

RESEARCH COOPERATION IN JAPANESE STUDIES AT TALLINN UNIVERSITY



TALLINN UNIVERSITY

TALLINNA ÜLIKOOL

ALARI ALLIK
SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES

EARLY DAYS

- ❖ In 1988 Estonian Institute of Humanities was established by professor Rein Raud and other scholars.
- ❖ In 1989 students could specialise in Japanese Studies. In 2009 the M.A. programme in Japanese Studies was established with 12 enrolled students.
- ❖ Extensive support from Japan Foundation and Japanese Government through Official Development Assistance (in 2001 we received a large donation of Japanese books, CD-ROMs and IT equipment through Cultural Grant Aid of Japan).
- ❖ Future staff and researchers studied in Japan during 90s with the Monbushō scholarship.



The JF Nihongo Network as the "Sakura Network"

Since the fiscal year 2007, the Japan Foundation has been building up the JF Nihongo Network ("Sakura Network") with the cooperation of Japanese language education institutions worldwide.

The Japan Foundation expects the "Sakura Network" members to play a significant role in terms of enhancing the Japanese language education in their region or country by utilizing various programs provided by the Japan Foundation.

We hope that this network will develop and prosper in every part of the world, just like beautiful cherry blossoms, hence the name "Sakura Network."

The Japan Foundation will work together in cooperation with the member organizations of the "Sakura Network" to enhance the quality of overseas Japanese language education and provide opportunities to learn the Japanese language.

➤ Support Program for Organizations in Japanese-Language Education (Special Program for Sakura Network members)

357 Members: As of December 2021.

▼ East Asia ▼ Southeast Asia ▼ South Asia ▼ Oceania ▼ North America ▼ Central & South America
▼ Europe ▼ Western Europe ▼ Eastern Europe ▼ Central Asia & Caucasus ▼ Middle East ▼ Africa





MAIN AREAS OF RESEARCH

- ❖ Japanese literature and theatre
- ❖ Japanese philosophy and cultural theory
- ❖ Translation studies

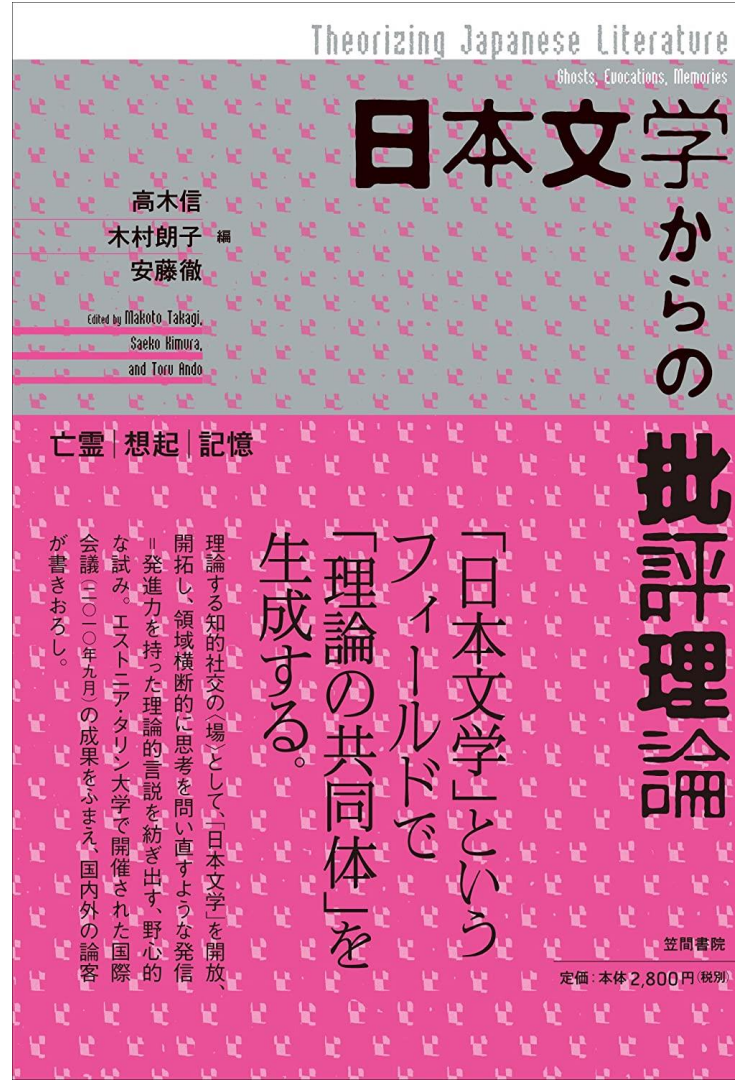
JAPANESE CLASSICS IN THE MODERN WORLD

- ❖ In 2008 the conference „Japanese Classics in the Modern world“ was held commemorating 1000 years of „The Tale of Genji“.
- ❖ The keynote speaker was Rajyashree Pandey (University of London, Goldsmiths) who was also active in teaching and supervising Japanese Studies students in Tallinn University.



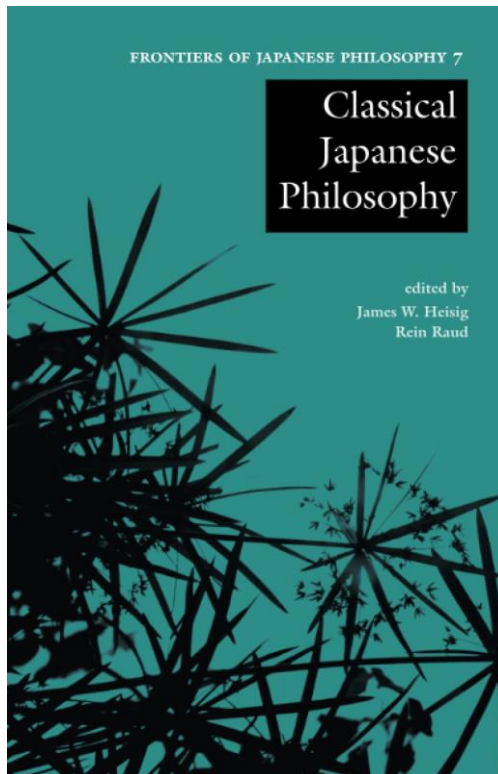
THEORIZING JAPANESE LITERATURE: MEMORIES, EVOICATIONS GHOSTS

- ❖ 9-11 september 2010, Tallinn University
- ❖ Presentations by Kimura Saeko (Tsuda College), Ubukata Tomoko (Rissho University), Fujii Sadakazu (Rissho University), Ando Tōru (Ryukoku University), Takagi Makoto (Sagami Women's University) and many others.



RESEARCH IN CLASSICAL JAPANESE PHILOSOPHY

In 2010 a conference „Classical Japanese Philosophy“ was held in Tallinn University. The 7th volume in the series called “Frontiers of Japanese Philosophy” was co-edited by James Heisig (Nanzan University) and Rein Raud and included articles of scholars from Tallinn University and Helsinki University.



COOPERATION WITH NANZAN INSTITUTE FOR RELIGION AND CULTURE

- ❖ On October 23rd 2015 professor James Heisig received Honorary Doctoral degree for his contribution to research in Japanese philosophy at Tallinn University.
- ❖ Rector Tõnu Viik visited Nanzan University for extended period of time while conducting a phenomenological study of experiencing technological alterities.



Mati Hint



Mikael M. Karlsson



Boriss Uspenski



James Heisig

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

HONORARY MEMBER:

- MATI HINT, Professor Emeritus of Tallinn University

HONORARY PROFESSOR:

- LEO VÕHANDU, Professor Emeritus of Tallinn University of Technology

HONORARY DOCTORS:

- MIKAEL M. KARLSSON, Professor Emeritus of the University of Iceland
- BORISS USPENSKI, Professor at the Russian State University for the Humanities
- JAMES HEISIG, Professor at Nanzan University

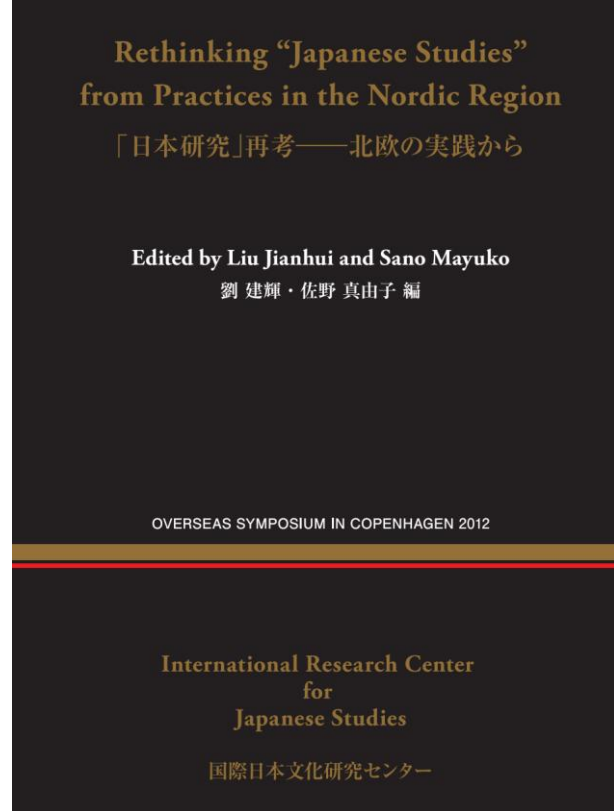
BADGES OF MERIT

- ELLU SAAR, Professor at the School of Governance, Law and Society



COOPERATION WITH NICHIBUNKEN

- ❖ Tallinn University professors have been research fellows in Nichibunken (International Research Centre for Japanese Studies).
- ❖ Participating in joint events such as „Rethinking „Japanese Studies,“ from Practices in the Nordic Region“ (Copenhagen, 2012)



COOPERATION WITH SAIGYŌ GAKKAI 西行学会

- ❖ Conference „Literature and Religion during Transitional Period: Saigyō and Jien“ in Tallinn University (2010).
- ❖ Joint panel during EAJIS conference in Lisbon „Saigyō’s travels and literature through Time and Space“ (2017).



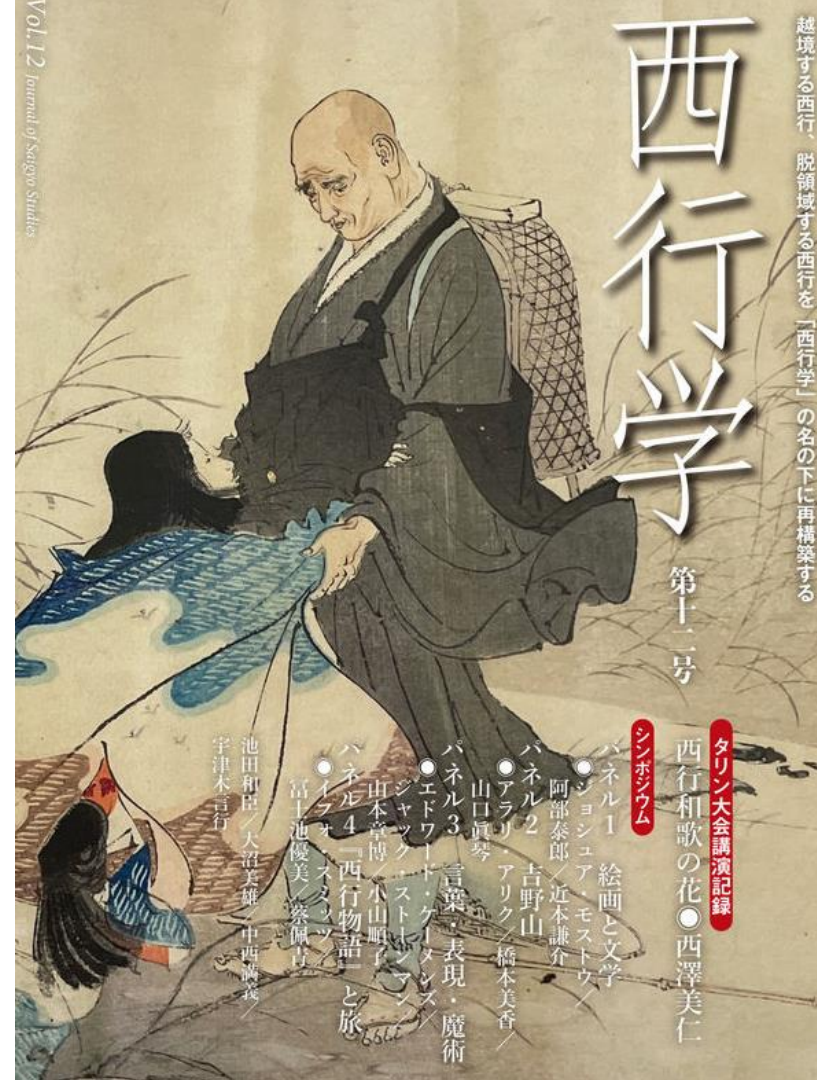
POWER OF SONG (UTA): SAIGYŌ 900

- ❖ International conference commemorating 900 years of Saigyō's birth in Tallinn University was held 5-7 July 2019. Large group of Saigyō Gakkai scholars from Japan were present (working languages were Japanese and English).
- ❖ Participants included leading scholars of the field: Yasurō Abe (Nagoya University, image on right), Yoshihito Nishizawa (Sophia University), Kensuke Chikamoto (Nagoya University), Edward Kamens (Yale), Joshua Mostow (British Columbia), Ivo Smits (Leiden), Jack Stoneman (Brigham Young University).



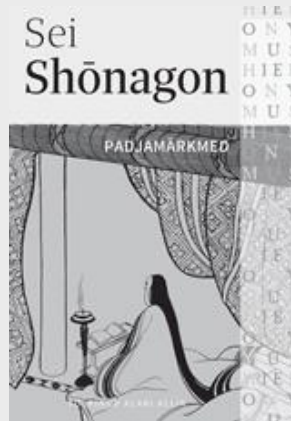
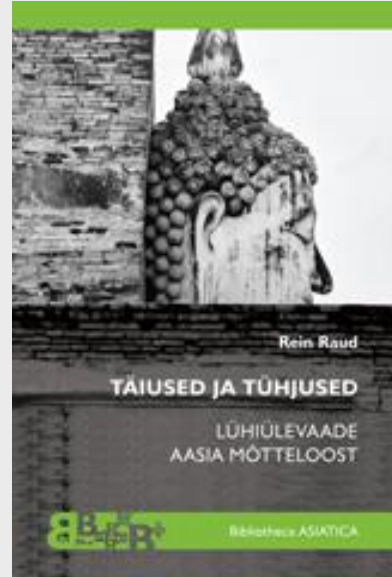
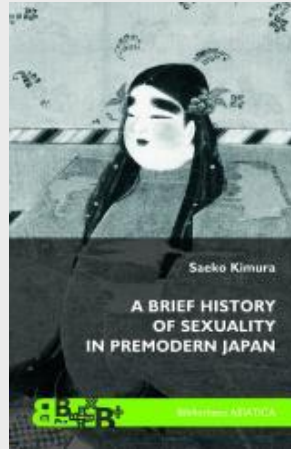
JOURNAL OF SAIGYŌ STUDIES

- ❖ The Tallinn Conference proceedings were published in the Journal of Saigyō Studies in 2021.



CULTURAL EXCHANGE





BIBLIOTHECA ASIATICA: TRANSLATIONS, TEXTBOOKS, STUDIES

*Research project:
Translation in History.
Estonia 1850-2010: Texts, Agents,
Institutions and Practices*

COOPERATION WITH KYŌTO UNIVERSITY

- ❖ Cooperation with Kyōto University Center for Applied Philosophy and Ethics: visiting lectures by Prof. Raud in 2018 and 2020.
- ❖ Joint seminar with Kyōto University and École Normale Supérieure in Paris.
- ❖ Kyōto University members will visit Tallinn University in 2023 september to discuss future cooperation.



THANK YOU!

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<https://www.ias.asia/the-newsletter/article/japanese-studies-tallinn-university>