# JESSAMYN REICH ABEL

Asian Studies Department Pennsylvania State University jessamyn.abel@psu.edu 201C Old Botany Building University Park, PA 16802 (814) 865-3931

### **Employment**

Pennsylvania State University, Asian Studies Department.

- —Associate Professor (July 1, 2020-present)
- —Assistant Professor (2014-2020)
- —Affiliated Faculty, School of International Affairs (2016-present)
- —Senior Lecturer, History Department (2009-2014)

Bowling Green State University, History Department, Assistant Professor (2006-2008). Massachusetts Institute of Technology, History Faculty, Lecturer (Fall 2005).

#### **Education**

Columbia University, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Ph.D. in History (1998-2004).

Concentration in Modern Japanese History; Advisor: Carol Gluck

University of Tokyo, Institute of Social Science, Visiting Researcher (2001-2003).

Columbia University, School of International and Public Affairs, Master's (1994-1997).

Princeton University, Department of Politics, B.A. (1988-1992).

#### **Grants and Fellowships**

Humanities Institute Resident Scholar, Penn State University (Spring 2019).

Center for the Study of Sports in Society Faculty Research Grant, Penn State Univ. (2018).

Center for Humanities and Information Faculty Fellow, Penn State University (Spring 2016).

NEAC-AAS, Short-term Research Travel to Japan Grant (Summer 2015).

Japan Foundation Short-Term Research Fellowship, for research travel (Summer 2013).

20th Century Japan Research Award, University of Maryland, College Park (Spring 2013).

Harvard-Yenching Travel Grant, Harvard University, for research travel (Summer 2012).

Kent Forster Memorial Fund Award, Penn State Univ., for research travel (Summer 2011).

Advanced Research Fellow, Program on U.S.-Japan Relations, Harvard Univ. (2008-2009).

Japan Foundation Short-Term Research Fellowship, for research travel (Summer 2008). Postdoctoral Fellowship, Expanding East Asian Studies Prog., Columbia Univ. (2004-2005).

Richard Hofstadter Multi-year Fellowship from the Columbia History Dept. (1998-2004).

Dissertation Fellowship, Columbia University (2003-2004).

Fulbright-Institute of International Education Grant: research in Japan (2001-2003).

Weatherhead Training Grant: German language study in Düsseldorf, Ger. (Summer 2001).

President's Fellowship, Columbia University (2000-2001).

Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (1999-2000, Summer 1997, and 1996-1997). Weatherhead Fellowship (1998-1999).

Blakemore Foundation Fellowship, Japanese language study, Yokohama, Japan (1997-98).

#### **Publications**

## **BOOKS AND EDITED VOLUMES**

- Dream Super-Express: A Cultural History of the World's First Bullet Train (Stanford University Press, 2022).
- The International Minimum: Creativity and Contradiction in Japan's Global Engagement, 1933-1964 (University of Hawai'i Press, 2015).
- Co-editor with Leo Coleman. "Infrastructures and Global Political Aesthetics." Special issue of *Verge: Studies in Global Asias* 6, no. 2 (2020).

### **ARTICLES**

- "Information Society on Track: Communication, Crime, and Japan's First Bullet Train." *Journal of Japanese Studies* 47, no. 2 (Summer 2021): 349-379.
- "Technologies of Cold War Diplomacy: Transforming Japan." *Technology and Culture* (January 2021): 128-155.
- (With Leo Coleman), "Dreams of Infrastructure in Global Asias." Introduction to the special issue of *Verge: Studies in Global Asias* 6, no. 2 (2020): xi-xxix.
- "Railway Stations and the Production of Invisibile Infrastructures." *City and Society* (August 2020) DOI: 10.1111/CISO.12322.
- "Borrowed Spectacle: Olympic Rhetoric in Political Battles." In *The Routledge Handbook of Sport in Asia*, edited by Fan Hong and Lu Zhouxiang, 515-521. Routledge, 2020.
- "The Power of a Line: How the Bullet Train Transformed Urban Space." *Positions: Asia Critique* 27, no. 3 (August 2019): 531-555.
- "Ethics and Internationalism in Japanese Education, 1933-1945." *Modern Asian Studies* 52, no. 2 (March 2018): 532-575.
- "Cultural Internationalism and Japan's Wartime Empire." In *Tumultuous Decade: Japan's Challenge to the International System, 1931-41*, edited by Tosh Minohara and Masato Kimura, 17-43. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2013.
- "Japan's Sporting Diplomacy: The 1964 Tokyo Olympiad." *The International History Review* 34, no. 2 (June 2012): 1-18.
- "When Athletes Are Diplomats: Competing for World Opinion at the Tokyo Olympiads." In *The East Asian Olympiads 1934-2008: Building Bodies and Nations in Japan, Korea, and China*. edited by William M. Tsutsui and Michael Baskett, 49-62. Global Oriental, 2011.
- "The Ambivalence of Whaling: Conflicting Cultures in Identity-Formation." In *JAPANimals: History and Culture in Japan's Animal Life*, edited by Gregory M. Pflugfelder and Brett L. Walker, 315-340. Michigan Monograph Series in Japanese Studies 52. Center for Japanese Studies, University of Michigan, 2005.

### *REVIEWS*

- Review of Jeremy A. Yellen, *The Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere: When Total Empire Met Total War* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2019) in *American Historical Review* (forthcoming, June 2021).
- Review of Kate McDonald, *Placing Empire: Travel and the Social Imagination in Imperial Japan* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2017) in *Journal of Japanese Studies* 45, no. 2 (Summer 2019): 411-414.

- Review of Stefan Huebner, *Pan-Asian Sports and the Emergence of Modern Asia, 1913-1974* (Singapore: National University of Singapore Press, 2016) in *Journal of American-East Asian Relations* 24, no. 2-3 (2017): 290-292.
- Review of Yoshimi Yoshiaki, *Grassroots Fascism: The War Experience of the Japanese People*, Ethan Mark, trans. (New York: Columbia University Press, 2015) in *Pacific Historical Review* 85.3 (August 2016).
- "A Historical Railroad Journey: Review of the Railway Museum in Saitama City, Japan," *Transfers: Interdisciplinary Journal of Mobility Studies* 4.3 (Winter 2014).
- Review of Sven Saaler and Christopher W.A. Szpilman, eds. *Pan-Asianism: A Documentary History*, 2 vols. (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2011) in *Pacific Affairs* 85.3 (Sept 2012).
- Review of James R. Brandon, *Kabuki's Forgotten War: 1931-1945* (Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2009) in *International Journal of Asian Studies* 7.1 (January 2010) 91-93.
- Review of Ray A. Moore and Donald L. Robinson, *Partners for Democracy: Crafting the New Japanese State under MacArthur* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002) in *Journal of American-East Asian Relations* 12.1-2 (Spring-Summer 2003) 129-131.

## Presentations, Seminars, and Workshops

- "Tokyo Olympics, Past and Present," Penn State Alumni Association Virtual Speaker Series, online (May 2021).
- Discussant, Infrastructure cluster, InterAsia Academy, Social Science Research Council InterAsia Program, online (February 2021).
- "Borrowed Spectacle: Olympic Symbolism in Political Battles," presentation to "Be Better, Together" Japanese Studies Curriculum Development across CUNY, supported by the Japan Foundation, online (February 2021).
- "The Fast Trains of a World Power: Nostalgia for Empire in Postwar Japan," Asian Studies Program, Vanderbilt University, online (October 2020).
- Keynote lecture, *Japan Studies Institute* (sponsored by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities), San Diego State University (June 2020). [Canceled due to COVID-19].
- "The Tokyo Olympics: Promises and Pitfalls of Hosting," *Japan Studies Institute* (sponsored by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities), webinar, online (May 2020).
- "Democratic Infrastructures: Planning the First Bullet Train, 1958-1964," *Program on U.S.-Japan Relations Seminar Series*, Harvard University (October 2019).
- "The Tokyo Olympiads: 1940 1964 2020," *Japan Studies Institute* (sponsored by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities), San Diego State University (June 2019).
- "The Fast Trains of a Modern Power: Manchurian Rail in Japanese Empire and Memory," *Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting*, Denver (March 2019). "Infrastructural Imaginaries I: Projects and Places," Panel Chair, Organizer, and Presenter.
  - Also organized the partner panel, "Infrastructural Imaginaries II: Spaces of Alterity."
- "Bullet Train on the Home Front: Postwar Nostalgia for Imperial Japan," Humanities Institute, PSU (March 2019).
- "The Fast Trains of a Modern Power: Locomotion of Japanese Empire and Postwar Nostalgia," *On the Natural History of Destruction: Technology, Politics, and Material Transformation in Asia's Long World War II*, Columbia University (October 2018).
- "Sporting New Images: The Uses and Abuses of Olympic Symbolism (1940, 1964, 2020)," *Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting*, Washington, DC (March 2018).

- "Rickshaws and Rockets: Exhibiting Japan at the 1964 World's Fair," *American Historical Association Annual Meeting*, Washington, DC (January 2018). "Displaying the Nation: Visions of Past and Future in Modern Japan," Panel Chair, Organizer, and Presenter.
- "Bullet Train Cities: Urban Identities in Motion," *Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting*, Toronto (March 2017). "The Transported Self: Mobility and Identity in Modern East Asia," Panel Organizer, Chair, and Presenter.
- "Bullet Train Battles in Japanese Popular Culture," *American Historical Association Annual Meeting*, Denver (January 2017). "The Power of Mobility: Feet, Wheels, and Rails in Modern East Asia," Panel Chair, Organizer, and Presenter.
- "Urban Space and Metropolitan Identity in the Bullet Train City," *Ethnographies of Mass Transportation in a Globalized World*, Center for International Research in the Humanities and Social Science, New York University (May 2016).
- "From Communication Line to Data Point: The Bullet Train as Information," Center for Humanities and Information, PSU (April 2016).
- "Speed on Display: The Bullet Train at the New York World's Fair," *Utopias on Display: Visions of Past and Future in Modern Japan*, Asian Studies Department and the Global Japan Project, PSU (April 2016).
- "Bullet Train to a New City," *Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting*, Chicago (March 2015). "Culture of the Networked City in Postwar Asia," Session Chair, Organizer, and Presenter.
- "Super-Express, Mega-Events, and the Bullet Train City," *Cities: Pacific Rim Series*, Institute for the Arts and Humanities, PSU (February 2015).
- "Technology Heroes, Station Activists, and Bullet Train Ladies: The Infrastructure of Postwar Japanese Identities," *Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting*, Philadelphia (March 2014). "Conceptual Infrastructures: Environment, Identity, and Globalization in Transwar Japan," Panel Chair, Organizer, and Presenter.
- "Planes, Trains, and Rocket-ships: The Threat of Japanese Technology in U.S.-Japanese Relations," *American Historical Association Annual Meeting*, Washington, DC (January 2014). "Beyond Vietnam: Shifting Threat Perceptions of East Asia during the Kennedy Years," Presenter.
- "The Bullet Train and Techno-Internationalism," *DIJ German Institute for Japanese Studies History & Humanities Study Group*, Tokyo (July 2013).
- "Imperialism and Internationalism in East Asian Community Theory," *Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting*, San Diego (March 2013). "Imagining Asia in the 1920s and 1930s," Panel Chair, Organizer, and Presenter.
- "The Soft Power of Hardware: The Bullet Train in Japanese Foreign Policy," *American Historical Association Annual Meeting*, Chicago (January 2012). "Tech-Nation: Networks of Technology, Transportation, and Power in 20th Century Japan," Panel Chair, Organizer, and Presenter.
- "TechNation: The Postwar Development of a 'New Japan," Science, Technology and Medicine in East Asia: Policy, Practice, and Implications in a Global Context, Ohio State Univ. (Oct. 2011).
- "A Sustainable Asian Role for Postwar Japan: The 1955 Bandung Conference," *Mid-Atlantic Regional Association for Asian Studies Conference*, Pennsylvania State University (Oct. 2010).
- "The 'International Mind' in 1930s Japan," *Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting*, Philadelphia (March 2010).
- "Cultivating the 'International Mind' in Wartime Japan," *Politics and Modern Society Workshop*, Pennsylvania State University (March 2010).

- "Japan on the Margins at the Bandung Conference," *Program on U.S.-Japan Relations Seminar*, Harvard University (April 2009).
- "Learning Ultra-nationalist Internationalism in Wartime Japan," *Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting*, Chicago (March 2009).
- "Governing Bodies and the 1964 Tokyo Olympics," *New England Regional Conference for the Association of Asian Studies*, University of Massachussetts-Boston (October 2008).
- "When Athletes Are Diplomats: Competing for World Opinion at the Tokyo Olympiads," *Olympic Games in East Asia Symposium*, University of Kansas (April 2008).
- "Casting Imperialism as Regional Cooperation: The Greater East Asian Conference of 1943," *Midwest Japan Seminar*, St. Xavier University (April 2008).
- "People's Diplomacy and the Tokyo Olympics: 1940 and 1964," *Japan and the World Conference*, Wittenberg University (November 2006).
- "The Japanese Road to Bandung: Imperialism, Regionalism, and Internationalism in Asia, 1943-1955," *Whose International Community? Universalism and the Legacies of Empire*, Center for International History Conference, Columbia University (April 2005).
- "Cultural Internationalism and Japan's Wartime Empire," *Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting*, Chicago (March 2005).
- "Warring Internationalisms: Multilateral Thinking, 1933-1945," *Modern Japanese History Workshop*, Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan (September 2002).
- "The Ambivalence of Whaling: Formation of a Japanese International Identity," *Animals / History / Japan Symposium*, Columbia University (April 2001).

## **Teaching**

Pennsylvania State University (2009-present).

Courses: What is Asia?, Sports in Asia, International Culture in East Asia, Technology and Society in Japan/Asia, Japan in the World, Survey of Japanese Civilization, Early Modern Japan, Modern Japan Since 1800, History of Modern East Asia, First-Year Seminars in Asian Studies and History, Undergraduate Seminars in Asian Studies and History (writing-intensive), Asian Studies Graduate Proseminar II.

Bowling Green State University, Assistant Professor (2006-2008): Asian Civilizations, Pre-Modern Japan, Modern Japan, International Culture in East Asia, Graduate Seminar: Japanese History.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Lecturer (Fall 2005): Ancient Japan and the Courtly Society, Emergence of the Modern Japanese State.

Columbia University, Postdoctoral Fellow (Fall 2004): Crossing Cultures: International Culture in East Asia.

### **Service**

Editorial collective, Verge: Studies in Global Asias (Fall 2014-present).

- Co-editor of special issue on Infrastructure (2020).
- Organizer, Global Asias panel (2017), roundtable (2019)
- Co-director of 2018 Summer Institute.

Director of Undergraduate Studies, Asian Studies Department (May 2014-June 2021).

- Created Integrated Undergraduate-Graduate programs with the School of International Affairs for the Asian Studies, Chinese, and Japanese majors.
- Restructured and expanded the undergraduate curriculum.
- Recertified, strengthened, and expanded our list of General Education courses.

Hiring and promotion committees: participated in seven committees from 2017 to 2021.

Honors Advisor, Asian Studies and Korean (2014-2021).

Faculty working group member and lecturer, *Moments of Change: Remembering '68* Program, PSU College of Liberal Arts (2017-2018).

Legendary Liberal Arts Course Incubator (2017-2018).

Curricular Affairs Committee, College of the Liberal Arts (2014-2015, 2016-2018).

Reviewer, Harvard University Program on U.S.-Japan Relations, Postdoctoral Fellowships (2016).

Reviewer, Social Science Research Council, Dissertation Proposal Development Fellowship Program (2015-2016).

Co-organizer, "Utopias on Display" workshop, Penn State Global Japan Project (2015-2016).

Head of selection committee, CHI Predoctoral Fellowship (Fall 2015, member in Fall 2016).

NEAC Distinguished Speaker Grant for visit by Carol Gluck (March 17-18, 2014).

New Course Proposal Coordinator, History Department (2013-2014).

Committee member, Japan-GEN Task Force (spring 2013).