

Nathan HOPSON
Associate Professor
University of Bergen

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

UNIVERSITY OF BERGEN

Associate Professor *School of Humanities* 2021-Present
Program Chair *Japanese* Fall 2024-

NAGOYA UNIVERSITY

Supervisory Subcommittee *Institute of Liberal Arts and Sciences* 2020-2021
Affiliated Researcher *Gender Research Library* 2020-2021
Affiliated Faculty *Graduate School of International Development* 2019-2021
Program Chair *Japan-in-Asia Cultural Studies* 2018-2021
Affiliated Researcher *Center for Transregional Culture and Society* 2018-2021
Associate Professor *Graduate School of Humanities* 2017-2021
Designated Associate Professor *Graduate School of Letters* 2014-2017

YALE UNIVERSITY

Postdoctoral Associate *Council on East Asian Studies* 2013-2014

GRINNELL COLLEGE

Visiting Assistant Professor *Dept. of Chinese and Japanese* 2012-2013

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Adjunct Lecturer *Dept. of History* 2012
Adjunct Lecturer *Dept. of East Asian Languages & Civilizations* 2009-2011
Graduate Teaching Fellow 2008-2010

COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF PHILADELPHIA

Adjunct Lecturer *Dept. of Anthropology* 2010-2011

IWATE UNIVERSITY

Adjunct Lecturer *Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences* 2002-2005

CELC, INC.

Instructor *Japanese-English Translation* 2001-2006

FUJI UNIVERSITY

Lecturer *Dept. of Economics* 1999-2001

PUBLICATIONS

MONOGRAPHS

Ennobling Japan's Savage Northeast: Tōhoku as Postwar Thought, 1945-2011.
Harvard University Asia Center (2017).

REFEREED ARTICLES

"Japan's 1932 Rural Community Nutritional Improvement Experiment: The Promises and Limits of Government Nutritional Activism." *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies* (under review).

"Ja-panification: The 'American wheat stratagem' conspiracy theory in contemporary Japan." *Japan Review* (under review).

"'Humans Bring Food to Their Mouths, Animals Bring Their Mouths to Food': The Morality Politics of School-Lunch Sporks in 1970s Japan." *Food & Foodways* 31, no. 1 (2023): 1–21.

"Ingrained Habits: The 'Kitchen Cars' and the Transformation of Postwar Japanese Diet and Identity." *Food, Culture & Society*, November 2020.

"Eiyō shidōsha (kitchin kā): Amerika nōsanbutsu to sengo Nihon no shokuseikatsu henshen." *JunCture*, 2020-03-26, no. 11 (2020): 30–45.

"Nutrition as National Defense: Japan's Imperial Government Institute for Nutrition, 1920-1940." *Journal of Japanese Studies* 45, no. 1 (2019): 1–29.

"'Fake Food: Authentic Japanese Product' — On the Rise of Visuality in Middlebrow Japanese Culinary Culture." *Japan Forum*, 2018.

"'A Bad Peace?' — The 1937 Nagoya Pan-Pacific Peace Exhibition." *Japanese Studies*, August 2018.

"Takahashi Tomio's *Henkyō*, The Universal Japanese Frontier (An Interpretation)." *Verge: Studies in Global Asias* 4, no. 1 (2018): 85–109.

"Хенкё Такахаси Томио: восточные Востоки и западные Запады." Translated by Rastyam Aliev. *Journal of Frontier Studies* 4, no. 12 (December 5, 2018).

"Christopher Noss' Tohoku and 'Survey of Rural Fukushima': Portraits of Tōhoku a Century Before March 11, 2011." *Asian Cultural Studies*, no. 42 (Spring 2016): 139–51.

"Takahashi Tomio's Phoenix: Recuperating Hiraizumi (1950-71)." *Journal of Japanese Studies* 40, no. 2. 353-377. (2014)

“Takahashi Tomio’s *Henkyō*: Eastern Easts and Western Wests.” *Japan Review*, no. 27 (2014): 141–170.

“Systems of Irresponsibility and Japan’s Internal Colony.” *The Asia-Pacific Journal*, Vol. 11, Issue 52, No. 2, Dec 30, 2013.

COEDITED JOURNAL ISSUES

“Frontiers” (coedited with Ran Zwigenberg, Pennsylvania State University)
Verge: Studies in Global Asias, no. 4.1 (Spring 2018).

COAUTHORED ARTICLES

Hopson, Nathan, and Ran Zwigenberg. “Can the Frontier Write Back?” *Verge: Studies in Global Asias* 4, no. 1 (2018): vi–xv.

“World’s First Telepathology Experiments Employing Ultra-high-speed Internet Satellite, Nicknamed ‘KIZUNA’.” Sawai, Takashi, et al. *Journal of Pathology Informatics* 4 (1): 24. (2013)

INVITED BOOK CHAPTERS

“School Lunches (*Kyūshoku*): Discipline and Nourish.” *Japan Food Handbook*, edited by Nancy K. Stalker. MHM, 2025.

“Kondō Toshiko’s *Rootwork*: Nutritionists, Gender, and Public Health in Japan, 1936-1940.” In *Women and Medicine in Modern Japan: Sources and Critique*, edited by Hiro Fujimoto, Aya Homei, and Ellen Nakamura. Routledge, 2025.

“Women, Waste, and War: Food, Gender, and Rationalization in Wartime Japanese Discourse.” In *Gender and Food in Contemporary East Asia*, edited by Jooyeon Rhee, Chikako Nagayama, and Eric Li, 15–38. Lexington Books, 2021.

“Nutritionists in Japan as a Professional Elite, 1914-1964.” In *Professional Elites of Modern Japan*. Bibliothèque de l’Institut des Hautes Études Japonaises du Collège de France. Paris: Collège de France, forthcoming.

Sasagawa, Norikatsu. “An Chunggŭn and the Political Philosophy of Immanuel Kant.” In *Peace in the East: An Chunggŭn’s Vision for Asia in the Age of Japanese Imperialism*, edited by Eugene Park and Tae-Jin Yi, translated by Nathan Hopson, 111–30. Lexington Books, 2017.

Yamamuro, Shin’ichi. “The Philosophy and Possibilities of An Chunggŭn’s Unfinished *On Peace in the East*.” In *Peace in the East: An Chunggŭn’s Vision for Asia in the Age of Japanese Imperialism*, edited by Eugene Park and Tae-Jin Yi, translated by Nathan Hopson, 177–99. Lexington Books, 2017.

“Sengo shisō to shite no Tōhoku: Takahashi Tomio o chūshin ni.” In Namikawa and Kawanishi, eds. *Gurōbaruka no naka no Nihonshi zō*. (2013)

BOOK REVIEWS

Hopson, Nathan. "David Fedman. *Seeds of Control: Japan's Empire of Forestry in Colonial Korea*." *The American Historical Review* 129, no. 1 (March 12, 2024): 256–58.

"Aomori kenshi shiryōhen, kingendai 7: Aomori ron." *Hirosaki daigaku kokushi kenkyū* 142 (March 2017).

OTHER

Maxson, Hillary. "Kakeibo to gendai Nihon no katei ryōri no seiritsu." Translated by Nathan Hopson. *JunCture*, no. 11 (March 26, 2020): 46–57.

Contributor: "The Recipes Project"

- "The 'Nutrition Song': Imperial Japan's Recipe for National Nutrition" (January 2019)
- "'Daily Recipes for Home Cooking' (1924)" (April 2019)
- "Pulverized Food to Pulverize the Enemy!" (April 2020)
- "Meals on Wheels: The 'Kitchen Cars' and American Recipes for the Postwar Japanese Diet" (December 2020)
- "Say Ohm: Japanese Electric Bread and the Joy of Panko" (May 2021)

"Rev. Christopher Noss: A Century before Fukushima Daiichi." *Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society Newsletter* 38, no. 3 (December 2015).

"The Transparency of the Quotidian: Whither Japan?" *Yale Journal of International Affairs* (Jun 2, 2014).

RESEARCH FUNDING

Toshiba International Foundation (TIFO)
Funding for multimedia, bilingual podcast series on Japan 2024

Travel Grant, University of Bergen
Short-term research travel grant 2024

Food Studies Research Group, University of Bergen
Multidisciplinary food studies research group 2024

SPIRE
Funding for international research collaboration 2024

Scandinavia-Japan Sasakawa Foundation

<i>Workshop: Translation as Method in Japanese Studies</i>	2023
Toyoaki Scholarship Foundation Travel Grant <i>Travel grant for research and international conference participation</i>	2019
Nagoya University International Conference Grant <i>Competitive subvention for international conference</i>	2019
Visiting Research Fellow, EHESS <i>Research fellowship at École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales</i>	2017
Visiting Research Fellow from Japan, Japan Foundation <i>Hosted by Penn State's Global Japan Project</i>	2016
Short-Term Research Travel Grant, AAS Northeast Asia Council <i>Travel grant for research</i>	2016
Postdoctoral Fellowship, Yale University Council on East Asian Studies <i>Fellowship for development and completion of book manuscript</i>	2013-2014
Cecilia Segawa Seigle Prize Fellowship <i>Research travel fellowship for dissertation completion</i>	2010
Graduate Student Research Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania <i>Research fellow</i>	2009
Benjamin Franklin Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania <i>Research fellowship for dissertation completion</i>	2007-2012

INVITED LECTURES, ETC.

“Sporks, Chopsticks, and Morality Politics”
Nagoya University (2023)

“Humans Bring Food to their Mouths, Animals Bring their Mouths to Food”—Culturalist Anxieties, Morality Politics, and School-Lunch Sporks in 1970s Japan
Food Forum, SOAS (2023)

The Morality Politics of Sporks in 1970s Japan: “Humans Bring Food to their Mouths, Animals Bring their Mouths to Food”
Lærernes dag, University of Bergen (2023)

“Eiyō shidōsha (kitchin kā): Amerika nōsanbutsu to sengo Nihon no shokuseikatsu hensen”

Keynote for Joint Annual Meeting of the Nagoya Society for the Study of Historical Science and Society for the Study of Modern and Contemporary History (2021)

“We have the Solutions! Now What?”

Nagoya University Mirai Education Project (2020)

“Ingrained Habits: ‘Kitchen Cars,’ American Wheat Promotion, and the Transformation of Japanese Diet and Identity, 1956-1960”

Leiden University (2023) / Michigan State University (2020)

Case Western Reserve University (2020; cancelled due to coronavirus)

“‘The Nutrition Song’ (1922), *Daily Recipes for Home Cooking* (1924), and Nutritional Activism in Modern Japan” (*Workshop*)

Hokkaido University (2019)

“Heartland vs. Colony: Tōhoku as Postwar Thought, 1945-2011”

Hokkaido University (2019)

“Nutritional Activism in Imperial Japan, 1920-1940”

Cornell University (2019)

“Ingrained Habits: American Wheat, Japanese Nutrition, 1954-1960”

University of Pennsylvania (2019) / Nagoya University (2019)

Chinese University of Hong Kong (2018)

“Kaisen zenya no ‘heiwa’: Shōwa 12-nen haru no Han-Taiheiyō Heiwa Hakurankai”

Nagoya Society for the Study of Historical Science (2018)

“Hankei 5m no kōkishin kara: Rekishi kenkyū to shiryō chōsa”

Hiroshima University (2017)

“Peace for Our Time?—The 1937 Nagoya Pan-Pacific Peace Exhibition”

University of Vienna (2017)

“Fake Food: Authentic Japanese Product—On the Rise of Visuality in Middlebrow Japanese Culinary Culture”

University of York (2017) / University of Manchester (2017)

“Tōhoku: Japan’s Northeast in History and Thought”

Earlham College SICE Program (2016)

“Japan and the World Heritage: Hiraizumi’s Success, Kamakura’s Failure”

Dōshisha University (2016)

“Imagining Coprosperity: Wartime Japan’s Visions of East Asian Order”
Chulalongkorn University (2015) / Kasetsart University (2015)

“Spiritual Homeland • Internal Colony • Another Japan: Tōhoku in Twentieth-Century Thought and History”
Kyoto University (2015)

“Precarious Tōhoku: The Once and Future Colony?”
Shifting Terrains of Struggle in Japan and Japanese Studies (2014)

CONFERENCES

ORGANIZER / CO-ORGANIZER

“Translation as Method in Japanese Studies”
University of Bergen (2024)

“Consuming Asia: Systems and Structures of Consumption in Modern and Contemporary Asia”
Nordic Institute of Asian Studies (NIAS), Network for Asian Studies, University of Bergen, and Chr. Michelsen Institute (CMI) (2023)

“Four-University Graduate Workshop 2021”
Kyoto, Nagoya, Ritsumeikan, and Tokyo Universities (2021)

“People, Nations, Food: Toward a Transregional, Transdisciplinary Discourse on Food and Identity”
Nagoya University (2019)

“Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence in University Communities”
Nagoya University (2019)

“Un/Representation: New Approaches to East Asian Humanities”
Nagoya University (2016)

“The Significance of the Frontier to Japanese History”
Yale University (2014)

PANEL ORGANIZER

“Historians’ Workshop: A Flexible Model for Practical Early-Career Academic Development”
AAS-in-Asia (2020)

“Birds, Babies, Bombs, and Bread: Postwar Japanese Science in an American World”

AAS (2019)

“Body, Film, Event: The Frontier as Method”

AAS-in-Asia (2017)

“Tōhoku, Kyoto, and the Dialectics of ‘Japanese Culture’”

AAS-in-Asia (2016)

“Modern Ruins: The Contested Terrains of (Japanese) Heritage Sites”

Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference (2016)

“Emotion and Social Movements in Modern Japan”

AAS-in-Asia (2015) / Asian Studies Conference Japan (2015)

DISCUSSANT

“Japan’s Northeast: Learning From and Living with Natural Disasters”

American Society for Environmental History (2022)

“Geopolitics, Territory and its Memories”

Contesting Memorial Spaces in the Asia-Pacific, Kyushu University (2020)

“The Moritomo Gakuen Scandal and the Imperial Rescript on Education: A Historical Perspective” (*in Japanese*)

Int’l Research Center for Japanese Studies Thursday Seminar #245 (2018)

“Japan and Asia: Representations of Selfness and Otherness”

5th Mutual Images Workshop, Nagoya University (2017)

“Modern Ruins: The Contested Terrains of (Japanese) Heritage Sites”

Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference (2016)

“Unfreedom of Expression”

Nagoya University (2015)

PRESENTER

“The Gunma Intervention of 1932 and the Limits of Government Nutritional Activism”

AAS (2024)

“Brain Bread or Brain Dead?: ‘Rice Makes You Stupid’ and the Curious Case of Nutrition as Stigmatized Knowledge in Postwar Japan”

ACAS (2023)

“Discipline and Nourish: Japan’s National School Lunch Program in the 1960s”
New Insights Through Revision of the Old (2023)

“Humans Bring Food to their Mouths, Animals Bring their Mouths to Food”:
The Morality Politics of Sporks in 1970s’ Japanese School Lunches”
EASJ (2023)

“Nutritionists and the Work of Public Health in Imperial Japan”
Women and Medicine in the Japanese Empire (2021)

“Nutrition as National Defense: State-Sponsored Nutritional Activism in Japan,
1920-1940”
AAS (2020; cancelled due to coronavirus) / *AAS* (2021)

“Ingrained Habits: American Wheat Promotion and the Transformation of
Japanese Nutrition Science and National Diet, 1954-1960”
ICAS 11 (2019) / *AAS* (2019) / *JSA* (2019)

“Peace for Our Time? — The 1937 Nagoya Pan-Pacific Peace Exhibition”
American Historical Association (2018)
Utopias on Display, Pennsylvania State University (2016)
Asia-Pacific Studies Seminar, Osaka University (2016)

“Futurism, Primitivism, Nuclear Power: Expo ‘70 as Frontier”
AAS-in-Asia (2017)

“Fake Food: Authentic Japanese Product”
Culinary Routes/Roots, Delhi University (2016) *JSA* (2017)

“Universal Frontiers and the Mutual Constitution of Tōhoku and Kyoto”
AAS-in-Asia (2016)

“Hiraizumi: Outstanding Universal Value, Contested National Value,
Controversial Local Value”
Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference (2016)

“Chosen Traumas of Postwar Tōhoku Studies”
5e Congrès Asie & Pacifique / *AAS-in-Asia* / *Asian Studies Conf. Japan* (2015)

“The Significance of the Frontier in Japanese History: Takahashi Tomio and
Frederick Jackson Turner”
The Significance of the Frontier to Japanese History, Yale University (2014)

“Tōhoku: Japan’s Troubled Folklore of the Internal Other”
American Folklore Society 139th Annual Meeting (2011)

“Minor-ity: The crisis of children’s rights in contemporary Japan”

40th Annual MAR/AAS Conference (2011)

“Fortuitous Metonymy: Takahashi Tomio’s Historical Vision and Japanese National History”

Association for Asian Studies / Int’l Convention of Asia Scholars Conference (2011)

“Hiraizumi as Japan: Takahashi Tomio’s Golden Phoenixes”

Columbia University 20th Annual Graduate Student Conference on E. Asia (2011)

“Mirror Images: Tōhokugaku as Nihonjinron?”

39th Annual MAR/AAS Conference (2010)

“Consuming Tohoku: Tohoku Studies and the Legacy of Yanagita Kunio”

Columbia University 19th Annual Graduate Student Conference on E. Asia (2010)

“Nationalism and the Origins of Tohoku Studies”

2009 Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs (2009)

EDUCATION

PHD, UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Dept. of East Asian Languages & Civilizations 2012

Dissertation: “Tōhoku as Postwar Thought: Regionalism, Nationalism, and Culturalism in Japan’s Northeast”

MA, UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD

Advanced Japanese Studies, with Distinction 2004

BA, EARLHAM COLLEGE

Japanese Studies, with Departmental Honors 1998

Minor: TESOL

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

FAGORGAN FOR ASIA- MIDTØSTEN- OG NORD-AFRIKASTUDIER

Leader 2024-Present

NOBAS (NORDIC-BALTIC ASIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION)

Representative, *University of Bergen* 2024-Present

NORDIC NIAS COUNCIL

Representative, *University of Bergen* 2022-2023

HISTORIANS' WORKSHOP	
Reviewer, <i>Historians' Workshop</i>	2019-Present
NEW BOOKS NETWORK	
Host <i>New Books in Japanese Studies Podcast</i>	2020-Present
Host <i>New Books in Food Podcast</i>	2019-Present
Host <i>New Books in East Asian Studies Podcast</i>	2018-Present
RECIPES PROJECT	
Contributor <i>Recipes Project</i>	2018-Present
GRINNELL COLLEGE	
Co-Facilitator " <i>Japanese Table</i> " Conversation Group	2012-2013
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA	
Organizer/Facilitator <i>Japanese Reading Group</i>	2011-2012
Undergraduate Mentor	2010-2012
Organizer/Facilitator <i>Japanese Conversation Group</i>	2009-2012

REFERENCES

- DR. FREDERICK DICKINSON
 Professor of Japanese History, University of Pennsylvania
 +1 215-898-2766 • frdickin@sas.upenn.edu
- DR. KRISTINA IWATA-WEICKGENANNT
 Associate Professor of Literature, Nagoya University
 +81 80-3936-2105 • kristina.iwata@nagoya-u.jp
- DR. RAN ZWIGENBERG
 Assistant Professor, Pennsylvania State University
 +1 718-915-1299 • ruz12@psu.edu

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- WAGGENER EDSTROM WORLDWIDE, INC.
 Manager *News Stream* 2007
- IWATE BROADCASTING CO., LTD.
 Radio Personality 1999-2002
- CELC, INC.
 Project and Business Manager, Translator, Interpreter, Sales 2001-2005

AFFILIATIONS

CURRENT

American Historical Association

Association of Asian Studies

European Association of Japanese Studies

LANGUAGES

JAPANESE

Fluent

FRENCH

Research competency

NORWEGIAN (BOKMÅL)

Intermediate

ITALIAN, SPANISH

Basic reading competency
