

English-Language Works by JAAS Members 2021

The following is a list of citations and abstracts of recent publications written in English by members of the Japanese Association for American Studies on topics related to American Studies.

ARTICLES IN JOURNALS

Ishii, Noriko. “Imagining an Anti-Racist Cosmopolitanism: Localization, Imperialism and Transnational Women’s Activism in Interwar Japan.” *Journal of Colonialism and Colonial History* 22, no. 3 (2021) doi:10.1353/cch.2021.0044.

This article is a case study of American and Japanese missionaries’ collaboration in the expansion of a Japanese women’s college to examine the complexities of friendship within the context of American and Japanese imperialism during the interwar period (1918–1941). Missionaries’ expressions of internationalism or friendship conveniently masked the unequal hierarchy of multiple colonialisms and racism. Yet gender autonomy in this women’s college expansion campaign created a shared public venue for aspirational anti-racist cosmopolitanism.

Matsuda, Takuya. “Back with Butterflies: (Post-)World War II Fiction of Américo Paredes.” *South Central Review* 38.1 (2021): 37–57.

This article examines Américo Paredes’s short stories set in post-WWII Japan, which depict interracial relationships between Mexican American soldiers and Japanese women. As opposed to many Anglo-authored mainstream narratives of this genre, Paredes’s stories satirically expose issues of racism, sexism, and imperialism in such relationships to claim that the war was continuing throughout the occupation.

Ochiai, Akiko. “From Underrepresentation to ‘Dual Heritage’ and Beyond: Contemporary African American Monument-Building.” *Soundings: An*

Interdisciplinary Journal 104: 4 (2021): 320–61.

African American monuments erected following the Civil Rights Movement juxtaposed with former Confederate monuments, created a parallel “dual heritage.” More recently, “counter-monuments” have contested prior memorialization, while the Black Lives Matter movement urged total removal of Confederate monuments. This essay explores African American monumental commemoration over the past half century to reconsider desegregation of the memorial landscape.

Tatsumi, Takayuki. “American Renaissance in the Age of Theory: A Far East Version.” *J19: The Journal of Nineteenth-Century Americanists* 9 (Fall 2021): 423–32.

This article is part of a special forum organized by Professor Yoshiaki Furui, entitled “Japanizing American Literary Studies.” It traces the way postwar Japanese Americanists translated the canons of American literary history, digested post-New Critical and poststructuralist theoretical approaches, and published their own articles on American Renaissance writers in English, some of which were highly acclaimed by North American specialists.

Tatsumi, Takayuki. “Introduction: In the Age of Transnational Science Fiction.” *Mechademia: Second Arc* 14.1 (Fall 2021): 1–7.

Serving as guest editor of the journal’s special “science fiction” issue, the author compares the history of western science fiction with that of Japanese science fiction and describes the advent of transnational science fiction with reference to such works as the distinguished Chinese writer Cixin Liu’s *The Three-Body Problem* and the 2017 Nobel Laureate in Literature Kazuo Ishiguro’s *Klara and the Sun* (2021).

Tsuji, Shoko. “Fedallah and the Ogasawara (Bonin) Islands: Ambiguous Images of Asians in *Moby-Dick*.” *Ecocriticism Review* 14 (2021): 33–45.

Fedallah, the Parsee and Captain Ahab’s harpooner in *Moby-Dick*, has long been misinterpreted and devalued by critics as a ghostlike Asian character. This paper, however, examines and highlights Fedallah’s positive and multivocal characteristics and also demonstrates that he evokes an image of the people of actual Asian islands, especially the Ogasawara (Bonin) Islands.

Tsukada, Hiroyuki. “Powhatan and the Fate of the Lost Colonists of Roanoke: Decoding William Strachey’s Imaginary Geography.” *North Carolina Historical Review* 98, no. 1 (January 2021): 42–64.

This study examines William Strachey’s writings and other literary sources to try to resolve the mysterious circumstances in which the lost colonists of Roanoke disappeared and were assumed to have been murdered. It attempts to offer a logical explanation for how the colonists disappeared by examining evidence of the path they

took through Native grounds.

Uno, Hiroko. “Japanese Approach to Emily Dickinson’s Poetry.” *J19: The Journal of Nineteenth-Century Americanists* 9, 2 (2021): 443–451.

This article explores the reasons that Emily Dickinson’s poetry has been and continues to be actively studied in Japan. It explains how Dickinson’s poetry appeals to Japanese sensibilities such as a love of nature and resembles Japanese cultural forms such as haiku and black-and-white drawings, in which Japanese take pleasure in using their imagination to complete a poem or fill the white space in a work of art.

Uno, Hiroko, “Teaching Emily Dickinson in Japan.” *The Emily Dickinson International Society Bulletin* 33, 1 (2021): 12–14.

It is difficult to teach Emily Dickinson’s poetry to Japanese students, not only because her poetry is ambiguous even to native speakers of English, but also because the Japanese language is completely different from English in its structure and idiom. Here, I discuss the strategies I use in my classes to make use of the similarities between Dickinson’s poetry and haiku.

ARTICLES IN BOOKS

Sasaki, Yutaka. “SSRC’s Committee on Comparative Politics and the Struggle to Construct a General Theory of Political Modernization Using the Japanese Model: Scholarly Endeavors of Robert E. Ward.” In *International Society in the Early Twentieth Century Asia-Pacific: Imperial Rivalries, International Organizations, and Experts*, edited by Hiroo Nakajima (New York: Routledge, 2021): 140–164.

This article focuses on scholarly views regarding the political modernization of Japan expressed by the Committee on Comparative Politics (the CCP) of the Social Science Research Council. It mainly analyzes the academic motives of Robert E. Ward, a member of the CCP and Japan expert, to construct a general theory of political modernization by using the example of the modernization of Japan.

Takahara, Shusuke. “Woodrow Wilson’s Intervention in North Russia and Siberia.” In *Russian International Relations in War and Revolution, 1914–1922 Book 2: Revolution and Civil War*, edited by David Schimmelpenninck van der Oye, Oleg Budnitskii, Michael Hughes, and David MacLaren McDonald (Bloomington, IN: Slavica Publishers, 2021): 301–15.

This chapter seeks a more complete understanding of the U.S. intervention in both the northern Russia and Siberian theaters from 1914–1922. These two elements of American policy should not be seen as entirely distinct, but rather as parts of the Woodrow Wilson administration’s overall policy regarding Russia.

Tatsumi, Takayuki. “*The Difference Engine* in a Post-Enlightenment Context: Franklin, Emerson, and Gibson and Sterling.” In *William Gibson and the Futures of Contemporary Culture*, edited by Mitch R. Murray and Mathias Nilges (Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 2021):81–94.

This article closely analyzes the transnational perspective of *The Difference Engine* (1990), the only collaborative novel of William Gibson, known as the “Godfather of Cyberpunk,” and Bruce Sterling, known as the “Cyberpunk King.” Inspired by Franklin and Emerson, the novel also features Yukichi Fukuzawa, one of the founders of modern Japan, who showed deep interest in the future of technocracy.

BOOKS

Nakajima, Hiroo, ed. *International Society in the Early Twentieth Century Asia-Pacific: Imperial Rivalries, International Organizations, and Experts* (London: Routledge, 2021).

This book examines how regional relations were negotiated in Asia and the Pacific during the interwar years. Imperial rivalries, a range of international organizations, and internationally minded experts intersected with each other to form a type of regional governance in the Asia-Pacific. This system transformed itself as post-war decolonization accelerated and the U.S. entered as a major power in the region. It was further reinforced by large American foundations.

DISSERTATIONS

Otori, Yukako. “Disposable Subjects: Law and Child Migration to the United States, 1890s–1920s.” Ph.D. diss., Harvard University, 2021.

This dissertation traces the creation of what I call the “guardianship principle”: to enter the U.S. from the 1890s to 1920s, children required support from their parents or legal guardians who were socio-economically capable of giving them post-entry protection. During the progressive era, the policy coalesced into a broader scheme of immigration restriction, in which having a credible guardian was a necessary but insufficient condition for children’s entry.