

UCD 日本研究センター UCD Centre for Japanese Studies

年次報告書 2024 Annual Report 2024

2023年4月～2024年8月
April 2023 to August 2024



1 September 2024



Table of Contents

1 - Message from the Director.....	2
2 - Centre members & governance.....	3
3 - Events (April 2023 - August 2024).....	5
4 - Japanese Studies: Research, Teaching and Outreach.....	6
4.1 – Research Output - Prof. Neary’s Book “Public Diplomacy in Ireland and Japan” (Jun. 2024).....	6
4.2 – University-wide Elective Module [DSCY10080] ‘Gateways to Japan’ [Spring Trimester].....	7
4.3 - Japanese Language and Culture Modules [2012-2024]	9
4.4 – Prof. Gordon’s Visiting Professorship renewed at Hokkaido University (2024/25).....	10
4.5 – Research collaboration with Toyota Frontier Research Center (May 2023-)	11
4.6 – Seminar talk by Dr Downey at the Institute of International & European Affairs (Mar. 2024)	12
4.7 –Prof. Caulfield at the ISEK Congress in Nagoya (Jun. 2024)	13
4.8 – IMPULS Lesson Study Immersion Program at Tokyo Gakugei University (Jun. 2023)	13
4.9 - Collaboration with La Fondation France-Japan and successful research funding acquisition.....	15
4.10 - PPLI/Department of Education funded Project (Aug. 2023 & Jun. 2024).....	17
4.11 - PPLI/Department of Education funded Project (Nov. 2023).....	17
4.12 – Developing and nurturing connections through research seminars and lectures.....	19
5 – Centre’s guidance and support for UCD students.....	21
5.1 My MIRAI Experience - Ciarán Micheál Maher	21
5.2 My Experience of Japan in UCD - Jennifer O’Keeffe.....	24
5.3 UCD-TCD joint research group for PhD students (Asian Chapter, Ageing Research Network).....	26
6 – List of Interdisciplinary Japanese Studies Seminar Series.....	27
7 – Some highlights of our activities, 2023-24.....	29
7.1 Meeting of H.E. Ambassador Mr Norio Maruyama & President Prof. Orla Feely (Oct. 2023).....	29
7.2 Hokkaido University President Prof. Houkin’s delegation visit (Feb. 2024)	29
7.3 Welcoming Professor Kitaoka in UCD (Oct. 2023).....	31
7.4 Hiroshima Seminar & Poster Exhibition (Feb. 2024)	32
7.5 Building research capacity for the Study of Patrick Lafcadio Hearn (2023-24)	35
7.6 Japan Society for the Promotion of Science London delegation visit (Feb. 2024)	39
8 – Partnerships (Highlights)	40
8.1 Showa Women’s University Chancellor Bando’s visit to UCD (May 2024).....	40
8.2 UCD delegation’s meeting at the University of Tokyo’s Institute of Social Science (Oct. 2023).....	41
8.3 Hokkaido University delegation’s meeting at the College of Social Sciences and Law (Feb. 2024) ..	43
8.4 Erasmus+ICM (One Health) Lecture Series at Hokkaido University by Dr Szelewa (Jun. 2024)	43
8.5 Reunion with three Japanese political scientists on Belfield (Aug. 2024)	45
8.6 Honjo International Scholarship Foundation (Dec. 2023)	45
9 - Research outputs.....	46
10 – Acknowledgements.....	48

1 - Message from the Director

We are pleased to present our annual report (April 2023 - August 2024). The UCD Centre for Japanese Studies (JaSt) was established in April 2020 and since then, JaSt, together with the UCD Japan Group (established in June 2016), has provided support to realise the university community's multidisciplinary ambitions of growing and diversifying its student/staff population through wider and deeper engagement with Japan and other Asian countries in the key areas of innovative research, educational innovation, intercultural competence and employment. The Centre has connected UCD students, researchers, professionals and academic staff with partners and key stakeholders in Japan (universities, research institutes, government agencies) and the Japanese community in Ireland and overseas.

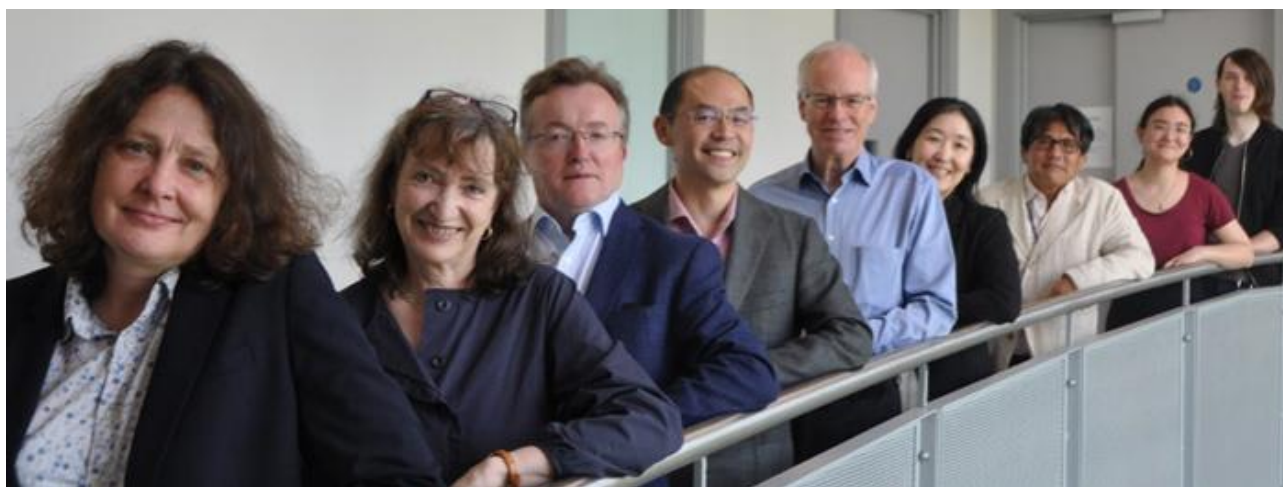
At the time of the Centre's establishment in 2020, there was also a global pandemic, making travel between Japan and Ireland difficult. Even now that the pandemic has ended, the global situation remains one with many risks, and it is a blessing for students, researchers and the university community to be able to connect with academics and students in a country as far away as Japan through digital technology.

It is also becoming more important than ever for the university to provide an environment where students can learn about the languages, history, politics, economics, and diplomacy of Japan and other Asian countries while still on the Belfield and Blackrock campuses. In that sense, the publication of the book "Public Diplomacy in Ireland and Japan," written by former Irish Japanese ambassador and Adjunct Professor John Neary, is a remarkable achievement. The book also touches on pioneers such as the late Dr Satoshi Ushioda (UCD Chemistry), and his wife, Yoshiko, who passed away in January of this year - Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam.

The UCD Japanese Studies Centre is one of the most active centres on campus and is a rare presence considering that there are no resources centrally committed to the Centre, and it is all due to the strong commitment and dedication of JaSt's members and supporters. Another reason for its active nature is, without doubt, the existence of a truly interdisciplinary collaborative relationship fostered within the Centre.

If you look at this annual report, you will see that the Center's efforts have borne fruit in various ways and have begun to be returned to the university community as results. The University has received visits from professors, including those at the president level, and top professors have begun to come as seminar speakers. The Center has also been featured in online newspaper media in Japan. And we have begun to reach out to not only universities, but also young people in junior and senior high schools who are interested in Japanese language and culture. Above all, we are delighted to see UCD students being selected as the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs "MIRAI" scholars and a Stanford University scholar. 2025 is the year that the Osaka World Expo will be held, and the long-awaited Ireland House will open. And JaSt will celebrate its fifth anniversary.

Together with the members of the Center, we are very proud of our achievements so far and are deeply grateful to those who have provided us with their generous support and guidance. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our staff and supporters, and the university community for their dedication and contributions.



Left to right: Prof. Emma Sokell, Prof. Mary Gallagher, Dr Declan Downey, Assoc. Prof. Naonori Kodate, Adjunct Prof. John Neary, Ms Nobuko Ijichi, Assoc. Prof. Iwao Osaka, Ms Sky Tsuda, Mr Turlough Kelly (Photo taken after the Centre's AGM, June 2023, in the Geary Institute for Public Policy & the School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice)

2 - Centre members & governance

The Centre is affiliated with the School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice (SPWJ) and the College of Social Sciences and Law (CoSSL). The Director will report directly to the Head of School (SPWJ) and the College Principal (CoSSL), working closely with SPWJ's research and finance managers. The Director and Deputy Director (Physics) will oversee academic standards and the coherence of the research and related programmes.

Staff Members of the Centre:

- Director: Assoc. Prof. Naonori Kodate (Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice)
- Deputy Director: Prof. Emma Sokell (Physics)
- Prof. Brian Caulfield (Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science)
- Assist. Prof. Declan Downey (History)
- Prof. Mary Gallagher (Languages, Cultures and Linguistics)
- Prof. Stephen Gordon (Veterinary Medicine)
- Ms Nobuko Ijichi (Japanese Language and Culture Coordinator in UCD)
- Dr Hiroaki Imoto (Systems Biology Ireland)
- Assist. Prof. Pablo Lucas (Sociology)
- Assoc. Prof. Hasheem Mannan (Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems)
- Adjunct Prof. John Neary (Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice)
- Assoc. Prof. Aoibhinn Ní Shúilleabháin (Mathematics and Statistics)
- Assist. Prof. Robert Power (Archaeology)

Visiting Researchers

- Prof. Kazuko Obayashi (Social Welfare Corporation Tokyo Seishin-kai)
- Dr Pranav Kohli (Researcher, HarP:RoCS Project)
- Ms Yurie Maeda (Department of Business Technology, Retail and Supply Chain, Technological University Dublin)
- Mr Yusuke Suzuki (Associate Director General, Senior Chief Engineer, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA))

Advisory Board Members:

- Prof. Niamh Brennan (Smurfit School of Business)
- Prof. Hugh Campbell (School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy)
- Prof. Joe Carthy (College Principal, College Of Science)
- Prof. Niamh Hardiman (School of Politics and International Relations)
- Prof. Margaret Kelleher (School of English, Drama and Film)
- Prof. Suzie Jarvis (UCD Innovation Academy)
- Prof. Eilish McAuliffe (School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems)
- Prof. Brian O'Connor (School of Philosophy)
- Dr Diarmuid O'Shea (St Vincent's University Hospital)

External Academic Advisors:

- Prof. Christina Davis (Director of the Program on U.S.-Japan Relations / Susan S. and Kenneth L. Wallach Professor at the Radcliffe Institute, Harvard University)
- Prof. Benjamin Ng (Head of Japanese Studies, Chinese University of Hong Kong)
- Prof. Aaron Moore (Director of Asian Studies, University of Edinburgh)
- Prof. Kiri Paramore (Director, Irish Institute of Japanese Studies, University College Cork)
- Prof. Yoshiro Azuma (Visiting Professor, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi)
- Prof. Toshiko Ellis (Dean, World Liberal Arts, Nagoya University of Foreign Studies)

UCD Japan Members (as of April 2024):

- Mr Hugo O'Donnell (UCD Centre for English and Global Languages)
- Mr Leo Humphreys Newman (Auditor, UCD Japanese Society / Computer Science)
- Dr John (Sean) Cassidy (UCD Quinn School of Business)
- Assoc. Prof. P.J. Mathews (School of English, Drama and Film)
- Prof. Ravindranathan Thampi (UCD School of Chemical & Bioprocess Engineering)

Former members (with our heartfelt thanks)

- Dr Yasuhito Sekimoto (Biomedicine)
- Assoc. Prof. Iwao Osaka (Department of Political Science, Faculty of Law, Komazawa University)
- Hayanon (Mangaka, Hayanon Science Manga Studio)

New Centre Members

	<p>Dr Power is a research fellow in the School of Archaeology. He obtained his BA from University College Cork, MSc from University College London, and PhD from Universiteit Leiden, the Netherlands. He is also an associate in the UCD Earth Institute.</p> <p>Dr Power’s work is dedicated to exploring the role of diet in human origins. Much of my work uses plant microremains (e.g. phytoliths and starches) in human dental calculus and sediments to understand plant consumption and behaviour amongst hunter-gatherer and early farming societies. His fieldwork includes Hokkaido, Japan. In the academic year, 2023/24, he gave a lecture “Jōmon culture and its role in world prehistory” for our discovery module.</p>
	<p>Dr Hiroaki Imoto is a Postdoctoral Researcher at the Systems Biology Ireland (Kholodenko/Rukhlenko Group). While conducting his PhD research at the Institute for Protein Research, Osaka University, he spent six months (September 2021 to February 2022) as a JSPS Scholar (JSPS Overseas Research Fellowships).</p> <p>His research skills and expertise include mathematical modelling, signal transduction, ordinary differential equations, parameter estimation.</p> <p>In the academic year, 2023/24, he gave a lecture “Life in school/college in Japan” for the discovery module, “Gateways to Japan”.</p>

New Centre Research Fellows

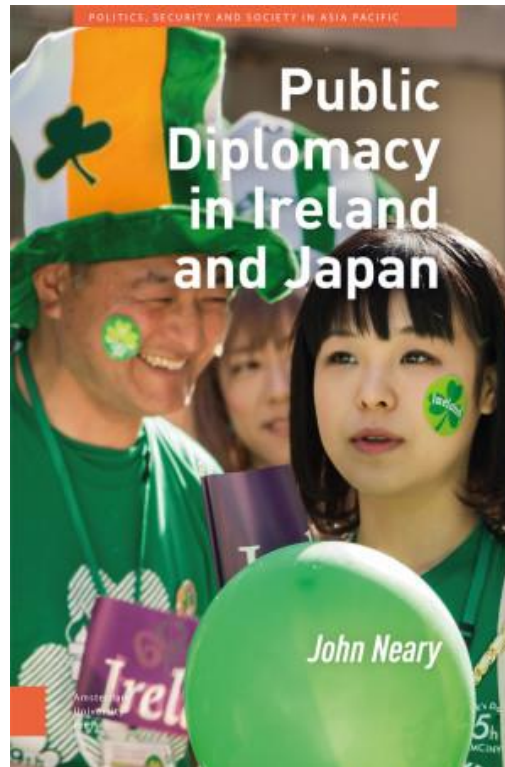
	<p>Prof. Obayashi is Director of Social Welfare Corporation Tokyo Seishin-kai and Universal Accessibility & Ageing Research Centre (UA-ARC). She obtained her MSc from the Graduate School of Social Service Management, Japan College of Social Work. She is a member of the Japan Geriatrics Society and the Japanese Society for Dementia Care. She stepped down as Professor in Healthcare Management at Nihon Fukushi University, Japan in March 2024, and joined the Centre in March.</p> <p>Over the last 6 years, Prof. Obayashi gave several guest lectures for UCD students (Master of Public Policy) and secondary school students in Ireland, as part of the UCD Japanese Language and Culture Summer Camp in 2023 (supported by the Department of Education, Post-Primary Languages Ireland through the Irish government’s ‘Languages Connect’ Strategy to encourage and promote foreign languages).</p>
	<p>Dr Pranav Kohli is a Communications & Resource Development Coordinator at Ottawa Community Housing Foundation, Canada. He obtained an MPhil in Race, Ethnicity and Conflict from Trinity College Dublin and a PhD in Anthropology from the National University of Ireland Maynooth. He is the author of <i>Memories in the Service of the Hindu Nation: The Afterlife of the Partition of India</i> (Cambridge University Press, 2023).</p> <p>Since 2021, he has been a research assistant on the HarP:RoCS project, led by Assoc. Prof. Kodate (funded by the Toyota Foundation, Japan). He conducted ethnographic observations in a residential home for older people, where an air-purification robot was introduced as a countermeasure against the pandemic.</p>

3 - Events (April 2023 - August 2024)

- May 2023: Meeting at the Lafcadio Hearn Library at the University of Toyama, Toyama.
- May 2023: New interdisciplinary & international 'care robot' research project launched in Toyota City, Aichi.
- Jun 2023: 1st All-Centre Meeting held in UCD / online (hybrid).
- Jun 2023: Assoc. Prof. Aoibhinn Ní Shúilleabháin's postdoctoral researcher, Dr Diarmaid Hyland attended the IMPULS Lesson Study Immersion Programme held at Tokyo Gakugei University, Koganei, Tokyo.
- Jul 2023: Summer Workshop 'Euro-Asian project: Capitalisms, Technologies, Society and Health', Aubervilliers, France.
- Aug 2023: Work presented at the European Association for Japanese Studies (ヨーロッパ日本研究協会) Annual Conference, Ghent, Belgium.
- Aug 2023: PPLI/Department of Education-supported Japanese Language and Culture Summer Camp held in UCD.
- Sep 2023: 1st Interdisciplinary Japanese Studies seminar "Lafcadio Hearn, French Literature & Toyama's Hearn Library" at MoLI.
- Oct 2023: 2nd Interdisciplinary Japanese Studies seminar "Japan's security and foreign policy" at the Museum of Literature Ireland (MoLI).
- Nov 2023: VSJF (Vereinigung für sozialwissenschaftliche Japanforschung) Annual Conference 2023 held online.
- Nov 2023: Work presented at the France-Japan Joint Forum "How to cope with ecological and digital transformations: Entrepreneurship and organizational creativity", funded by the JSPS France, Strasbourg, France.
- Nov 2023: Ciarán Micheál Maher (Environmental Biology /Microbiology/Plant Biology/Zoology) visited Japan on the 2023/2024 MIRAI* Visiting Japan Program, as the representative of all Higher Education Institutions in Ireland.
- Nov 2023 – Jan 2024: PPLI/Department of Education-funded Think Languages Week 'Encountering Japanese' Workshops – Discover Japan's rich history & futuristic innovations.
- Dec 2023: Researcher at the Honjo International Scholarship Foundation visited the Belfield campus.
- Dec 2023: Hosted the Japanese-Language Proficiency Test on the Belfield campus.
- Jan – May 2024: Discovery Module 'Gateways to Japan'.
- Feb 2024: Hokkaido University President Prof. Houkin's delegation visit to UCD
- Feb 2024: Secondary School Photo Competition (in collaboration with Higashikawa, Hokkaido & PPLI) launched.
- Feb 2024: Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) London delegation visit & information session.
- Feb 2024: H.E. Mr Norio Maruyama (Ambassador of Japan to Ireland)'s special lecture 'Global Ireland and Japan'.
- Feb 2024: 3rd Interdisciplinary Japanese Studies seminar "'Is Hiroshima still radioactive?'" at MoLI & a two-week long poster exhibition on the theme of 'nuclear bombs and their aftermath in Hiroshima' in the Student Centre in UCD.
- Mar 2024: Launch of UCD-TCD Ageing Research Network (Asian Chapter) in Trinity College Dublin.
- Mar 2024: 4th Interdisciplinary Japanese Studies seminar "Sublime Aesthetics, or the Cultural & Mythical Inversion Power of Negativity: From Edmund Burke's Ireland to Lafcadio Hearn's Izumo in Hidden Japan" held in UCD.
- June 2024: PPLI/Department of Education-supported Japanese Language and Culture Summer Camp held in UCD.
- August 2024: 9th Hokkaido Youth Photo Festival Exchange Project in Higashikawa, Hokkaido, Japan.

4 - Japanese Studies: Research, Teaching and Outreach

4.1 – Research Output - Prof. Neary’s Book “Public Diplomacy in Ireland and Japan” (Jun. 2024)



Adjunct Professor John Neary (UCD College of Social Sciences and Law & UCD School of Social Policy, Social Justice and Social Work) released his book entitled “Public Diplomacy in Ireland and Japan”. The book explores how culture, business, sport and education have shaped international relations between the two nations – Ireland and Japan.

Prof. Neary graduated from UCD with a degree in Electrical Engineering in 1973. He joined the Department of Foreign Affairs in 1974. His early career included assignments in the Political, Economic and Overseas Aid Divisions of the Department as well as postings in the Embassies in Luxembourg, London and Riyadh. From 1989-1991 he was Deputy Head of Ireland’s delegation to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Prof. Neary served as Head of Personnel and Planning from 1994 to 1998 and was responsible for the organisational arrangements for Ireland’s Presidency of the European Union in 1996. After three years at the Permanent Representation of Ireland to the EU in Brussels, Mr Neary returned to Dublin in 2001 to lead the Consular and Passport Division of the Department where he oversaw the introduction of the new passport system in 2004. He also served as Inspector General for Irish Diplomatic and Consular Missions abroad and as Director General of the Promoting Ireland Abroad Division which was centrally involved in the Department’s efforts to promote Ireland’s economic recovery after the global financial crisis in 2008. In 2010, Prof. Neary was appointed as Ambassador to Japan where he spent four years building up links between Ireland and Japan.

In 2017, he retired after his last posting as Ambassador of Ireland to the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and joined the Centre/School/College in UCD as Adjunct Professor. The book was several years in the making, and the team at the UCD Centre for Japanese Studies is delighted to see the book! It is not only for those who are interested in the bilateral relationship between Ireland and Japan, but also for those studying politics, international relations and how the world is shaped by us all.



You can read a free preview on the website of Amsterdam University Press.
<https://aup.nl/en/book/9789048559657/public-diplomacy-in-ireland-and-japan>

4.2 – University-wide Elective Module [DSCY10080] ‘Gateways to Japan’ [Spring Trimester]

UCD Centre for Japanese Studies
Gateways to Japan
 Discovery Elective Module - DSCY10080

Module Descriptor
 at bit.ly/Gateways2Japan2021
 Spring Trimester
 Monday 2 to 4pm [Online]
 All undergraduates are eligible to register

The Centre members gave the following lectures:

Prof. Neary - “Impressions of Japan”

Ms Ijichi - “Introduction to Japanese language and culture (1/2)”,
 “Communication strategy: getting things done in Japan (1/2)”

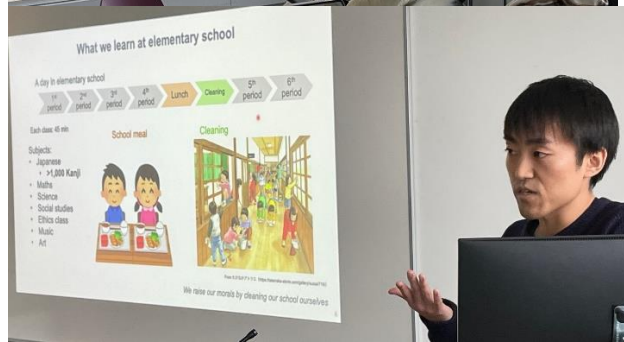
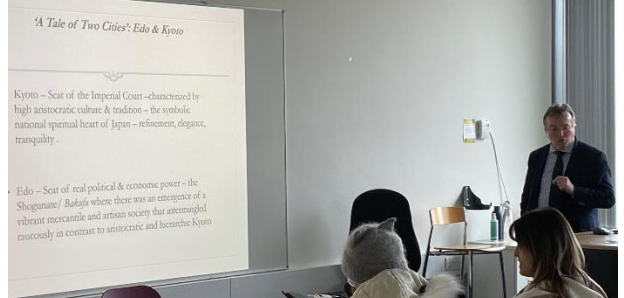
Dr Downey - “Japan and the West: a historical overview”, “Kyoto & Edo: a tale of two cities & two cultural forms”, “Tradition & modernity: the enigma of contemporary Japan”

Prof. Gordon, Caulfield & Sokell - “Research in Japan from a European perspective”

Assoc. Prof. Kodate - “Robotics, Welfare Technologies and Care in Japan”

Assist. Prof. Power – “Jōmon culture and its role in world prehistory: insights into ancient diet from phytoliths, and potsherds”

Guest lecturers include: H.E. Ambassador Mr Maruyama, Prof. Iwao Osaka, Dr Hiroaki Imoto & Mr Ciarán Maher.



(Photos: Dr Naonori Kodate)

On 26 February, we welcomed H.E. Ambassador Mr Norio Maruyama as a special guest lecturer, and he gave a lecture entitled 'Global Ireland and Japan'.



Mr Xiaokun Tan (left), 2nd year student, BA Global Studies gave a small gift to the Ambassador (right), representing the class of “Gateways to Japan” module 2023/24. Photo: Dr Naonori Kodate

4.3 - Japanese Language and Culture Modules [2012-2024]

Japanese is a long-established curricular (Leaving Certificate) language in Irish secondary schools (first non-European language) and is taught in UCD for more than 30 years. In UCD, Japanese Language has been provided outside of the ordinary Schools/Colleges structure, but by the Applied Language Centre (now renamed the Centre for English and Global Languages (CEGL)).

Among students, demand for learning Japanese language and culture is strong among our student cohort, as many are eager to explore mobility opportunities to Japan, including Study Abroad, internships etc. Despite this growing interest, the capacity for providing courses to match the demand has remained limited, which has been pointed out by external stakeholders. The general trend has been that proficiency achieved is entry level (mainly beginners CEFR A.1.1, so well below the Government CEFR B1 ‘independent user’ target), and few students go ‘up the levels’. Students with prior knowledge of Japanese, (for example Leaving Certificate) level cannot easily be accommodated. Just as other non-European languages such as Arabic, Chinese, Hindi, etc. additional learning time and specific pedagogies are required to support students acquiring specific features of Japanese, for example culture or writing/reading, and these are not available.

JaSt has been providing extra support as much as it can to fill these gaps by working together with government bodies and external funding agencies over the last 8 years. Nationally, Japanese is one of the targeted Asian languages in the Irish Government’s ‘Languages Connect’ Strategy, 2017-26.

Within the university, JaSt strongly supported the Languages for Life initiative, and two members of JaSt are serving on the UCD Languages Strategy and Implementation Committee.

Another key aspect of JaSt’s activities is to create an ecosystem, connecting students at secondary and tertiary levels, working closely together with the UCD JSoc, Experience Japan and external bodies including the two countries’ government agencies and junior/senior high schools in Ireland and Japan. Our model has been successful in navigating UCD students with strong interest in Japanese language and culture to the next levels of their studies, acquiring scholarships from Stanford University and Monbukagakusho (the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology/MEXT).

For the support for junior/senior high school students in Ireland, JaSt offered a Japanese Language and Culture Summer

Camp in August 2023 and June 2024. The programme was supported by the Department of Education, Post-Primary Languages Ireland through the Governments 'Languages Connect' Strategy, and it was held on the Belfield Campus (see 4.10 & 4.11 in this report).

Furthermore, between spring - summer 2024, Ms Nobuko Ijichi led a large-scale project: the Irish Section of Japan's International High School Student's Photo Festival Exchange 2024. This was the first year Ireland is a partner country in the competition. JaSt, working alongside the Department of Education's Post-Primary Languages Ireland (PPLI), has attracted participation from twenty schools across twelve counties in Ireland.

The competition theme was "The Charm of Your Region" and each team submitted a portfolio of six photographs, judged by three professionals from the fields of photography, arts, and media. The aim is to connect people from around the world, encourage dialogue and promote peace through photography. The winning team will travel to Higashikawa in Japan this August as part of their prize to participate in the Photographic Festival.

St Andrews College (Dublin) has been selected to represent Ireland at this Youth Festival. The Irish Section prize winners along with their entries can be found on our website:

<https://www.ucd.ie/japan/newsevents/threesecondaryschoolstudentshavejapanintheirsights/>.

Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT)

International certification for Japanese language proficiency is widely sought for personal, professional, academic or mobility purposes. The JLPT (Japanese Language Proficiency Test) is an internationally recognised qualification for non-native speakers sponsored by the Japan Foundation, a Japanese Government agency. The Japan Foundation requested JaSt to establish a JPLT National Examination Centre in 2017 and the administering of the examination has continued successfully since then. Candidates come from all over Ireland to take the exam but also from elsewhere in the British Isles or further afield.

In Ireland there is a strong candidate demand from secondary schools and HEIs to take the exam. As an interdisciplinary research Centre, this enables the unit to generate income to fund its activities, while contributing to enhancing the university status as a Centre for learning Japanese language, culture, business and society in Irish Higher Education.

4.4 – Prof. Gordon’s Visiting Professorship renewed at Hokkaido University (2024/25)

Prof. Stephen Gordon’s Visiting Professorship was renewed for the period covering April 2024- April 2025. Prof. Gordon is affiliated with the "International Collaboration Unit, International Institute for Zoonosis Control, Hokkaido University" and the "Institute for Vaccine Research and Development (HU-IVReD)". Prof. Gordon was given the professorship certificate in person from Prof. Kida in May 2024.



Left to right: Prof. Gordon (JaSt) and Prof. Kida (HU)

Prof. Gordon gave an invited talk, together with Dr Tadhg O’Cronin (Conway Institute) in a session, chaired by Emeritus Prof. William Hall. The 2nd HU-IVRed International Seminar/the 10th Bacteriology Special Seminar was held at HU on the 7th of May 2024.



<https://www.ivred.hokudai.ac.jp/en/news/3051/>

4.5 – Research collaboration with Toyota Frontier Research Center (May 2023-)



Dr Naonori Kodate, together with Prof. Sebastien Lechevalier (EHES, Paris) and Prof. Mayuko Tsujimura (Shiga University of Medical Science), successfully obtained research funding from Toyota Motor Corporation, Japan. We launched a new research project “Establishing Toyota-style Person-centered, Robotics-aided Care System (TP-RoC-S)” in collaboration with engineers at Toyota Frontier Research Center (TFR) and Toyota Central R&D Labs., Inc. and care professionals at Toyota Memorial Hospital.




Left to right: Prof. Lechevalier (FFJ/EHESS), Dr Nakajima (TFR), Mr Yamaoka (TFR), Dr Kodate (JaSt/FFJ), Mr Matsui (TFR), Prof. Tsujimura (Shiga University of Medical Science)

The project examines the impact of a brand-new transfer robot (POTARO) on the way multidisciplinary care professionals work in a brand-new hospital, which was just opened in May 2023.

4.6 – Seminar talk by Dr Downey at the Institute of International & European Affairs (Mar. 2024)

DR DECLAN DOWNEY
Assistant Professor at University
College Dublin

Wednesday, 6 March 2024 at 1.00p.m.



Dr Declan Downey gave a seminar talk entitled ‘Achieving Compatibility of Pacifism and Self-Protection: Japan’s National Defence Strategy’ at the IIEA on the 6th of March. He discussed how since the promulgation of its Constitution in 1947, Japan has forsworn war and the use of nuclear weapons, maintained military neutrality, and pursued a pacifist foreign policy. Yet, it has not adopted ‘the ostrich pose’ regarding recent and emerging challenges to international stability. Over the past decade, successive governments have augmented national defence capabilities, and on 16 December 2022, the current Prime Minister Kishida launched its new national defence policy, ‘The Three Strategic Documents’, which has received considerable public support. The presentation explored how this transformation occurred, how it may be implemented, and the challenges that it would face. Further, Dr Downey also discussed how Japan may provide pointers as to how another pacifist and neutral island nation off the coast of a major continental world power might learn how to meet the same challenges of current global realpolitik. The seminar was organised in conjunction with the Embassy of Japan in Ireland.

4.7 –Prof. Caulfield at the ISEK Congress in Nagoya (Jun. 2024)

Prof. Brian Caulfield and Prof. Toshio Miyamoto (Kansai Medical University) co-delivered a symposium on Neuromuscular Electrical Stimulation ('Enhancing physical function in aging and hospitalized populations with neuromuscular electrical stimulation') in Nagoya, in June 2024. The International Society of Electrophysiology and Kinesiology (ISEK) is a multidisciplinary organization composed of members from all over the world in health-related fields and basic science with a common desire to study human movement and the neuromuscular system. Prof. Caulfield gave a talk entitled 'Personalisation and optimisation of NMES to enhance adherence and clinical effectiveness'.



4.8 – IMPULS Lesson Study Immersion Program at Tokyo Gakugei University (Jun. 2023)

Assoc. Prof. Aoibhinn Ní Shúilleabháin's postdoctoral researcher, Dr Diarmaid Hyland attended the IMPULS* Lesson Study Immersion Program held at Tokyo Gakugei University, Japan (6-15 June 2023). His participation and trip were funded by an IRC COALESCE project 'Is fear DEIS na cainte: promoting mathematical discussions in underprivileged classrooms'. There were 33 attendees (31 from the United States, 1 from Denmark and 1 from Ireland).

Dr Hyland is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow (Level II) in the UCD School of Mathematics and Statistics. His current research focuses on the teaching and learning of mathematics in post primary schools. He graduated with a BSc in Science Education (mathematics and physics) 2014 and a PhD in Mathematics Education in 2018 (both DCU). His PhD focused on the teaching and learning of differential equations to science undergraduates and prospective teachers. He spent 2019 teaching in TU Dublin and DCU before joining Maynooth University, as an IRC Postdoctoral Fellowship awardee.



The Laboratory of Mathematics Education at Tokyo Gakugei University has been working for six years, from April 2011 to March 2017, on the "Development of a Teacher Training System with a Self-improvement Function for the Improvement of International Mathematics and Arithmetic Teaching" funded by a special grant from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (Project: Enhancement of Functions as a Center of International Excellence in Education and Research). Based on the results of this project, the IMPULS (International Math-teacher Professionalization Using Lesson Study) came about and aims to establish a teacher training system to further improve teacher training, training and research for in-service teachers at universities in Japan and overseas. The "Teaching Research Immersion Program" is designed to deepen discussions on how to improve teaching and research by providing opportunities for researchers and in-service teachers who lead teaching and research in mathematics overseas to learn about the actual state of teaching and research in Japan. Despite the pandemic, a total of 163 people from 14 countries participated in the online program, and in November 2022, 19 people from 4 countries participated in a face-to-face meeting in Tokyo for the first time in 3 years. The programme has been highly evaluated not only by the participants but also by external evaluators (<https://impuls-jp.com/event>).





(Photos courtesy of Dr Hyland)

4.9 - Collaboration with La Fondation France-Japan and successful research funding acquisition

Assoc. Prof. Naonori Kodate took up the position of Visiting Professor at the École des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS) in 2024. His position is within the framework of the three-year international project entitled "Capitalisms - technologies - societies and health (CTSH)" which brought researchers from France, Germany, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan.

The School for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences (EHESS) is a 'grande école' in Paris at graduate level, and is known for the works of Thomas Piketty, Pierre Bourdieu and Jacques Derrida. It is associated with the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) in its research activities, and connected with Paris Sciences et Lettres University (PSL University) at the undergraduate level.

As a senior researcher affiliated with la Fondation France-Japan (FFJ) since 2018, Assoc. Prof. Kodate has already been working with colleagues in different units within EHESS (e.g. Institut de recherche interdisciplinaire sur les enjeux sociaux - IRIS, Centre de recherche médecine, science, santé et société - CERMES 3). He played a vital role in obtaining the French government funding (INNOVCARE: Care-led Innovation: The Case of elderly care in France and Japan, 2024-2028). The project has been selected under the Priority Research Programme (France 2030): "Autonomy: ageing and disability" (approx.. 3.5 million euros). <https://innovcare.hypotheses.org/2004>. During his stay at EHESS, he will be giving several seminars and lectures. <https://www.ehess.fr/fr/personne/naonori-kodate>





Care-led innovation: The case of elderly care in France and Japan

15 November 2023
 10.00-18.30 (France) | 18.00-2.30 (Japan)
 Online and On site at Campus Condorcet
 Centre des colloques, Room 3.05 - Place du Front populaire, 93300 Aubervilliers



In late 2023, he gave two invited talks in France - one at the France-Japan Joint Forum at Université de Strasbourg (14 November 2023), and the other at EHESS, Aubervilliers, France (15 November 2023). The latter seminar was held to mark the success of the above-mentioned ANR- France 2030 research funding application (INNOVCARE).

This May, as Visiting Professor, he gave four lectures, one of which was also a keynote for the Innovation Forum, hosted by Toyo University, Tokyo, Japan on 21 May 2021. The event was co-organised by the INNOVCARE team leader, Prof. Lechevalier, (funded by the French Government's scheme - « France 2030 » Programme Prioritaire de Recherche Autonomie ("Autonomie: vieillissement et situations de handicap")). The symposium was opened by Mr Didier MARTY-DESSUS (Counsellor for Science and Technology at Ambassade de France au Japon) and concluded by Prof. Hajime Imamura (Toyo University). Other speakers include Profs. Yukio Honda (Osaka Institute of Technology/University of Tokyo), Takamasa Iio (Doshisha University), Taro Sugihara (Tokyo Institute of Technology), Mohamed Chetouani (Sorbonne University) and Rachid Alami (CNRS).

Dr Kodate's keynote lecture was entitled "Care systems in transition: welfare technologies, professional ethics and organizational culture".



Special thanks to Profs. Lechevalier, Gaudillière, Imamura and Alami. Merci à vous aussi - Yuko, Boris, Fabien and Estelle at EHESS.

4.10 - PPLI/Department of Education funded Project (Aug. 2023 & Jun. 2024)

1st & 2nd Japanese Language Summer Camp for Secondary School Students in Ireland



JaSt won competitive funding from the Irish Government (*Languages Connect* Unit) to run its very first Summer Camp for Heritage and Lesser Taught Languages (Japanese). It was between 8-18 August and coordinated by Ms Nobuko Ijichi (JaSt). 23 secondary school students joined the Centre's activities including the Taiko drumming, Bon-odori dance, an excursion to the Japanese Gardens in Kildare, sessions on manga, care robots and of course, the Japanese language. This was the very first time any Irish HEIs hosted a summer camp for Japanese language.

<https://www.ucd.ie/japan/newsevents/japaneselanguageandculturesummercampforaugust2023/>

4.11 - PPLI/Department of Education funded Project (Nov. 2023)

'Encountering Japanese' Workshops - Discover Japan's rich history & futuristic innovations

For #ThinkLanguages Week 2023, the UCD Centre for Japanese Studies provided free Transition Year sessions with support from [Language Connect](#) on 'My Japan' and a 'Wadaiko Experience'. These were highly interactive, enhancing global awareness and cultural understanding.

The group led by Nobuko Ijichi visited Stepside ETSS on 21 November the week before #TL.

Up to 12 December 2023, the team visited 10 schools in total seeing 598 students and We had 1,082 student sessions and a small number of schools in January sessions as well.

Sessions:

- **My Japan:** Led by UCD undergraduate and postgraduate students well-versed in Japanese languages and culture, this Workshop offers students a captivating cultural journey. Explore Japanese traditions, language, cuisine, Manga, Anime, and Pop Fashion. Engage in interactive sessions and personal stories, fostering a deeper appreciation of Japan's creativity and global influence, enhancing global awareness and cultural understanding.
- **Wadaiko Experience:** Immerse in rhythmic mastery at the Taiko Drum Workshop. Designed for TY students, it explores Japanese drumming, from basic beats to intricate rhythms. Taiko blends music, culture, and athleticism for all. Unearth the ancient history and potency of this art, from military origins to its sacred role in Japanese religions. Embrace the vibrant modern resurgence in Japan and worldwide. Join us and feel the beat!



Big big thanks to the UCD students (Laoise Murphy (Biomedicine, Health & Life Science), Emiri Ogawa Boostrom (Medicine) and Jennifer O'Keeffe (Gender, Politics and International Relations))!





4.12 – Developing and nurturing connections through research seminars and lectures

(1) Seijo University, Tokyo, Japan

Assoc. Prof. Naonori Kodate was asked again to give an 90-min lecture on Social Policy in Ireland for undergraduate students at Seijo University, Tokyo. Their elective module called *Introduction to Irish Studies* is open to every undergraduate student there, and annually 100 students register since its inception. Dr Kodate reached out to Ambassador of Ireland to Japan, Mr Damien Cole and he is also one of the guest lecturers on the module.

Seijo University has been a hub of the Irish Studies in Japan for many years, which Prof. Itaru Ueno (Prof. Emeritus, Seijo University, Economic History) established together with his colleagues. Furthermore, Prof. Bon Koizumi, great-grandson of Patrick Lafcadio Hearn and Director of the Lafcadio Hearn Memorial Museum (Matsue, Japan), is also a graduate of Seijo University, and he specialised in folklore studies.

Dr Kodate visited Seijo University in Setagaya, Tokyo on 24 December 2019, just before the pandemic began. He met the then President of the University, Prof. Junichi Tobe, Prof. Kyoji Kawasaki, Prof. Ebishima and Prof. Komiyaji, and in 2022, Prof. Ebishima (Sociologist / Japanese expert in the history of GAA, and sport policy) visited the Centre. <https://www.ucd.ie/japan/newsevents/professorhitoshiebishimaseijouniversityvisitsucd/>

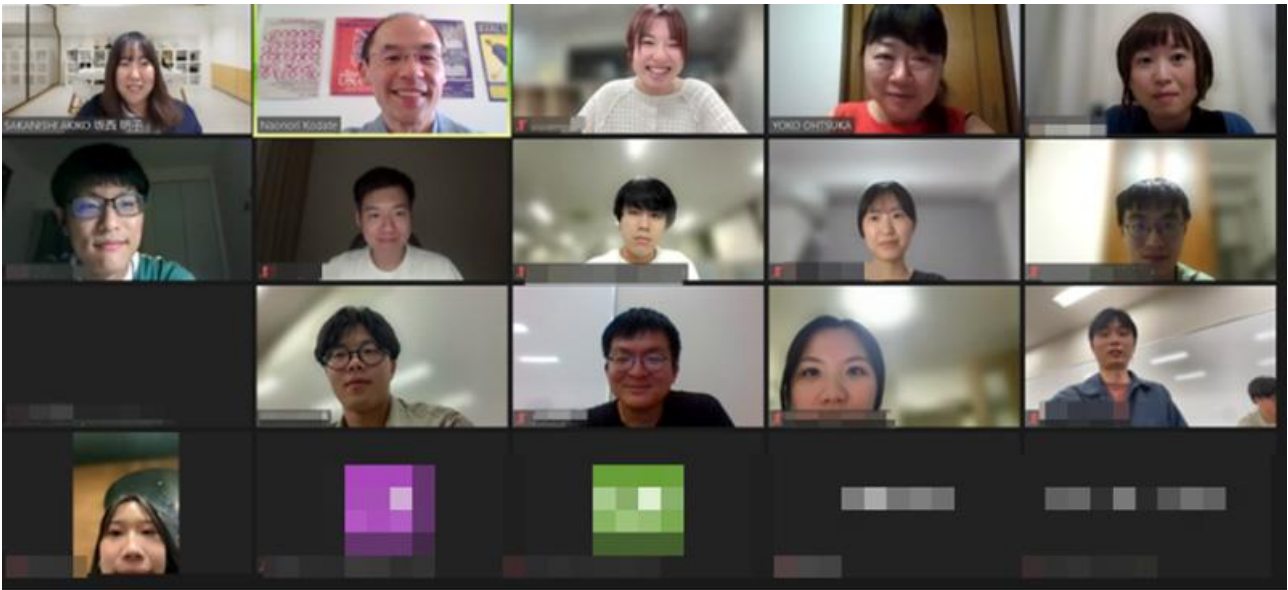
(2) Ritsumeikan University, Osaka, Japan

Assoc. Prof. Naonori Kodate gave a lecture entitled 'Welfare Robots and the Future of Care' in January 2024. The seminar was organised by the Graduate School of Policy Science & the Open Innovation & Collaboration Research Organization, Ritsumeikan University, Japan.



<https://en.ritsumeikai.ac.jp/ps/news/article.html/?id=39>

Dr Kodate was invited back to give another lecture for postgraduate students and researchers at the same Graduate School at Ritsumeikan University in May. His lecture this time was entitled "Care Technology, STEM Education and Gender", and it was offered as part of their course called Advanced Policy Research. The entire session continued for 4 hours, with lively Q&As and discussions.



<https://www.ritsumeai.ac.jp/gsp/news/article.html/?id=77>

(3) The German Association for Social Science Research on Japan Annual Conference (Section on Science, Technology and Society) 2023 (November 2023)

Assoc. Prof. Naonori Kodate continued to co-organised and moderated the online Annual Conference of the VSJF (Vereinigung für sozialwissenschaftliche Japanforschung) in 2023. The seminar, held on the 3rd of November, brought together researchers in the domain of science, technology and society - working in Germany, Ireland, France, Japan, the UK and Singapore.



Left to right (clockwise): Dr Kodate (JaSt), Dr Susanne Brucksch (Department of Global Japanese Studies, Teikyo University), and Dr Cosima Wagner (Freie Universität Berlin).

Separately from this close collaboration with German colleagues, a Berlin-based Japanese researcher/an old friend of Dr Kodate, Dr Kenichi Shimizu (Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (SWP) - German Institute for International and Security Affairs) visited JaSt, and had a meeting with the Centre members in March 2024.

5 – Centre’s guidance and support for UCD students

5.1 My MIRAI Experience - Ciarán Micheál Maher



I am a BSc student (Environmental Biology /Microbiology/Plant Biology/Zoology) in UCD, and I had the privilege of visiting Japan as part of the MIRAI (Mutual understanding, Intellectual Relations and Academic exchange Initiative) program, an initiative designed to achieve three primary goals:

1. Promoting Mutual Understanding
2. Enhancing Intellectual Discussions
3. To build strong networks among future leaders of Japan and the world

Among five groups for this year’s scholarship program, I was nominated to join my first-choice area (Group 5: Environment & Green). I was travelling between 14 and 21 November 2023.

Cultural Immersion and Mutual Understanding

During my time in Japan, I immersed myself in the vibrant culture, experiencing the serenity of Zōjōji Temple and Mount Fuji juxtaposed with the bustling energy of Shibuya and Shinjuku. This exposure offered profound insights into Japanese society– the quiet politeness of the people, remarkable cleanliness, and the deep reverence for the environment were all virtues which particularly stood out to me. Witnessing these aspects firsthand left an indelible impression, enriching my understanding of and respect for Japanese culture.



Enhancing Intellectual Discussion

A pivotal highlight of the program was the opportunity to engage with individuals from diverse backgrounds—ranging from the icy landscapes of Iceland and Norway to the warmth of Spain and Malta. This diverse mix of perspectives sparked intellectually stimulating discussions and fostered lasting friendships. Exchanging ideas and experiences further underscored the universality of the energy crisis and the innovative solutions emerging globally. The discussions were not confined to fellow Europeans of course but extended to understanding Japan's pioneering efforts in addressing the energy puzzle. Gaining valuable insight into revolutionary initiatives such as Euglena's algae-based energy creation and Japan's shift towards hydrogen power post-Fukushima was enlightening. These resonated deeply with me as Just as Ireland, Japan is an island with limited resources, and yet they continue to find new ways to head towards a greener tomorrow.



Strong Networks for Future Collaboration

Interacting with ambitious students from Waseda University and professionals from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs opened doors to potential future collaborations. These connections are invaluable resources that will prove invaluable to me as I continue to aspire toward a greener tomorrow, drawing upon Japan's expertise and innovation.



A Life-Changing Experience

In conclusion, my participation in the MIRAI program was nothing short of transformative. The program not only

broadened my cultural horizons but also equipped me with diverse perspectives and invaluable connections and friendships. The Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE) does an incredible job in choosing participants as the people I met were some of the smartest, most enthusiastic, and all-around lovely people I have come across. I wholeheartedly recommend this program to anyone passionate about Japan and seeking a profound, life-enriching experience. I really felt the honour and privilege to be nominated by UCD (its Centre for Japanese Studies) and then selected by the Embassy of Japan in Ireland to represent my country, Ireland.



My time with the MIRAI program has left an indelible mark on my journey, and I am eager to apply the learnings and connections garnered to contribute meaningfully towards a shared global future. I would like to thank the UCD Centre for Japanese Studies (particularly, the Centre Director Kodate-sensei, Nobuko-sensei, Neary-sensei and Deputy Director Sokell-sensei), JICE, the Embassy of Japan in Ireland, and my mentors in UCD for facilitating this incredible experience.

(Text & photos - contribution from Mr Ciarán Micheál Maher)

5.2 My Experience of Japan in UCD - Jennifer O'Keeffe



My interest in Japan began when I was a teenager, with Japanese popular culture, as it does with many people. However, after studying Japanese for the Leaving Certificate, I became much more interested in Japan's history, language, and culture. I moved from Cork to Dublin to study Politics and Sociology in UCD, but I continued my studies by taking UCD's Japanese classes, joining the Japanese Society, and attending events organised by the UCD Centre for Japanese Studies.

UCD Japanese Society

I was a member of the Japanese Society throughout college, and I chaired it in my second year. The Japanese Society was a great opportunity to organise a wide variety of cultural events such as language exchanges, gyoza-making, and tea ceremonies. Having won UCD's 'Society of the Year' Award in 2019, the society provided a strong community both for students with an interest in Japanese language and culture, together with Japanese exchange students who were looking for a community in Ireland.

Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme

Upon graduating college, I had the privilege of living and working in Japan through the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme. JET provided me with the opportunity to teach students about Irish culture, improve my Japanese through immersion, and make friends from around the world. Through the JET programme, I was able to learn more about Japan than I would have by working in a multinational company, as I joined my town's すずめ踊り (sparrow dance) team, and was able to dance at several festivals with my students and the wider community. I learned a lot during my time in Japan, and am very grateful for the lasting friendships and memories I built there.





Experience Japan

I have been involved with the annual Experience Japan festival since 2017. Held in Farmleigh in Phoenix Park, Experience Japan offers a unique opportunity to explore Japanese music, crafts, and food. I have worked on the main committee of Experience Japan for many years now, and spend much of my time designing the Treasure and Scavenger Hunts, and organising the Children’s Area. I really value the strong community built by both the organising committee and the wider community.



My experiences learning about Japanese language and culture, both in Ireland and abroad, have really shaped me. This coming September, I will start an MA in East Asian Studies at Stanford University. I could not have gotten there without the help of the UCD Centre for Japanese Studies, the Japanese classes I was able to take during my undergraduate degree, and the support of the wider community I have met and learned from throughout these experiences. My special thanks goes to Nobuko Ijichi-sensei, Hugo-san and Kodate-sensei.

(Text & photos - contribution from Ms Jenny O’Keeffe)

5.3 UCD-TCD joint research group for PhD students (Asian Chapter, Ageing Research Network)

Dr Catherine Elliott O'Dare (Assistant Professor in Social Policy at the School of Social Work and Social Policy, Trinity College Dublin) welcomed four researchers (Dr Maria Pierce, Assoc. Prof. Nao Kodate, Ms Varee Chaitavepporn and Ms Yurie Maeda) from the School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice, and hosted the very first UCD-TCD joint meeting for PhD students in Ageing Research on 21 March in Trinity College Dublin. Ms Yurie Maeda is an associate researcher of the Centre.

The idea proposed by Dr Kodate at last year's Irish Gerontological Society Annual Conference in Galway came to materialise when Dr Elliott O'Dare asked Dr Kodate to give a lecture for her 'Ageing Societies' module for the 3rd/4th year Social Policy students. His lecture title was 'Robotics-aided care, is there such a thing?!'.





Left to Right: Ms Varee Chaitavepporn, Dr Elliott O'Dare, Dr Kodate, Ms Zhu, Ms Li, Dr Pierce, and Ms Maeda @ School of Social Work and Social Policy, Trinity College Dublin.

The two PhD students met with Ms Jianing Zhu and Ms Wenyu Li (co-supervised by Dr Elliott O'Dare and Dr Catherine Conlon, TCD). All four PhD students come from Asia (China, Japan and Thailand) and we had lively discussions with regard to the way people have been addressing issues relating to ageing societies, including how assistive technology has been used, in different countries (Ireland and Asia, in particular).

There have been several meetings to discuss a wider network of researchers engaged in ageing research within the university and beyond. This Asian Chapter will be a very important part of the broader research network.

6 – List of Interdisciplinary Japanese Studies Seminar Series

<p>“Lafcadio Hearn, French Literature & Toyama’s Hearn Library” 25 September 2023</p> 	<p>Speaker: Prof. Toshie Nakajima, University of Toyama</p> <p>Opening Remark: H.E. Mr Norio Maruyama (Ambassador of Japan to Ireland)</p> <p>Discussant: Prof. Mary Gallagher (School of Linguistics, Cultures and Languages)</p> <p>Venue: MoLI</p>
<p>“Recent Developments in Japan’s Security & Foreign Policy” 20 October 2023</p> 	<p>Speaker: Prof. Shinichi Kitaoka, Special Advisor to the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) / Emeritus Prof., University of Tokyo / Former Japanese Ambassador to the United Nations</p> <p>Opening Remark: H.E. Mr Norio Maruyama (Ambassador of Japan to Ireland)</p> <p>Moderator / Facilitator: Assoc. Prof. Naonori Kodate (School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social justice) / Assoc. Prof. Iwao Osaka (Komazawa University & UCD Centre for Japanese Studies, 2022-24)</p> <p>Venue: MoLI</p> <p>* Sponsored by JICA</p>
<p>“Robotics Research in Japan: Behind the Scenes of Technology for the Future” 20 November 2023</p> 	<p>Speaker: Dr Hideki Kajima, Head of Robotics Research, Toyota Frontier Research Centre</p> <p>Moderator: Assoc. Prof. Naonori Kodate (School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social justice)</p> <p>Venue: UCD O’Brien Science (Science Hub) / Online</p> <p>* Funded by Languages Connect</p>
<p>“Japan’s Space Activities, Luna Exploration Plans & Space Business Trends” 27 November 2023</p> 	<p>Speaker: Mr Yusuke Suzuki, Senior Chief Engineer & Member of Executive Board, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)/UCD Centre for Japanese Studies</p> <p>Moderator / Facilitator: Prof. Emma Sokell (School of Physics)/ Ms Nobuko Ijichi (UCD Centre for Japanese Studies)</p> <p>Venue: UCD O’Brien Science (Science Hub), Belfield Campus</p> <p>* Funded by Languages Connect</p>

“Is Hiroshima Still Radioactive? Nuclear Explosions & the Environment”

20 February 2024



Speaker: **Prof. Robert Jacobs**, Hiroshima Peace Institute/ Hiroshima City University

Opening Remark: **H.E. Mr Norio Maruyama** (Ambassador of Japan to Ireland)

Moderator: **Assist. Prof. Declan Downey** (School of History)

Facilitators: **Mr Hugo O'Donnell** (CEGL/UCD Global Engagement) & **Assoc. Prof. Naonori Kodate** & **Adjunct Prof. John Neary** (School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice)

Venue: MoLI

Sponsored by the City of Hiroshima and the Hiroshima Peace Institute

“Research Opportunities in Japan”

27 February 2024



Speakers: **Prof. Naoto Kobayashi**, and his team at the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) London

Moderator: **Prof. Emma Sokell** (School of Physics)

Venue: UCD O'Brien Science (Science Hub), Belfield Campus

Funded by the JSPS London

“Sublime Aesthetics, or the Cultural & Mythical Inversion Power of Negativity: From Edmund Burke’s Ireland to Lafcadio Hearn’s Izumo in Hidden Japan”

27 March 2024



Speaker: **Prof. Hideki Kuwajima**, Hiroshima University

Discussant / Facilitator: **Prof. Mary Gallagher** (School of Linguistics, Cultures and Languages) / **Assoc. Prof. Naonori Kodate** (School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice)

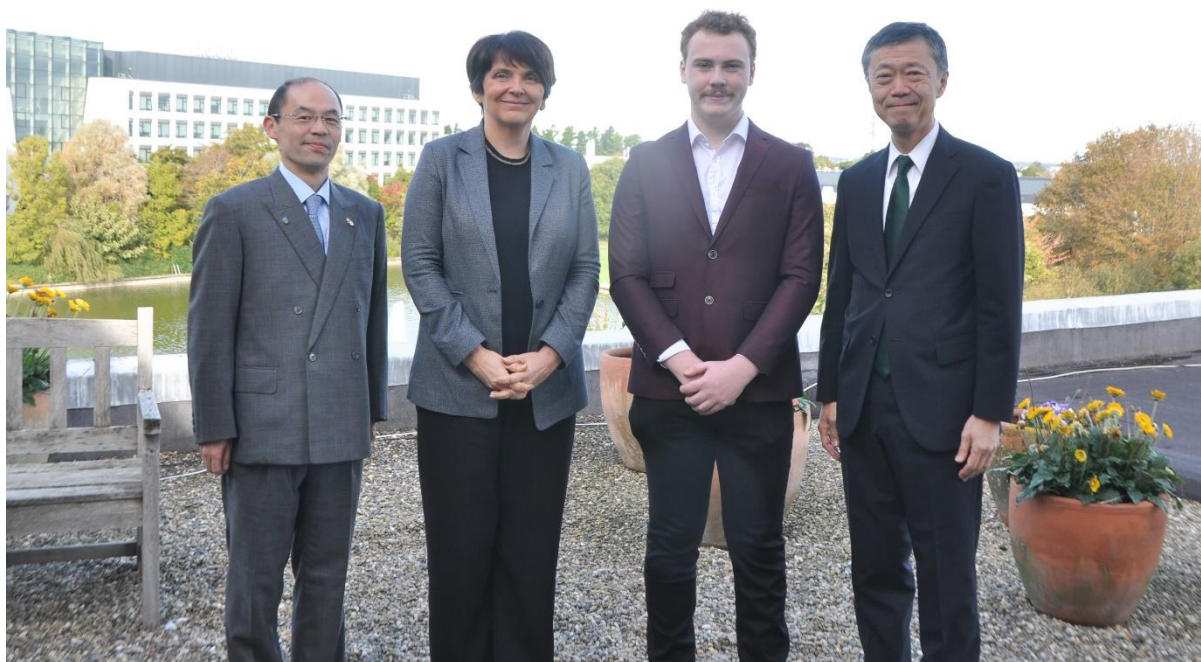
Venue: D101 (College of Social Sciences and Law Boardroom), Newman Building, Belfield Campus

7 – Some highlights of our activities, 2023-24

Most activities are organised with generous help from the UCD Japan Group and voluntary work of the UCD JaSt colleagues. We would also like to thank colleagues in the UCD Global Office / UCD Global Engagement.

7.1 Meeting of H.E. Ambassador Mr Norio Maruyama & President Prof. Orla Feely (Oct. 2023)

President Prof. Orla Feely and the Japanese Ambassador, H.E. Mr Norio Maruyama officially met and held a meeting on the 16th of October.



7.2 Hokkaido University President Prof. Houkin's delegation visit (Feb. 2024)

Since the early 2000s, Hokkaido University and UCD have had a string of strong research collaborations. Professor Emeritus William (Billy) Hall (the UCD Centre for Research in Infectious Diseases) has been instrumental in establishing this collaboration. Alongside Prof. Emeritus Gerry O'Sullivan in the School of Physics, Prof. Hall is one of the pioneers in not only establishing but also nourishing the links with Japanese universities.

Founded as the Sapporo Agricultural College in 1876, HU is one of Japan's seven former 'Imperial Universities' (Tokyo, Kyoto, Tohoku, Osaka, Nagoya, Kyushu and Hokkaido). Hokkaido structures education and research around the following four themes: "Frontier Spirit," "Global Perspectives," "All-round Education" and "Practical Learning." The University has two campuses - one in Sapporo and another in Hakodate.

The UCD-Hokkaido relationship has developed over several years through persistent academic- and researcher-led partnerships. In 2014, this relationship was formalised through the signing of the Inter-Academic Exchange agreement - a high-level MoU which stated each institution's intentions to formalise relationships through detailed MoAs. Assoc. Prof. Kodate has been a senior researcher at Hokkaido University's Public Policy Research Centre since 2013.

The partnership receives support through the UCD Centre for Japanese Studies, while multiple units across UCD and Hokkaido have established research and academic collaborations. Notable collaborations exist between the Hokkaido Research Centre for Zoonosis Control (currently the International Institute for Zoonosis Control) and UCD Centre for

Experimental Pathogen Host Research (CEPHR). This relationship focuses on Zoonosis Control, with Professor Stephen Gordon having been awarded funding to further joint research.

Most recently, an Erasmus+ ICM agreement has been signed (for the second time) between UCD and HU to facilitate staff, researcher and PhD-level mobility in the areas of Infectious Diseases and Social Policy.



(Left to Right: VP for Global Engagement, UCD, Prof. Dolores O’Riordan, UCD President Prof. Orla Feely, HU President Prof. Kiyohiro Houkin, HU Advisor to the President, Prof. Kazunori Iwabuchi)



(Left to Right: Ms Taena Uemura, HU Research Administrator (International), Dr Kodate, Ms Shauna Hughes, Director, Global Relations, Partnerships and Mobility, UCD, Prof. Steve Gordon (UCD Veterinary Science/JaSt), VP for Global Engagement, UCD, Prof. Dolores O’Riordan, UCD President Prof. Orla Feely, HU President Prof. Kiyohiro Houkin, Prof. Kazunori Iwabuchi, HU Agricultural Science/Advisor to the President, Ms Eri Hata, Director, International Affairs, HU, Prof. Yasuhiko Suzuki, International Institute for Zoonosis Control, HU, Prof. Billy Hall, UCD Centre for Research in Infectious Diseases).

7.3 Welcoming Professor Kitaoka in UCD (Oct. 2023)

JaSt hosted another seminar at MoLI on 20 October 2023, 1-2:30pm [IST]. Professor Shinichi Kitaoka (formerly at the Graduate School of Law and Politics, University of Tokyo, former President of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and former Japanese Ambassador to the United Nations) discussed recent developments in Japan's security and foreign policy. He visited the Belfield campus before his seminar and met with VP for Global Engagement, Prof. Dolores O'Riordan, College Principal, Social Sciences and Law, Prof. Colin Scott, Prof. Ben Tonra and Assoc. Prof. Alex Dukalskis (School of Politics and International Relations), Adjunct Prof. John Near (UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice / UCD-JaSt), Visiting Prof. Iwao Osaka (UCD-JaSt / Komazawa University), Assoc. Prof. Kodate and Prof. Emma Sokell (Deputy Director, UCD-JaSt / Head of School, School of Physics).



From L to R: Nobuko Ijichi (JaSt / CEGL), Prof. Iwao Osaka (JaSt / Geary Institute), Prof. Ben Tonra (School of Politics and International Relations), Assoc. Prof. Alex Dukalskis (School of Politics and International Relations / Dir. UCD Centre for Asia Pacific Research), Assoc. Prof. Nao Kodate, Dr Tomoko Ono (JICA), Prof. Emma Sokell (Deputy Dir. JaSt / Head of School, Physics), Prof. Shinichi Kitaoka (JICA), Prof. Dolores O'Riordan (VP for Global Engagement), Prof. Colin Scott (College Principal, Social Sciences and Law/ VP for Equality, Diversity & Inclusion), Varee Chaitavepporn (School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice / Royal Thai Government Scholarship Doctorate Student)

Prof. Kitaoka's visit provided an opportunity for an impromptu reunion of the University of Tokyo graduates in Dublin.



From L to R: Assoc. Prof. Naonori Kodate (Dir., UCD-JaSt), Mr Kōzō Saiki (JETRO Brussels), Prof. Iwao Osaka (UCD-JaSt / Komazawa University, Tokyo), Prof. Shinichi Kitaoka (JICA), Mr Takaaki Kawakami (Gourmet Kineya Co., Ltd.), H.E. Mr Norio Maruyama (Ambassador of Japan to Ireland).

Subsequently, Prof. Kitaoka published a few articles (“The New Frontier of the Japanese” for Magazine called *Foresight*) and a book (see below: 覇権なき時代の世界地図 (*World Map in an Era without Hegemony*), Shincho-sha). They mention our activities at the UCD Centre for Japanese Studies.



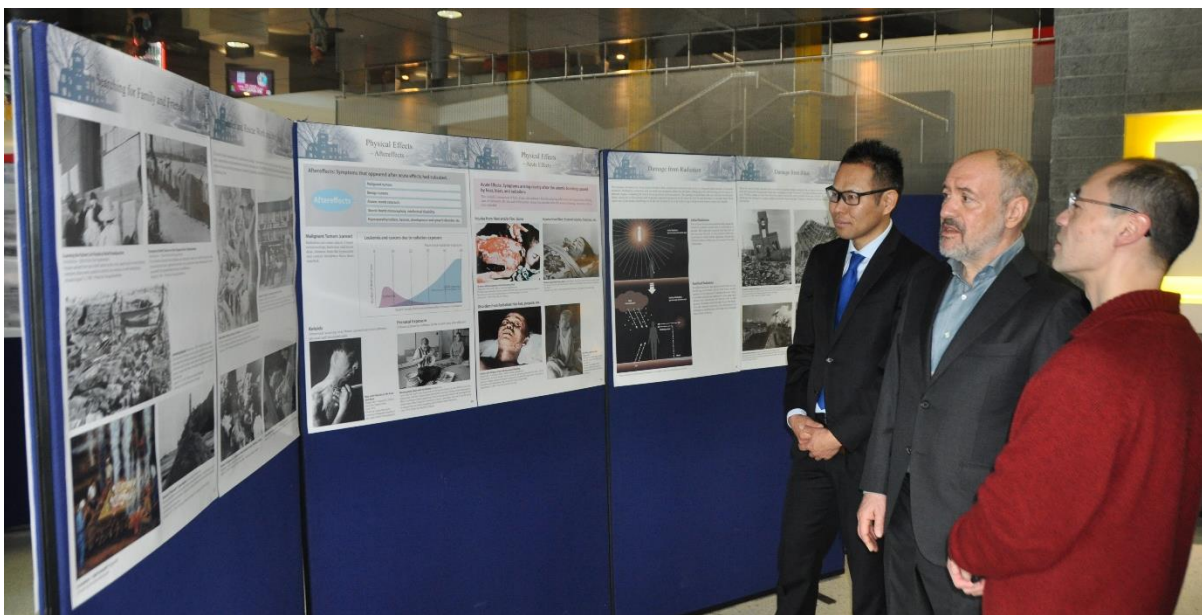
Published by Shincho-sha: 22 May 2024

7.4 Hiroshima Seminar & Poster Exhibition (Feb. 2024)

JaSt held an evening seminar ‘Is Hiroshima still radioactive?’ in the Museum of Literature Ireland (MoLI) on the 20th of February and launched a two-week long poster exhibition on the theme of ‘nuclear bombs and their aftermath in Hiroshima’ in the Student Centre on the Belfield Campus. These events are hosted by the UCD Centre for Japanese Studies (JaSt), and partly supported by Hiroshima City University and the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation.



The poster exhibition was launched on the same day (Special thanks to the UCD Student Services Team, particularly Rob).

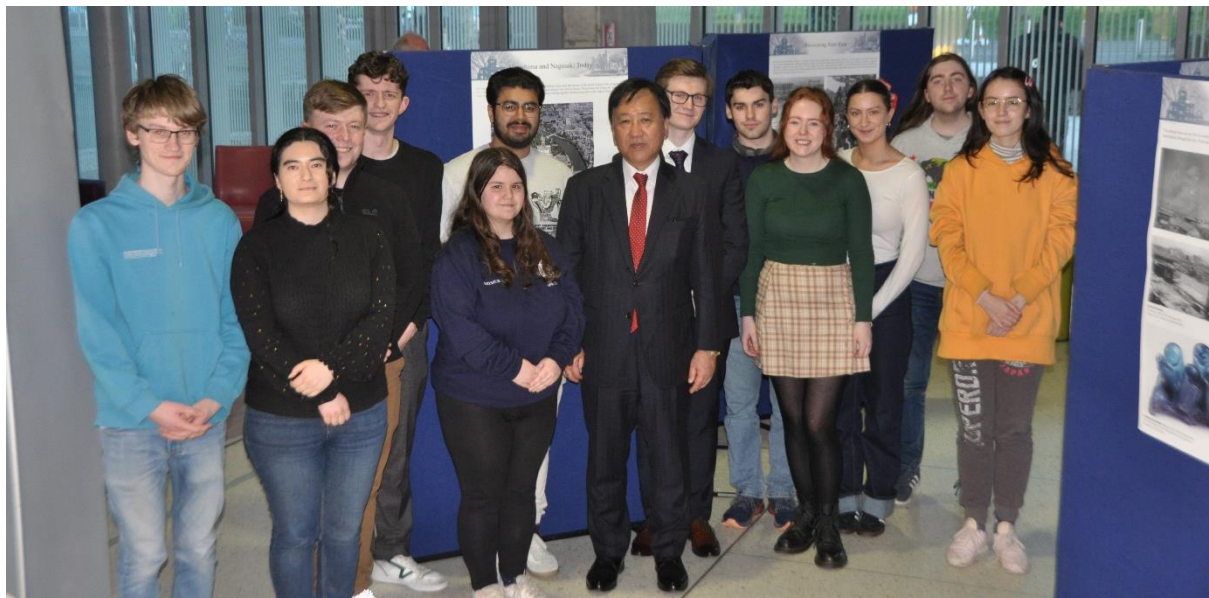


Left to Right: Mr Yusuke Akishima & Prof. Robert Jacobs, Hiroshima City University (HCU), and Assoc. Prof. Kodate
Key organising members of these series of events were invited by the Japanese Ambassador to his residence.

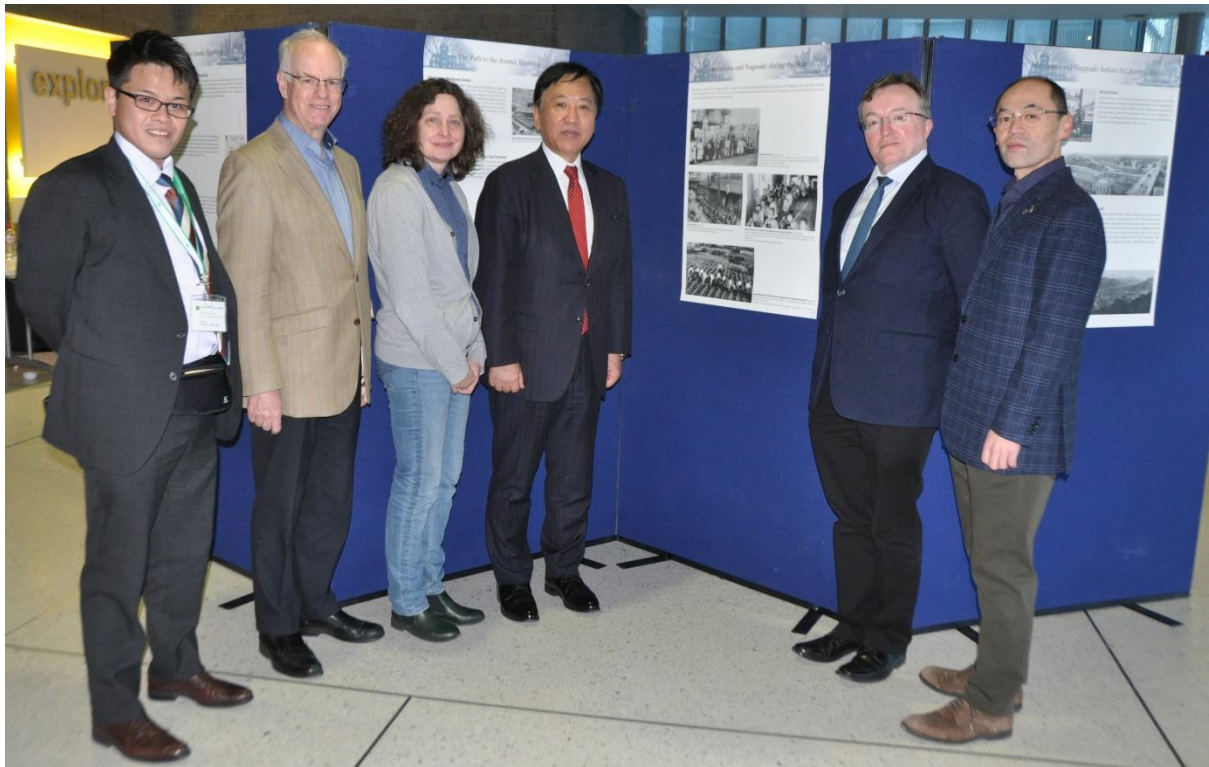


Left to Right: Mr Akishima (HCU), Dr Declan Downey, UCD History/JaSt, Prof. Robert Jacobs (HCU), H.E. Mr Norio Maruyama (Japanese Ambassador to Ireland), Prof. Emma Sokell, Head of School, UCD Physics/Deputy Director, JaSt, Assoc. Prof. Kodate, UCD SPWJ/Director, JaSt, Mr Hugo O'Donnell, Chairperson, Experience Japan/JaSt/UCD Global Engagement. Photo courtesy of Ms Keiko Nakata, the Embassy of Ireland in Japan.

On the 22nd of February, Mr Takehiro Kagawa (Chairperson of the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation and Secretary General of Mayors for Peace Secretary, and former Japanese Ambassador to Egypt) also visited UCD, separately from the earlier delegation. He met and conversed with UCD students from various Societies including Law, Politics & International Relations and History and others.



UCD students with Mr Takehiro Kagawa, Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation / Mayors for Peace Secretary (in the middle).



Left to Right: Mr Shintaro Takeuchi, Mayors for Peace Secretariat, Hiroshima, Adjunct Prof. John Neary, School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice (SPWJ)/JaSt, Prof. Emma Sokell, School of Physics/JaSt, Mr Takehiro Kagawa, Chairperson of the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation, Dr Declan Downey, School of History/JaSt, Assoc. Prof. Nao Kodate, SPWJ/JaSt.

7.5 Building research capacity for the Study of Patrick Lafcadio Hearn (2023-24)

In 2017, Prof. Kuwajima (Hiroshima University) gave a talk “Lafcadio Hearn’s ‘Celtic Lullaby’ & the Resonance of Irish Aesthetics” at the UCD Humanities Institute, and Prof. Gallagher visited Kumamoto University in 2019, giving a talk ‘Lafcadio Hearn: Homeless Writer, Orphan Writings?’. The pandemic had to halt the momentum for a little while, but recently, Prof. Nakajima (Toyama University) and Prof. Kuwajima were connected through Dr Kodate’s visit to Toyama University’s Hearn Library in May 2023 (see below), and mutual visits between Hiroshima, Toyama and Dublin began taking place. The preparations of Prof. Kuwajima’s seminar and visit this time commenced in the summer of 2023 and many meetings were held via Zoom between Professor Kuwajima in Hiroshima and Dr Kodate in Dublin.

In order to continue our work, in May 2023, Assoc. Prof. Naonori Kodate visited the Lafcadio Hearn Library (est. 1924) at the University of Toyama (est. 1923 – one of the 86 national universities in Japan), and met with Prof. Toshie Nakajima (Faculty of Humanities, University of Toyama), Mr Akira Kinoshita (Vice-President, the Toyama Hearn Society) and Mr Kazuhiro Hayashi (Central Library, University of Toyama).

As for the Library, the university website explains: “The Lafcadio Hearn Library is a book collection that had been privately owned by Lafcadio Hearn (1850~1904, naturalized as a Japanese Koizumi Yakumo/小泉八雲). The library consists of 2,069 foreign books, 364 Japanese books and handwritten manuscripts of “Japan: An Attempt at Interpretation” composed of two volumes and 1,200 leaves. Most of the foreign books including 1,350 English books and 719 French books were collected by Hearn in Japan, however, it seems some of them were purchased during his stay in Cincinnati and New Orleans in America as an impoverished journalist. Japanese books, which were the origins of his literary creation through the storytelling of his wife Setsu, included 38 books of Teikoku Bunko, ghost stories of Takizawa Bakin, Juppensha Ikku and Santo Kyoden. Most of the Japanese books are Japanese style woodprint books.”



The Library is a gem, and contains a lot of precious materials not only for researchers but also for the general public. The library also holds Nannichi Bunko which contains 267 books, and about 2,600 pieces of research literature related to Lafcadio Hearn. Nannichi Tsunetaro is the first principal of Toyama High School (now the University of Toyama) and was the one who brought Hearn's book collection from Tokyo to Toyama. His younger brother (Tanabé Ryuji – Prof. of English Literature) was a former pupil of Lafcadio Hearn, and the bereaved family of Hearn was looking for someone who could transfer all of Hearn's library to somewhere safe. After hearing about this from his brother, Nannichi became determined to inherit the Hearn's library for Toyama High School.

The website continues: "Toyama High School (now the University of Toyama) was established thanks to the great contribution of Mrs. Haru, the mother of Baba Masaharu in Higashi Iwase-machi, Toyama-shi, then Mrs. Haru accepted the wish of the principal Nannichi, and purchased the Hearn's library and presented it to Toyama High School during the opening ceremony of the new school held on June 10, 1924."



Residence of the Baba Family, Toyama City (Photo: Dr Naonori Kodate)

The Lafcadio Hearn Library is open to the public regularly. For further information, please visit their website - https://www.lib.u-toyama.ac.jp/chuo/hearn/hearn_index.html

As a follow-up event, Prof. Toshié Nakajima (Professor of French and Francophone Studies and European Literature) visited the UCD Centre for Japanese Studies in the autumn.

JaSt held a seminar “Lafcadio Hearn, French Literature & Toyama’s Hearn Library” at the Museum of Literature Ireland (MoLI) on 25 September 2023. The guest speaker, Professor Toshié Nakajima (University of Toyama) gave a talk, facilitated by Professor Mary Gallagher, (University College Dublin).

The seminar was opened by H.E. Ambassador Norio Maruyama. It was organised by JaSt in cooperation with UCD French & Francophone Studies, and attracted more than 60 people from the government (Department of Foreign Affairs, the Office of Public Works), the Lafcadio Hearn Memorial Gardens in Tramore, students from UCD, Trinity and DCU, the Irish-Japanese community, and the literary circle.



Photos by Dr Naonori Kodate & Mr Hugo O’Donnell

In March 2024, Prof. Hideki Kuwajima (Hiroshima University) returned to UCD, and gave a talk ‘Sublime Aesthetics, or the Cultural & Mythical Inversion Power of Negativity: From Edmund Burke’s Ireland to Lafcadio Hearn’s Izumo in Hidden Japan’

JaSt held the seminar, as part of its Interdisciplinary Japanese Studies Seminar Series in the Boardroom (D101), UCD College of Social Sciences and Law on the 27th of March. The speaker, Prof. Hideki Kuwajima, Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Hiroshima University, visited UCD in 2017. His talk this time was entitled ‘Sublime Aesthetics, or the Cultural & Mythical Inversion Power of Negativity: From Edmund Burke’s Ireland to Lafcadio Hearn’s Izumo in Hidden Japan’. The seminar was jointly hosted by JaSt and the UCD Centre for Asia Pacific Research, and chaired by Prof. Mary Gallagher (JaSt / UCD School of Languages, Cultures and Linguistics).

His talk offered a lot of insights into current world affairs as well, highlighting the complexities and the significance of words, concepts, philosophy, languages and cultural studies. The seminar participants were highly engaged with the talk and lively discussions ensued. The event also brought together several scholars and writers (e.g., Mr Paul Murray, Ms Jean Pasley) on Patrick Lafcadio Hearn / Koizumi Yakumo from outside the Belfield Campus.



Photos by Dr Naonori Kodate & Mr Hugo O’Donnell

In June 2024, Dr Kodate visited the memorial museum which was opened in 2007 in the seaside town of Yaizu in Shizuoka Prefecture, and there you can find photographs, personal items, letters, manuscripts and drawings by Hearn.

Patrick Lafcadio Hearn visited Yaizu every summer after a first stay there in 1897 and spent his few last summers there. He occupied the floor of a fishmonger Otokichi-san's house during his stay. Yaizu is associated with Hearn's four sketches (焼津にて AT YAIDZU; 乙吉のだるま OTOKICHI'S DARUMA; 漂流 DRIFTING; and 海辺 BESIDE THE SEA).



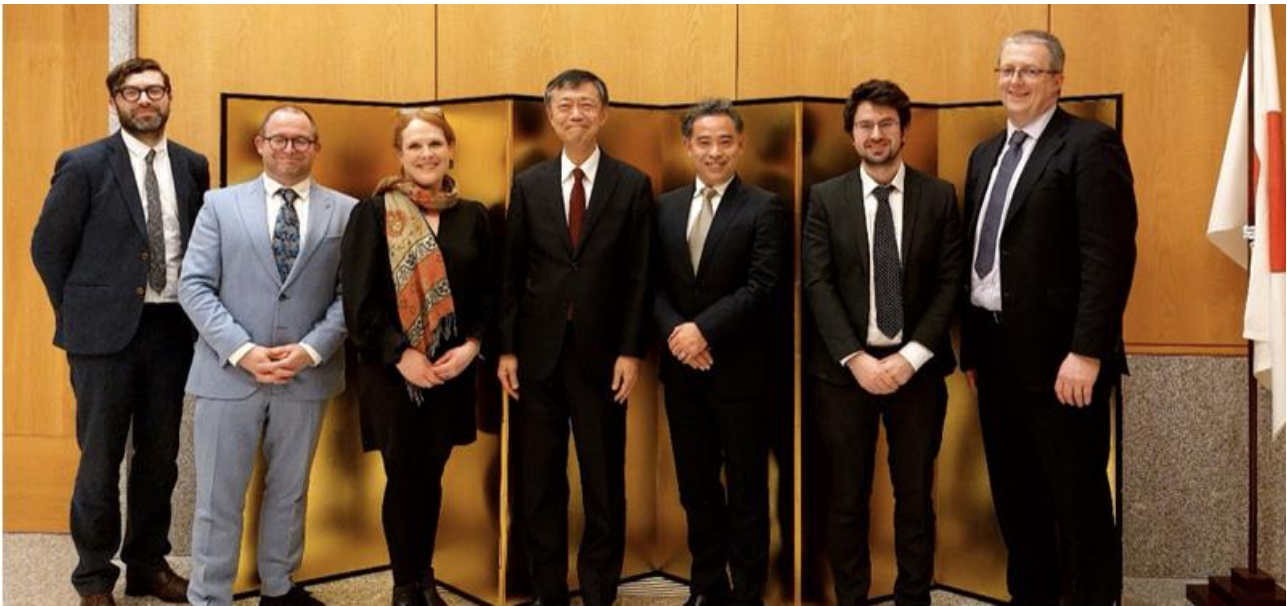
Photo: Dr Naonori Kodate

If anyone has the opportunity, it is worth visiting Yaizu and its Koizumi Yakumo Memorial Centre, as it gives you further insights into his (life) stories. Find more information on the website: <https://www.city.yaizu.lg.jp/museum/yakumo/index.html>

With regard to the institution-to-institution links and partnerships, JaSt has been closely working with the UCD Global Office and providing support and guidance for stakeholders at both universities in relation to these visits/meeting arrangements.

In July 2023, the College VP for Global Engagement (Social Sciences and Law), Dr Bernd Justin Jütte and Mr Richard Emery (Director, UCD Asia Pacific Global Centre) visited Hiroshima University and met with President Prof. Mitsuo Ochi, VP for International Affairs, Prof. Kaneko and his team. This time, Prof. Kuwajima met with the College VP for Global Engagement (Arts and Humanities), Assoc. Prof. Conor Mulvagh and Dr Declan Downey (UCD School of History / JaSt) to discuss possible areas of collaborations between UCD and Hiroshima University, including student & researcher exchanges.

Furthermore, working with the Embassy of Japan in Ireland, Dr Kodate also helped organise a reception for Prof. Kuwajima, thanks to the gracious support from Ambassador Maruyama and his team.



(Left to Right: Mr Benedict Schlepper-Connolly (Head of Exhibitions, Museum of Literature Ireland (MoLI)), Mr Simon O'Connor (Director, MoLI), Ms Leah Benson (National Gallery of Ireland / Graduate of UCD College of Arts and Humanities), H.E. Mr Norio Maruyama (Japanese Ambassador to Ireland), Prof. Hideki Kuwajima (Hiroshima University), Dr Robert Power (UCD School of Archaeology/JaSt), Prof. Seán Ó Riain (Department of Sociology, Maynooth University))

See JaSt's past Hearn-related events on the following weblinks.

<https://www.ucd.ie/japan/newsevents/events/lafcadiohearnscelticlullabytheresonanceofirishaesthetics/>

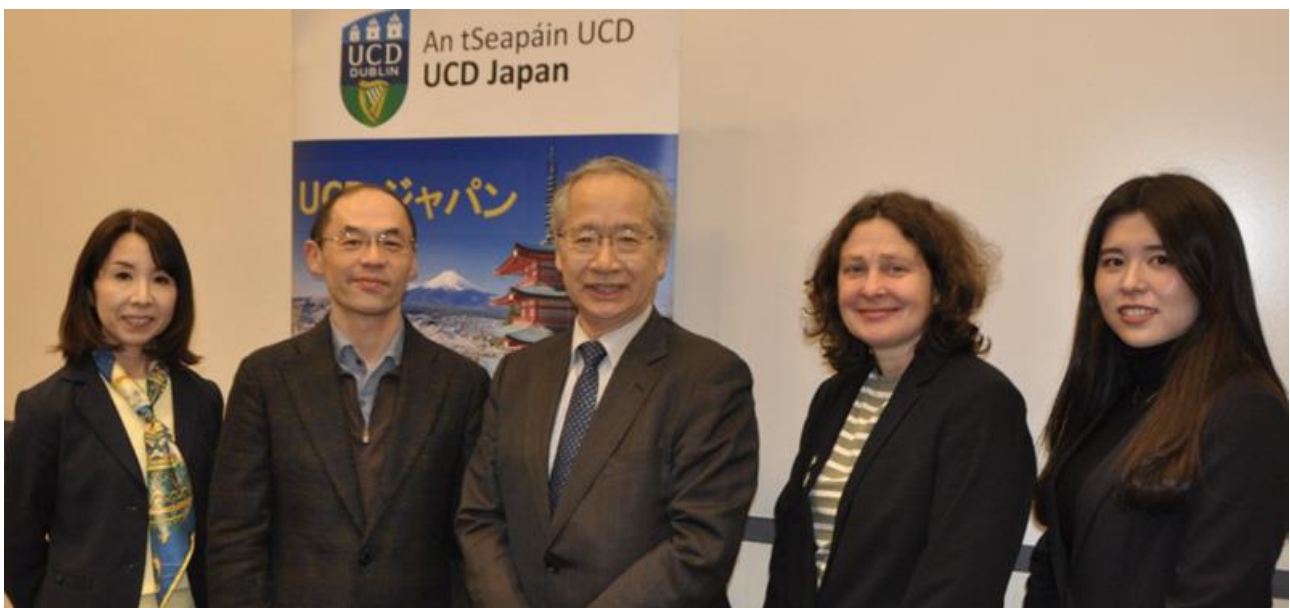
<https://www.let.kumamoto-u.ac.jp/soseki-yakumo/2019/03/17/post-366/>

<https://www.ucd.ie/japan/newsevents/meetingatthelafcadiohearnlibraryattheuniversityoftoyama/>

<https://www.ucd.ie/japan/newsevents/lafcadiohearnfrenchliteratureseminarinmoli/>

7.6 Japan Society for the Promotion of Science London delegation visit (Feb. 2024)

On 27 February, Professor Naoto Kobayashi (Director, JSPS London / Professor Emeritus, Waseda University), together with his Deputy, Dr Myoken and Ms Takahashi, came to UCD to give an information session about partnership opportunities & research funding. They also visited Trinity College Dublin and the Science Foundation Ireland to discuss possible future collaborations after the establishment of Taighde Éireann- Research Ireland.



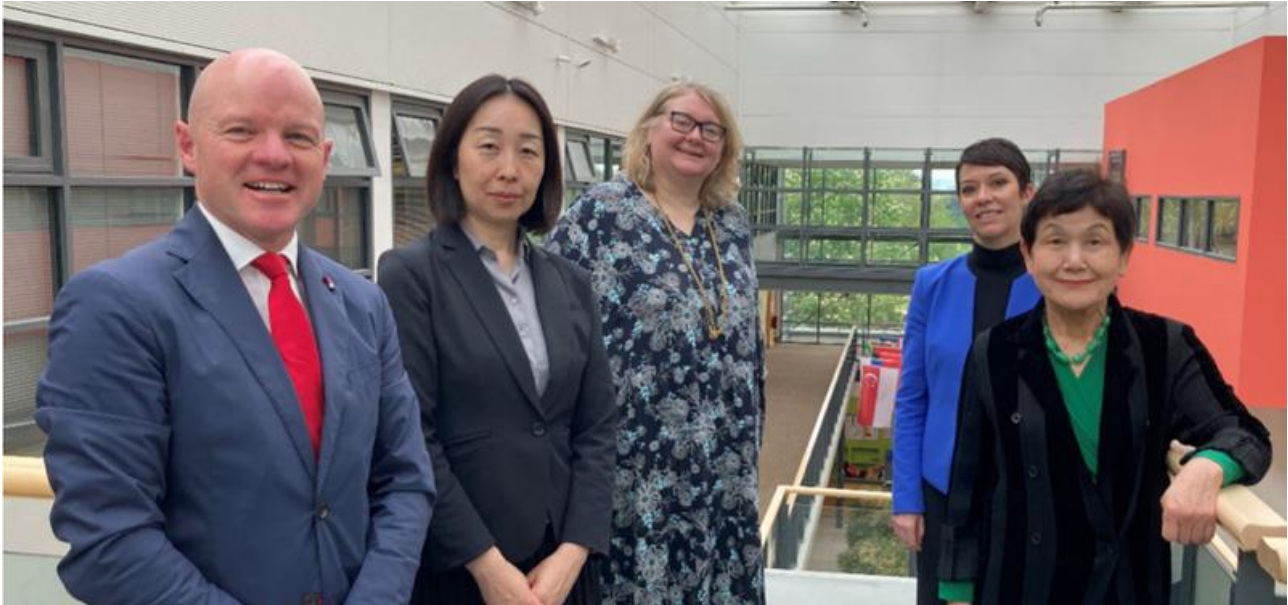
(Left-Right: Dr Yumiko Myoken, Deputy Director, JSPS London, Assoc. Prof. Nao Kodate, Prof. Naoto Kobayashi, Director, JSPS London, Prof. Emma Sokell, former JSPS Fellow, Ms Miki Takahashi, International Programme Associate,

JSPS London).

Professor Sokell and Assoc. Prof. Kodate are both active members of JSPS Alumni Association of the UK and ROI (Republic of Ireland). Students who attended the session listened very attentively and expressed interest in finding research opportunities and requesting scholarship information.

8 – Partnerships (Highlights)

8.1 Showa Women’s University Chancellor Bando’s visit to UCD (May 2024)



(Photo courtesy of SWU)

In March 2023, UCD VP for Global Engagement, Prof. Dolores O’Riordan, College VP for Global Engagement, Smurfit School of Business, Prof. Don Bredin and Ms Carole Deering visited SWU’s campus in Setagaya, Tokyo to sign an MoU. <https://www.ucd.ie/japan/newsevents/ucdsmurfitschoolofbusinessandshowawomensuniversitysignsmou/>

The signing of the MOU is also recorded in Chancellor Bando's Blog (in Japanese) here (9 March 2023). <http://content.swu.ac.jp/bandomariko/>



(Left to Right: SWU President Prof. Natsuko Kohara, VP for Global Engagement, Prof. O’Riordan (UCD) and Chancellor Prof. Bando (SWU).

In July and October 2023, Dr Justin Jütte (College VP for Global Engagement, Social Sciences and Law), Mr Richard Emery (Director, UCD Asia Pacific Global Centre), and Ms Orlaith McGourty (Quinn School of Business) visited SWU.

This time in May 2024, Chancellor Bando visited our campus to have further discussions regarding how to deepen our inter-college/inter-university collaborations in the future.

Prof. Bredin, Assoc. Prof. Maeve Houlihan, Prof. Federica Pazzaglia and Dr Jütte as well as Mr Hugo O'Donnell from the UCD Japan Group met with the delegation.



Left to Right: Ms Fukai (SWU), Prof. Bredin (UCD) and Chancellor Prof. Bando (SWU). Photos courtesy of SWU.

Prof. Bando gave a special talk entitled “Why Women Leaders?” after Assoc. Prof. Kodate reached out by writing a letter to her through his personal connection.

<https://www.ucd.ie/japan/newsevents/ucdcentreforjapanesestudieslaunchwebinarseries/>

Prof. Mariko Bando is a prolific author of more than 40 books, including *Toward a Gender-Equal Society* and *The Dignity of a Woman*, which has sold more than 3 million copies. After graduating from the University of Tokyo in 1969, she embarked on a path-breaking career that began as the first woman to be employed at the Japanese Prime Minister’s Office as a career bureaucrat. In 1998 she became the first woman to serve as Japanese Consul General in Brisbane, Australia. From 2001-03, she was Director-General of the Bureau for Gender Equality under Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi. Prof. Kohara (D.Eng., Tokyo Tech) has been the President of SWU since 2020 and is a woman pioneer in the area of fibre chemistry.

The history of Showa Women’s University began in September 1920 with five instructors and eight students. SWU has grown into an educational institution with a kindergarten, elementary school, middle school, high school, university, and graduate school, where approximately 9,000 students study.

There is also a very interesting connection between SWU and Patrick Lafcadio Hearn, which Assoc. Prof. Kodate discovered. Prof. Kenji Kaneko, the first president of SWU was a student in Lafcadio Hearn's English classes at Tokyo Imperial University, and published a book of his translations, *Koizumi Yakumo zenshu*, vol. 11, *Shosatsu-shu* (The Complete Works of Lafcadio Hearn, vol. 11, Letters / 『小泉八雲全集 第11卷 書簡集』 (第一書房、1931年)).

8.2 UCD delegation’s meeting at the University of Tokyo’s Institute of Social Science (Oct. 2023)

Prof. Colin Scott (now Registrar, UCD – the then College Principal, College of Social Sciences and Law - VP for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion) was on his way to South Korea on the Irish government's mission.

During his stay in South Korea, he also visited Japan – Waseda University, Kyoto University and the University of Tokyo

(UT). The latter meeting was arranged by Assoc. Prof. Kodate in collaboration with Prof. Kenneth Mori McElwain at the Institute of Social Science, UT. Dr Kodate contacted former Ambassador of Japan to Ireland, Prof. Mari Miyoshi (now lecturing at the Graduate School of Public Policy, UT) and she agreed to come and join the meeting on the 31st of October.



Left to right: Jonathan Kelly (Enterprise Ireland), Prof. Mari Miyoshi (Former Ambassador of Japan to Ireland/Graduate School of Public Policy, UT), Prof. Takeshi Fujitani (ISS/UTokyo), Yuji Genba (Director of ISS, UT), Prof. Colin Scott (Registrar/former College Principal, Social Sciences and Law), Prof. Kenneth Mori McElwain (ISS/UT), Mr Richard Emery (Director, Asia Pacific Office, UCD Global)

Prof. Scott gave a talk at UT in 2014, as part of the Ireland-Japan Social Science Symposia: Sharing knowledge, shaping the future of the welfare society in Europe and Japan, which was organised by Dr Kodate through competitive funding from the Japan Foundation. It was a joint project between University College Dublin (Public Policy Group – College of Social Sciences and Law) and the University of Tokyo (Graduate School of Public Policy & Graduate Schools of Law and Politics).

<https://www.ucd.ie/japan/newsevents/japanfoundation-sponsoredireland-japansocialsciencesymposiaucdandtheuniversityoftokyooproject/>

After the symposia, UCD reached out to UT for formal partnership, which was first rejected in 2014, as UT had signed an MoU with Trinity College Dublin a few years back. It was then made possible by personal negotiations between Dr Kodate (JaSt) and two of his mentors, Profs. Toshiko Ellis (Professor Emerita, UT and now Nagoya University of Foreign Studies) and Yoichi Kibata (Emeritus Professor, UT and Seijo University). The two professors were the initiators of UT's exchange program called AIKOM, back in 1996. Dr Kodate was one of its very first students who was selected to go and study at Monash University, Melbourne, Australia.

The partnership between UCD and UT now flourishes, and a lot of UCD students enjoy studying at UT on both Hongo and Komaba campuses.

8.3 Hokkaido University delegation's meeting at the College of Social Sciences and Law (Feb. 2024)

College Principal, Social Sciences and Law, Prof. Niamh Moore-Cherry had a meeting with the delegation, and she presented her research on Mapping Dublin, which generated interesting discussion.



Head of School (2021-24), School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice, Prof. Karen Anderson, Director of the Geary Institute for Public Policy, Prof. Michelle Norris and Assoc. Prof. Naonori Kodate welcomed Prof. Mikine Yamazaki on the 21st of February. The UCD Centre for Japanese Studies, affiliated with the School, hosted this working lunch to discuss our recent success of getting the competitive Erasmus+ICM funding with Hokkaido University (jointly done with the UCD School of Veterinary Medicine under the theme of One Health), and future collaborations.

Prof. Mikine Yamazaki is Professor in Public Policy at Hokkaido University. His major is territorial politics and public policy, focusing on devolution/decentralisation, and public policy of tobacco and alcohol control from a comparative perspective. Prof. Yamazaki and Dr Kodate have known each other for more than 20 years and initiated a short-term study programme called Shamrock Programme for the students at the Graduate School of Public Policy, Hokkaido University in 2013. 8 students came and study at UCD (and a few of them conducted a small research project based at the Geary Institute). We successfully obtained the Erasmus+ICM in 2017 for the first time.

8.4 Erasmus+ICM (One Health) Lecture Series at Hokkaido University by Dr Szelewa (Jun. 2024)

Dr Dorota Szelewa participated in Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility (Erasmus+ICM - Staff Mobility) delivering teaching and training at Hokkaido University's Graduate School of Public Policy in Sapporo, Japan between 10 and 15 June 2024.



Seminar at the Slavic Eurasian Research Center, Hokkaido University



Left: Prof. Naomi Chi (Hokkaido University), Right: Dr Szelewa (UCD)



Photos courtesy of Prof. Naomi Chi & Prof. Kaori Baba

The UCD Centre for Japanese Studies, formally affiliated with the School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice, successfully obtained this competitive Erasmus+ICM funding, for the second time in 2022, jointly with the UCD School of Veterinary Medicine under the research theme of 'One Health'. The bid was led again by Prof. Stephen Gordon & Assoc. Prof. Naonori Kodate – both members of the Centre.

The academic and teaching exchange involved mutual learning about the pedagogical methods and tools applied to public policy teaching, providing teaching and training within the field of public policy studies presenting the European perspective and specific case studies as possibly applied to the Japanese context. During her stay at Hokkaido University, Dr Szelewa gave a lecture on "Social Investment in welfare policy making: the approach and a gender perspective", a seminar discussion for graduate students of her research on voluntary childless population in Poland, as well as a presentation "Right-wing populist governments and the issue of gender relations in Poland and in Hungary" followed by a lively discussion.

The visit resulted in students being exposed to a different approach to teaching, in-class discussion, new forms of student engagement, but also in making initial plans for further academic and teaching/training exchange.

8.5 Reunion with three Japanese political scientists on Belfield (Aug. 2024)



Prof. Takeshi Ito (Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, University of Tokyo), Prof. Ryosuke Amiya-Nakada (College of Liberal Arts, Tsuda University) and Dr Takuya Onoda (Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow in the Centre for European Studies and Comparative Politics (CEE) at Sciences Po, France / TUM, Chair for International Relations from the autumn, 2024) attended the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) General Conference 2024, which was held on the Belfield campus. Profs Ito and Amiya-Nakada are Assoc. Prof. Kodate's 'senpais' from the Graduate Schools for Law and Politics, UT, and Dr Onoda is a 'kohai' at both UT and London School of Economics and Political Science. The guests were warmly welcomed at the university faculty club, and we discussed possible future collaborations/exchanges. (Left to right: Dr Onoda, Prof. Amiya-Nakada, Prof. Ito and Dr Kodate.)

8.6 Honjo International Scholarship Foundation (Dec. 2023)

Mr Daihachi Honjo (researcher at the Honjo International Scholarship Foundation / graduate of Keio University, UCD's partner university) visited Assoc. Prof. Naonori Kodate on UCD Belfield Campus (6 December). The purpose of the visit was to interview Dr Kodate about his research and life in an Irish university. Dr Kodate was a former scholarship awardee (2005-2007). From UCD, Dr Kaori Hirashige (UCD School of English, Drama & Film) had their Scholarship to support her doctoral research (2016-2018). Mr Honjo has been visiting several former awardees worldwide (Europe and Africa) between November 2023 and January 2024.



Left to Right: Dr Naonori Kodate & Mr Daihachi Honjo

Previously, Dr Kodate contributed twice to the Foundation's Workshop Series (10th HISF Workshop 'Rikejo (Women in STEM) in Japan: Past and Future' (6 December 2015); 18th HISF Workshop 'Let's think about human-robot interactions in society' (8 January 2022)).

<https://www.hisf.or.jp/hisf-workshop/>

<https://www.ucd.ie/socialpolicyworkjustice/latestandupcomingotherevents/kodatejan202218thhisfworkshopletsthin kabouthuman-robotinteractionsinsociety/>

He also served as a member of the organising committee for the Foundation's 20th Anniversary International Symposium, and a moderator of the symposium "Working Together towards a Just Society: Skills, Knowledge and Experience" (19-20 August 2017) <https://www.hisf.or.jp/20anniversary/english/program/index.html>

9 - Research outputs

Funding

- Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility programme to continue developing links under the theme of 'One Health' with Hokkaido University, Japan. Awarded to Prof. Stephen Gordon (UCD Schools of: Veterinary Medicine; Biomolecular and Biomedical Science; and Medicine) & Assoc. Prof. Nao Kodate (School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice) funding (€15K).
- Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) Overseas Research Fellowships. Awarded to Dr Hiroaki Imoto. Research title: Disentangling molecular mechanisms of anticancer drug resistance based on thermodynamic principles. Duration: 2023/4/1 – 2025/3/31. (¥6.3M)
- Department of Education's Languages Connect (Summer Camps) programme to organise the Japanese Language Summer Camp in Belfield (August 2023). Awarded to Ms Nobuko Ijichi (UCD Centre for Japanese Studies) (€10K).

Peer-reviewed Journal Articles

- Arakane K[†], Imoto H[†], Ormersbach F, Okada M (2024) Extending BioMASS to construct mathematical models from external knowledge. *Bioinformatics Advances* 4. vbae042. doi: 10.1093/bioadv/vbae042
- Delahunty T, Ní Shúilleabháin A, Waters L (2023) Unpacking the motivational variables which impact engagement in Lesson Study: Mathematics teaching self-efficacy and attitudes towards self-development, *Irish Educational Studies*, DOI: 10.1080/03323315.2023.2263437
- Imoto H[†], Rauch N[†], Neve AJ, Khorsand F, Kreileder M, Alexopoulos LG, Rauch J, Okada M, Kholodenko BN, Rukhlenko OS (2023) A Combination of Conformation-Specific RAF Inhibitors Overcome Drug Resistance Brought about by RAF Overexpression. *Biomolecules* 13, 1212. doi: 10.3390/biom13081212
- Kodate N, Obayashi K, Maeda Y, Yu W, O'Shea D, Sakata N, Suwa S, Masuyama S (2023) Care professionals' experience of deploying an original non-autonomous air-purification robot in residential care homes in Ireland and Japan. 5th *International Congress on Human-Computer Interaction, Optimization and Robotic Applications (HORA)*, Istanbul, Turkiye, IEEE 2023, pp. 1-9, doi: 10.1109/HORA58378.2023.10156802.
- Kapalamula TF, Chizimu JY, Akapelwa ML, Barnes DA, Toyting J, Bwalya P, Basikolo L, Squarre D, Chambaro HM, Gordon SV, Thapa J, Nakajima C, Suzuki Y. Insight into the genetic diversity of *Mycobacterium bovis* isolated from cattle in Malawi. *Res Vet Sci.* 2023 Nov;164:105030. doi: 10.1016/j.rvsc.2023.105030.
- Ide H, Suwa S, Akuta Y, Kodate N, Tsujimura M, Ishimaru M, Shimamura A, Kitinoja H, Donnelly S, Hallila J, Toivonen M, Bergman-Kärpijoki C, Takahashi E, Yu W (2023) Developing a model to explain users' ethical perceptions regarding the use of care robots in home care: A cross-sectional study in Ireland, Finland, and Japan. *Archives of Gerontology and Geriatrics*. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.archger.2023.105137>
- Ni Shuilleabháin A, Owens E, Seery A and Hyland D (2024) From beginning to mature: investigating the development of teacher community through Lesson Study. *Front. Educ.* 9:1331127. doi:10.3389/educ.2024.1331127
- Obayashi K, Kodate N, Ishii Y, Masuyama S. (2023) Assistive technologies and aging in place for people with dementia and disabilities: a proof-of-concept study with in-home passive remote monitoring with interactive communication functions. *Disability and Rehabilitation: Assistive Technology* 2023 Dec 24:1-14. doi: 10.1080/17483107.2023.2287148.
- Osaka I (2023) Japan's Call: how we have answered, and how we will answer. *Komazawa University Law and Political Science Review*, 23-1, 51-74.
- Rukhlenko OS[†], Imoto H[†], Tambde A, McGillicuddy A, Junk P, Tuliakova A, Kolch W, Kholodenko BN (2024) Cell State Transition Models Stratify Breast Cancer Cell Phenotypes and Reveal New Therapeutic Targets. *Cancers* 16, 2354. doi: 10.3390/cancers16132354
- Thapa J, Chizimu JY, Kitamura S, Akapelwa ML, Suwanthada P, Miura N, Toyting J, Nishimura T, Hasegawa N, Nishiuchi Y, Gordon SV, Nakajima C, Suzuki Y. Characterization of DNA Gyrase Activity and Elucidation of the Impact of Amino Acid Substitution in GyrA on Fluoroquinolone Resistance in *Mycobacterium avium*. *Microbiol Spectr.* 2023 Jun 15;11(3):e0508822. doi: 10.1128/spectrum.05088-22.
- Urtasun-Elizari JM, Ma R, Pickford H, Farrell D, Gonzalez G, Perets V, Nakajima C, Suzuki Y, MacHugh DE, Bhatt A, Gordon SV, Functional analysis of the *Mycobacterium bovis* AF2122/97 PhoPR system, *Tuberculosis*, Vol. 148, 2024, 102544, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tube.2024.102544>.
- 井元宏明, 岡田眞里子 (2023). 生化学反応過程を記述した文章による実行可能な数理モデルの生成と患者固有モデリングへの応用. *生物物理* 63 巻 6 号. doi: 10.2142/biophys.63.320
- 逢坂巖 (2023) 大英帝国から「大米帝国」へ: アイルランドの国家戦略と労働生産性・試論. *海外事情 (Journal of World Affairs)* 71(5) 93-106.

†: Equal contribution

Book Chapters

- [Kodate N](#) & Donnelly S (2023) Assistive technologies, robotics and gerontological social work practice. In G. Kirwan & A. López Peláez (Eds.) *Routledge Handbook of Digital Social Work*. London: Routledge, pp. 183-195.
- [Kodate N](#), [Mannan H](#), Donnelly S, Maeda Y, O'Shea D (2023) Can care robots support ageing in place in Ireland? Key stakeholders' perspectives on enabling assistive technology and users' quality of life. In S. Robinson & K. Fisher (Eds.) *Research Handbook on Disability Policy*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing, pp. 615-631.

Conferences

- [Caulfield B](#) (2024) Personalisation and optimisation of NMES to enhance adherence and clinical effectiveness. Enhancing physical function in aging and hospitalized populations with neuromuscular electrical stimulation. The International Society of Electrophysiology and Kinesiology (ISEK) Congress, Nagoya, 27 June 2024.
- [Imoto H](#), Rauch N, Ichikawa A, Okada M, Rmaedakhlenko OS and Kholodenko BN (2023). Unraveling the mechanisms of drug resistance in the MAPK pathway using structure-based modeling. The 61st Annual Meeting of the Biophysical Society of Japan, Nagoya, 14 November 2023.
- [Kodate N](#) (2024) Institutional design, welfare technologies and diffusion of innovation: Stakeholders' views regarding care robots in Hong Kong SAR (China), Ireland and Japan. The 2024 Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics (SASE) Annual Meeting. Limerick, Ireland, 28 June 2024.
- [Kodate N](#), [Maeda Y](#), Yumoto A, Donnelly S, Tsujimura M, [Mannan H](#), Suwa S, Yu W, [Kohli P](#), [Obayashi K](#), Masuyama S, [O'Shea D](#) (2024) Welfare technology developers' views concerning responsible innovation and implementation of care robots in Ireland and Japan. Robophilosophy Conference 2024. Aarhus, Denmark. 22 August 2024.
- [Kodate N](#), [Kohli P](#), [Maeda Y](#), Scott R, Yu W, [Obayashi](#), Masuyama S (2024) An Irish 'traveling' air-purification robot in a care home in Tokyo: Why do humanities and social science matter? Robophilosophy Conference 2024. Aarhus, Denmark. 22 August 2024.
- [Kodate N](#), Tsujimura M, Lechevalier S (2024) Assessing the impact of transfer robots on care work: the case of POTARO in Toyota Memorial Hospital, Japan. Robophilosophy Conference 2024. Aarhus, Denmark. 22 August 2024.
- [Kodate N](#), Tsujimura M, Lechevalier S, Maura Y, Kitamura M (2024) Careescape transformers: the roles of robot engineers in an acute care hospital work system. Doing Digital Care and Spatial Transformations. Conference EASST (European Association for the Study of Science and Technology (EASST))-4S (Society for Social Studies of Science) 2024 "Making and Doing Transformations", Amsterdam, 16 July 2024.
- [Kodate N](#), Lechevalier S (2024) Implementing Society 5.0: towards a care-led innovation model in Japan? The 2024 Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics (SASE) Annual Meeting. Limerick, Ireland, 28 June 2024.
- [Obayashi K](#), [Kodate N](#), Sugano K, Kasai M, Mitobe U, Takeuchi A, Okamoto Y, Kurishima S, Ishii Y, Masuyama S (2024) Pilot Study for the Development of an Online "Monitoring System" to Support Continuity of Life at Home. The 66th Annual Meeting of the Japan Geriatric Society, Nagoya, 13 June 2024.
- Owens E, [Ni Shuilleabhain A](#), Hyland D (2023) Embedding Lesson Study in post-primary classrooms: Supporting maths teachers in underprivileged schools. Conference paper presented at the World Association of Lesson Study International Conference, November 2023, Zwolle, Netherlands.
- Sugano K, [Obayashi K](#), Kasai M, Mitobe U, Takeuchi A, Okamoto Y, Kurishima S, Kondo H, Ishii Y, [Kodate N](#), Masuyama S (2024) Introduction of "Online Monitoring System" to Support Home Life of Older People with Dementia and Community Cooperation. The 25th Annual Meeting of the Japan Dementia Care Society, Tokyo, 16 June 2024.
- [Kodate N](#), [Maeda Y](#), [Kohli P](#), Ishii Y, [Obayashi K](#), Yu W, O'Shea D, Masuyama S (2023) Introducing an air-disinfection robot as assistive technology into residential care homes: A proof-of-concept study in Ireland and Japan. The 17th International Conference of the Association for the Advancement of Assistive Technology in Europe (AAATE), Paris, 30 August 2023.
- [Obayashi K](#), [Kodate N](#), Kondo H, Okamoto Y, Ishii Y, Nonoda T, Yasukawa T, Masuyama S (2023) Can assistive technologies improve older adults' quality of life? The case of remote monitoring system with interactive communication function. The 17th International Conference of the Association for the Advancement of Assistive Technology in Europe (AAATE), Paris, 30 August 2023.
- [Kodate N](#), [Obayashi K](#), [Maeda Y](#), Yu W, [O'Shea D](#), Sakata N, Suwa S, Masuyama S (2023) Care professionals' experience of deploying an original non-autonomous air-purification robot in residential care homes in Ireland and Japan. 5th International Congress on Human-Computer Interaction, Optimization and Robotic Applications. HORA 2023 / IEEE Turkey Section. 10 June 2023, Turkey (Online).
- [Kodate N](#), [Obayashi K](#), [Maeda Y](#), Scott R, Kurishima S, Okamoto Y, Ishii Y, Yu W, Suwa S, Sakata N, Masuyama S (2023) Exploring professional-robot interactions in care settings: A case of adopting an Irish air-disinfection device in a nursing home in Japan. Irish Gerontological Society Annual and Scientific Meeting 2023, 28-30 September 2023, Galway.
- [Obayashi K](#), [Kodate N](#), Kondo H, Okamoto Y, Ishii Y, Nonoda T, Yasukawa T, Masuyama S (2023) Designing and testing an integrated community care model with a remote home monitoring-alert device: a pilot study in Japan. Irish Gerontological Society Annual and Scientific Meeting 2023, 28-30 September 2023, Galway.

- Shimamura A, Ishimaru M, Akuta Y, Tsujimura M, Ide H, Kodate N, Yu W, Suwa S (2023) Daily Life of Japanese Older People as Measured by the Japan Science and Technology Agency Index of Competence (JST-IC). The 26th East Asian Forum of Nursing Scholars (EAFONS) 2023, 10-11 March 2023, Tokyo.

Report

- Kodate T, Kodate N (2024) Final Report 'Exploring reasons and benefits for science students to study at a women's university'. Submitted to the Institute for Research on Women and Gender, Tokyo Woman's Christian University (in Japanese).

Media

- Imoto H (2023) Exploring a new mechanism of drug resistance using next-generation computer modeling. UCD School of Medicine. <https://www.ucd.ie/medicine/news/2023/exploringanewmechanismofdrugresistanceusingnext-generationcomputermodeled/>
- Murray SH (2024) Whatever Happened to All Those Care Robots? *The Atlantic* (21 March 2024) <https://www.theatlantic.com/family/archive/2024/03/robots-have-not-revolutionized-caregiving-elder-care/677820/>
- Kitaoka S (2023) Reflections on Japan's (potential) Federal System, while walking around Ireland. *Foresight* (3 January 2024) (in Japanese)
- Nolan D (2023) Majority comfortable with 'care robots' looking after the elderly, new study finds. (1 September 2023) <https://m.independent.ie/irish-news/majority-comfortable-with-care-robots-looking-after-the-elderly-new-study-finds/a228477205.html>

10 – Acknowledgements

We would like to thank all friends of Japan and great supporters in the UCD community and beyond. We are particularly grateful for the support from the Embassy of Japan in Ireland, the Embassy of Ireland, Japan, Enterprise Ireland, the Japan Foundation, the Department of Further and Higher Education, Ireland, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan, Experience Japan, the Ireland Japan Association, Japanese Language Teachers of Ireland, the Post-Primary Languages Ireland, UCD Japanese Society and the Japanese Societies in the other Irish HEIs, the European Association of Japanese Studies, the International Research Center for Japanese Studies (Nichibunken), various Japanese Research Centres (in Paris, Berlin, Portland, OR, Harvard, London, Oxford, East Anglia, Edinburgh, Cork, in particular) the Irish Network Japan, our partner universities, institutions and business societies in Japan, North America, the UK, Asia and Europe.

We are also grateful to our patrons, internal and external academic advisors.