

EAJIS Council Election 2017

Candidates' Self-introductions and Statements

Dr Andrea de Antoni

Statement

My name is Andrea De Antoni. I am Italian, but it might not be my fault.

I have been an EAJIS Member since 2008, when I also had the honour of being invited to the TIFO Recipients Meeting. At the time, I was a Ph.D. Student in Venice and those were my first experiences in the International Academic Community. This created a somehow affective connection to the EAJIS, one of the reasons why I accepted this nomination.

Since 2008, I also started being an active member of the “Japan Anthropology Workshop (JAWS)”. I was the coordinator of the Student Group and, since 2010, the Main Editor of the *Newsletter* (with Emma Cook and Blai Guarné). I was also honoured to be asked to convene the Anthropology and Sociology Section in the coming EAJIS Conference in Lisbon. Since April 2017, I am also a member of the “Anthropology of Japan in Japan (AJJ)” Executive Committee.

My career stage might not be particularly advanced, but I believe that I can be of help to the EAJIS by fostering relationships with JAWS and the AJJ. Moreover, since I live in Kyoto and am a member of several Japanese Associations, I would be glad to support the creation of new relationships and International Research Projects with Japan, particularly in the fields of Anthropology, Religious Studies and Social Sciences in general, and to help with the EAJIS Japan Conferences. In short, I would be glad of building bridges. As a “proper” Venetian...

Curriculum Vitae

I am an Associate Professor at Ritsumeikan University (College and Graduate School of International Relations), where I teach courses (in English and Japanese) and supervise Undergraduate and Postgraduate Students on topics related to anthropology and religious studies, as well as on Contemporary Japanese society, Religions in Japan and the Anthropology of Japan. I was also an Adjunct Lecturer (2013-2016) at the University of Vienna (Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology), where I taught Anthropology of Religion, and in Venice (2010), where I taught courses on Japanese Religions.

My doctoral research (Ca' Foscari University of Venice, 2007-2010) focused on places connected to hell and the afterlife in contemporary Japan (Osorezan, Rokuhara in Kyoto, Tateyama, Hakone and Hirano Ward in Osaka). This led me to consider perceptions of places

and spaces related to death, touristization, social memory and identity, in particular linked to discrimination against outcastes (*burakumin*) and Koreans.

After obtaining my Ph.D., I spent two years as a Postdoc (Japanese Society for the Promotion of Science) at Kyoto University, doing fieldwork on a tour of haunted places in Kyoto, starting focusing on experiences with ghosts and looking into the field of “dark tourism”. In the following years, I started teaching in Ritsumeikan and Doshisha Universities.

I am presently carrying out a comparative research on spirit/demonic possession and exorcism in contemporary Japan, Italy and Austria (JSPS Grant-in-Aid for Young Scientists, 2015-2018). I am also the coordinator of the project "The Skills of Feeling with the World: Anthropological Research on the Senses, Affect and Materiality", based in Ritsumeikan University.

List of Selected Publications

Death and Desire in Modern and Contemporary Japan. Venice: Ca' Foscari University Press (co-edited with Massimo Raveri, 2017 in press).

The Practices of Feeling with the World: An Anthropology of Affect, the Senses and Materiality. Special Issue of the *Japanese Review of Cultural Anthropology* (co-edited with Paul Dumouchel, expected 2017)

“Lust for Death: Dark Tourism, Creation and Consumption of Haunted Places in Contemporary Kyoto.” In De Antoni, A., and M. Raveri (eds.). *Death and Desire in Contemporary Japan*. Pp. 63-81. Venice: Ca' Foscari University Press. 2017 (*In Press*).

“The Politics of Spirits and the Legacy of the Exorcist: The Historical Construction of Discourses of Spirit Possession in Contemporary Japan and Italy.” 立命館大学人文科学研究 所紀要 (*Journal of Ritsumeikan Social Sciences and Humanities*) 106. 2015: 27- 69.

「死者へ接続するツアー——現代京都におけるダークツーリズムの再考」 (“The Tour that Links to the Dead: Rethinking Dark Tourism in Contemporary Kyoto”) 『観光学評論』 (*Tourism Studies Review*) 1(1). 2013: 81-93 (in Japanese).

“Ghost in Translation: Non-Human Actors, Relationality and Haunted Places in Contemporary Kyoto.” *Japanese Review of Cultural Anthropology* 12. 2011: 27-49.

and I am presently working on rewriting my Ph.D. Dissertation.