

Jonas Rüegg, Ph.D.*Researcher in Global Environmental History & East Asian Studies*

LIST OF ACADEMIC OUTPUT

Second Book / Habilitation

“The Search for Modern Micronesia: Star-Shaped Genealogies of a Colonial Past.”
(Working title). 2023–2028.
(research stage.)

Monograph Under Contract

“The Kuroshio Frontier: Empire and Environment in the Making of Japan’s Pacific
(Working Title),” under contract with Cambridge University Press. Exp. 2024
(under contract).

Forthcoming and Prospective Publications

“Islands of the Kuroshio Frontier” in: Ian Miller, Nadin Hée and Stefan Hübner,
Oceanic Japan, University of Hawaii Press, 2023 (forthcoming). Exp. 2024
(forthcoming).

“Geological Time and the Age of Contingency: Insular and Oceanic Perspectives,”
in *Verge: Studies in Global Asias*, 10 (2), 2024 (forthcoming). Exp. 2024
(forthcoming).

“Japanese History in Hydrological Cycles,” in: Duara, Prasenjit and Wescoat, James
(eds): *History and Societies of the Hydrosphere*, University of Hawaii Press,
2025 (forthcoming). Exp. 2025
(under contract).

“Synthetic Nitrogen and the Dependencies of Modern Growth: Global Japan in the
Creation of Unsustainable Infrastructures (1700 to present).” (Journal
article, working title). Preparing journal
submission.

Academic Publications

“Early Modern Japan and the Problem of ‘Drugs’,” in: Judith Vitale, Oleg Benesch,
and Miriam Kadia Kingsberg (eds.) *Drugs and the Politics of Consumption in
Japan*. Leiden: Brill, 2023, 21–46. 2023/Oct.

“Eric Tagliacozzo’s *In Asian Waters*: Deep Historical Visions of ‘Asia’ as an Ocean
Continent,” in: H-Net Reviews, 2023. 2023/Mar.

“The Kuroshio Frontier: Business, State and Environment in the Making of Japan’s
Pacific,” PhD Dissertation, Harvard University, 2022. 2022/May.

„Review of: Felix Lüttge, *Auf den Spuren des Wals. Geographien des Lebens im 19.
Jahrhundert*,“ in: *H-Soz-Kult*, Aug. 23, 2021. 2021/Aug.

“Ogasawara to atarashii shokubutsu no dōnyū [Introduction of New Plant Species
via the Bonin Islands] 小笠原と新しい植物の導入” in: *Yōgaku-shi jiten* 洋
学史事典 [Historical Encyclopedia of Western Studies], Tokyo: Shibunkaku
Shuppan, 2021 (in Japanese). 2021/Oct.

“Currents and Oceanic Geographies of Japan’s Unending Frontier,” *The Journal of
Pacific History* 56 (3), 2021, pp. 1–24. 2021/Sep.

“Bakumatsu, Meiji: 19 seiki Genève ni okeru Nihon kenkyū [Bakumatsu, Meiji:
Japanese Studies in Geneva in the Late 19th Century] 幕末・明治：19世紀
ジュネーブに於ける日本研究” in: Ōkawa S. and Okamura T. (eds.) *Kokusai
toshi Genève: shūkyō, shisō, seiji, keizai* [The International City of Geneva:
2018/Jun.

[*Religion, Thought, Politics and Economy*] 国際都市ジュネーブ：宗教・思想・政治・経済. Kyoto: Shōwadō, 2018, p. 62–70 (in Japanese).

- “Mapping the Forgotten Colony: the Ogasawara Islands and the Tokugawa Pivot to the Pacific,” in: *Cross-Currents*, 3/2017, p. 440-490. 2017/Jul.
- “Aimé Humbert: Wertvorstellungen eines Bourgeois und das Japan der Bakumatsu-Zeit” [Aimé Humbert, Value Concepts of a Bourgeois and Bakumatsu Japan], in: *Asiatische Studien / Etudes Asiatiques* 1/2015, p. 47–71 (in German). 2015/Apr.
- “Challenges of Japanese Studies in 19th century Europe,” in: *Kyōritsu Joshi Daigaku sōgō bunka kenkyū kiyō [Bulletin of the center for humanities, Kyōritsu Women's University]*, 1/2015, p. 153–176. 2015/Mar.
- “Bunka-shi [Cultural Survey] 文化誌,” in: Sakaguchi, T. et al.: *Suisu Romanshu-go nyūmon* [Introduction to the Romansh language of Switzerland] スイス・ロマンシュ語入門, Tokyo: Daigaku Shorin, 2014, p. 9–29 (in Japanese). 2014/Jan.

Other Publications

- “Uhren und Kanonen für ein Reich um Umbruch,” in: *NZZ Geschichte* 51 (2024), 68–79 (in German). 2024/Mar.
- “What Japan’s Disasters Past Can Teach About the Age of Climate Change,” in: *Wasshoi! Japan Magazine* 7 (2023), 70–85. 2023/Dec.
- “Adventures on the Maritime Frontier: Minamoto no Tametomo on the Island of Women” in: [Harvard-Yenching Library Highlights](#). Published 2020/11/06. 2020/Nov.
- “Negotiating Maritime Power in Early Modern East Asia: An Interview with Adam Clulow” in: [Toynbee Prize Foundation Blog](#). Published 2018/07/08. 2018/Jul.
- Kawasaki, Y. Yamaguchi, K. Rüegg, J. et al.: *Jissen doitsugo* [Practical German], Tokyo: Daigaku Shorin 2012. 2012/Apr.

Website & Blog

www.jonasuregg.com, featuring PDFs of all open-source publications, as well as updates on teaching, talks, and ongoing research projects.

Conference Presentations

- European Society of Environmental History Conference**, University of Berne. 2023/Aug.
Paper title: *Leaving Asia, Physically: Geology and Geopolitics in Late 19th century Japan*.
- Society for Global Nineteenth Century Studies Conference**, Singapore 2023/Jul.
Management University. Paper Title: *Nineteenth-Century Japan’s Strategic Reorientation and the Invention of Oceanic Metageographies*.
- Mapping Asia: Cartography and the Construction of Territoriality**. Erfurt University. 2022/Nov.
Paper title: *Nan’yō, or: the Invention of Japan’s Pacific*.
- Oceans Dis:Connect**, LMU Munich. Paper title: *Business, State and Piracy: The Oceanic Frontier Triangle in the Making of Japan’s Pacific Empire*. 2022/Nov.
- Pacific History Association Conference**, Suva (Fiji), University of the South Pacific. 2021/Nov.
Panel “World History from Pacific Island Perspectives,” Paper title: *Pacific Japan? Appropriation and Creolization in Japan’s Oceanic Periphery*.

- University of Tokyo**, Center for Contemporary Japanese Studies. Paper Title: *Ambition and Identity in the Drafting of Japan's Deep Sea Geographies*. 2021/Sep.
- European Association of Japanese Studies (EAJS) Conference**, Ghent. Paper title: *Oceanic History and its Conceptual Implications for Modern Japan*. 2021/Aug.
- Tokyo University**, Historiographical Institute. Talk „Shimaya Ichizaemon no ‚Muninjima no ezu‘ to kinsei zenhan no Taiheiyō tanken“ [Shimaya Ichizaemon's Map of the Bonin Islands and Pacific Exploration in 17th c. Japan.] 2020/Aug.
- École Française d'Extrême Orient**, Kyoto. Symposium "Water, Waterways and Seas in Modern Japan: Perspectives of Environmental History," Paper title *Navigation and Sociology of Knowledge in Late Tokugawa Pelagic Voyages*. 2020/May.
- International Research Center for Japanese Studies (Nichibunken)**, Kyoto. Special Workshop "Teikoku to globalization: shakai seitaikei teki appurōchi [Empire and Globalization: Approaches from Social Ecology]" Paper title: *Kaiyō kankyō to chiseigaku: kinsei Nihon no Taiheiyō hakken [Environmental Change and Early Modern Geopolitics: Japan's Discovery of the Pacific.]* (in Japanese). 2020/Mar.
- ICAS Conference**. Co-organizer and panellist in "Dividing the Sea: Marine Resources and Fluid Borders in Modern East Asia." Paper: *The Kuroshio Frontier, Or: The Maritime Origins of Japanese Capitalism*. 2019/Jul.
- ICAS Conference**. Panelist in "Maritime Circulations," chaired by Harald Fuss and Nikolas Jaspert. Paper title: *Local Knowledge, the Public Sphere, and Japan's Discovery of the Black Current*.
- Harvard University Center for the Environment**. Co-organizer and speaker, workshop "Ocean, Island, Shore: Placing the Global Pacific in the Age of Climate Change." Paper: *Mapping the Kuroshio Frontier: Japan's Discovery of the Black Current*. 2019/May
- From Pelagic Empire to Exclusive Economic Zone**, extraordinary conference sponsored by the National University of Singapore, Jan. 24–25, 2019. Paper: *State and Business in the Making of Japan's Pacific Frontier*. 2019/Jan.
- International Symposium "Arts of the Ryūkyū Kingdom"**, University of Zurich, Dec. 13-16. Paper: *Pictograms and Knot-Ropes: Administrative Records in the Borderlands of Early Modern Ryūkyū*. 2018/Dec
- Pacific History Association Conference**, Cambridge University, Dec. 3-5. Paper: *Whaling, Grazing and Mining in the Opening of Japan's Pacific Frontier*. Panel chaired by Martin Dusinberre. 2018/Dec.
- 21st Harvard East Asia Society Conference**, Harvard University, Feb. 9–10, 2018. *The Fluid Borders of Ryukyu: Yonaguni Island and Deep Histories of the "East Taiwan Sea."* 2018/Feb.
- GHA Conference**, Washington University St. Louis, March 31–Apr. 1st, 2017. *Japan's Forgotten Colony: The Ogasawara Islands and the Tokugawa Pivot to the Pacific*. 2017/Mar.
- Asian Borderlands Workshop and Conference** held at the History Department, Mar. 24-25, 2017. Harvard University. Paper: *Centering Hachijō: Movement and Locality in the Periphery of the Tokugawa State*. 2017/Mar.
- AAS Conference**, Toronto/Canada, March 16–19, 2017. *Ad-Hoc Diplomacy on the Maritime Periphery of Tokugawa Japan*. Panel 'Smugglers, Castaways and Military Men: Informal Diplomacy in Early Modern East Asia.' 2017/Mar.
- 20th Harvard East Asia Society Conference**, Harvard University, Feb. 24, 2017. *Shipwreck on Hachijō: International Encounters in the Periphery of the Tokugawa state*. 2017/Feb.

- AAS Conference**, Seattle WA, Mar 31–Apr. 3, 2016. *Japan's Discovery of Ogasawara and the Origins of the Pelagic Empire*. Panel "What's a Map? Cartography and Early Modern East Asian Culture," chaired by Kären Wigen. 2016/Mar.
- 25th Columbia Conference on East Asia**, Columbia University. Feb. 25-26, 2016. *Japan's Discovery of Ogasawara and a History of Maritime Geography in Tokugawa Japan*. 2016/Feb.
- 19th Harvard East Asia Society Conference**, Harvard University, Feb. 20-21, 2016. *Japan's Colonization of Ogasawara and the Tokugawa Pivot to the Pacific*, chaired by Andrew Gordon. 2016/Feb.
- 16. Deutschsprachiger Japanologentag**, [16th German Language Conference on Japanese Studies] Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich, Aug. 28, 2015. *Ukiyo gata rokumai byôbu: Die Weltreise eines gôkan-Romans*. [Ukiyo Gata Rokumai Byôbu: the Journey of a Gôkan Novel Around the World]. Chaired by Hans Thomsen. [Link](#). 2015/Aug.
- 18th Harvard East Asia Society Conference**, Harvard University, Feb. 21, 2015. *Challenges of Publishing Japanese Sources in 19th Century Europe*. 2015/Feb.
- Initiative für Historische Japanforschung** [Initiative for Historical Research on Japan], Universität Tübingen (Germany), Nov. 2nd 2013. *Aimé Humbert: Wertvorstellungen eines Bourgeois und das Japan der Bakumatsu-Zeit*. [Aimé Humbert: Value Concepts of a Bourgeois and Bakumatsu Japan], 60 min. presentation. [Link](#) [2013/10/13]. 2013/Nov.

Invited Lectures

- Modern Japan History Association**, Dissertation Prize Conversation with Paul Kreitman, online. 2024/May.
- Asia Society of Switzerland**, Talk at the Library Series. "What Japan's Past Disasters Can Teach Us About the Age of Climate Change." Video on Youtube. 2024/Mar.
- FORAUS – Forum Aussenpolitik** (Swiss forum on international policy): Guest lecture, University of Berne. «Ozeanien als Heimat: Inselfperspektiven auf die Geopolitik von gestern und morgen.» (In German). 2023/Nov.
- National University of Singapore**: Conference *On Biodiversity: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Biodiversity Change across Asia, Past and Present*, talk title: "Synthetic Nitrogen and the Cost of Modern Growth: Problems and Potentials of Fertilizer History in the Japanese Empire." 2023/Jul.
- MAS in Applied History**, UZH lecture series on resource history. Talk title: «Imperium zur See: das japanische Kaiserreich und der Wettlauf um maritime Rohstoffe.» (in German). 2023/Jun.
- Asia Society of Switzerland**, Gen A Conference Keynote Intervention: "Pitching Your Expertise: Talking Asia to Academic and Public Audiences." 2023/May.
- Duke University**: Conference 'Histories and Society of the Hydrosphere,' paper title *Deep-Blue Visions in the Drafting of Japan's Terraqueous Geographies*. 2023/Apr.
- Cambridge University**, Guest Workshop: "The Oceanic Metabolism of Terraqueous Japan." 2023/Feb.
- Kokugakuin University**, Guest Lecture: "Chikyū ondanka ni wa kako no rekishi o kaeru chikara ga aru no ka? [Does Global Warming Have the Power to Change the History of the Past?] 地球温暖化は過去の歴史を変える力があるのか?" (in Japanese.) 2022/Jul.

- Kokugakuin University**, Guest Lecture: „Kuroshio Frontier ni okeru kokka, kigyō to kankyō hensen [Business, State and Environmental Change in the Kuroshio Frontier] 黒潮フロンティアに於ける国家、企業と環境変遷“ discussant: Sugiyama Rie (in Japanese.) 2022/Jul.
- Osaka University**, Global History Special Guest Lecture. Talk Title: “Oceanic Frontiers as a Framework for the History of Global Japan,” chair & discussant: Nadin Heé and Akita Shigeru. 2022/Jun.
- Takeda Pharmaceuticals Tel Aviv Office**, online Lecture. “How to Cure a Samurai? Crash Course for Medical Time Travelers.” 2022/Jun.
- Harvard University**, Department of EALC. Talk title “Archipelagic Japan and its Oceanic Dimensions in Historical Perspective.” 2021/Nov.
- The University of Tokyo**, Center for Contemporary Japanese Studies. Talk title “Identity and Ambition in the Drafting of Japan’s Deep Sea Geographies.” 2021/Sep.
- Ambassador’s Residence, Embassy of Switzerland in Japan**. Talk title: *A Statement for Diversity: Cohesion, Participation and Local Development in Romansh-Speaking Switzerland*. [Video available on Youtube](#). 2020/Feb.
- The University of Tokyo, Historiographical Institute**. Talk series “Rekishi to shiryō no kai [Meetings on History and Sources].” Talk title: *Taiheiyō no shūsanchi: Honzōgakusha tachi ga Ogasawara shotō de hakken shita kokusai shakai to kokusai shizen* [The Pacific Entrepôt: The Discovery of a Global Community and a Global Ecosystem in the Bonin Islands.] 太平洋の集散地：本草学者達が小笠原諸島で発見した国際社会と国際自然 (In Japanese.) 2019/Dec.
- Kyoto University of Advanced Science**, two guest lectures titled *Watashi no kokusai kankaku* [My Concepts of Globalism] 私の国際感覚, and *Taiheiyō sekai no ‘hakken’: Ogasawara shotō to Kuroshio Frontier no keisei,* [The Discovery of the Pacific: The Ogasawara Islands and the Creation of the Kuroshio Frontier] 太平洋世界の発見：小笠原諸島と黒潮フロンティアの形成. (In Japanese). 2019/Jun.
2019/Jul.
- Sophia University**, Global Studies Department Special Lecture. Title: *Taiheiyō no shūsanchi: Ogasawara shotō to seibutsugaku teki kaikoku* [A Pacific Entrepot: the Bonin islands and the Ecological Opening of Japan] 太平洋の集散地：小笠原諸島と生物学的開国. Sponsored by Mariko Iijima and Shinzō Araragi. (In Japanese.) 2019/Jan.
- USK Coffee Public Lecture**, Chichijima, Ogasawara. *Shimaya Ichizaemon to Ogasawara shotō saiko no chizu* [Shimaya Ichizaemon and the oldest map of the Bonin Islands] 嶋谷市左衛門と小笠原諸島最古の地図. (In Japanese.) 2017/May
- The University of Tokyo, Historiographical Institute**. Tokyo, Japan. *Tokugawa jidai Nihon no Ogasawara hakken to kaiyō teikoku no kigen* [Tokugawa Japan’s discovery of Ogasawara and the origins of the pelagic empire] 徳川時代日本の小笠原発見と海洋帝国の起源. Talk series ‘*Rekishi to shiryō no kai*’ 歴史と資料の会. [Handout online](#). (In Japanese.) 2016/Jul.
- Suisu shi kenkyū kai** [Society for Swiss History] スイス史研究会, Kokugakuin University, Tokyo, June 29th 2013. *Aimé Humbert – Riberarisuto no kachikan to bakumatsu Nihon* [Aimé Humbert – Value Concepts of a Liberalist and Bakumatsu Japan] エメエ・アンペール：リベラリストの価値観と幕末日本, 45-min. presentation. [2013/7/4]. (In Japanese.) 2013/Jun.

Jonas Rüegg, Mar. 2024.