

Graduates' voices

Munia Hweidi (M.A. & Ph.D in Japanese Studies)

I came to Japan as a MEXT scholar and have done both my MA (2018) and PhD (2022) at Sophia where I graduated with degrees in Japanese Studies from GPGS. My research is focused on modern and environmental literature, as well as comparative literature; in this case Arabic and Japanese literature. My MA thesis studied modernity in the works of Soseki and Mahfouz, while my PhD discussed literature and the environment in the works of Ishimure and Munif under the guidance of Prof. Angela Yiu.

The PhD program was very rigorous in its requirements, but allowed me the flexibility to follow where the research took me with the support of my supervisor and committee. Having that backbone gave me the security and confidence to pursue truly innovative work in my field. One of the things I enjoyed the most was an attitude of 'it takes a village' which I feel was one of the advantages of having a program with a small cohort. Professors, regardless of whether officially attached to my studies or not, were supportive. Doors (and emails!) are always welcoming, even those outside of my specialization. This holds true even now, a couple of years after graduation.

Beyond the faculty, the staff were always supportive. They made sure we were informed and on track whenever it came to the minutiae of being in higher education beyond learning and research. They disseminated relevant information as well as opportunities that would be helpful for our research. The staff even pointed us towards a few events that provided cultural experiences beyond our

research, such as tea ceremonies or classical performances!

Being part of the PhD program meant a well-rounded experience academically. I worked as both TA and RA, and was granted funding to do fieldwork, acquire resources, and participate in conferences. I was also able to organize symposia and publish in our attached journal. Additionally, it was a socially rewarding experience. As part of a cohort from various backgrounds with the common field of Japanese Studies, we had very insightful conversations regarding our individual research; using each other as a sounding board resolved many a stuck theory! The research room where a dedicated space was provided to each student allowed us to build a supportive community which I am still a part of even after graduation. Our meetings among both PhDs and faculty have led to some very interesting collaborations, and solid networks beyond.

As a Sophian, under the guidance of my supervisor, and with the support of the GPGS faculty, staff, and my cohort, I feel that my time here was truly formative, both academically and personally. It was an experience that gave me extensive specialized knowledge in my field, within a global framework of academia and community. As a student studying abroad, I think such an enriching experience made the 10,000 KM move away from home very much worth it.



Deep Rayththa (M.A. in International Business and Development Studies)

I graduated from GPGS in September 2023, earning my MA in International Business and Development Studies. I chose Sophia University for several reasons, one of which was the international exposure the campus provides. Situated in the heart of Tokyo, Sophia's location allowed me to make friends from Japan and all over the world, expanding my horizons and enhancing my ability to interact with a diverse group.

The course offerings at Sophia were another major attraction. I aimed to work in a company in Japan having a global perspective, and this course was the perfect fit. With professors from around the globe and a curriculum centered on international business, I was able to select subjects that matched my interests. The support and mentorship from my professors were invaluable in shaping my research.

Another significant factor in my decision was the opportunity

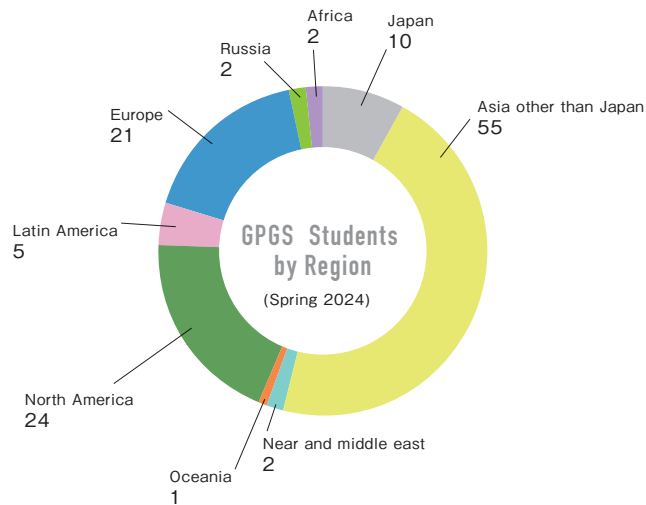
to learn Japanese through the extensive language courses offered on campus. This language training was instrumental in securing my current position. Today, I work at PARADOX Corp., a Japanese branding company, as the Director of the Global Team.

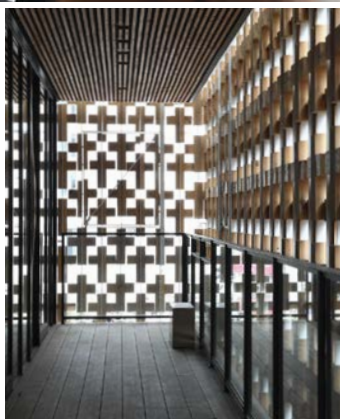
My Kokorozashi (aspiration) is to bridge Japan and India through business and interpersonal connections. I strongly believe that the education and experiences I gained at Sophia will play a crucial role in achieving this goal. I cherish the memories and connections made at Sophia, including my music club, and hope to make a positive impact on society through my work.



Overview

The Graduate Program in Global Studies (GPGS) is part of Sophia University, a leading private university in Japan. The GPGS, founded in April 2006 (formerly the Graduate Program in Comparative Culture from 1979 to 2005), builds on Sophia's traditional strengths in area studies, particularly Asian studies, to study globalization. It emphasized inquiry into global issues through a curriculum focused on three areas: Global Studies, Japanese Studies and International Business and Development Studies. All three areas offer advanced disciplinary training as well as interdisciplinary and transnational perspectives. The approximately 30 faculty members in the GPGS have advanced degrees from leading universities around the world and are actively engaged in research and publication in their specializations. They represent many different disciplines, nationalities and cultural backgrounds, ensuring a diverse range of perspectives. A number of professors from other graduate programs in the university are also affiliated with the GPGS.





Message from the Director

We live in a paradoxical age of interconnectedness and growing friction. Climate change, multiple migrations, diversifying supply chains, the global spread of Asian and African pop cultures, and the rise of political populism – all represent opportunities and challenges for young people today. Investigating any of these issues requires both local knowledge and global perspectives, historical and humanistic approaches, as well as technical and practical engagement. The Graduate Program in Global Studies (GPGS) offers an environment in which students can address these – or many other intellectual and social challenges – through traditional disciplinary training and methodology along with transdisciplinary collaboration with students and faculties from diverse backgrounds. Two decades ago, the GPGS was founded to help students learn about, and engage with, this globalizing yet still diverse and fractious world. We have students from every continent pursuing advanced studies and research on an array of topics in business, social studies, and the humanities. Moving into our third decade as a program, we are continuing to develop our program, deepening our collaborations with universities around the world, including double degree programs, such as the one we have with SOAS in London and Chulalongkorn University in Thailand. We have created avenues for students to collaborate more with other students in allied graduate programs within Sophia University, including an “inter-seminar” project and joint workshops. Finally, we aim to enhance research opportunities for students through collaborative research projects, research assistantships, and post-doctoral positions. Despite all the global challenges, at the GPGS we look forward to a flourishing era of collaborative research, education, and lively interactions in and outside the classroom.



Professor James Farrer
Director of Graduate Program in
Global Studies

◎Global Studies

■Curriculum

- INTRODUCTION TO GLOBAL STUDIES 1 & 2
- ANTHROPOLOGY OF NATURE AND TECHNOSCIENCE
- COMPARATIVE POLITICS
- DEMOCRACY IN GLOBALIZATION
- GLOBAL HEALTH
- GLOBAL HISTORY
- GLOBAL ISSUES 1 & 2
- GLOBAL MIGRATION
- GLOBAL POLITICS
- GLOBALIZATION AND POPULAR RELIGION
- HISTORY OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
- INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS THEORY
- LAW, MEDIA, CULTURE
- MEDIA AND POLITICS
- MIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP
- PREJUDICE AND DISCRIMINATION
- QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS
- SOVEREIGNTY, NATIONHOOD, LIBERALISM
- STUDIES IN EMOTION
- TOPICS IN GLOBAL STUDIES
- URBAN ETHNOGRAPHY

■Research Interests of Faculty Members

Tadashi Anno, Professor
Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley
Theories of international relations, sovereignty and nationalism, international security, Japan's security policy, Russo-Japanese relations

Tina Burrett, Professor
Ph.D. University of Cambridge
Governance, leadership, democratization, political accountability, the role of the media in politics

Makiko Deguchi, Professor
Ph.D. Boston College
Cultural psychology, prejudice and discrimination, ethnic minority psychology, social justice pedagogy, privilege studies

James Farrer, Professor
Ph.D. The University of Chicago
Urban sociology, foodways and cuisine, sexuality, nightlife, skilled migration (expatriates)

Takeshi Ito, Professor
Ph.D. Yale University
Agrarian and environmental change, ecology, capitalism and the state, power, domination and resistance, Southeast Asia and Japan

Dodom Kim, Assistant Professor
Ph.D. The University of Chicago
Social and cultural anthropology, migration, law and state, media, technology, infrastructure, contemporary China

Ilju Kim, Assistant Professor
Ph.D. McGill University
Migration, citizenship and gender, cross-border marriage migration in East Asia, immigrant labor market participation, skilled migration in the IT industry; comparative research

Yuka Minagawa, Associate Professor
Ph.D. The University of Texas at Austin
Social demography, health and aging, socio-economic transition from communication in East Central Europe and the former Soviet Union

Tatsuo Murakami, Associate Professor
Ph.D. University of California, Santa Barbara
Theories of religion (modernity, colonialism, materiality), African Pentecostalism

Koichi Nakano, Professor
Ph.D. Princeton University
Japanese politics, comparative politics, New Right transformation, public protest and civic activism, party politics and policy change, bureaucracy and administrative reform

Kiyokazu Okita, Associate Professor
M.St., Ph.D. University of Oxford
Classical Sanskrit literature, medieval Bengali literature, intellectual traditions of South Asia, History of emotions

Takehiro Watanabe, Associate Professor
Ph.D. Columbia University
Cultural and social anthropology, modernity, critical theory, cultural history of mining, amateur poetry, environmentalism, underground economics

◎International Business and Development Studies

■Curriculum

- APPLIED BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE
- BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC STATISTIC
- DOING BUSINESS IN EMERGING MARKETS
- ECONOMICS OF DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY
- FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING
- INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS
- INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT
- INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION SYSTEM AND MANAGEMENT
- MANAGING MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS
- MARKETING MANAGEMENT
- MATHEMATICAL TECHNIQUES IN BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS
- SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT
- TOPICS IN BUSINESS AND DEVELOPMENT 1 & 2

■Research Interests of Faculty Members

Akihito Asano, Associate Professor
Ph.D. The Australian National University
Applied microeconomic theory, economics education

Peter De Maeyer, Associate Professor
Ph.D. Columbia University
Customer behavior, pricing and advertising

Gabriel Fuentes Cordoba, Associate Professor
Ph.D. Tohoku University
Development economics, applied microeconomics, agriculture economics, economics systems

Takuya Hasebe, Associate Professor
Ph.D. The City University of New York
Econometrics, labor economics, health economics, applied microeconomics

Naoto Isaka, Professor
Ph.D. Hitotsubashi University
Financial markets, corporate finance

Yacob Khojasteh, Professor
Ph.D. University of Tsukuba
Operations management, supply chain management

Michiru Sakane, Associate Professor
Ph.D. Duke University
Macroeconomics, international finance

Junko Uenishi, Associate Professor
M.S., M.B.A., Northeastern University
Financial accounting, international accounting, comparative accounting systems



◎Japanese Studies

■Curriculum

- INTRODUCTION TO JAPANESE STUDIES
- COMPARATIVE LITERATURE 1 & 2
- CONTEMPORARY JAPANESE LITERATURE
- CRITICAL STUDIES IN FILM AND MEDIA
- INTERPRETATIONS OF MODERNITY 1 & 2
- JAPAN ETHNOGRAPHY
- JAPANESE HISTORY
- JAPANESE LANGUAGE COURSE A & B
- MODERN EAST ASIAN HISTORY
- MODERN JAPANESE ART HISTORY
- MODERN JAPANESE HISTORY 1 & 2
- PHILOSOPHY IN JAPAN
- POPULAR CULTURE
- PRE-MODERN JAPANESE ART HISTORY
- PRE-MODERN JAPANESE LITERATURE 1 & 2
- READING IN JAPANESE SOURCES
- RELIGION AND JAPANESE SOCIETY 1 & 2
- SOCIAL ISSUES IN CONTEMPORARY JAPAN
- URBAN SPACE STUDIES

■Research Interests of Faculty Members

Yen-yi Chan, Assistant Professor
Ph.D. The University of Kansas
Premodern Japanese art history, Buddhist visual and material culture, artistic exchanges in East Asia

Edward Drott, Associate Professor
Ph.D. University of Pennsylvania
History of Japanese religion, religion and the body

Akiko Frischhut, Assistant Professor
Ph.D. Université de Genève & The University of Glasgow (joint degree)
Metaphysics of time, consciousness, philosophy of food, aesthetics

Bettina Gramlich-Oka, Professor
Ph.D. Universität Tübingen
Japanese history, digital humanities, gender studies, material culture

Christian Hess, Professor
Ph.D. University of California, San Diego
Modern Chinese history, urban history, Japanese imperialism and colonialism in China, the regional history of Northeast China, globalization and Chinese cities

Hannah Holtzman, Assistant Professor
Ph.D. The University of Virginia
Film studies, film theory, visual culture, ecocinema

Shion Kono, Professor
Ph.D. Princeton University
Comparative literature, modern Japanese literature

Noriko Murai, Professor
Ph.D. Harvard University
Modern art history (Japan), visual culture, gender studies, Japonisme

Sven Saaler, Professor
Ph.D. Universität Bonn
Japanese political history, history of Japanese foreign relations, politics of memory, history of Pan-Asianism

David Slater, Professor
Ph.D. The University of Chicago
Cultural anthropology, refugees and migrants, disaster and recovery, urban youth culture and consumption, ethnography, oral narrative, semiotics

Matthew Strecher, Professor
Ph.D. University of Washington
Modern and contemporary Japanese literature, literary journalism, genre studies, mythology, global literature, and postmodernism

Mathew Thompson, Associate Professor
Ph.D. Columbia University
Medieval and early modern Japanese literature, particularly the otogizoshi(御伽草子), ko-joruri(古浄瑠璃), and gunkimono(軍記物) genres

Angela Yiu, Professor
Ph.D. Yale University
Modern Japanese literature, literature and space, utopianism, modernism, postwar literature, and urban space