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# u:japan lectures

AUTUMN-WINTER 2022/23 | SEASON 5



北海道函館 | Hokkaidō, Hakodate | 2017-02-18



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# Where a Nuclear Meltdown and Sexwork Intersect: Discovering the stories in the film “Boys for Sale”

A *u:japan* lecture film screening & talk by Thomas Ash

売  
買  
ボーイズ



Thursday  
2022-10-06  
18<sup>30</sup>~20<sup>00</sup>



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# Where a Nuclear Meltdown and Sexwork Intersect: Discovering the stories in the film “Boys for Sale”

A *u:japan* lecture film screening & talk by Thomas Ash

## Boys are selling sex in Japan. Who is buying?

In the Tokyo district of Shinjuku 2-chome there are bars that specialize in “Urisen”, young guys who have sex with men. This documentary is an illuminating look into a rarely seen world that tantalizingly shows the humanity of sex work.

On topics as varied as the health of children following the Fukushima nuclear disaster („In the Grey Zone“, 2012 and „A2-B-C“, 2013), death and dying („-1287“, 2014 and „Sending Off“, 2019) and the treatment of asylum-seekers in immigration detention („Ushiku“, 2021), the films of Thomas Ash broadly deal with themes of health, medicine and human rights.

While many of his films share the same quiet and observational style, „Boys for Sale“ (2017) is an outlier in terms of the production visuals and soundtrack, yet Thomas’s influen-

男の子たちが売るセックスを買うのは・・・？ウリ専と共に・・・それは、男性にセックスを売る主にストレートの男の子・・・彼らが如何にして雇われたか、その職務や生活状況、彼らの体験が今、明らかとなる。東京・新宿二丁目を舞台に、売春行為は江戸時代より今日へと続く。

ce is strongly felt, particularly in the depth and flow of the interviews with his subjects.

In his speech, Thomas will speak about his conscious effort to prevent „Boys for a Sale“ from becoming sensational and exploitative and how his desire to quietly listen led to discoveries mid-interview which would echo back to his earlier work in Fukushima in a way in which he never could have predicted.

Thursday  
2022-10-06  
18<sup>30</sup>~20<sup>00</sup>



**Thomas Ash**, born in America, earned an MA in Film and Television Production at the University of Bristol, UK (2005) and has lived in Japan for over 20 years. His first feature documentary was ‘the ballad of vicki and jake’ (2006), followed by two feature documentaries about children living in areas of Fukushima contaminated by the 2011 nuclear meltdown, ‘In the Grey Zone’ (2012) and ‘A2-B-C’ (2013), and one that dealt with themes surrounding health and medicine in Japan, ‘-1287’ (2014).

“Boys for Sale” (2017, dir. Itako), about male sex workers in Tokyo on which Thomas served as Executive Producer, screened in 40 film festivals across the world, receiving six awards for Best Feature Documentary. In 2019, Thomas released two films: “Sending Off” and “The Father’s Love Begotten”. Thomas’s newest documentary “Ushiku” (2021), is about asylum seekers to Japan who are detained at the infamous Ushiku immigration centre (More information on Thomas Ash’s website: <http://www.documentingian.com/>).

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# Ryokan

## Mobilizing Hospitality in Rural Japan

A hybrid *u:japan* lecture by Chris McMorran

Thursday  
2022-10-13  
18<sup>30</sup>~20<sup>00</sup>



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# Ryokan

## Mobilizing Hospitality in Rural Japan

A hybrid *u:japan* lecture by Chris McMorran

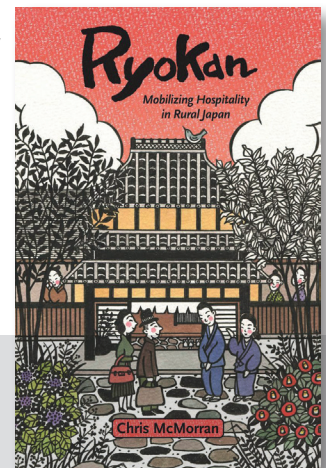
Amid the decline of many rural communities in Japan, the hot springs village resort of Kurokawa Onsen is a rare, bright spot. Its two dozen traditional inns, or ryokan, draw hundreds of thousands of tourists a year eager to admire its landscape, experience its hospitality, and soak in its hot springs. As a result, these ryokan have enticed village youth to return home to take over successful family businesses and revive the community. What does it take to produce this family business and one of Japan's most relaxing spaces?

In this talk, I share the behind-the-scenes work that keeps a ryokan running smoothly, from the everyday tasks of cleaning, serving, and making guests feel at home, to the generational work of producing and training a suitable heir who can carry on the family business. I draw on nearly two decades of research in and around Kurokawa, including a year spent welcoming guests, carrying

luggage, scrubbing baths, cleaning rooms, washing dishes, and talking with co-workers and owners about their jobs, relationships, concerns, and aspirations.

I discuss how Kurokawa's ryokan mobilize hospitality to create a rural escape in contemporary Japan, emphasizing the strictly gendered work found in the ryokan, as well as the generational work of ryokan owners vs. the daily embodied work of their employees. I share the realities of ryokan work—celebrated, messy, ignored, exploitative, and liberating—and introduce the people who keep inns running by making guests feel at home.

Thursday  
2022-10-13  
18<sup>30</sup>~20<sup>00</sup>



**Chris McMorran** is Associate Professor of Japanese Studies at the National University of Singapore. He is a cultural geographer of contemporary Japan focusing on the geographies of home across scale, from the body to the nation. He is the author of *Ryokan: Mobilizing Hospitality in Rural Japan* (University of Hawai'i Press), an ethnography of a Japanese inn, based on twelve months spent scrubbing baths, washing dishes, and making guests feel at home at a hot springs resort. He also has published research on tourism, disasters, gendered labor, area studies, field-based learning, and the evolution of grading. He co-produces the *Home on the Dot* podcast with NUS students, which explores the meaning of home on the little red dot called Singapore. Chris grew up in a small town in Iowa but has lived outside the U.S. for much of his adult life, including Japan and Singapore, which he calls home.

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# Japanische Gartenkunst Ästhetik und Gestaltung

Eine japanisch-sprachige *u: japan lecture* mit YAMADA Takuhiro



Thursday  
2022-10-20  
18<sup>30</sup>~20<sup>00</sup>



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# Japanische Gartenkunst Ästhetik und Gestaltung

Eine japanisch-sprachige *u: japan lecture* mit YAMADA Takuhiro

In diesem Vortrag gibt der Gartenbaumeister Takuhiro YAMADA Einblicke in die Ästhetik der japanischen Gartentradition und ihre verschiedenen Gestaltungen. Sein Familienbetrieb in Kyoto (Hanatoyo Landscape Co., Ltd./Kyoto) betreut seit Generationen Gärten von wichtigen Kulturerbestätten, wie beispielsweise die Gartenanlagen der kaiserlichen Villa Katsura Rikyu oder des Ryoanji-Tempels.



**YAMADA Takuhiro** (Gartenbaumeister)

Der ausgewiesene und international erfahrene Gartenbaumeister stammt aus einer Familie, die seit Generationen in der Gartenkunst tätig ist (u.a. für Gärten in Kulturerbestätten, wie Tempelanlagen und Samurai-Burgen).

Anlass seines Besuches in Wien ist die Restaurierung des japanischen Steingartens am Campus (Hof 2) der Universität Wien (s. Workshop „Japanische Gartenkunst hautnah“, vom 17. bis 19.10.2022. (Profilfoto, copyright: Yamada Takuhiro)



Photograph by K.T.Cannon-Eger

Der japanische Steingarten im Hof 2 des Campus ist die „Visitenkarte“ des Instituts für Ostasienwissenschaften. Er wurde 1999 anlässlich des 60-Jahre-Jubiläums des Faches Japanologie an der Universität Wien von Prof. Sepp Linhart initiiert, von Eishin Harada (Tokyo) konzipiert und gestiftet und von Hiraaki Kishimoto (Osaka) ausgeführt. Die Steine wurden eigens aus Japan importiert: Der Kies stammt aus

Kyoto, die Wellensteine von der Insel Shikoku, die Mikage-Steinkugeln aus Kobe und der Wasserfall-Felsen vom Berg Ikoma bei Nara. In der japanischen Gartenkunst ist der Zaun auch essenzieller Bestandteil: So symbolisiert der Bambuszaun dieses Gartens ein Schiff und verweist auf den Wunsch, Studierende mögen das erworbene Wissen in die Welt weitertragen.

Die Präsentation ist auf Japanisch und wird ins Deutsche gedolmetscht.

Thursday  
2022-10-20  
18<sup>30</sup>~20<sup>00</sup>

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# Depopulation, property, and land issues

Addressing the *akiya mondai* in regional Japan

A hybrid *u:japan* lecture by Niccolò Lollini

Thursday  
2022-10-27  
18<sup>30</sup>~20<sup>00</sup>



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# Depopulation, property, and land issues

## Addressing the *akiya mondai* in regional Japan

A hybrid *u:japan lecture* by Niccolò Lollini

This talk explores the causes and the consequences of property abandonment in regional Japan, as well as the paradox of new settlers from the city struggling to find land and houses in depopulating rural areas. Property has long been conceptualized as a bundle of rights, a metaphor pointing to the complexity of ownership and the plurality of stakeholders involved. Only by unravelling this bundle is it possible to make sense of Japan's vacant housing crisis and its paradoxes. Property abandonment is shown to be more than a consequence of depopulation and to largely depend on the institutional and social context surrounding land ownership.

Thursday  
2022-10-27  
18<sup>30</sup>~20<sup>00</sup>



**Niccolò Lollini** just completed a doctorate in social anthropology at the University of Oxford. His thesis explores the role of agriculture in the revitalization of regional Japan following the recent rise of pro-rural migration. His research interests include agri-food systems, property issues, and rural forms of organization.

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# 高森町の自助・共助・公助について

## Selbsthilfe, Kooperation und staatliche Hilfe in Takamori-machi

Eine japanisch-sprachige *u:Japan lecture* mit TSURU Tomoyuki



Photograph by Endo Hiroshi (https://www.endohrs.com)

Thursday  
2022-11-03  
18<sup>30</sup>~20<sup>00</sup>



<https://japanologie.univie.ac.at/ujapanlectures>



# 高森町の自助・共助・公助について

## Selbsthilfe, Kooperation und staatliche Hilfe in Takamori-machi

Eine japanisch-sprachige *u:Japan lecture* mit TSURU Tomoyuki

阿蘇山のカルデラ内に位置する高森町は、地形上、様々な災害の危機に面しています。安全・安心に暮らすため、自分だけでなく隣近所のひと、集落のひと、行政の職員など、協力しながら過ごしています。

また、少子高齢化、人口の減少など様々な課題を抱え、町民だけでなく外部からの人材を招いて解決策を検討しています。今回は以下の3点について紹介します。

Takamori liegt in der Caldera des Aso-Vulkans und sieht sich aufgrund seiner topographischen Lage einer Vielzahl von Katastrophen gegenübergestellt. Um in Sicherheit leben zu können, ist eine Kooperation von den Bewohner\*innen mit ihrer Nachbarschaft, der Siedlung, aber auch der Verwaltung unerlässlich. Zudem werden zunehmend Anstrengungen unternommen, vor dem Hintergrund der demographischen Herausforderungen auch Personen von außerhalb der Region einzuladen, sich in Takamori niederzulassen. Dieser Vortrag möchte Einblicke in das Leben in Takamori aus der Perspektive eines Lokalpolitikers geben und konzentriert sich dabei auf die folgenden Aspekte:

- 1) Vorstellung der Aktivitäten der *Chiiki Okoshi Kyōryokutai* (z.B. Die Frauenband oder Möglichkeiten der Förderung des Fremdenverkehrs).
- 2) Vorstellung der Aktivitäten der *Shūroku Shien-in* (Mitarbeiter\*innen zur Unterstützung des Wohnorts), insbesondere Maßnahmen zur Unterstützung der älteren Bevölkerung sowie zur Revitalisierung der Gemeinde.
- 3) Vorstellung des Katastrophentrainings bei Naturkatastrophen.



津留智幸 [つるともゆき]

1965年生まれ (57歳)、高校卒業後、農業を継承 (コメ・花栽培)、1991年 結婚 (3人の娘)、2019年高森町議会議員に初当選 (現在1期目)

議員の仕事: 年4回の定例会・臨時議会に出席しての審議、行政のチェック・アドバイス、住民からの要望・意見の伝達、先進地視察

**TSURU Tomoyuki** (Lokalpolitiker)

geboren 1965, ist Landwirt (Reisanbau und Blumenzucht) und seit 2019 Abgeordneter im Stadtrat von Takamori-machi.

In dieser Funktion nimmt er an regelmäßigen Ratssitzungen teil, kontrolliert bzw. berät die lokale Politik und sammelt Meinungen der Bevölkerung.

- ① 地域おこし協力隊の活動について (女性だけの歌劇団・観光推進機構)
- ② 集落支援員の活動について (高齢者支援・集落の活性化)
- ③ 自然災害の避難訓練について

Der Vortrag wird in japanischer Sprache gehalten. Bei der Diskussion werden Fragen aus dem Publikum gerne auch ins Japanische übersetzt.

Thursday  
2022-11-03  
18<sup>30</sup>~20<sup>00</sup>

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# Shurijō in 2022

## The Politics of Cultural Heritage on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Okinawa's Reversion

A hybrid *u:japan* lecture by Tze M. Loo

2019年(令和元年)  
10月31日(木)  
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郵便番号 〒900-8525  
那覇市泉崎1-10-3  
©琉球新報社2019年

Thursday  
2022-11-10  
18<sup>30</sup>~20<sup>00</sup>

号外

琉球新報  
THE RYUKYU SHIMPO

# 首里城 全焼



## 正殿と北殿崩れる 未明に発生、消火続く

The Ryukyu Shimpo  
newspaper extra  
2019-10-31

炎上する首里城 31日 午前4時45分那覇市首里城



31日午前2時50分ごろ、那覇市首里城町  
の首里城で火災が発生した。同午前5時前  
には正殿と北殿が全焼し、南城内に  
るほかの建物にも次々と燃え広がっている  
のほかに、同日午前7時半ごろ、  
県警や消防によると、同日午前7時半ごろ、  
首里城関係施設内の建物への  
けが人や首里城関係施設内の建物への  
は確認されていない。消防署が  
近で消火活動を行っている。那覇市の  
原因や詳しい被害を調査する。  
那覇市消防局によると、同日午前5時  
に警備会社から正殿の火報知器が  
の通報があった。同午前5時  
発音も確認された。周囲にわた  
が飛び、県警は周辺道路へ避難  
立ち入りを規制。周辺住民への誘導  
周辺公民館など避難場所へ(44  
近くに住む宮城正殿さん(44  
首と真っ赤に染まった空を見  
いたという。なぜ首は正殿まで  
はずだ。なぜ首は正殿まで  
琉球王朝の御衣(ぎん)かな儀式  
首里城祭(てい)・同実行委  
月3日まで、首里城開城500周年の  
首里城は、1972年の復帰  
られ、1999年の国指定  
として琉球王国の象徴  
化遺産として普遍的価値  
国の文化遺産及び関連  
年に世界遺産に認定

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# Shurijō in 2022

## The Politics of Cultural Heritage on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Okinawa's Reversion

A hybrid *u:japan* lecture by Tze M. Loo

Fifty years after Okinawa's reversion to Japan, the presence of U.S. military bases in the islands remains a source of deep friction between the prefecture and the central government in Tokyo.

despite Okinawa's attempts to stop it lays bare the profound asymmetry of power that endures between periphery and center.

Thursday  
2022-11-10  
18<sup>30</sup>~20<sup>00</sup>



**Tze M. Loo** is an Associate Professor of History at the University of Richmond and is the author of *Heritage Politics: Shuri Castle and Okinawa's Incorporation into Modern Japan, 1879-2000* (Lanham: Lexington, 2014). Her current book project examines the transformations to Okinawa's ritual landscapes that accompanied Okinawa's incorporation into the modern Japanese nation state.

Okinawans' repeated opposition to base construction at Henoko and Tokyo's insistence on the base's completion despite that popular opposition has come to encapsulate and symbolize that friction. The fact that construction crawls forward

In contrast to the prefecture's limited range of options in the base issue, this talk considers Okinawa's deployment of its cultural heritage as a sphere of action from which a different picture of the prefecture emerges. Specifically, it shows how current plans to rebuild Shurijō – castle of the Ryukyuan court and putative symbol of Okinawan culture – following a devastating fire in 2019 suggest that the prefecture is strategically fashioning a more assertive self that gives it an ability to bend mainland agendas to better suit its purposes. This assertiveness impacts the castle's rebuilding project, but also has the potential to contribute to the current prefectural leadership's willingness to take a stronger position vis-à-vis Tokyo to safeguard Okinawa's interests.

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# Furry Companions

## Pets in Contemporary Japan

A hybrid *u:japan* lecture by Barbara Holthus

Thursday  
2022-11-24  
18<sup>30</sup>~20<sup>00</sup>



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# Furry Companions

## Pets in Contemporary Japan

A hybrid *u:japan* lecture by Barbara Holthus

Thursday  
2022-11-24  
18<sup>30</sup>~20<sup>00</sup>

The accelerated interest in pets in especially urban Japan has not started with the pandemic but certainly has been intensified by it. For more than two years, as anti-Covid measures, Japanese had been told to engage in

void in human-human interaction. While the U.S. and some European countries reported near-empty animal shelters in the early phase of the pandemic due to a sudden spike in people adopting an animal, Japanese animal shelters saw less of that – as Japanese remain more inclined to “shop” a new family member at a pet shop than adopt a shelter animal.

The growing popularity of pets, together with the accompanying normative, social, and legal changes regarding pet ownership within Japanese society are the focus of this presentation. Data comes from interviews with pet owners, pet-business owners, shelter organizations and their volunteers, from participant observation at pet-related public events, in pet shops and pet cafes, as well as from the analysis of publications by the Ministry of the Environment, the National Police Agency, but also from sources such as Instagram, YouTube, as well as manga and TV drama. This presentation tries to highlight the embeddedness and changing role of pets in Japanese society.



**Barbara Holthus**, PhD in Sociology, Univ. of Hawaii at Manoa, is deputy director at the German Institute for Japanese Studies in Tokyo. Her research is on Japanese families, demographic change, happiness and well-being, the Tokyo Olympics, and social movements. Currently she is writing a book on pets in Japan.

physical distancing and “self-restraint”. This has led to many people spending extended periods of time at home while less time with family and friends. In response, pets as “substitute” family members often helped to fill the

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# Transpacific Visions

Connected Histories of the Pacific  
across North and South

A hybrid *u:japan* lecture by Yasuko Hassall Kobayashi

Thursday  
2022-12-01  
18<sup>30</sup>~20<sup>00</sup>

Photo by: Lisa Mylind / iStockphoto.com



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# Transpacific Visions

## Connected Histories of the Pacific across North and South

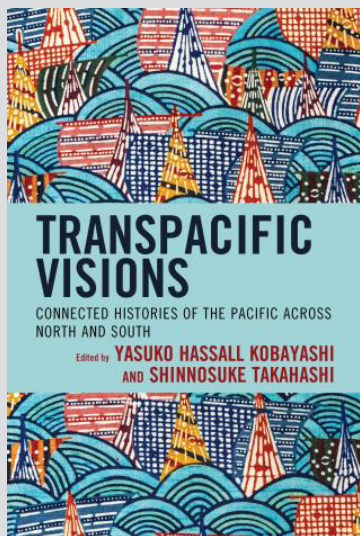
A hybrid *u:japan* lecture by Yasuko Hassall Kobayashi

Thursday  
2022-12-01  
18<sup>30</sup>~20<sup>00</sup>

This seminar talk is about the book *Transpacific Visions: Connected Histories of the Pacific across North and South*, published in 2021. While transatlantic history has been much investigated, its counterpart, transpacific history, has only recently attracted scholarly interest. In addition, the focus of transpacific history has been predominantly northern Hemisphere-centric connections, basically US-Asian connections: i.e., those between a hegemonic western country and Asian countries -- either as colonies, trust territories or independent countries (e.g., Hoskins & Nguyen 2014). However, there is more to be explained in the transpacific space beyond such a Northern Hemisphere-centric perspective.

This book argues that transpacific history cannot be comprehended without including “vertical” con-

nections; namely, those between the southern hemisphere and the northern hemisphere. It explores such connections by uncovering small histories of ordinary people’s attempts at événements which they undertake by means of uneven, unlevel, and multidirectional mobilities. In this way, this book goes beyond the usual notion of transpacific history as a matter of Northern Hemisphere-centric connections and enables us to imagine the transpacific space as a more dynamic and multi-faceted world of human mobilities and connections. By exploring cases whose actors include soldiers, missionaries, colonial administrators, journalists, essayists, and artists, the book highlights the significance of „vertical“ perspectives in understanding complex histories of the region.



**Yasuko Hassall Kobayashi** is Associate Professor at the College of Global Liberal Arts, Ritsumeikan University, Japan. She also holds the position of Assistant Executive Director, Division of Global Planning and Partnerships, Ritsumeikan University; and is an Honorary Associate Professor at the School of Culture, History and Language, ANU College of Asia and the Pacific, the Australian National University. Her main research interest lies in transnational migration and mobilities occurring within the Asia and Pacific region, and in social histories of transnational migration and mobilities. Her two recent books are: (1) (in English, co-edited) *Transpacific Visions Connected Histories of the Pacific across North and South* (2021, Lexington Books), and (2) (in Japanese, co-authored) *A World History of Trade and Transportation* (2021, Seizendo-Shoten Publishing).



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