

Eajs Council Election 2017

Candidates' Self-introductions and Statements

Dr Laura Moretti

Statement

I feel honoured to have been nominated for the second time as Secretary of the Eajs and I am very pleased to accept this nomination. I have previously served as Ordinary Member of the Council and currently as Secretary. If granted the opportunity to renew my service to the Association, I would be happy to continue working for the Council and for the Eajs to the best of my ability.

First as Ordinary Member of the Council from 2011 to 2014 and then for three years as Secretary, I have enjoyed enormously working for our Association. The work done in harmonious cooperation with the Chairman, the Treasurer and the staff of the Eajs Office has allowed me to gain in-depth understanding of what this job requires and, in turn, this has ensured that all the activities of the Association ran smoothly. This was the main goal stated in my previous candidature. Moreover, the work done with the local organizers of the 2017 Conference in Lisbon has reinforced my appreciation of how the triannual international conference works. The professional knowledge obtained through these experiences will prove invaluable should I be granted a second term. This period has also given me the invaluable chance to consolidate my professional relationship with colleagues on and outside the Eajs Council.

If elected as Secretary, I would like to actively explore new avenues to foster academic exchanges among scholars around the globe as well as ways to give more visibility to the intellectual role played by our Association in the field of Japanese Studies. I shall do so in harmony with the Council members and the other colleagues involved in our activities, as I firmly believe in the virtues of team work.

I truly hope that I will be granted the opportunity to continue my service for the benefit and the future of our Association.

Curriculum Vitae

I am currently in my fifth year as Lecturer in Pre-modern Japanese Studies at the University of Cambridge (Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies), where I teach classical Japanese and pre-modern literature at both undergraduate and graduate level. I am also an Official Fellow at Emmanuel College, where I serve as Director of Studies for Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

as well as a member of the Research Fellowship Committee and of the Committee for Scholarships to Harvard University.

I studied Japanese Language and Culture at Università Ca' Foscari Venezia (BA and MA) and got my PhD in Japanese literature there in 2003. While doing my PhD, I was a MEXT research fellow at Tokyo University from 1999 to 2001. Before moving to the University of Cambridge in 2012, I taught at Università Ca' Foscari Venezia (2003-2010; from 2005 as Lecturer), Università degli Studi di Bergamo (2006-2010 as Adjunct Professor) and Newcastle University (2010-2012 as Lecturer in Japanese Studies). In addition, I have been Visiting Assistant Professor at the University of British Columbia (2008-09) and Visiting Scholar at Leiden University (February 2009), Keio University (November 2009), Leuven University (March 2010) and the Art Research Centre of Ritsumeikan University (2010 and 2011).

My field of research is Japanese early-modern literature. I have recently published the monograph *Recasting the Past: An Early Modern Tales of Ise for Children*. Leiden – Boston: Brill, 2016. It recreates in image and text the unresearched 1766 picture-book *Ise fūryū: Utagaruta no hajimari (The Fashionable Ise: The Origins of Utagaruta)*. The introduction analyses *Utagaruta* through a discussion of the textual scholarship relating to chapbooks and *kusazōshi*. It also contextualizes this work to shed new light on the reception history of the canonical *Tales of Ise* and to position *Utagaruta* within the realm of children's literature. This is followed by the full transcription and translation of *Utagaruta*, with annotations to each image. In the last three years I have presented my research project on nineteenth-century ephemera (*kobanzuke*) at major international conferences and I have been selected to give a paper on Shioya Kihei's collection of *mitate banzuke* at the prestigious *Kinsei bungaku kai* in June 2017. In the meanwhile I am finalizing the manuscript draft of my work on seventeenth-century popular literature.

In my free time I have consolidated the work initiated in 2014 in the area of early-modern palaeography. This year I will be running the fourth Graduate Summer School in Japanese Early-modern Palaeography. This is a unique programme that teaches what we call 'holistic *wahon* literacy', meaning all the skills (both linguistic and palaeographic) that one needs in order to access, decode and interpret Edo-period printed and handwritten materials. Every year we attract more than 30 applicants from all over the world and offer 72 hours of tuition generously supported by grants from a variety of funding bodies. We also ensure novelty in the programme form year to year and we are envisaging the creation of a series of teaching and research materials connected to the contents of the Summer School. For details please refer to: www.wakancambridge.com. I have also continued to teach *hentaigana* and *kuzushiji* at the University of Pennsylvania for one week during the summer.

List of Selected Publications

- 2016 *Recasting the Past: An Early Modern Tales of Ise for Children*. Leiden – Boston: Brill, 2016.
- 2016 'A Forest of Books: Seventeenth-Century Kamigata Commercial Prose'. In Haruo Shirane and Tomi Suzuki, with David Lurie (eds.), *Cambridge History of Japanese literature*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2016, pp. 573-582.
- 2013 'Intertextual Divertissement, Sexual Education and Entertaining Humor: The World of *Onna enshi kyōkun kagami*'. *Japan Review* 26 (2013), pp. 195-212.
- 2012 'The Japanese Early-Modern Publishing Market Unveiled: A Survey of Edo-Period Booksellers' Catalogues'. *East Asian Publishing and Society* 2 (2012), pp. 199-308.
- 2011 '*Kanazōshi* revisited: reconsidering the beginnings of Japanese popular literature in print'. *Monumenta Nipponica*, 65/2 (2011), pp. 297-356.