

JESSAMYN REICH ABEL

Asian Studies and History Departments
Pennsylvania State University

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Education

Columbia University, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (1998-2004).

M.A. (1999), M.Phil. (2001), Ph.D. (2004), History.

Field of Concentration: Modern Japanese History.

Minor Fields: Early Modern Japan, Modern China, International Relations.

Dissertation: "Warring Internationalisms: Multilateral Thinking in Japan, 1933-1964"

Advisor: Carol Gluck

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

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

Master of International Affairs: Regional Specialization in East Asia.

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

Employment

Pennsylvania State University, Asian Studies and History Departments.

—Assistant Professor (2014-present).

—Senior Lecturer (2009-2014).

Bowling Green State University, History Department, Assistant Professor (2006-2008).

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, History Faculty, Lecturer (Fall 2005).

Grants and Fellowships

PSU Center for Humanities and Information Faculty Fellow (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, Miller Center for Historical Studies, Univ. of Maryland, College Park (Spring 2013).

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

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

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

Japan Foundation Short-Term Research Fellowship, for research travel (Summer 2008).

Postdoctoral Fellowship, Expanding East Asian Studies Program, Columbia Univ. (2004-2005).

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

Dissertation Fellowship, Columbia University (2003-2004).

Fulbright-Institute of International Education Grant, for dissertation research in Japan (2001-2003).

Weatherhead Training Grant, for German language study in Düsseldorf, Germany (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, for Japanese language study in Yokohama, Japan (1997-1998).

Current Research

Speeding Bullet: A Cultural History of "The World's Fastest Train"

My current research is on the cultural history of the first bullet train in Japan in the context of the international race toward high-speed rail in the twentieth century.

Publications

BOOK

The International Minimum: Creativity and Contradiction in Japan's Global Engagement, 1933-1964 (University of Hawai'i Press, 2015).

ARTICLES

"Cultural Internationalism and Japan's Wartime Empire." *Tumultuous Decade: Japan's Challenge to the International System, 1931-41*. Eds. Tosh Minohara and Masato Kimura. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2013.

"Japan's Sporting Diplomacy: The 1964 Tokyo Olympiad." *The International History Review* 34:2 (June 2012), 1-18.

"When Athletes Are Diplomats: Competing for World Opinion at the Tokyo Olympiads." *The East Asian Olympiads 1934-2008: Building Bodies and Nations in Japan, Korea, and China*. Eds. William M. Tsutsui and Michael Baskett. Folkestone, UK: Global Oriental, 2011.

"The Ambivalence of Whaling: Conflicting Cultures in Identity-Formation." *JAPANimals: History and Culture in Japan's Animal Life*. Eds. Gregory M. Pflugfelder and Brett L. Walker. Michigan Monograph Series in Japanese Studies 52. Ann Arbor: Center for Japanese Studies, University of Michigan, 2005.

REVIEWS

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* (forthcoming).

"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

- “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*, 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 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 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 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 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 Massachusetts-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

Assistant Professor, Asian Studies and History (Fall 2014-present)

Senior Lecturer, Asian Studies and History (Fall 2013-Spring 2014).

Senior Lecturer, History (Fall 2009-Spring 2013).

Courses: What is Asia?, International Culture in East Asia, Technology and Society in Asia, History of Modern East Asia, Survey of Japanese Civilization, Early Modern Japan, Modern Japan Since 1800, Japan in the World, First-Year Seminar in History, Undergraduate Seminars in History and Asian Studies.

Undergraduate thesis advising: Kathryn Weller (2nd reader, 2011), Gregory Brown (2012)

Assistant Professor, Bowling Green State University (Fall 2006-Spring 2008).

—Courses: Asian Civilizations (first-year program and general education sections), Premodern Japan, Modern Japan, International Culture in East Asia, as well as graduate seminar and independent readings courses on Modern Japan and East Asia.

Lecturer, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Fall 2005).

—Designed and taught classes emphasizing writing, discussion, critical reading of primary sources, and historiographical debates: “Ancient Japan & the Courtly Society: From Prehistory to the Late 12th Century” and “Emergence of the Modern Japanese State, 1853-1952.”

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

— Developed and taught course for undergraduate and graduate students.

Service

PSU:

Director of Undergraduate Studies, Asian Studies Department (Fall 2014-present).

Member, *Verge* collective (Fall 2014-present).

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

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

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).

Field:

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

Reviewed manuscripts for *American Historical Review*, *Journal of World History*, *Japanese Studies*, *Japan Review*, *Verge*, Macmillan Publishers, and Ashgate Publishers.