

Reports by the Participants of the 2nd EAJS Publication Workshop

Attending the 2nd EAJS Publication Workshop (29 September–1 October 2018) in Ljubljana was a great opportunity for me to exchange ideas with ambitious young researchers and also offered me the unique experience of engaging in discussions with eminent scholars in the field. I gained significant knowledge on how to write a good article and on the publishing and reviewing process. These three days allowed me not only to improve my academic writing skills, but also to become a part of a promising academic network of young researchers. All participants were working on very interesting and diverse research topics, thus I could learn a lot of new things. The feedback received after each presentation was very constructive and focused on both general and specific aspects in order to meet all participants' needs. Receiving advice and feedback from such excellent and admirable advisors was a great honour. After giving a brief presentation of my article, "Sociosemiotic representations of *kawaii* in Japanese print advertising discourse", I received comments and suggestions from my fellow PhD students, and from my advisor a full, detailed report on my article and also additional bibliographic references to follow up.

I am extremely grateful to EAJS for making this workshop possible, especially to Prof em. Dr Andrej Bekeš, who had the patience to read my article and to provide effective feedback. The workshop was very well organised and it offered the possibility to interact with everyone throughout the whole day. I especially enjoyed that it was a friendly working environment in which we all had something interesting to learn and also that we were able to exchange ideas in order to improve our research.

Oana Maria Birlea
Babes Bolyai University, Romania

The second European Association for Japanese Studies' Publication Workshop took place in Ljubljana, Slovenia, from 29 September to 2 October 2018. The event brought together PhD candidates and young researchers from different backgrounds (academic and cultural), and distinguished scholars from various fields of Japanese Studies. This in itself was one of the main reasons for the workshop to be very constructive and fruitful. Rarely do aspiring academics, such as myself, have the chance to exchange opinions and ideas with leading specialists in their field. The engagement between presenters and advisors alone greatly contributed to the academic work of the young researchers. Each participant presented their accomplishments, and while each and every project stood out as original and of high quality, the counsel of our experienced colleagues seemed to add, in my opinion, the necessary final touch that would help us publish our work in the future.

What was even more helpful was that the workshop included presentations by people from the other side of academic publishing – managing editors of leading academic journals in the field of

Japanese Studies. Not only did they explain how the whole process of getting one's paper published works, but they also gave indispensable tips on how to structure our work to meet the standards of various journals, how to target specific audiences, how to make our work easier to find, how to polish our writing, etc.

In a nutshell, the workshop was a very fruitful event which covered a lot of ground in terms to its main objective, but was also a good opportunity to enjoy the atmosphere of Slovenia's delightful capital city in the company of many new acquaintances.

Martin Milchev Dimitrov
Sofia University, Bulgaria

For me, the idea of publishing something was always accompanied by the irrational fear of exploring a completely unknown territory. This led me to further delay the decision to wrap something up and to start searching for a possible journal to approach. Therefore, the call for applications for the 2nd EAJS Publication Workshop came at just the right time to push me to finally overcome this fear. I was sure that it was much easier to face this new challenge in a guided environment and with other colleagues in the same situation than to do it on my own. I was so confident because last year I had a similarly encouraging experience at the 13th EAJS Workshop for Doctoral Students. These workshops are also a great opportunity for researchers in Japanese Studies to build a solid network and feel less lonely in the early stages of our professional journey. The opportunity to meet scholars from different fields and to receive feedback from different perspectives was once again extremely useful. My advisor (Prof Ivo Smits) suggested at least five different ways for me to rewrite my first article and package future ones. Moreover, the expertise of Dr Isaac Gagné and Dr Meredith Shaw was invaluable in giving us insights into how the publication process actually works. They also shared with us many tips on how to improve the chances of success with our manuscripts and warned us about common (but easily avoidable) mistakes that they often come across as editors. Last but not least, our hosts from the University of Ljubljana were incredibly warm in their hospitality and we could not have hoped for a better experience!

Elena Follador
Cambridge University, United Kingdom

It is really difficult to sum up in a few lines the wonderful experience that the 2nd EAJS Publication Workshop, held at the University of Ljubljana, has been for me, especially taking the following into account: it was my first workshop and it was my first time in Slovenia. That is also the reason which explains my anxiety prior to the trip. However, as soon as I arrived in the city and met my fellows and the organisers of the workshop, that anxiety faded away and I started to feel as if I was at home. The EAJS, together with Prof em. Dr Andrej Bekeš, Dr Luka Culiberg and Dr Nataša Visočnik, all from the University of Ljubljana, arranged a workshop of the highest quality from an academic point of view, but without forgetting the human component, so important in this type of event. Thus, the interesting presentations held by the participants and the helpful tips on how to improve our articles and how to get them published in indexed scientific journals given during

the sessions by the visiting professionals —Prof Ivo Smits, from Leiden University; Dr Mark Hudson, from the Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History, Linguistic and Cultural Evolution; Dr Isaac Gagné, from the German Institute for Japanese Studies in Tokyo, and Managing Editor of *Contemporary Japan*; and Dr Meredith Shaw, from the University of Tokyo, and Managing Editor of the *Social Science Japan Journal*— blended with the smell and the flavour of the pastries and biscuits kindly offered to everybody during breaks each day, and with the enriching conversations on various topics held during lunches and dinners. All I can do is express my sincere gratitude to the organisers of the workshop and the Japan Foundation, which kindly provided the necessary funds for this inspiring and valuable initiative and, by accepting my proposal, gave me this unique opportunity to have such an experience, which was fantastic not only from an academic perspective, but also from the human point of view. I dedicate the following *tanka* poem —a farewell poem written on the very day of my return to Spain— to all of them and to my fellows as a small token of appreciation for those short but intensive days:

旅立ちや

愛しき日日の

思ひ出も

古町の如く

朝霧に消ゆ

Raul Fortes Guerrero
University of Valencia, Spain

The workshop provided me with an excellent opportunity to discuss fascinating research projects carried out by the workshop participants and to gain insights on how to publish peer-reviewed articles about my research. Since I had little opportunity to learn about publication strategies in academia, it was very fruitful for me to share and learn from the publication experience of the other participants. In addition, the comments and suggestions from the journal editors who attended the workshop as advisors were particularly helpful. We have discussed a wide range of issues related to publication. For instance, practical questions such as how to design your article depending on journals and target audience, how to deal with critical comments from editors and reviewers, how to choose keywords for your article, as well as what the abstract should contain. It was also helpful for me to understand different systematic strategies for a successful publication.

Furthermore, the interdisciplinary nature of the workshop enriched my research perspective. Since I am currently doing research in the field of Education and Gender Studies, the comments of the advisors and other participants, who are specialists in other academic disciplines (e.g. archaeology, religious studies, economics or philosophy), were all very inspiring for me.

I am very grateful to the EAJS and the colleagues in Ljubljana, who arranged the whole workshop. My stay was very pleasant and exciting. I was also very happy to see colleagues I had met at the EAJS PhD Workshop in Paris in summer 2016 again and to see how they were able to progress and develop their research projects. I sincerely hope we will maintain and develop this precious

transnational network further. All in all, it was a very encouraging workshop. Therefore, I hope that these workshops will continue to be organised in the future.

Ami Kobayashi

Heinrich-Heine-University Düsseldorf, Germany

I attended the publication workshop in Ljubljana with extreme pleasure and I learned a lot from it. I found the organisation excellent on each possible level, both in terms of academic content as well as in terms of logistics – venues, accommodation, the very generous lunches and dinners. I particularly want to mention the great friendliness of the hosting members, beginning with Professor Andrej Bekeš. I went back eager for many more occasions of such rich exchange.

I feel particularly grateful because I had also been selected as a participant for the EAJS PhD Workshop in Lisbon in 2017. Together with my thanks, I would like to compare the two experiences a little to share some hopefully constructive observations.

First of all: a smaller number of participants and shorter presentations helped us to stay focused for the entirety of the workshop, fostering lively conversations inside and outside the allotted times. I understand that including more participants is also important. I guess that between the 20 participants of the workshop in Lisbon and the 11 in Ljubljana, 15-16 might be optimal.

I enjoyed the structured format of the workshop with short seminar-like presentations by experts on the topic before and after most individual presentations. I think this has helped to create a more general sense of collegiality and to structure the workshop experience (it was certainly easier in this case, as the overarching theme of publishing was already defined).

It would have been impossible to read roughly 200 pages worth of articles before participating, but there were a couple of articles I would have liked to read beforehand. I understand that some participants might be reluctant to share materials just before submission, but leaving the option open (or perhaps just listing the article titles and e-mail addresses of the other participants a few weeks before to allow individual communication) or compiling a document with only the abstracts would have been useful in some cases to encourage deeper discussion.

On this line of thought: In the summer of 2018, I attended another doctoral workshop at Freie Universität Berlin, at which each participant was also the discussant for another participant's project. I found the format interesting, because it allowed us to hear how easy it was for someone else to adopt the basic ideas of our projects, who saw them with fresh eyes. The inclusion of a peer discussant in a publication workshop (about 5 minutes) could also help foster a fruitful discussion.

Last notes: together with others, I had the luck of receiving feedback from Dr Isaac Gagné, the managing editor of *Contemporary Japan*. Every commentator was accurate and helpful, but Dr Gagné later also sent us his written comments. Given the very concentrated time of the presentations, it was incredibly helpful to go through these comments later.

All in all, the workshop was a wonderful experience. Thanks to everyone who made the workshop possible and for the brilliant organisation. I very much hope to be able to participate in other EAJS events in the future.

Lorenzo Marinucci

Despite the lack of information and confusion prior to the workshop, the event itself was very well organised, engaging and intellectually stimulating. It was lovely to catch up with some familiar faces, but also to make new connections, which will hopefully provide the basis for future communications. I found the feedback that I got for my paper to be very helpful, as it brought some issues to my attention that I had not considered before. It also made me feel more confident about my manuscript, which I will hopefully be submitting to a journal soon. I learnt a lot from the presentations of other papers and the feedback they received, which I could also apply to my own draft. In particular, the information we received about the publishing process, how to submit a manuscript and how to avoid common mistakes, was extremely useful.

The workshop presents a unique opportunity to discuss one's own work in a very friendly atmosphere and to interact with other scholars in the wider field of Japanese Studies. It was fascinating to learn more about the other projects and comforting to realise that most people deal with similar issues when publishing their first manuscript. Thanks to this intellectual exchange, I feel very motivated to work on my own project again and to finally submit my manuscript. I sincerely hope that these kinds of workshops will become regular events in the future and I would like to express my gratitude to the organisers, hosts, supervisors and fellow participants for making this such a wonderful experience.

Nathalie Phillips

University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom

First of all, I would like to thank the EAJS for the wonderful opportunity to participate in the 2nd Publication Workshop in Ljubljana, Slovenia. I greatly appreciated the opportunity to meet established academics from the field of Japanese Studies as well as the managing editors of scientific journals. It was informative to receive first-hand information about the process of journal publishing as well as to get advice from outstanding researchers about the publication process.

The publication workshop was a great chance to get useful feedback for my draft paper and listen to the comments given to the fellow students about their articles. The workshop was held in a very friendly and supportive atmosphere. I would like to pass my cordial thanks to all the participants and organisers of the workshop: especially to Lorenz in Berlin and Luka, Nataša and Prof em Andrej Bekeš in Ljubljana. It was an enriching time both for building academic relationships as well as for making new friends among the fellow PhD students. As there is no Japanese Studies department at Tartu University, I was very grateful for and fascinated by being among people who share my interest for studying Japanese culture and history. If possible, I would like to participate again at a future EAJS workshop.

The workshop gave me useful feedback (particularly from Prof Mark Hudson and other participants) as well as strength and faith to carry on with my research. It could have been even more beneficial for all of us if the draft articles had been available to all participants beforehand in order to better prepare for the discussion.

Last but not least, Ljubljana University was very hospitable and I left with many new ideas for advancing my studies.

Ene Selart
Tartu University, Estonia

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank the EAJS and Ljubljana teams for their hard work and commitment. The workshop was very productive, intriguing and useful.

There are three essential things the workshop offered and which I deem important:

1. Showcasing, learning and engaging with each other

Participants had the opportunity to present their research topic and draft article. We shared our concerns and doubts about our work. At the same time, we also learned from, supported and engaged with each other. Of course, we also received a lot of productive feedback from the advisors and the colleagues from the University of Ljubljana.

2. Scholarly network

I had the pleasure to meet two of the workshop participants already at the EAJS PhD Workshop in Paris in 2016. Because of my presentation and academic background, Dr Isaac Gagné offered me to write a chapter and be a part of the reviewers for his book. I was also able to expand my network with other participants and workshop advisors. This is important, especially if your home university does not have extensive Japanese/Asian Studies, such as my home institution, the University of Warwick. A strong scholarly network is important for junior researcher like ourselves, as it also provides confidence and moral support.

3. General advice and information on academic publishing

I was able to both deepen my understanding of Japanese Studies publications and to share some of my experiences with my fellow participants. At Warwick, I underwent publication training in the business and management journal publication outlets, and learned the basic dos and don'ts in regard to publishing in academic journals, e.g. referencing, the 'one-paper-per-one-journal-submission-rule', and about publication scam/fraud. Equally importantly, I learnt that, as an author, one should have a certain amount of confidence, strategy and self-reliance in order to get one's work published.

I would also like to provide three pieces of feedback that may be helpful for future publication workshops:

- A. Pair participants and let them comment on each other's draft articles

In my experience, it is a good idea to pair participants. The general idea is that all participants have to read and give feedback on another participant's paper. The commenting participant is the first to have the opportunity to give comments after the presentation. This is followed by comments from a senior advisor. This would improve interaction between participants and allow all participants to engage in scholarly feedback and discussion.

B. Create an online EAJS resource platform pooling general advice and information on academic publishing

It would be a good idea to gather information from previous workshops, participants, journal editors and senior commentators in order to compile and share it. It is understandable that there are different rules for each scientific journal and research field. However, there are basic general skills, knowledge and institutions for publishing that authors should generally be familiar with. This platform could also serve as an online platform for resources and information about publishing for all EAJS members or even beyond. It could also provide a list of Japanese Studies journals and publishers, including, for example, the journal's objectives, research areas and/or rank.

C. Greater outreach and coverage

It is important to have diverse participants from different stages in their career and experience with academic publishing in the workshops. We can and should learn from each other. For example, learning from my own colleague at certain times can boost my self-confidence and facilitate discussion. Furthermore, in general, it is equally important to have senior scholars and journal editors in the workshops, as they have more experience and knowledge in this regard, which they can pass on to the next generation.

Perhaps it would be good to hold the publication workshop during the triennial EAJS International Conference. For instance, many other conferences, namely, AOM, AIB, EGOS and International HRM have both a 3-day PhD and a 3-day publication workshop. These activities are very much helpful to support early career scholars, e.g. doctoral and postdoctoral candidates. I remember that a session on academic publishing was held during the EAJS conference in Lisbon, where editors gave presentations and answered questions. If time and resources allow, such a meet-the-editor-session could be combined with a publication workshop.

Joey Soehardjo
Warwick University, United Kingdom

I am very thankful to have been selected to participate in the 2nd EAJS Publication Workshop. The workshop gave me the opportunity to focus on publication skills, which is such an intrinsic aspect of academic writing that PhD students such as me often shy away from it.

The strong point of the workshop was that both parts of the publication process came together: The author could meet the editor.

On the one hand, actual editors of Japanese Studies journals gave us hard facts about how important journal publication is for academic success and how the publication process works. The editors encouraged me to see publication as a serious opportunity to gain external perspectives on my work even before completing my dissertation. One memorable piece of advice was that the inclusion of an article in a subsequent book publication is permissible, but much more caution is required when turning parts of a book into an article. Much was said about how search engines and keyword tagging influence academic writing nowadays. The editors gave good practical advice, e.g. about the length and nature of good titles (be clear, not clever!) or including citable passages.

On the other hand, I was given the opportunity to experience the peer-review process of a submitted article myself, as all participants received a thorough comment on their draft article. Despite the commentators' focus on different aspects, common issues and problems soon emerged, such as the need to sufficiently explain the importance of a topic to a wider audience, or to focus and limit the arguments of a paper.

The overarching theme to me was that the outside perspective is always valuable and necessary in order to realise several viewpoints that may have eluded the author, but would enrich the paper and further publication prospects. The warm atmosphere of the workshop as prepared by the staff of the University of Ljubljana, the opportunity to come together at lunch and dinner, not to mention the life-saving coffee breaks, all contributed to an exchange of opinions and information that would not be possible in any other format.

Franziska Steffen
Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany

The 2nd EAJS Publication Workshop was an intensive four days of presentations, discussions, encounters with fascinating people and enjoying the small, picturesque city of Ljubljana, where meals are served copiously.

Publishing is challenging, so an opportunity to spend several days to explore this topic is invaluable. First of all, I would like to thank the professors for spending their scarce time reading the papers and commenting on them. The constructive criticism I received will help me greatly in rewriting my article with more focus and to develop my argument with greater clarity.

The two lectures on publishing by two journal editors were most enlightening, too. An overview of some common journals and publishers and their characteristics, reasons or possibilities to select one or the other journal, the peer-review process, some tips on choosing of keywords and titles, as well as an insider's view of the concrete workings of a journal and experiences of journal editors also provided a well-needed framework to approach academic publishing more strategically and, hopefully, more successfully.

The chance to meet with colleagues and learn about their stimulating research in a variety of fields, ranging from Heian literature over modern religion to post-war politics and economics, was also invaluable. Since I am based at a Japanese university, the workshop allowed me to connect with researchers in Europe, discuss academic matters with them and learn from their experiences and insights.

Last but not least, I very much appreciated the friendly atmosphere in which all workshop participants could mingle and talk. This workshop, as well as the EAJS activities in general, are characterised by a pronouncedly positive, encouraging spirit towards PhD candidates and younger scholars. I am most grateful for this. I would like to extend my thanks to all workshop participants, the EAJS and the Toshiba Foundation for realising this unique event.

Pieter Van Lommel
Tsukuba University, Japan

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