

EAJIS Council Election 2017

Candidates' Self-introductions and Statements

Prof Dr Verena Blechinger-Talcott

Statement

In my view, EAJIS plays an important role linking national associations of Japanese studies in Europe and, at the same time, forming a nexus between European Japan specialists and those in Japan, the United States and elsewhere. If elected, I would like to continue to work towards strengthening these networks, particularly within Europe, but also between European and American Japan specialists and colleagues in Japan. As a social scientist and a Japan specialist, I am also keen on expanding the Association's networks with associations in the individual disciplines in social sciences and the humanities. Moreover, in my own work, I have recently cooperated quite intensely and fruitfully with scholars working on China and South Korea. I would like to strengthen the perspective on Japan as part of East Asia as a region also within the EAJIS and would like to work towards a stronger cooperation with other associations in the field of (East) Asian Studies.

As treasurer of the EAJIS since 2011, I have been responsible for the EAJIS office, the EAJIS legal status as an association and related tax issues, and also for fund raising. In that role, together with the staff in the EAJIS office, I have been responsible for annual grant applications to the Japan Foundation and the Toshiba International Foundation to generate funding for the EAJIS office, but also for activities such as the EAJIS Ph.D. Workshops, the Publication Workshop, the Toshiba International Foundation Fellowships, and the triennial EAJIS International Conference. We also added some new programs, such as the travel support for the EASJ conference, or the TIFO alumni network which will get launched during the conference in Lisbon.

If elected, I intend to continue and expand the amount of services offered by the EAJIS office to its members. I also want to emphasize building networks with funding organizations to increase the amount of money the EAJIS can spend on research fellowships and training workshops, especially for young scholars.

Curriculum Vitae

Verena Blechinger-Talcott (*1966), is Professor of Japanese politics and political economy and Director of the Graduate School of East Asian Studies at Freie Universität Berlin, Germany.

Previous appointments include: Visiting Professor, Institute of Social Science, University of Tokyo (2008), Assistant Professor, Department of Government, Hamilton College, Clinton, NY (2003-2004), Advanced Research Fellow, Program on US-Japan Relations, Harvard University (2002-2003) and Research Fellow (1997-2002) and Deputy Director (2001-2002), German Institute for Japanese Studies (DIJ), Tokyo.

At FU Berlin, she was Associate Dean (2007-2009) and Dean of the Department of History and Cultural Studies (2009-2011). Since 2009, she has been Head of the FUB's Center for Area Studies. She is a member of FUB's (extended) Academic Senate (since 2013).

She is a member of the International Editorial Advisory Board of Social Science Japan Journal (since 2013) and of the International Advisory Board of the Institute of Social Science (ISS), University of Tokyo (since 2014) and the Advisory Board of the German Institute for Japanese Studies (DIJ) (since 2017). She also is a member of the German-Japanese Forum (since 2014).

Her research interests include Japanese politics in comparative perspective, institutional change in Japanese politics, and government-business relations in both domestic politics and international relations. Most recent research has focused on issues of corporate social responsibility and the relationship between business and society as well as on Japan's international trade and global commodity chains.

List of Selected Publications

- Vosse, Wilhelm, Blechinger-Talcott, Verena, Drifte, Reinhard (eds.) (2014): *Governing Insecurity in Japan. The Domestic Discourse and Policy Response*. London: Routledge.
- Blechinger-Talcott, Verena, Chiavacci, David and Christoph Brumann (eds.) (2013): *Ein neues Japan? Politischer und sozialer Wandel seit den 1990er Jahren [A New Japan? Political and Social Change since the 1990s]*, Special Issue, *Asiatische Studien/Études Asiatiques* LXVII, 2/2013
- Blechinger-Talcott, Verena, Krauss, Ellis and Christopher Hughes (eds.) (2007): *Managing the MedUSA: comparing the political economy of US-Japan, US-German, and US-UK relations.* Special issue *Pacific Review*, Vol 20, No. 3
- Blechinger-Talcott, Verena, Frantz, Christiane and Mark Thomposon (eds.) (2006): *Governing Japan. Political System, Reform Processes and International Relations in International Comparison [“Politik in Japan. System, Reformprozesse und Außenpolitik im internationalen Vergleich”]*, Frankfurt/Main: Campus
- *Political Corruption in Japan: Causes, Consequences, and Reform [“Politische Korruption in Japan. Ursachen, Hintergründe und Reformversuche”]*, Hamburg: Institute of Asian Affairs 1998.