

# CALL FOR PAPERS

**International Conference  
to celebrate  
15th anniversary of Japanese Studies at NCU  
&  
20th anniversary of the founding meeting of the PAJS  
(Polish Association for Japanese Studies)**

**NEW Insights Through Revision of the OLD:  
Changes, Chances and Challenges from Ancient Times to the Global Era Japan**

**温 故 知 新**

**古代からグローバル時代までの日本—変革・展望・挑戦—**

**November 30–December 1, 2023  
Nicolaus Copernicus University, Toruń, Poland**

The Japanese Studies Interdisciplinary Research Team at Nicolaus Copernicus University (NCU) in Toruń, Polish Association for Japanese Studies (PAJS = PSBJ), and Students' Research Group *Hoshi* invite paper proposals for the International Conference to be held at Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, Poland, on November 30 – December 1, 2023.

We welcome contributions on any topic related to broadly comprehended Japanese studies, including language, literature, social studies, cultural studies, religious studies, history, politics, and economy. In particular, however, we encourage proposals that accord with the rather capacious leading theme of the Conference: *NEW Insights Through Revision of the OLD: Changes, Chances and Challenges from Ancient Times to the Global Era Japan*. Specific research threads acknowledging this theme involve, although are not limited to, subjects such as: mythology of Japan, reality and fiction in Japanese literature, mass media and popular culture, scholarly and utilitarian approaches to history, conceptions of exceptionality and/or homogeneity of Japan and the Japanese, all of which can be discussed in the context of the influence of the past on the present of Japan.

The leading theme of the Conference stems from the perspective that the image of Japan is often blurred by myths and misconceptions, the identification of which is necessary to render this image more clear and closer to reality. It is the organizers' hope that through offering a space for a vigorous, taboo-free academic discussion of relevant and timely subjects, the Conference will provide an opportunity to make a small step into this direction.

The Conference will be a hybrid event, predominantly in-person with a small (max. 30%) allotted number of online presentations.

**Keynote speakers**

### **Oleg Benesch (University of York)**

Oleg Benesch is Professor of East Asian History at the University of York. His publications include the books *Inventing the Way of the Samurai: Nationalism, Internationalism, and Bushido in Modern Japan* (Oxford, 2014) and, with Ran Zwigenberg, *Japan's Castles: Citadels of Modernity in War and Peace* (Cambridge, 2019). For more information on Oleg and his research, please see [www.olegbenesch.com](http://www.olegbenesch.com).

### **Patrick Heinrich (Ca' Foscari University in Venice)**

Patrick Heinrich is a professor at the Department of Asian and Mediterranean African Studies at Ca' Foscari University of Venice. Before joining Ca' Foscari in 2014, he taught for many years at universities in Germany (Duisburg-Essen University) and Japan (Dokkyo University). His present research interests focus on language endangerment, and on linguistic superdiversity in Asian cities. He has edited many books and journal issues. Edited volumes in English include the *Handbook of the Ryukyuan Languages* (2015), *Urban Sociolinguistics* (2017), *Being Young in Super-Aging Japan* (2018), *The Routledge Handbook of Japanese Sociolinguistics* (2019), *Urban Poetics and Politics in Asia* (2020), and *Decolonizing Methodologies in Japan: Ryukyuan Perspectives for Language Education* (2023).

### **Registration**

Please register via the link: <https://japan-conf2023.umk.pl/?task=participant&action=register>

In the case of any problems with registration this way, please contact:

[japanconf2023@gmail.com](mailto:japanconf2023@gmail.com)

[Abstracts can be submitted through the aforementioned website after registration.](#)

### **Abstract submission**

Paper proposals should be submitted by **June 19, 2023** (deadline extended) via the link (after registration and logging in): <https://japan-conf2023.umk.pl/?task=participant&action=aabstract>.

Oral presentations based on the submitted papers should be planned for 20 minutes.

Abstracts should include the name, affiliation and e-mail address of the author(s), as well as up to five keywords.

The language of the abstract should be English or Japanese.

The length of the abstract should not exceed 300 words (English) or 700 characters (Japanese), excluding references.

[Please indicate in your submissions whether you are applying for the online or in-person format. In the case of the online format, priority will be given to participants from outside Europe.](#)

### **Notification of acceptance**

All proposals will undergo evaluation by two anonymous reviewers, and decisions will be announced by June 30, 2023.

### **Participation fee**

- regular fee: 400 PLN (approx. 85 EU)
- PAJS (= PSBJ) members: 200 PLN (approx. 44 EU)
- PhD/MA students: 120 PLN (approx. 25 EU)

The fee includes the cost of conference materials, refreshments during the breaks and the peer reviewed publication of a paper.

Cost of participation in the post-conference banquet is not included in the regular fee.

**Organizing Committee**

Prof. Krzysztof Stefański, Board Chairman of the PAJS

Adam Bednarczyk

Aleksandra Jarosz

Monika Lecińska-Ruchniewicz

Shoko Nakayama

Wojciech J. Nowak

Toshikazu Seguchi

Małgorzata Sobczyk

Przemysław Sztafiej

Barbara Zaremba

Marcelina de Zoete-Leśniczak