtuna, 6–9 July 2006.

Communication Strategies of Japanese New Religions in Local and Global Context. Anthropology of Japan in Japan (AJJ) Spring Workshop: *Local/Global Identities: Conflicts and Solutions*, Doshisha University, Kyoto, 22–23 April 2006.

The Terrifying Revelations of Nostradamus (*Nosutoradamusu senritsu no keiji*): the Millennium Marketing Strategy of Science of Happiness (Kōfuku no kagaku), International Symposium: *Millennial Texts: Creation and Reception*, Ripon College Cuddesdon, Oxford, 13–15 September 2005.

La figure du leader et les moyens de communication de masse : l'exemple de la nouvelle religion japonaise Kōfuku no kagaku. International Society for the Sociology of Religion/ Société Internationale de Sociologie des Religions (ISSR/SISR) 28th conference: *Religion and Society: Challenging Boundaries/ Religion et Société: les frontieres en question*, Zagreb, 18–22 July 2005.

God on the Web. The Japanese New Religions and the Internet. *International Convention of Asia Scholars (ICAS)*, Freie Universität Berlin, 9–12 August 2001.

Conference organization (selected)

Co-organizer (with Sonia Favi) of the online symposium “Travel in a modernizing world (1700-1840): Materiality, Transformation and Representation”, July 12-13

Co-chair (with Gregory Scott) of the conference committee for the UK Association for Buddhist Studies (UKABS) annual conference, “Buddhism Beyond Boundaries: Interactions Across Space and Time”, The University of Manchester July 2-3, 2020 [cancelled due to covid-19]

Second joint-workshop Tuebingen University- University of Manchester “Religion in Contemporary Japan” February 19 2016

International symposium “Women, religion and violence in International Perspective”, October 19, 2016. Ochanomizu University, Tokyo.

Co-organizer, with Atreyee Sen (University of Copenhagen) of the workshop “Religion, Women and Violence” sponsored by CIDRAL, University of Manchester, 4 December 2015.

Co-organizer, with Jane Caple, of the International workshop “Religious Authority in Asia: Problems and Strategies of Recognition (31 Oct – 1 Nov 2014) sponsored by the British Inter-University Chinese Centre (BICC) and the White Rose East Asia Centre (WREAC).

I have organized an international roundtable discussion on *20 Years After the Tokyo Subway Attack: The Impact of Violence in Japan and Beyond* (March 18). The roundtable was filmed by the Japan Broadcasting Corporation (NHK, Japan's national public broadcasting). The programme was aired on March 23rd in Japan, during the 9pm News Watch 9 programme, the flagship evening news program for NHK.

Chair of the conference committee for the JAWS (Japan Anthropology Workshop) regional conference *Beyond Oceans: Re-thinking Japan's Place in Pacific Anthropology*, University of Otago, 10-11 July 2011.

Member of the organizing committee for the New Zealand Association for the Study of Religion (NZASR) and AABS (Australasian Association of Buddhist Studies) joint conference, Queenstown, 7-9 December 2011.

Member of the organizing committee of the inaugural IRGO (Internet Research Group Otago) unConference *New Zealand Digital Futures*, University of Otago, 23-24 November 2009.

Co-organizer (with Ian Reader and Birgit Staemmler) of the International Workshop *Religion 2.0 in Japan: Shifting Patterns of Authority*, Tübingen University, 11-13 June 2009.

I have organized panels for the Association for Asian Studies Conference (2011), International Association for the History of Religions (*IAHR*) Quinquennial World Congress (2010, 2015); International Conference on Media, Religion and Culture (2010); European Association for Japanese Studies conference (2008, 2011, 2014); Japan Anthropology Workshop Conference (2007).

Teaching experience

I have been the course convenor for the following courses:

JAPA10300: Introduction to Japanese Studies
JAPA 20211: Religion in Japan
JAPA 33062: Religion and Media in Modern Japan
JAPA 33081 Buddhism in Japan
EALC 33062: Buddhism and Society in Japan (co-convenor with Ian Reader)
RELS/X 214/306: New Religious Movements (also taught by distance via Internet)
RELS/X 218/318: Religion and the Internet (also taught by distance via Internet)
RELS 215/315: Ecstasy, Trance, Spirit Possession (focusing on Japanese folk religions)
RELS/X 216/316: Zen Buddhism (also taught by distance via Internet)
RELS/X 319/419: Charisma and Healing in Alternative Religions (focusing on Japanese New Religions) (also taught by distance via Internet)
RELS 314/414: Religion and Popular Culture
MICN 301: Humanities Elective “Healing Practices in East-Asian Religions”,

And I have contributed to the following courses:

EALC 10122: Introduction to Modern Japanese Society
RELS 104: Religion and Globalization. (module 6: Japanese Religions)
ASIA 101: Introducing Asia (module 9: Buddhism in China and Japan)

I have been invited as a guest lecturer in the following courses:

COMP 113: Web 2.0 and Online Communities (2011)
PHIL229/329: Philosophy of Religion (2007)
INTS 502: International Politics (2008, 2009)
Cultural anthropology (Saitama Prefectural University, 2011)
Cultural studies (Hosei University, 2006)
History of Japanese Religions 1 (Ca’ Foscari University of Venice, 2004)
History of Japanese Religions 3 (Ca’ Foscari University of Venice, 2004)

Professional affiliations

American Academy of Religion (AAR)
United Kingdom Association for Buddhist Studies (UKABS)
European Association for Japanese Studies (EAJS, co-convenor of the Religion Section 2014-2017)
British Association for Japanese Studies (BAJS, Honorary Secretary)
British Association for the Study of Religions (BASR)
Canon Foundation in Europe
Japan Anthropology Workshop (JAWS)
Anthropology of Japan in Japan (AJJ)
Religious Information Research Center (RIRC)