



# JSPS SAN FRANCISCO NEWSLETTER

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## After Six Years in Berkeley, JSPS SF Director Signs Off

Six years have been passed since I was assigned as director of the San Francisco Office. During this time, JSPS headquarter requested I return to Japan for about a year during the Coronavirus pandemic. I took my wife and dog. Unfortunately, the dog passed away in the United States last July. He was 15 year and 10 months old. He crossed the Pacific Ocean three times.

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# After Six Years in Berkeley, JSPS SF Director Signs Off

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**TORU TAMIYA**

**Director, JSPS San Francisco Office**

**F**rom April 2016 to March 2018, my dog commuted to the office with me every day, but one of the International Program Associates who came in 2018 was allergic to cats and dogs. Thus, I decided to stop going to the office with my dog. After that he started to age very rapidly. Traveling with a dog in the U.S. was much easier than in Japan. There are many dog friendly hotels here. We didn't have any trouble staying at a hotel with my dog. We enjoyed traveling by car without taking an air plane, because we always traveled with our dog. Starting from Berkeley and going North you reach what is a holy land for many American Indian tribes, Mt. Shasta. East is Yosemite, Mammoth Lake and Lake Tahoe. South is Monterey, Carmel, Hearst Castle, Morro Bay and Santa Barbara.

During my tenure in San Francisco, I met many Nobel Laureates at seminars and other

events. When we asked Prof. Yamanaka to give a lecture at a meeting hosted by the JSPS San Francisco Office, he kindly accepted.

In my private life, the apartment I lived in was



about two minutes away from the office, so with my wife's cooperation we gathered the whole family together, and held barbecues, indoor luncheons, and Christmas parties quite frequently. In the summer of 2021, the office members and their families traveled to Santa Cruz because of the JSPS SF Deputy Director Masakazu Ito's return to Japan.



Yosemite Park



Mt. Shasta



Santa Barbara



Carmel-by-the-Sea



In the west coast of the US, the sky is always blue and it hardly rains except during the wintertime. Therefore, wildfires were a frequent occurrence.

The West Coast of the United States is rich in nature, however it is characterized by



very few things related to culture and history. I did my postdoctoral work at the Nuclear Research Institute (CEA Saclay) in the outskirts of Paris, France. During this time, I visited museums on my days off. My way of enjoying paintings is to appreciate them without reading any explanations or comments during my first visit. Only after I come back home do I read explanations, comments, or check the famous paintings and where they are exhibited, etc. Though the painting does not always remain in my memory, I check the painting and where it is exhibited and then visit the same gallery again for review. I enjoy this process because when I look at the paintings again I can clearly impress them in my memory, and never forget.



Napoleon's coronation by Jacques-Louis David is on display at the Louvre and the Palace of Versailles. This a formal painting completed three years after the coronation, but the painting of Versailles is said to have been painted by the author over 14 years. I have seen these images several times, but I could not see them side by side, so I thought that the two pictures were the same. One day, when I visited the Palace of Versailles, Japanese tourists were listening to their guide's explanation in front of the painting. The guide explained that one of the dresses worn by a lady attending the coronation is pink, and the color is different from the one at the Louvre. To confirm this, I visited the Louvre again to check the color of the dress. It was white. There seems to be another difference, Napoleon's mother wears a veil or not, but this has not yet been confirmed by myself. I don't know when, but I'm going to check it out the next time I visit Paris. I am very happy to have stayed in Europe when I was young and to have stayed on the West Coast for six years after retiring from the university. During this stay, I enjoyed life in California with great good office staff and friends. Thank you everyone.



# Recent Activities



## JUNBA 2nd Online Webinar in 2021

**T**he Japanese University Network in the Bay Area (JUNBA), held its second online webinar in December, following the first one in September. The objective was to understand how universities in the US have maintained the international environment on campus. Emerging issues and universities' future prospects were looked at, as well as the best practices employed by public and private universities in the US. A total of 151 people participated, many of them were staff and faculty at universities throughout Japan. Panelists Takeo Suzuki (The University of Tennessee, Chattanooga), Yuri Sakamaki (California State University, Bakersfield), and Atsuko Rothberg (Pacific University) presented the international activities at each of their institutions.

Discussions centered around the COVID-19 situation and how it has

affected the following three issues: (1) the decision-making process, (2) good practices to maintain international exchange among students and researchers, and (3) budgets and administrative strategies.

There was a lively discussion and the event succeeded in accomplishing its goal. For the first time, JUNBA held two online webinars for Japanese universities and research institutes. Surveys showed that the participants found the event useful and a majority participants commented that they were able to learn about the situation of higher education in the US, information which is normally not available in Japan.

In the coming year, JUNBA will continue to carry out activities such as this to promote the development of education and research in Japan and the US.



## The Workshop for Japanese University Administrative Staff in the U.S. 2021

**T**he Workshop for Japanese University Administrative Staff in the U.S. 2021 is a staff development event conducted by JSPS San Francisco. The purpose of the workshop is to help motivate Japanese university staff who are currently in the U.S. or who are considering working in the U.S. in the future, and to deepen their understanding of U.S. universities.

The program was conducted in two parts on December 8 and 9, 2021, with the first day in-person and the second day online (webinar). Since this was the first face-to-face event since COVID-19, we took all necessary precautions against infection and included a lot of activities that could only be done in-person. We tried to prepare a program that would be easy to follow. In the first half of the event, we set aside a lot of time for discussion so that participants could discuss questions, failures, and insights that they have experienced through their work in the U.S. The facilitators were Koichiro Aoshima (San Francisco State University) and Day Motoko (Holy Names University).

The participants then toured the University of California (UC), Berkeley campus, comparing major facilities with those of Japanese universities. Finally, the participants received briefings from the staff of

various departments at UC Berkeley, including the Staff Assembly, Global Engagement Office and they exchanged opinions. Junko Habu (Professor, Department of Anthropology, Chair, Center for Japanese Studies), who has been teaching at UC Berkeley for more than 20 years, also gave a lecture on diversity, equity and inclusion.

On the second day, in addition to Koichiro Aoshima and Day Motoko, Rebecca Sablo (UC Berkeley) participated as lecturers in a webinar to provide Japanese university staff who hope to work or study in the U.S. with information on how to work and career paths at U.S. universities. Afterwards, participants had the opportunity to network in a virtual space using Spatial Chat, and asked the three lecturers many questions about their lives in the U.S., detailed job descriptions, skills, etc., which they were not able to ask during the webinar. It seems that this workshop provided participants with an opportunity to motivate themselves for their future, regardless of whether they are currently in the U.S. or not.



## JSPS Researcher Gatherings

**T**he JSPS Researcher Gatherings are held twice a year in summer and winter, with the aim of facilitating cross-disciplinary networking among JSPS Fellows.

The winter gathering was held on February 12th. Professor Yasunori Nomura, Director of the Berkeley Center for Theoretical Physics gave the keynote address. He talked about his career path and advice for the new generation of researchers hoping to work in the Anglophone world. With the title of "Are there many universes!?" he presented a lecture on the multiverse theory in a way that was very accessible to the audience. In addition, three JSPS Research Fellows and one former JSPS Research Fellow gave presentations on

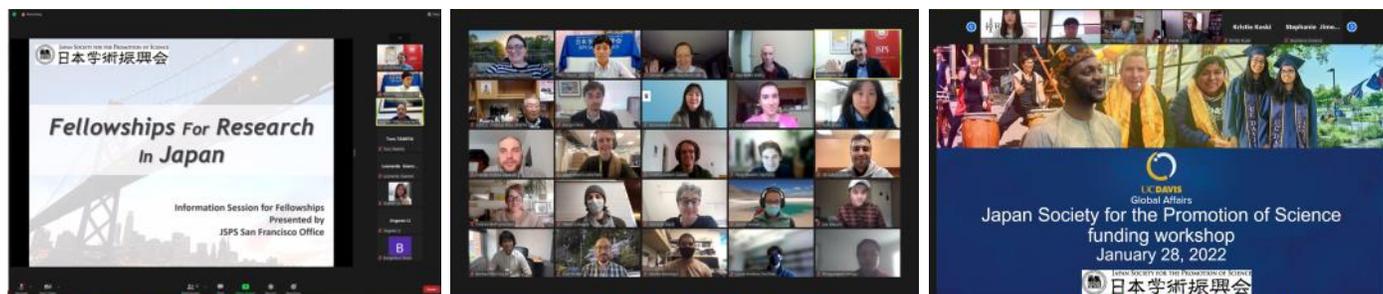
their own research.

The online reception was attended by about 40 people and functioned well as a networking opportunity, with researchers actively exchanging information on their research activities and living environment, similar to a face-to-face gathering. Taking advantage of the online platform, researchers from Japan and all over the U.S. (West Coast, Midwest, East Coast, etc.) as well as those conducting research in Canada participated in this year's event for the first time.



## Fellowship Information Sessions (Online)

- University of California, San Diego (December 16th, 2021)
- University of British Columbia (January 25th, 2022)
- University of California, Davis (January 28th, 2022)



# JSPS Fellow in America

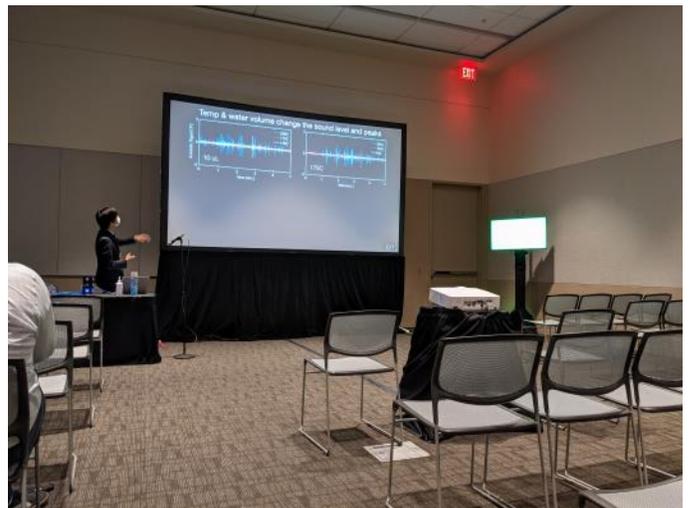


## AKIHITO KIYAMA

**A**kihito Kiyama received his Ph.D. (Engineering) from the Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology (TUAT), Tokyo, Japan in 2019, while he was studying as a JSPS research fellow (DC1). He also received Bachelor's and Master's degrees from TUAT (in 2014 and 2016, respectively). After a short post-doc at TUAT, he joined the Utah State University as a JSPS Overseas Research Fellow. He performs experimental research in the area of fluid dynamics. He is especially interested in the short-term interface motion of bubbles, jets, splashes, and droplets. His love of fluid imagery often helps motivate the research team including students. Currently, his main research topic is the high-speed combined measurement of bubbles caused by sudden acceleration, which might contribute to a deeper understanding of brain injury and is supported by the JSPS ORF Program. His curiosity also leads him to other numerous side projects based on fluid mechanics.

**Q1: Why did you decide to research in the U.S.?**

One of the major reasons is the research activity and variety in my research field. In Europe, there are many well-known research groups in the area of fluid mechanics, as is perhaps expected from history. For example, a French scholar in the 17th century, Blaise Pascal, established Pascal's principle, which is a fundamental principle in fluid statics.



*The author presenting the work at the American Physical Society Meeting 2021.*

Today, the unit of pressure, Pa, which is perhaps well-known when the forecast speaks about the strength of the typhoon, is named after him. Navier-Stokes equation, which is the fundamental equation of motion in fluid dynamics, is named after mathematicians, Henri Navier (from France) and Sir Stokes (Ireland). Fluid mechanics have been established before the year 1912 and thus we can see many European scholars' names in the textbook.

The presence of the USA in fluid dynamics research has developed in the 20th century. The California Institute of Technology and Stanford University have been well known since then. Even for the bubble dynamics, which is my particular research interest, one of the highly valued textbooks is written by a professor at Caltech. Nowadays, there are many notable researchers who are actively leading their own research groups in the USA. Moreover, the biggest fluid dynamics conference is held every November in the USA, where more than 3,000 participants join.

Another thing I have in mind is the impression that the PI (principal investigator) in the USA tend to have their own specific styles. There is lots of outstanding research being done not only at the top universities but also other universities. Their research groups are not necessarily big, but they have their own solid philosophy and their research output is extraordinary.

The group I wanted to join was one of these small research groups. Dr. Truscott has been known for beautiful fluid imagery that he takes and his unique experimental approach to the fluid mechanics problem. His university

was not a top-ranking university (used to be R2 but became R1 recently) but his research group was well recognized. I was fortunate enough that I was awarded the JSPS Overseas Research Fellowship. I thought this was the opportunity that I was looking for, and then decided to come to the USA.



*An experimental setup for the high-speed combined measurement of fluid dynamics that we were building in my apartment while we were isolated due to the lockdown.*

## **Q2: What is your impression of the research environment in the U.S.?**

As already stated above, I feel like there are many small but outstanding research groups, in many different universities. It is perhaps related to the academic system in this country. A principal investigator needs to lead the research group. To accomplish that, the most important part is gathering funding from the agencies, where the uniqueness of the research program is the key. The assistant professors are trying to develop their research program which consists of original but manageable research topic themes.

As a result, there are many well-known professors out there for their particular research interests, even if they are affiliated with relatively small universities.

Another point that is worth mentioning is the geographic diversity of the nation offers a variety of research topics here, in addition to the traditional industrial applications. In a dry area, such as in the state of Utah, there are certain needs for developing water collection technology. Dryness in the state of California causes a different problem; wildfire. The fluid mechanics are trying to help prevent it and develop fire suppression detergents. On the other hand, for example in the state of Louisiana, expertise in fluid dynamics is used to predict typhoon. Though I do not know much about this country yet, this geographic diversity plays a role in making the research topics in this country.

Last but not least, the atmosphere of openness and the researchers' positive attitude towards collaboration is something I like. Though they have some limitations due to the funding sources, they are keen to collaborate, especially with interesting research topics. Nowadays, the background of fluid mechanics is diverse. In Japan, most of the fluid dynamics courses are taught in the mechanical engineering department or civil engineering department. In addition, as the same as in Europe, numerous outstanding scholars have a research background in physics and mathematics. Also, there are notable scholars in other areas, too, such as the food science, biological, environmental, and biomedical engineering departments. The diverse background ensures synergy on the collaborated research, which perhaps is very

important for accomplishing impactful work.

**Q3: How do you take advantage of your experiences in the U.S. and apply it to your research or career?**

I have been in the USA for almost two and a half years. I have learned a lot from the experiences in both research and daily life, especially due to the pandemic COVID-19. During the lockdown and following times when we were not able to access the research facility very often as it was, I have had a long time to think about myself and my research career. I have been enlightened through every experience, but here I want to express some of the lessons I learned.

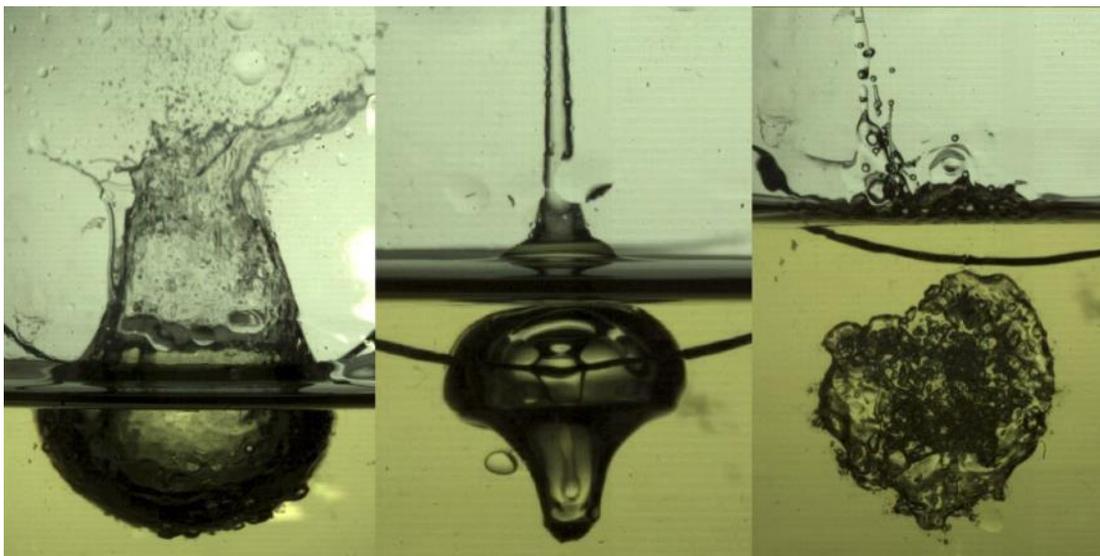
Most importantly, selecting the research theme is the most influential thing to my research career. I have discussed the research topic with my supervisors and collaborators many times. Brainstorming with them gave me useful insights into possible direction of my future research. These themes are not necessarily coming from the practical needs of industrial applications but some of them are inspired by our daily life or biological systems. The discussion was also influenced by the diverse background of collaborators. I know many Japanese researchers have a similar research interest, but at least for me, it was difficult to learn if I stayed there and this opportunity was a real stimulus. I am planning to stay in the USA a little longer, though it will be at a different university, I will try expanding my network to the researchers who have a different background to take advantage of this experience.

Pursuing the research that is attractive and important to society helps me solidify my identity as a researcher or an academic-trained professional.

Another important, and natural advantage that I gained through my stay in the USA is about language. Of course, the most commonly used language in scientific research is English. Though I have written a few papers alongside my Ph.D. work, my English proficiency was limited when I arrived in the USA. Thanks to the support of the research group and other mentors who helped me with the language, now I feel a little more comfortable than before. The thing is that I could learn and understand how we can improve science communication in English. Based on this experience, I can help others to improve their (scientific) communication skill in English. It will be beneficial if I am in a teaching position or in charge of mentoring junior researchers.

Last but not least, in the last two years, we were impacted by the spread of COVID-19. There was much misinformation out there and we had to select the source of information

that we can trust ourselves. Many of us seek scientific evidence for every step we take. However, there is much news coverage based on the articles published as a preprint, which has not undergone the peer-review process. While media stated this fact in their coverage, this information is often overlooked, or not delivered as the peer-review system is not widely understood. Once the information was released, despite it is not reviewed yet, we start to believe it as if it is a valid truth. At this time, the disease-related research was a tremendous topic, and gained publicity, leading to the rapid propagation of this information. However, as we observed this we had to think about science communication and literacy. In our fluid dynamics research, we also sometimes use the preprint service to secure openness, which is based on the spirit of full disclosure. However, the story written above might remind us that we have to be more careful about the impact of the research on society. I don't know how to apply this lesson to my future career yet, I believe this is something we have to think of.



*Typical experimental images from my research, where a water droplet exploded in the heated oil (e.g., cavitation) (Kiyama, et al., submitted).*



# The Latest from Universities in Japan



## HIROSHIMA UNIVERSITY

### *US Consul General visits Hiroshima University*

**U**S Consul General pays a visit to Hiroshima University to discuss academic projects and future partnerships with US institutions.

Consul General Richard Mei, Jr. from the US Consulate General Osaka Kobe, visited Hiroshima University's (HU) Higashi-Hiroshima Campus on November 30, 2021, and discussed areas of partnership with HU's President Mitsuo Ochi and Vice President Shinji Kaneko, in charge of Global Initiatives at the university.

During the meeting, opinions were exchanged on The Thunderbird School of Global Management-Arizona State University-Hiroshima University Global Initiative and strengthening academic interaction between HU and the US.

Before the meeting, the delegates also exchanged opinions with people involved in

different initiatives such as the Top Global University Project and the Town & Gown Office at HU.

The delegates also observed HU's autonomous shuttle HIROMOBI and visited the new international exchange facility MIRAI CREA, which opened in October of last year.

Going forward, it is hoped that the partnership between HU and the US will be further enhanced through academic and personnel exchanges.



## About the Global Initiative

In October 2020, Arizona State University (ASU) and HU jointly established the Thunderbird School of Global Management-Arizona State University-Hiroshima University Global Initiative with a focus on global management education and sustainable business.

Under the project, ASU will be establishing an international branch of its campus inside HU – the first time a Japanese national university does so for a foreign university – to offer a bachelor’s degree program in global management or international trade. Upon successful completion of all the requirements, a Thunderbird bachelor’s degree is conferred by ASU.

The program is taught in English with all classes – available both as online and in-person lectures – being designed from a

global perspective that encapsulates international politics as well as international business and culture.

“Through this project, we will create a new image of the university, including internationalization, by incorporating the best elements of Japanese higher education while grasping the global standards of university management and education,” President Ochi said during a press conference on the project.

## The Top Global University Project

The project organized by the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) provides prioritized support to universities leading the internationalization of Japan’s education. Under the project, HU has been selected as one of 13 “Type A” universities for its world-leading education and research.





# Hokkaido University

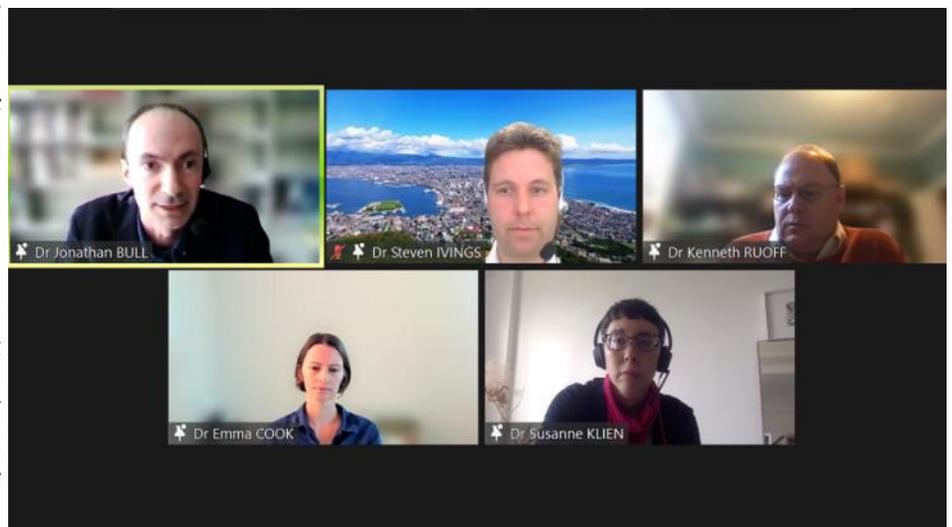
## Japanese Studies Open House

**H**okkaido University (HU) and Portland State University (PSU) held a 90-minute event on 19 October 2021 to introduce American high school and university students to Japanese Studies. Featuring two presentations, a panel discussion and a Q&A session with recent alumni of HU's Modern Japanese Studies Program (MJSP), in total 54 people attended online.

Dr Kenneth Ruoff (Center for Japanese Studies, PSU) spoke about the Imperial Family in Modern Japanese History. He emphasised that this institution provides insights into contemporary issues in Japanese society such as the changing roles of women. The question of whether to change Japanese law so that women could ascend to the throne is an ongoing debate as is the likely impact on 'Japanese identity'. In the second talk, Dr Steven Ivings (Faculty of Economics, Kyoto University) spoke about the port of Hakodate in mid-19th century Hokkaido. Using a 'microhistory' approach, he explained how Hakodate was 'unsuccessful' as a treaty port compared to the better-known examples of Yokohama and Nagasaki. Yet this lack of success is precisely what

makes Hakodate so interesting to research. Hakodate revealed the limitations of Western imperialism and, at the same time, the opportunities that had existed for Japan's own emergent empire-builders.

The panel discussion which followed included the previous speakers plus contributions from Dr Susanne Klien and Dr Emma Cook (both MJSP). Dr Ruoff's talk had stressed the importance of visiting different parts of Japan, in particular its rural areas, to gain varied perspectives on Japanese society. Dr Klien, whose research interests include alternative lifestyles in rural contemporary Japan, cautioned that the Japanese countryside should not just be seen as a repository of tradition. Dr Cook, drawing on fieldwork in Japan, urged the audience to question assumptions about the homogeneity of Japanese society.



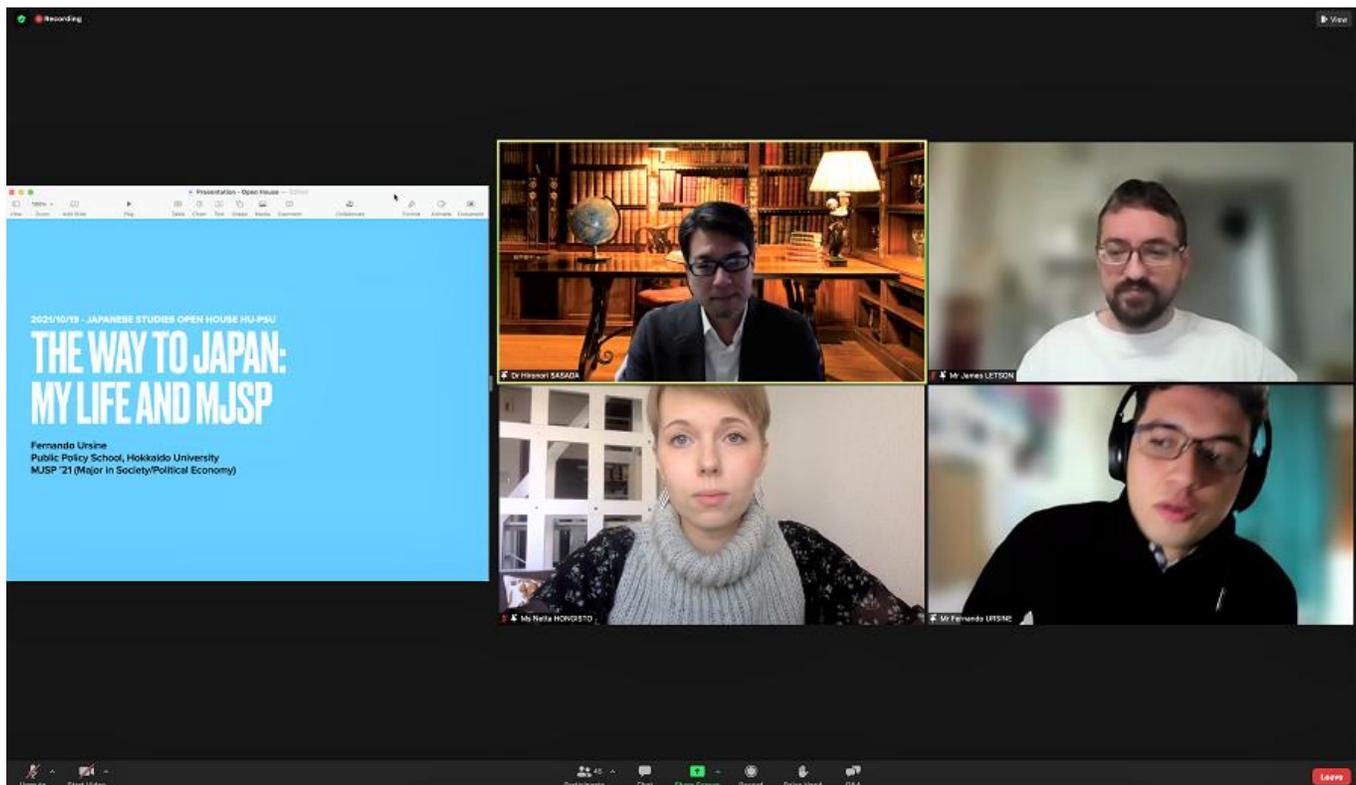
A key message from the panel, therefore, was the importance of Japanese Studies for not only a better understanding of Japan but also for broader issues such as rural/urban divides in modern nation-states and discourses of homogeneity/diversity.

The third part was a Q&A session with three recent alumni of MJSP. MJSP is a fully bilingual undergraduate degree programme and Netta Hongisto, Fernando Ursine and James Letson spoke about what had motivated them to study in Japan. They also shared how they maintained their motivation in the demanding academic environment over four years. All three found their experience studying on MJSP to be sufficiently rewarding to continue in academia by entering graduate

programmes at HU. While MJSP students they developed research interests (for example, researching Sapporo's hardcore punk scene) and transferrable skills (such as through part-time work as translators and interpreters).

The conversation that the panellists started is ongoing and HU and PSU are looking for more opportunities to encourage young people to study and research in Japan. More than any other part of the event, the rich experiences and ongoing commitment of the MJSP alumni revealed that there is much to gain from continuing the conversation and making those opportunities.

(Jonathan Bull, Hokkaido University)



# Office Member Greeting

## TORU OKADA

(April, 2021 - March, 2022 )

**M**y year in the Bay Area was precious. Although I was amid COVID-19, I had the opportunity to meet a lot of



people by actively using online features and products. In terms of work, since the JSPS San

Francisco has a small staff, each person was able to work with a great deal of responsibility and discretion. In particular, I was involved with the Workshops for Japanese University Administrative Staff in the U.S. as the main person in charge of establishing the two-part program (In-person and Online) and its overall coordination. That was a great experience for me.

The States is a very different country from Japan, in terms of its structure, size, language, culture, etc. It was very exciting to live in this environment where my common sense did not prevail. I thought it was a year

in which I could understand the importance of the proverb, "When in Rome, do as the Romans do". By becoming familiar with the local lifestyle, I was able to learn more about the local culture and catch a glimpse of the values of various people living in the United States. Through my interactions with these people, I also learned about their work ethic and mindset, all of which will have a great impact on my own career development in the future.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to everyone at JSPS, who helped me during the two-year training program, to the people involved in my work, and to Tohoku University for graciously sending me on this program. I would like to make the most of this experience and go on to make my life stronger in the future.



# NODOKA NISHIMURA

(April, 2021 – March, 2022)

**T**ime flies... I cannot believe that I will be leaving here so soon. It had been a year that felt like forever, in the beginning.



Everything was so new and exciting to me at first. Time passed so fast after New Year's Day. I enjoyed the beautiful nature in California, such as Yosemite, the

national parks and the Pacific Coast. I also enjoyed local authentic cuisines with friends.

During my life in Berkeley, I found one thing that will stick with me. "Keep myself weird", adapted from Portland's (Oregon) slogan, "Keep Portland Weird". The word weird is not usually used in a positive way but it actually is considered a good thing in this case. It means being different from others as a positive and celebrating your unique self.

I remember being surprised that everything in the U.S. has really large portions. However, it is not too large for a family or for people who exercise a lot. I was also impressed that people are independent and they usually do not judge others based on race, age, or appearance. Individual personalities and backgrounds are respected.

On the other hand, I also realized how Japanized I am as well. I did not consider myself detail-orientated or methodical in Japan but compared with people here in the US, I am. I had a bit of culture shock and being too anxious sometimes made things hard. However, I am getting used to it and now feel more comfortable with a relaxed and less stressed-out atmosphere. I was pleased to see that Japanese food and culture are so popular here.

Finally, I am so grateful for the support from such wonderful people while working at the JSPS San Francisco Office and its HQ in Tokyo. They are always nice and I learned a lot from them. For example, how to manage events and other things at the same time and how to prioritize them. I also learned how to communicate with people from different backgrounds that have different values. I am also thankful to Okayama University for giving me this great opportunity.

It has been a dream come true to come here since I started this job as an administrator at Okayama University. I will find a new goal and I am sure that my experience here will improve my life. Thank you everyone and I hope you all have a wonderful life!



# A Time for New Beginnings

**CHRIS REED**

**Liaison Officer, JSPS San Francisco Office**



**T**hey say that Spring is a time for new beginnings. Well, this Spring JSPS SF will begin a new era with a new Director, International Program Associates, and Liaison Officer. This will be my final article for the newsletter. I'll be moving into a new role at UC Berkeley related to global engagement.

When I interviewed for the Liaison Officer position back in 2017 I asked my then soon-to-be predecessor, Lauren Nakasato, what her favorite part of the job was. Without hesitation she answered that it was the amazing group of people that she gets to work with everyday. I thought that was a nice polite thing to say, especially in the presence of one's coworkers. But after 5 years I can

safely say that I agree with her 100%.

Every year brings a new cohort to work at the JSPS SF office. Since I started this job I have had the pleasure of working directly with approximately 19 highly skilled individuals from universities all over Japan and from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT). I have learned tremendously from each and every one of them.

The folks that come through this office are exceptional without exception. I'm not sure if there's some secret sauce that they're using at JSPS Tokyo and MEXT but whatever it is they seem to have the ability to identify those that will succeed and thrive in this environment. As someone who has lived abroad and had to use a foreign language for work and daily life, I have tremendous respect for those that make the move from Japan to the Bay Area. It's not easy to live here, and the highly decentralized nature of American governance and society can present challenges. But those that come always make great leaps with their English language ability and gain new perspectives on operating in the US context.



I was recently asked about the challenges California and the SF Bay Area faces in terms of furthering international exchange. Without a doubt I would say that the ever increasing cost of housing in California presents a huge obstacle to making my home state a welcoming place for scholars from Japan.

Minutes away from downtown Berkeley and the greatest public university in the county you can find numerous quaint neighborhoods of small and old buildings, many of which were built before World War II. These neighborhoods are full of yard signs with messages like ‘immigrants are welcome here’ and ‘in this house we believe in science’. The sentiment contrasts sharply with the exclusionary nature of these communities. For example, a recent State Department report for Afghan refugees who qualify for special immigrant visas recommended that they avoid most cities in California. The report also warned that Sacramento (and other cities in the state, have a ‘critical shortage in housing availability’<sup>1</sup>. This is especially true of the Bay Area. The reason that the neighborhoods look different here compared to Japan is the same reason why housing is so expensive. The political and legal system allows homeowners

to block the construction of dense eco-friendly housing in places where it’s needed most: economically vibrant cities with world-class universities<sup>2</sup>.

Pro-housing and urbanist groups are particularly interested in Japan’s housing policies and how a city like Tokyo has been able to consistently grow in population without a significant increase in the cost of housing. I hope Japanese researchers and other academics who study housing and its surrounding political economy will consider applying for a fellowship at a university in the SF Bay Area. Their perspective and expertise are sorely needed.

I want to wish my successor the best of luck as the new liaison office, though I’m sure she won’t need it. I also want to thank the outgoing Director of the San Francisco center, Professor Tamiya and my predecessor Lauren Nakasato for giving me the opportunity to work towards supporting higher education in Japan and strengthening its transnational research networks with the rest of the world. It has been my distinct honor and pleasure. I hope to continue my relationship with Japan’s border research community for many years to come.



## References

1 Fact Sheet: Overview of the Special Immigrant Visa Programs - National Immigration Forum (<https://immigrationforum.org/article/fact-sheet-overview-of-the-special-immigrant-visa-programs/>)

2 Why Afghan Refugees Aren't Actually Welcome in California - The Atlantic (<https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2021/09/afghan-refugees-california-high-housing-prices/620016/>)

