

Kaitlyn Ugoretz

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EDUCATION

In Progress

PhD, East Asian Languages and Cultural Studies

University of California, Santa Barbara

Department of East Asian Languages and Cultural Studies

Committee: Dr. Fabio Rambelli, Dr. ann-elise lewallen, Dr. Elizabeth Pérez

Thesis: “World-Wide Shinto: The Globalization of ‘Japanese’ Religion”

Exam Fields: Japanese Religion; Anthropology of Japan, Methods & Theory in Contemporary Religion (Passed with highest distinction June 2020)

2017

MA, Chinese Studies & Japanese Studies (dual concentration)

University of Pennsylvania

Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations

Adviser: Dr. Victor H. Mair

Thesis: “Inscribing Femininity: Representations of Women in Early Premodern Chinese Orthography”

2017

BA, Chinese Studies & Japanese Studies (*summa cum laude*)

University of Pennsylvania

Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations

Adviser: Dr. Victor H. Mair

PUBLICATIONS

Single-authored Journal Articles

2021

“[Demystifying Remote Research in Anthropology and Asian Studies](#),” *Asia Pacific Perspectives* Vol. 17.1 (2021): 52-71.

2016

“[China English: A Developing, Functional, and Legitimate World English Variety](#),” *Sino-Platonic Papers* 264 (2016): 123-140.

2016

“Who Cares for the Care Workers?: A Case Study of the Feminization of Foreign Workers in Japan,” *Wharton Asia Review* 7.2 (2016): 12-22.

Coauthored Journal Articles

2020

“[From Ise to the World in a Time of Pandemic](#),” with Yulia Grikun, Mária Kubincová, Sau Man Luk, Anastasia Petrova, David Rands, and Elham Saberi, *PORTAL Journal of*

Multidisciplinary International Studies, Vol. 17, No. 1/2, pp. 45-61.

Book Chapters

2021

“Media and Technology,” with Erica Baffelli. In *Bloomsbury Handbook of Japanese Religions*, ed. Erica Baffelli, Andrea Castiglioni, and Fabio Rambelli.

2021

“Case Study—World-Wide Shintō: The Globalization of ‘Japanese’ Religion.” In *Bloomsbury Handbook of Japanese Religions*, ed. Erica Baffelli, Andrea Castiglioni, and Fabio Rambelli.

Prepublication

“Digital Ethnography.” In *The New Nanzan Guide to Japanese Religions*, ed. Jolyon Thomas and Matthew McMullen.

“Consuming Shinto to Feed the Algorithm: Exploring the Impact of Social Media Software on Global Religious Aesthetic Formations.” In *Introductions to Digital Humanities: Religions In Asia*, ed. by Cornelis van Lit and James Henry Morris. De Gruyter.

*Encyclopedia Entries
Outreach Publications*

2021

“[Digital Shinto Communities](#),” *The Database of Religious History*.

“[The untidiness of Marie Kondo’s eclectic spirituality](#),” originally published by Religion News Services, Aug. 2, 2021, published in syndication by the Washington Post, Aug. 15, 2021.

2021

“[Fearful Resonances: Critiquing Arlington and American Civil Religion through the Yasukuni Problem](#),” *Critical Asian Studies*

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2021—2022

Japan Foundation Doctoral Research Fellowship

2020—2021

Social Science Research Council International Dissertation Research Fellowship

2017—2024

University of California, Santa Barbara Graduate Division Eugene Cota Robles Central Fellowship

2015

Fox Leadership International China-US PEACE Fellowship

2014

QuestBridge National College Match Finalist

2011 National Security Language Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y), China

TEACHINGS AWARDS

2020 University of California, Santa Barbara Graduate Student
Association Excellence in Teaching Award

GRANTS AND AWARDS

2021 UCSB CARES MSI Grant (\$7,000)

2021 Wilbur M. Fridell Memorial Award for the Study of Japanese
Religions, Department of Religious Studies, University of
California Santa Barbara

2021 Interdisciplinary Humanities Center Graduate Collaborative
Award, *GAMING + Project* (\$1,500)

2020 Japan Foundation/UCSB Graduate Division Research Accelerator
Award (\$8,000)

2019 UCSB Department of East Asian Languages & Cultural Studies
Summer Fieldwork Grant (\$2,000)

2019 UCSB Graduate Student Association Travel Grant

2018 Middlebury Summer Language Program Grant

2018 UCSB Summer East Asian Language Grant

2017 University of Pennsylvania Phi Beta Kappa Senior Thesis Prize

2017 Phi Beta Kappa Honors Society

2017 University of Pennsylvania Dean's Scholar

2016 University of Pennsylvania Adele Austin Ritter Paper Prize for
Chinese Studies

2016 Greater Philadelphia Asian Studies Consortium Undergraduate
Paper Prize

INVITED LECTURES

2021 (Nov) "Cool Japanese Religion," IMAP, Kyushu University, Japan

2021 (Oct) "Animating Religion: Shinto in Japanese Popular Culture," Five
College Center for East Asian Studies, National Council for
Teaching About Asia

2021 (Oct) "Anime and Pilgrimage Culture in Japan," Lawrence University, WI

- 2021 (Sept) “Shinto: Exploring Japan's 'Way of the Kami,’” Five College Center for East Asian Studies, National Council for Teaching About Asia
- 2021 (Jun) “Worshipping the Kami at a Distance: Global Shinto and the COVID-19 Pandemic,” German Institute for Japanese Studies, Japan
- 2021 (Apr) “World-Wide Shinto,” University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
- 2021 (Apr) “World-Wide Shinto,” North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC
- 2021 (Apr) “Modern Shinto,” University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH
- 2021 (Mar) “Shinto Outside of Contemporary Japan,” University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
- 2020 (Oct) “Building Digital Shinto,” Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY

CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, & SYMPOSIA ORGANIZED

- 2021 Organizer, *GAMING + Digital Humanities Project*, Interdisciplinary Humanities Center, University of California Santa Barbara
- 2021 (Jun) Graduate Coordinator, “[Gagaku Critical Intervention Lab](#),” University of California Santa Barbara
- 2021 (May) Graduate Coordinator, “[A Wakeup Call for Climate Justice? Indigenous Knowledges Respond to the Coronavirus Pandemic](#),” University of California Santa Barbara
- 2021 (Apr) Organizer, “Syncopating Religion: Global Visions through East And Southeast Asia,” [Syncopating East Asia Multi-campus Graduate Student Working Group](#), University of California Humanities Research Institute, UC Irvine
- 2019 (Jan) Graduate Conference: “[Imaging East Asia: Constructing Knowledge Through the Visual](#),” East Asia Center Graduate Conference, University of California Santa Barbara
- 2017 (Apr) Graduate Conference: “Structure and Subordination: Law, Science, and Religion in East Asia,” University of Pennsylvania Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations

REFEREED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2021 (Aug, canceled) "Invisible Appetites: Exploring the Influence of the Facebook Algorithm on Online Shinto Community Feeds," *Religion, Technology, and Artificial Intelligence in East Asia* 12th International Convention of Asia Scholars, Kyoto, Japan
- 2021 (Mar) "[Hacking Fieldnotes: Using Scrible to Study Online Communities](#)," Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference (virtual)
- 2021 (Jan) "Applying Patchwork Ethnography to Research in Contemporary Japan: A Roundtable on Positionality, Networks, and 'Piecing Together' One's Field," Southeast Conference of the Association for Asian Studies, UNC-Chapel Hill
- 2020 (Dec) "Altared Ontologies: Sacred Anxieties in the Glocalization of Shinto Traditions," American Academy of Religion Annual Conference (virtual)
- 2020 (Oct) "Shinto in the Time of Coronavirus: Japanese Religion Online During a Global Pandemic," New England Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference (virtual)
- 2020 (Mar, canceled) "Hacking Fieldnotes: Using Scrible to Study Online Communities," Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Boston
- 2019 (Nov) "Drawing on Shinto? Online Shinto Communities' Responses to the Religious in Hayao Miyazaki's Anime," American Academy of Religion Annual Conference, San Diego
- 2019 (Oct) "Authority, Access, Archive: Constructing the Digital Shinto Canon," Mid-Atlantic Regional Association of Asian Studies, Carlisle
- 2019 (Apr) "Domesticating Shinto: Materialities of Kami Worship Beyond Japan," University of Pennsylvania Annual Graduate Student Conference on East Asia, Philadelphia
- 2018 (Sep) "World-Wide Shinto: Inventing a Global, Digital Religious Community," New York Conference on Asian Studies, Rochester
- 2018 (Apr) "Characterizing the Barbarian: Chinese Exonyms and Eurasian Relations," University of Pennsylvania Annual Graduate Student Conference on East Asia, Philadelphia

- 2017 (Feb) “Interrogating Indigeneity: Defining the Boundaries of Participation in Shinto,” Columbia University Annual Graduate Student Conference on East Asia, New York
- 2016 (Sep) ““What is Indigeneity?: Questioning the Narrative Roots of Shinto,” *What Isn’t Shinto?* Symposium, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia
- 2016 (May) “The Heterodox Fox: Representations of Marginality in Feng Menglong’s *Pingyao zhuan*,” University of California Berkeley Undergraduate Conference on China, Berkeley
- 2016 (Apr) “Who Cares for the Care Workers?: A Case Study of the Feminization of Foreign Workers in Japan,” Greater Philadelphia Asian Studies Consortium Undergraduate Research Conference, Collegeville

WORKSHOPS, SYMPOSIA, COLLOQUIA, & SEMINARS

- 2021 (Apr) “Terra Japonica: Locating Sacred Nature in An Emerging Global Shinto Paradigm,” *Syncopating Religion: Global Visions Through East and Southeast Asia*, University of California Humanities Research Initiative, UC Irvine
- 2021 (Jan) “Logging in to the Field: Tips and Tools for Digital Qualitative Research,” *Research at a Distance: Japan Studies in an age of Covid-19*, University of Melbourne
- 2021 (Jan) “(Re)locating the Sacred: Examining the Transnational Production of Shintō Space,” *Mapping the Territory: Religion, Place, and Space in Asian Humanities*, University of California Humanities Research Initiative, UC Los Angeles
- 2020—2021 *Syncopating East Asia*, University of California Humanities Research Initiative, UC Irvine
- 2020 (Mar) “国際神道信者の「伊勢」に対する感想,” *‘Ise and Japan’ Study Program*, Kogakkan University, Ise, Japan
- 2016 (Sept) “What Is Indigeneity? Questioning the Narrative Roots of Shinto,” University of Pennsylvania, *What Isn’t Shinto?*, Philadelphia, PA

UNIVERSITY & DEPARTMENT GUEST LECTURES

- 2021 (July) "Media Meccas: Animating Sacred Space in Japan," University of California, Santa Barbara Department of East Asian Languages and Cultural Studies.
- 2021 (Feb) "Booms and Busts: Religion and Spirituality in Contemporary Japan," University of California, Santa Barbara Department of East Asian Languages and Cultural Studies.
- 2020 (Nov) "Conducting Remote Anthropological Research on Japan During COVID-19," University of California, Santa Barbara Department of East Asian Languages and Cultural Studies.
- 2020 (May) "Entertaining Religion: Religion, Spirituality, and Popular Culture in Japan," University of California, Santa Barbara Department of East Asian Languages and Cultural Studies.
- 2019 (May) "Does It Spark Faith? Religion, Spirituality, and Media in Contemporary Japan," University of California, Santa Barbara: Department of East Asian Languages and Cultural Studies.
- 2019 (May) "Religion and Media in Contemporary Japan," University of California, Santa Barbara Department of East Asian Languages and Cultural Studies.
- 2019 (Apr) "The Invention of State Shinto," University of California, Santa Barbara Department of East Asian Languages and Cultural Studies.
- 2018 (Nov) "Fierce: Japan's Women Warriors," University of California, Santa Barbara Department of East Asian Languages and Cultural Studies.
- 2018 (May) "Drawing on Shinto: Influences and Interpretations in Miyazaki's Anime," University of California, Santa Barbara Department of East Asian Languages and Cultural Studies.
- 2018 (Apr) "Building, Bending, Blending, Breaking: Gender and Sexuality in Japan," University of California, Santa Barbara Department of Anthropology.

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

- 2021— Japanese Religions Editor, [The Database of Religious History](#)

2013—2016 Editorial Board Member, *3808: Journal of Critical Writing*
Peer Review (journals) *Entangled Religions, Japanese Journal of Religious Studies*

OUTREACH & PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

2021 (Sept) “Gagaku and Japanese Religions: An Exhibition,” Santa Barbara Museum of Art

2021 (Mar) Collaborator, “[小野照崎神社](#) (Onoterusaki Shinto Shrine),” *Teaching Materials for Japanese Religion*, Kokugakuin University

2021 (Mar) “[Is Miyazaki Inspired By Shinto?](#),” *Religion For Breakfast*. (44,000 views as of May 2021)

2021 (Jan) “Gagaku: Music of the Japanese Court,” *Music of the Asian (Royal) Courts*, Smithsonian Institute Folkways Learning Pathways

2020 (Jan) “[Can Shinto Become a Global Religion?](#),” *Religion For Breakfast*. Jan. 13, 2021. (59,000 views as of May 2021)

2020 (Dec) “[When Shinto Became a 'Religion,'](#)” *Religion For Breakfast*. Dec. 23, 2020. (61,000 views as of May 2021)

2020 (Oct) “[Buddhism and Shinto Explained: A Complicated Relationship](#),” *Religion For Breakfast*. Oct. 15, 2020. (107,000 views as of July 2021)

2020 (Oct) “[What Is Shinto?](#),” *Religion For Breakfast*. Sept. 30, 2020. (130,000 views as of July 2021)

2019 (Sept) “[As The Spirit Moves You: How Studio Ghibli Films Leave Room for A Range of Religious Interpretations](#),” *Beneath the Tangles*

2019 (Mar) “Philosophical Traditions of Ancient China,” Laguna Blanca School, Hope Ranch

UNIVERSITY & DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

2020—2021 Social Media Coordinator, University of California, Santa Barbara Department of East Asian Languages and Cultural Studies

2018—2020 Graduate Student/Faculty Liaison, University of California, Santa Barbara Department of East Asian Languages and Cultural Studies

2018—2020 President, Graduate East Asian Research Society, University of

California Santa Barbara Department of East Asian
Languages and Cultural Studies

- 2016—2017 Board Member, Graduate Student Research
Colloquium, University of Pennsylvania Department of East
Asian Languages and Civilizations
- 2016—2017 Founding Board Member and VP of Communications, Penn East
Asian Studies Student Association (PEASSA), University
of Pennsylvania Department of East Asian Languages and
Civilizations
- 2015—2017 Graduate Major Adviser, University of Pennsylvania Department
of East Asian Languages and Civilizations

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE & TRAINING

- 2021 Japanese Religions Consultant, animated series in development
- 2021 Translator, “ホワツツ神道？神道入門 [What Is Shinto?
Introduction to Shinto]” Kokugakuin University Museum
Special Exhibition
- 2021 Japanese Mythology Consultant, The Upper Deck Company
- 2021 Sacred Writes Public Scholarship Training Workshop
- 2020—2021 Volunteer Social Media Coordinator and Translator, Shinto Shrine
of Shusse Inari in America, Los Angeles, CA
- 2020 Asian Religions Writer, [*Religion For Breakfast*](#)
- 2019—2020 Graduate Funding Peer Adviser, Graduate Student Resource
Center, University of California, Santa Barbara
- Spring 2019 Teaching Assistant, “East Asian Traditions: Modern,” University of
California, Santa Barbara Department of East Asian
Languages and Cultural Studies
- Winter 2019 Teaching Assistant, “East Asian Traditions: Premodern,” University
of California, Santa Barbara Department of East Asian
Languages and Cultural Studies
- Fall 2018 Teaching Assistant, “Imagining the Samurai,” University of
California, Santa Barbara Department of East Asian
Languages and Cultural Studies
- Spring 2018 Teaching Assistant, “East Asian Traditions: Modern,” University of

California, Santa Barbara Department of East Asian
Languages and Cultural Studies

- Winter 2018 Graduate Reader, "Gender and Sexuality in Modern Japan,"
University of California, Santa Barbara Department of East
Asian Languages and Cultural Studies
- Summer 2017 Teaching Assistant, "Beginning Japanese," Keio Academy of New
York Summer Program, Purchase
- Summer 2015 International News Intern, Jiangsu Broadcasting Corporation,
Nanjing
- Summer 2015 Assistant Editor, *International English Language Teaching System
(IELTS) Practice Book*, Jiangsu College for International
Education, Nanjing
- 2014—2017 Critical Writing Tutor, Center for Programs in Critical Writing,
University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Academy of Religion

Association for Asian Studies

University of California, Santa Barbara Gagaku Research Group & Ensemble

LANGUAGES

English (native)

Advanced Japanese

Advanced Mandarin Chinese

Advanced Classical Chinese

Reading proficiency in:

Classical Japanese and Sino-Japanese (*kanbun*)