

NAJS 2010 – The Seventh NAJS Conference on the Study of
Contemporary Japanese Society, 18–19 March 2010,
Oslo, Norway

www.najs.jp

Dear participants,

You are most welcome to the Seventh Annual NAJS Conference. The Conference is organized by the Department of Culture Studies and Oriental Languages (IKOS) of the University of Oslo (UiO). The conference will take place at the Humanities and Social Sciences Library (Georg Sverdrups hus) at the Blindern campus of the University of Oslo.

There is no conference fee, and thanks to our sponsors we are happy to announce that coffee and tea, lunches and dinner are all free of charge.

Below you will find a schedule, list of participants and abstracts.

We are looking forward to two productive and intensive days in Oslo!

NAJS 2010 Organizing Committee
Pia Moberg, Riikka Länsisalmi, Dick Stegewerns, Staffan Appelgren & Jakob Nobuoka

Sponsors:

Oslo University
Japan Foundation
The Japanese Embassy to Norway
Toshiba International Foundation

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Conference venue

The conference will be held in Undervisningsrom 1 of the Humanities and Social Sciences Library (Georg Sverdrups hus) at the Blindern campus of the University of Oslo. You can check the link at the NAJS website.

Undervisningsrom 1 is on the third floor (in Japanese and Norwegian terms, that is). We will put up signs, but you should take the stairs or elevator on your left hand side (the restaurant side, not the bookish side of the library).

From Oslo (Gardermoen) Airport to the Conference Venue

To reach the conference venue from the airport you take the airport express train Flytoge to Oslo Central Station and change here to the subway (T-bane). You can take line 3 to Sognsvann, line 4 Ringen, or line 5 to Storo (all from the platform on your right hand side). Get off at Blindern station and follow the hordes of students heading for the Blindern campus.



The library building is number 27 on the map.

Those of you who are on a tight schedule, you can get to/from the conference site to/from the airport by subway and airport express train (Flytoge) within one hour.

Accommodation

We have reserved rooms at Cochs Pensjonat, which is right in the middle of Oslo, just behind the Royal Palace (Parkveien 25, Tel. 2333 2400, www.cochs.no). Breakfast is served at the Pensjonat, but is not included in the room rate. You can also get some decent food at the cafeteria in the library and in the supermarket near the library.

From Oslo (Gardermoen) Airport to the Conference Venue

To reach the hotel from the airport you take the airport express train Flytoge to Oslo Central Station and change here to tram line 11 with destination Majorstuen. You have to get off at the stop Welhavensgate. From here you walk in the direction in which the tram has continued and on the corner of the first major crossing (with traffic lights, you have to cross straight ahead, crossing the tram tracks) you find the Pensjonat. The reception is upstairs, but there is a bell to the right of the door.

If you don't have heavy luggage and you prefer walking, you can also continue riding the Flytoge until the station Nationaltheatret (Flytoge trains that do not stop before Oslo Central Station will not continue any further) and from there cross the grounds of the royal palace.

From the Hotel to the Conference Venue

From the Pensjonat it is a 15 minute walk + ride to the Blindern campus. You can either take tram 11 to Majorstuen (one each ten minutes) and change to one of the subwaylines mentioned above or you can walk five minutes to the Hoyskolesenteret stop or Dalsbergstien stop of tram lines 17 and 18 (one each five minutes), which will take you to the Blindern stop in five minutes. In case you prefer/need a taxi. A little uphill from the hotel is a taxi-stand. And those who prefer walking, please get a map at the hotel. You can cover the distance within 30 minutes.

Computer Facilities

In the library there are a few computers which you can use, although we may be able to help you to your own access to the university network. You can also check the Asahi Shinbun and other newspapers in the newspaper room on the ground floor.

Food and Drinks

Lunch will be served in the library club room one day and on the top floor of the administration building the other day. Dinner and a reception hosted by the Japanese Embassy will be held at a restaurant Mares (Frognerveien 12, Tel. 2254 8980, www.mares.no). We will go there straight after the last session on Thursday. You can easily walk back to the hotel after dinner. The two lunches and the dinner on Thursday will be sponsored by the Department of Culture Studies and Oriental Languages (IKOS) of the University of Oslo, and coffee, tea and other refreshments during the coffee breaks and drinks over dinner on Thursday will be sponsored by the NAJS.

Those of you who have a special diet and those of you who would also like to have dinner on Friday, please contact Dick Stegewerns.

Contact

You can reach the local organiser Dick Stegewerns at +31-6-4626 5930

SCHEDULE NAJS 2010 in Oslo

Thursday 18 March

10.00-10.30 *Registration*

10.30 -10.40 *Opening of the conference: A word from the NAJS Steering Committee*

10.40-12.10 *Session 1*

Chair: Länsisalmi

Paper 1: **Szurawitzki** "*Japanese Video Games and Localization: Real World and Game World*" discussants: Bender, Merklejn

Paper 2: **Merklejn** "*Mediatization and national identity in postwar Japan - selected problems*" discussants: Saunavaara, Surawitzki

Paper 3: **Bender** "*Making Music – Making Kids: Governmentality, Subjectivity, and Traditional Music Education in Japanese Schools*" discussants: Appelgren, Kreitz-Sandberg

12.10-13.10 *Lunch* (sponsored by IKOS/University of Oslo)

13.10-14.10 *Keynote speech*

Chair: Stegewerns

Professor **Nakanishi Hiroshi** (Kyoto University) (sponsored by The Japan Foundation): *Searching for a new fit: Japan's foreign and security policy after the LDP dominance*
discussants: Midford, Tikhonov

14.10-14.20 Short break

14.20-15.50 *Group discussion 1*

Chair: Moberg

Papers:

Lindberg-Wada "*Images and self-images in cross-cultural contacts: Japanese studies from a colonial/postcolonial perspective*" discussant: Gustafsson

Stegewerns "*Normal Country, Unique Mission*" discussant: Hagström

Länsisalmi "*Lion Heart's Legacy': Personification of the Japanese Prime Minister in Cabinet E-mail Magazines*" discussant: Sejrup

15.50-16.20 Coffee break with information from NIAS (Blomkvist & Magnussen)

16.20 -17.50 *Session 2*

Chair: Teeuwen

Paper 4: **Moberg** "*Creating leadership in Japan: a case study of the Matsushita Institute of Government and Management*" discussants: Midford, Stegewerns

Paper 5: **Hagström** "*Politicization vs. De-politicization: Understanding Fluctuation in Japan's China Policy*" discussants: Länsisalmi, Sejrup

Paper 6: **Sejrup** "*Modernity Transplanted? - Japanese Colonialism and Taiwanese Identity*"
discussants: Lande, Merklejn

18.30 Reception (sponsored by the Japanese Embassy in Norway)

19.30 Dinner (sponsored by IKOS/University of Oslo and Toshiba International Foundation)

Friday 19 March

9.00-10.00 *Group discussion II*

Chair: Hagström

Papers:

Saunavaara "*Triangle of power – relations between occupation authorities, Japanese conservative politicians and behind-the-scenes financiers*" discussant: Lindberg-Wada
Savon Meras . "*Modernity and its assimilation in Japan represented in the work of Haruki Murakami*" discussant: Abe Auestad

10.00-10.20 *Coffee break*

10.20-11.50 *Session 3*

Chair: Korhonen

Paper 7: **Gustafsson** "*Exhibiting the Nanjing Atrocity in Japan and China*"

discussants: Lindberg-Wada, Saunavaara

Paper 8: **Söderberg** "*Changing Power Relations in Northeast Asia: Implications for Japan – South Korea Relations*" discussants: Lande, Midford

Paper 9: **Midford** "*An Iraq Syndrome or Reaching the Limits of "Normalization?" Japanese Public Opinion and Security Since Koizumi*"

discussants: Hagström, Nakanishi

11.50-12.50 *Lunch* (sponsored by IKOS/University of Oslo)

12.50-13.20 *Session 4*

Chair: Gustafsson

Paper 9: **Korhonen** "*Where is Asia?*" discussants: Söderberg, Stegewerns

13.20-14.05 *Guest speaker*

Professor **Yomota** Inuhiko (Meiji Gakuin University): *Kurosawa Akira a Century after his Birth*

14.05-14.20 *Short break*

14.20-15.50 *Group Discussion III*

Chair: Appelgren

Papers:

Bochorodycz "*Japanese NGOs in the Era of Globalization: The Role of Gaiatsu and the State in the Development of NGOs since the 1980s.*" discussant: Tamayama

Tamayama "*Go Local! or "Shindofuji": A Study of the Japanese Organic Agriculture*" discussant: Bochorodycz

Kreitz-Sandberg "*Comparative Perspectives on Professional Cooperation. A study on teachers' resources for working with students in special needs*" discussant: Moberg

15.50-16.00

NAJS in the future: closing of the conference

Lists of participants

Staffan Appelgren, University of Gothenburg.
Reiko Abe Auestad, University of Oslo.
Shawn Bender, Dickinson College (USA).
Inga-Lill Blomkvist, NIAS.
Beata Bochorodycz, A. Mickiewicz University in Poznan
Karl Gustafsson, Stockholm University
Linus Hagström, Swedish Institute of International Affairs.
Pekka Korhonen, University of Jyväskylä.
Susanne Kreitz-Sandberg, Linköping University.
Mitsuyo Kuwano Lidén Stockholm University, Oriental Languages.
Gunilla Lindberg-Wada, Stockholm University, Oriental Languages.
Eivind Lande, Embassy of Japan in Norway
Riikka Länsisalmi, Leiden University/LIAS & LUCL.
Naomi Yabe Magnussen University of Oslo Library
Iwona Merklejn, Nicolaus Copernicus University (Poland).
Paul Midford, NTNU (Norway)
Pia Moberg The Swedish Institute of International Affairs
Nakanishi Hiroshi, Kyoto University.
Juha Saunavaara, University of Oulu
Patricia Savon Meras, Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University, Japan
Jens Sejrup, University of Copenhagen
Dick Stegewerns, University of Oslo.
Antti Szurawitzki, University of Helsinki
Marie Söderberg, European Institute of Japanese Studies
Tamayama Tomoyo, Graduate University for Advanced Studies (Japan).
Mark Teeuwen, University of Oslo.
Vladimir Thikonov, University of Oslo.
Yomota Inuhiko, Meiji Gakuin University, Tokyo.

ABSTRACTS:

Shawn Bender, Dickinson College (USA). "Making Music – Making Kids: Governmentality, Subjectivity, and Traditional Music Education in Japanese Schools"

In 2002 the Japan's Ministry of Education instituted new instructional guidelines for Japanese primary and secondary schools. As part of this new curriculum, and for the first time in Japanese history, the government officially introduced "traditional" Japanese music into primary and secondary music education. Based on ethnographic fieldwork in Japanese public schools, and interviews with educators, musicians, and policymakers, this paper examines, first, the factors that led to this shift in music education policy. Specifically, it questions the degree to which this change indicates an attempt by neo-conservative elites to cultivate nationalist sentiment among youth. Next, the paper analyzes the process by which the performance techniques of traditional Japanese music (*hōgaku*) were rationalized into a form suitable for mass education. The paper contends that the insertion of traditional music and musical instruments into the curriculum did not entail the passive incorporation of a set of preexisting practices but instead required the active creation of an inclusive national category of Japanese musical performance.

Beata Bochorodycz, A. Mickiewicz University in Poznan. "Japanese NGOs in the Era of Globalization: The Role of Gaiatsu and the State in the Development of NGOs since the 1980s."

The paper analysis two waves of NGOs development in Japan, first, in the 1980s, and second, from the end of the 1990s, focusing on major factors that stimulated their growth, both domestically and on the global arena, namely the broadly defined *gaiatsu*, the "international pressure", and then the change of governmental policy towards the NGOs. In the first instance, the *gaiatsu* included extensive media reporting on various global disasters, the rising debate on global environmental issues, as well as activities of various international NPOs and NGOs that took initiative trying to tackle them. In the second instance, although some "accidental" factors such as the Great Hanshin Awaji earthquake were at work as well, it was predominantly, as the paper tries to argue, the national government that switched its attitude toward the NGOs from hostility into strong engagement in the promotion of their development, particularly in the field of social welfare. The paper looks into rationale and means behind that change that led to close cooperation and high reliance of the state on NGOs in the areas of social welfare and international cooperation. The implication of such change will be further elaborated.

Karl Gustafsson, Stockholm University. "Exhibiting the Nanjing Atrocity in Japan and China"

The Nanjing Atrocity has become a well-known symbol of Japanese wartime aggression. As such it has been at the heart of fierce debates concerning both what actually happened in Nanjing after the Japanese military attacked and captured the city in December 1937 and regarding the historiography of the event. It is often claimed that Japanese accounts of the war omit the Japanese military's aggression in Asia. Chinese narratives, on the other hand, are sometimes considered to a large extent on Japanese atrocities. It hence seems plausible to believe that most Chinese museums dealing with the war between 1931 and 1945 will include the Nanjing atrocity and that Japanese exhibitions will not. In the paper, this assumption is tested through an analysis of if and how the event is portrayed in the exhibitions at 25

Japanese museums and 23 Chinese ones. It is shown that there is less difference than would be expected in the number of Japanese and Chinese exhibitions dealing with the event. The analysis hence suggests that assumptions about Japanese and Chinese war memories need to be reconsidered.

Linus Hagström, Swedish Institute of International Affairs. "Politicization vs. De-politicization: Understanding Fluctuation in Japan's China Policy"

From the late 1990s to the late 2000s, the international discourse on the Sino-Japanese relationship shifted from representing it as generally "good," to portraying it as generally "bad," and then back to describing it as generally "good" again. This article aims to understand what could hence be construed as "fluctuations" in Sino-Japanese relations, through employing discourse analysis as foreign policy theory. The aim is operationalized by analyzing the Japanese political discourse on China and China policy as it has played out in the Japanese Diet. The article demonstrates that there is a fault line running between a "radical representation," epitomizing further politicization of a prevalent Japanese mistrust of China, and a "moderate representation," reflecting de-politicization of that commonly held mistrust. Furthermore, it shows that in the period examined (a) China has come to be discussed more frequently, and (b) a greater variety of aspects of the relationship has reached the political agenda. Together, these two changes have been conducive in altering the relative position of the two representations; in 2008 the moderate representation was still dominant, but less so than in 1999. The main argument of this article is thus that recent fluctuations in Japan's China policy—and by implication Sino-Japanese relations—can be understood in terms of an increasingly open China discourse in Japan.

Nakanishi Hiroshi, Kyoto University. "Searching for a new fit: Japan's foreign and security policy after the LDP dominance"
(NO ABSTRACT)

Yomota Inuhiko Meiji Gakuin University, Tokyo. "Kurosawa Akira at a Century"

Kurosawa Akira was born in 1910 and directed 30 films in his lifetime. He is one of the most eminent and renowned film directors in the postwar Japanese society. The figure of Samurai he represented became a masculine metonymy of Japan and encouraged psychologically Japanese audiences who had to survive on a defeated and occupied country. The Japanese applauded him when he was regarded one of the world Maestros of Cinema at international film festivals in the 1950's. Today Kurosawa is surrounded with heavy clouds of cultural mythology and stereotypes of humanism. But these phenomena never seem to tell the truth on him as a solitary film director.

In the context of Japanese film history Kurosawa proposed many interesting problems. At first he revolutionized the genre of Chanbara (Samurai movies). He refused the old patterned Kabuki actions and adapted more realistic and rational styles in *Seven Samurai* (1954). His background culture was not only restricted in Japanese classic theatre, but showed strong hybridity, especially with the European literature of the 19th century. His adaptation of *Macbeth*, *King Lear* and *The Idiot* (Dostoyevsky) were unique and are still new even in the today's academic context.

The protagonists of his films always show the same pattern of moralistic behavior. First they are caught by false problems raised from an accidental situation. What is a pleasure or a pastime to forget a coming death by cancer? How to protect the village from bandits? Which son of mine loves me most from their heart? But the protagonists will find errors of

these problem while they are in a struggle with their enemy. Finally they will reach the true and essential problems at the end of their lives. What is a defeat and what is a victory? What is the ultimate value of a life? What is a meaning of being a Samurai? Most of the narratives of Kurosawa films are nothing but a process of sifting out false problems and researching for the true ones. This is one of the reasons why he in his many films liked to take medical doctors and teachers as his privileged protagonists.

With video screening of some fragments of Kurosawa's works (Seven Samurais, The Idiot, Dreams)

Pekka Korhonen, University of Jyväskylä. "Where is Asia?"

Asia, especially an Asia which is "rising", is a frequently discussed rhetorical object nowadays. It is, however, difficult to analyze systematically, because it is difficult to determine whether it should be understood as a concept, as a name, or as a commonplace. It is supposed to be a geographic "continent" - which it definitely is not. Its whereabouts are quite hazy, except that it is situated somewhere to the east of Europe, but both laymen and experts disagree about the exact location. Notwithstanding, Asia definitely exists somewhere, because it has been sighted by many people in many empirical observations. The paper is an attempt to read a number of miscellaneous eye witness reports, and to try to find out from them the location of Asia.

Susanne Kreitz-Sandberg, Linköping University. "Comparative Perspectives on Professional Cooperation. A study on teachers' resources for working with students in special needs"

The research is divided into two phases. In the first phase information and data on organisation, resources and practices regarding pupils' welfare in municipal compulsory schools in Sweden, Japan and Germany will be collected. If necessary, the review of literature and statistics will be combined with additional data from telephone interviews or questionnaires involving a certain number of principals or other persons responsible for school organisation. General national characteristics will be described, even if a certain diversity of practices can be expected for each of the three countries. This knowledge about structures and processes of school welfare forms the ground for the second phase aiming at an analysis of professional cooperation within school. From a teachers' perspective the above mentioned research questions will be discussed based on focus group interviews in the second phase of the study. The interest to study interprofessional cooperation is rooted in the Swedish experience, where different professions participate in working with pupils' welfare at school. Collaboration between teachers, schoolnurses, social workers, psychologists and others have become a selfevident condition of school welfare. At the NAJS conference the focus of discussion will naturally be on the Japanese part of the study.

Gunilla Lindberg-Wada, Stockholm University, Oriental Languages. "Images and self-images in cross-cultural contacs: Japanese studies from a colonial/postcolonial perspective"

Although not explicitly mentioned in Mary Louise Pratt, *Imperial Eyes: Travel Writing and Transculturation* (1992), her book opens up interesting readings of the deeds and times of Thunberg and Nordenskiöld.

Thunberg was sent out as one of Carl von Linné's disciples, as part of Linné's "hegemonic" project of "mapping" the botanic species of the world. Nordenskiöld was born and raised as a member of the Swedish-speaking upper class of Finland, a "part" (colony?) of Sweden that

had only a couple of decades before his birth been “lost” to Russia. How well would the view of Sweden as colonizer fit in with our self-image, and why did the Danish Crown collect taxes in Sweden in the fifteenth-sixteenth centuries?

In the context of research from a colonial/postcolonial perspective, Japan presents quite a challenge, in some respects characterized by the mentality of the colonized, in other respects occupying the role of the colonizer, as it were. My material does not deal directly with contemporary Japan, but I think it may provide a good starting point for a discussion of research on Japan within the context of the colonial/postcolonial discourse and of our self-images as Nordic scholars.

Riikka Länsisalmi, Leiden University/LIAS & LUCL. ”’Lion Heart’s Legacy’: Personification of the Japanese Prime Minister in Cabinet E-mail Magazines”

In 2001 Prime Minister Koizumi launched a ”Cabinet E-mail Magazine” to “express (his) thoughts and learn what (his) compatriots are thinking”. This electronic service still continues and was adopted also by his successors, Prime Ministers Abe, Fukuda, Aso and Hatoyama. In addition to a Japanese version, The Hatoyama Cabinet E-mail Magazine is currently available in English, Korean and Chinese.

The purpose of this paper is to examine overt first person reference in the English translations of these Cabinet E-mail Magazines and compare this phenomenon of “personification” with the original Japanese versions. It is common knowledge that Japanese subjects can often be ellipted and therefore no overt term is needed for example to refer to the 1st person. In English, however, overt reference usually becomes obligatory. My paper pays particular attention to overt 1st person reference terms in the original Japanese E-mail Magazines and examines how their English translations accommodate intended meanings. I will also investigate whether there are notable differences in self-reference between the examined Prime Ministers. In the analysis, reference will be made to factors such as argument encoding types, experiencer roles and lexical choices, focus, contrast and involvement.

Iwona Merklejn, Nicolaus Copernicus University (Poland). ”Mediatization and national identity in postwar Japan - selected problems”

The aim of this paper is to show how the dynamically growing mass media influenced the changes in Japanese national identity in the postwar period (1945-2005). I use the concept of mediatization in a meaning introduced by S. Hjarvard, A. Hepp and K. Lundby, understood as “long-term processes of the interrelation between media change on the one hand and social and cultural change on the other” (<http://www.adm.heacademy.ac.uk>, 24.08.2009). My understanding of national identity is based on nationalism studies done by C. Calhoun (2007), A. D. Smith (2007) and most importantly, M. Castells (2008) who differentiated between the identities of legitimization, resistance and project. In my study of Japanese postwar history as media-shaped history, I try to prove that the following dominant, long-term trends can be observed in the postwar changes of Japanese identity: the identity of war victim and pacifism (resistance), the identity of economic success (project and legitimization), the identity of superpower and consumption (legitimization) and the identity of technonationalism which seems to be the strongest one surviving in an all-encompassing identity crisis typical of postmodern societies (Ito, Matsuda, Okabe 2006).

Paul Midford, NTNU (Norway). “An Iraq Syndrome or Reaching the Limits of "Normalization?" Japanese Public Opinion and Security Since Koizumi”

How has public opinion influenced security policy in Japan since Koizumi Junichiro stepped down as Prime Minister in September 2006? Beginning with a look at opinion trends during the last two years of Koizumi's term, this paper argues that a backlash against the Iraq War and Japan's support for it, combined with a lack of support for the Japanese military engaging in overseas combat operations have made public opinion an increasingly salient constraint for policy. Public opinion has thwarted the plans of Koizumi and other hawks to expand Japan's overseas military role and has even succeeded in scaling back, and very nearly killing, the continuation of Japanese naval operations in the Indian Ocean that provide fuel to US and allied navies. With public opinion as opposed to overseas combat as it was twenty years ago, there is little prospect that Japan will lift its ban on the so-called exercise of the right of collective defense so that its military can fight along side the US military in distant conflicts. As a consequence of these trends, public support for amending Japan's war-renouncing constitution, which by some measures approached two-thirds of the public in 2004, collapsed between 2005 and 2008, with a plurality now opposed. At the same time, Japanese public opinion has supported strengthening Japan's territorial defense by deploying missile defenses, acquiring spy satellites and strengthening the coast guard. Japanese public opinion is pushing Japan away from overseas military deployments and toward a stronger and more autonomous homeland defense.

Pia Moberg, The Swedish Institute of International Affairs. "Creating leadership in Japan: a case study of the Matsushita Institute of Government and Management"

What role does leadership education play in developing leaders? The present article is the result of a project about one of Japan's foremost elite leadership educations, Matsushita Institute of Government and Management (MIGM). The aim is to examine the ideological foundation and practices at the institute. This will be done through the lens of authentic transformational leadership (Bass 1999) and spiritual leadership (Fry 2003). Konosuke Matsushita founded the institute in order to train political and industrial leaders who held long-term visions of the nation's future. Up to the present, there are 237 MIGM graduates, the great majority serves on top positions in Japanese society today. In the government as of autumn 2009 there are 34 MIGM graduates, including two ministers and four vice ministers. Although the MIGM is not representative for Japanese leaders in general, it represents a well-known brand in Japan.

Juha Saunavaara, University of Oulu. "Triangle of power – relations between occupation authorities, Japanese conservative politicians and behind-the-scenes financiers"

The Allied Occupation of Japan can be considered as a regime removal or democratization through foreign intervention. It is argued that this kind of transitions are formative and help to explain the shape that the new democracy will take upon emersion. Corruption, on the other hand, is often considered as a distinctive feature of Japan's postwar political system. It can, thus, be asked whether the GHQ/SCAP failed in the destruction of close contacts between politicians and moneyed interests that was recognized as an unhealthy factor contributing to the failure of the prewar democracy. Yet, before evaluating its effectiveness, one should ask how was the occupation's policy concerning the kuromaku-influence in the first place? And what was the nature of the relation between individual occupiers' and the Japanese financiers who backed conservative politicians. These questions are approached through cases of Ishibashi Shōjirō and Tsuji Karoku – both of whom, despite their dissimilar background, funded Hatoyama Ichirō and supported in the establishment of the Liberal Party (Nihon Jiyūtō).

Patricia Savon Meras, Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University, Japan. "Modernity and its assimilation in Japan represented in the work of Haruki Murakami"

Haruki Murakami's portrayal of contemporary Japanese society is a very controversial topic. Some critics argue that he is just a writer who avoids approaching any political or social issue on purpose. Others see him as displaying a kind of social/political commitment quite different from that of more conventionally "political" writers such as Oe Kenzaburo, and closer to authors of metafiction, fantasy and science fiction. Taking into account that literature is one of the ways in which cultural influence and ideology are strongly reflected, it is taken as object of study in this paper. Moreover, since Murakami's short stories are less known and examined compared to his long fiction, the analysis is focused on them. The paper analyses the representation of the West in Haruki Murakami's short stories as part of the process of modernization that has been taking place in Japan, resulting in an assimilation of this western influence by the individuals in Japanese society. It focuses on the short stories "Sleep" and "Toni Takitani". These are two of the stories that have a more realist nature. In this sense, they are different from the rest of Murakami Haruki's surrealist fiction. They reflect in a more realistic way the influence of modernity in Japanese society and how it is being Japaneseized and assimilated into Japanese customs.

Jens Sejrup, University of Copenhagen. "Modernity Transplanted? - Japanese Colonialism and 'Taiwanese Identity'"

This paper examines the question of Japanese colonial legacy in Taiwan through a critical reading of presentations in eight major Japanese and Taiwanese newspapers of a series of controversial statements on the nature of Taiwan's modern development by Japan's then foreign minister Asô Tarô in early 2006. Examining the way those statements were received and rationalized in both societies, the paper outlines how the story was structured and contextualized differently in the two societies as well as problematizes the debate sparked by the minister's statements. Proceeding from a description of the scope and nature of that debate, the paper then questions radically different perceptions of East Asian modernity, nationhood, and Japanese legacy at the root of the tension between (as well as within) the sources, and problematizes the role of Japan's colonization of Taiwan for recent formulations within Taiwan itself of a so-called 'Taiwanese identity'. How is the Japanese period made to suit the interests of those who wish to distance Taiwan from China?

Dick Stegewerns, Oslo University. "Normal Country, Unique Mission"

After the DPJ landslide victory a by many long-awaited government change has come into being. Considering the fact that Ozawa Ichirô is still very much in command of party business, it seems that Japan finally may become 'a normal state', a slogan Ozawa and many after him have repeated time and again. However, in this paper I would like to focus on one concept that Prime Minister Hatoyama stressed in his first policy speech, which seems at loggerheads with the rhetoric of 'a normal state'. It is the conviction that Japan occupies a special position in this world and accordingly has a unique role to play on the world stage. I cannot help reminding the prewar period Tōzai bunmei (yūgō)-ron. The idea of amalgamating East and West and thus creating one universal civilization at a higher level was one many people all over the globe could support, but the concomittant insight that it was Japan that was predestined to bring this lofty feat about was of course very difficult to sell to the rest of

the world. It has always struck me as odd that many Japanese intellectuals still cannot live without the idea of a unique Japanese world mission.

Antti Szurawitzki, University of Helsinki. "Japanese Video Games and Localization: Real World and Game World"

In this paper, I analyze the Japanese video game "Sairen 2" and its localized counterpart "Forbidden Siren 2" as published in the territories of Australia and New Zealand. "Sairen 2" is a game which uses a remote Japanese island as a setting, and makes use of a multitude of references to Japanese popular culture to construct a game world with distinctive Japanese elements. Through an in-depth analysis of such medium-specific elements as cut scenes, sound output and subtitle display options, as well as considerations of the wider context in which video games are developed and distributed, the challenges of localization are being discussed. Drawing mainly on Anthony Pym's concept of localization, distribution and resistance, the locale (i.e. the reception situation the user finds himself/herself in) for individual playing situations is investigated and elaborated upon. The paper encourages further research on video games in general, since little has been conducted so far from the perspective of Japanese studies.

Marie Söderberg, European Institute of Japanese Studies. "Changing Power Relations in Northeast Asia: Implications for Japan – South Korea Relations"

Japan and South Korea are geographically situated in an area that at the moment are undergoing tremendous changes in power relationships. The most obvious change is the rise of China, both in the form of economic development where the Chinese economy in the near future is predicted to overtake the Japanese one and become the world second largest. But also in the field of politics and international relations where China is becoming more proactive and is undertaking a leadership position on various issues such as the negotiation with North Korea concerning nuclear issues. Another important change in power relationships is exactly this issue, namely that North Korea now has announced that it has become a nuclear power. Both Japan and South Korea are widely affected by the changes in power relations taking place in Northeast Asia. In this book we focus on the implication of these changes for the Japanese - South Korean relationship that can be considered standing at a crossroad. Will we see more conflict or more cooperation? Can general conclusions on this be drawn or will it depend on areas and issues at stake?

To give a picture that is as thorough as possible we have chosen to take a multidisciplinary approach looking at the relationship from various angles such as politics, security, economics, culture and immigration issues. Rather than studying the changing power relationship that is taking place in Northeast Asia per se we are studying how these changes affects the relationship between Japan and South Korea. What this relationship look like is an important issue. Understanding it is central for anyone that wants to understand the politics of East Asia.

Tamayama Tomoyo, Graduate University for Advanced Studies (Japan). "Go Local! or "Shindofuji": A Study of the Japanese Organic Agriculture"

The Japanese organic agriculture has developed with the products' distributing system called "Teikei," a direct relationship between producers and consumers since late 1970's. The idea of Teikei expanded and went into different countries such as Switzerland and other European nations as well as the U.S. and Canada. In the U.S. the Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) stemmed from Teikei is developed and takes an important role of providing organic local products to the community members. Instead, the Japanese Teikei has unlikely been

shrunk its market share, declining the power of distributing system. Although the trend of ecological lifestyle and the demand of organic foods are getting more increased, Teikei has faced difficulties. Yet, the origin of Teikei is a Japanese traditional idea of “Shindofuji,” one’s body cannot be divided from the earth that is translated as people should eat their foods from where they live. Looking back to the situation of the Japanese low organic food consumption from the perspective of importance of locality, its root of Shindofuji is more worth recognizable. In fact, more urban young people and interested in organic farming and are aware of the food mileage, who want to grow their own foods for their self- sustaining.

Guidelines for participation in the NAJS 2010 Conference

The paper presentations at the annual NAJS Conference are divided into two categories: Sessions and Group Discussions. The Session category consists of more or less finished papers. Priority will be given to papers that are ready, or nearly ready for publication. In the Group Discussions category participants can present their research ideas, as well as work in progress.

Since it is a prerequisite to read all papers presented at the conference beforehand, all papers should be sent in early. They will be uploaded to a site where all participants can get access to them minimum two-three weeks ahead of the conference.

Format for Sessions

No time will be given for the presenter to summarize his or her paper. The presenter is, however, allowed a maximum of five minutes to state what type of publication or audience he/she is aiming at and state special requests about the desired feedback. Thereafter two discussants will be given five minutes each to bring up points most worthy of discussion in the paper. The presenter is then given five minutes to respond before the floor is opened for everybody to comment. The chair of the session should see to it that focus is on major issues rather than details and that the time limit is kept.

Format for Group Discussions

Group discussions are more flexible than sessions. The presenter should briefly summarize the ideas in his or her paper (five minutes) and state special requests about the desired feedback. Thereafter one discussant will be given five minutes to bring up points most worthy of discussion in the paper. Then the floor is opened for everybody to comment. In Group Discussions there is time to elaborate more intensively in the ideas presented than in sessions and the discussions between the discussant, floor and presenter can be more flexible. The chair of the Group Discussion has the role of actively leading the discussions and see to it that the time limit is kept.