



**Asia Past and Present:
Graduate and Early Career
Researcher Conference
September 29, 2018**

**National University of
Singapore**





Convener's note

2018 marks the 150th anniversary of the Meiji Restoration in Japan. Various celebrations and memorial events have been held in Japan and around the world to mark this important event. *Revisiting Japan's Restoration: Interregional, Alternative, and Interdisciplinary Perspectives*, held at the National University Singapore from September 26-28, aims to add greater depth, fresh perspectives, and richer context to the study of the Meiji Restoration and the period of Japan's long nineteenth century.

Asia Past and Present: Graduate Conference, also held at the National University Singapore on September 29, 2018, aims to bring future scholars from Singapore and the region together to engage with each other's work and to receive quality feedback from some of the Meiji Restoration conference participants.

We, the organizers, would like to thank the following for their support that has made this conference possible:

- Professor Robbie Goh, Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, National University of Singapore
- Associate Professor Leng Leng Thang, Head, Department of Japanese Studies, National University of Singapore
- Professor Lionel Wee and the Faculty Research Committee
- The Japan Foundation
- Urban Culture Research Center (UCRC), Graduate School of Literature and Human Sciences, Osaka City University
- Mitsui-NUS Endowment Fund
- All Workshop Paper Presenters and Participants; and
- The Workshop Staff

Timothy D. Amos
Akiko Ishii
September 2018



Asia Past and Present: Graduate and Early Career Researcher Conference (a conference by the Department of Japanese Studies, September 29 2018, AS7-0117, Faculty of Arts and Social Science, NUS)

PROGRAMME (September 29)

8.30am to 9.00am: Registration (Coffee & Tea available at AS7/0117 Foyer)	
WELCOME AND INTRODUCTORY REMARKS	
9.00am to 9.15am	A/P Timothy D. Amos, Conference Organizer and Acting Head, Department of Japanese Studies, National University of Singapore
	Dr Akiko Ishii, Conference Co-organizer and Adjunct Research Fellow, Department of Japanese Studies, National University of Singapore
SESSION 1: <u>Pre/early modern forms of power and identity</u> Chair: Prof Takashi Tsukada	
9.15am	Wu Hongsheng (NUS): An indication of advance or decline of Obaku Zen? A discussion of Gaoquan Xingdun's contact with the Japanese imperial family
9.35am	Madoka Morita (UCRC, Osaka City University): Neighborhood and Religious Communities in 18th-century Istanbul
9.55am	Eunice Lee (NUS): Feminine Destinies: Gender and Sexuality in <i>Torikaebaya Monogatari</i>
10.15am	Sarah Tan (NUS): Old Age in the Past, the Past in Old Age: Examining How the Media, State and Individual Coped with the Elderly and Aging in Early Meiji Japan (1872 - 1878)



10.35am	Chair's remarks, Q&A, General Discussion
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11.15am to 11.30am: Coffee Break (AS7/0117 Foyer)	
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SESSION 2: <u>Modernity and State in Post-Meiji Japan</u>	
Chair: Prof Ashita Saga	

11.30am	Rob Crawford (NUS): Early Meiji education reform and the Kagoshima <i>ShihanGakkō</i>
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11.50am	Mohd Zulfadhli Zakaria (University of Malaya): Japan's victory in Russo-Japanese war and Nationalism movement in Malaya
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12.10pm	Bima Prawira Utama (Padjadjaran University): Conservatives in Modern and Post-modern Era: Evolution of Japanese Nationalism from the Meiji Era Into Today's Society.
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12.30pm	Chair's remarks, Q&A, General Discussion
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1.15pm to 2.00pm: Lunch (AS7/0117 Foyer)	
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SESSION 3: <u>Local, Regional, and National Identities</u>	
Chair: A/P Robert Hellyer	

2.00pm	Nirinthorn Mesupnikom (Thammasat University): The Role of Local Japanese Governments in Implementing International Activities: from the Meiji Restoration to the Post-War Period
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2.20pm	Raymond Andaya (De La Salle University): Transnational Human Rights Network Campaigns and Southeast Asia's Protracted Conflicts: The West Papua Conflict and the CPP-NPA-NDFP Rebellion
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2:40pm	Nguyen Vo Huyen Dung (University of Foreign Language Studies, University of Danang, Vietnam): Japan's Soft Power and Cultural Diplomacy
3:00pm	Muhammad Zinnurain Bin Mohd Nasir (NUS): The Quill of <i>Qalam</i> : Life and Networks beyond the Written Word
3:20pm	Chair's remarks, Q&A, General Discussion
4.00pm	End of Conference
Informal Conference Dinner (Venue TBA)	



PAPER ABSTRACTS (BY SESSION)

SESSION 1

Paper 1

An indication of advance or decline of Obaku Zen? A discussion of Gaoquan Xingdun's contact with the Japanese imperial family

From the early seventeenth to the early eighteenth centuries, dozens of Chinese Zen monks (mostly Fujianese monks) travelled to Japan. Japanese imperial family members and warrior elites welcomed these monks, but their support was uneven. I discuss the monastic circle of Kyoto-based Chinese Zen monks, whose location allowed them to establish relationships with the imperial family more easily. However, only some of them kept amicable relations with the imperial family. Among these monks, Gaoquan Xingdun had posthumous titles bestowed upon him twice by emperor Reigen. No other Chinese Zen monk except Yinyuan Longqi, the founder of Obaku Zen, had a closer relationship with Japanese imperial family. By using Gaoquan's personal records, together with historical records of other Chinese Zen monks and their Japanese patrons, I explore the unexplained reasons why Gaoquan was more successful in establishing relations with Japanese imperial members. The abbots of Manpukuji temple that succeeded him lost close contacts with the imperial family while keeping relations with powerful daimyos. This ignored subtle change implied the weakening of Obaku Zen's refined image. It also served as an indication of Obaku Zen's localization in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries.

Presenter Bio:

Mr Wu Hongsheng is a PhD student at the Department of History, National University of Singapore. His research interest includes history of Sino-Japanese relations in the early modern period, and early modern East Asian maritime history. He is currently working on his research project, tentatively titled "the interaction of Chinese Zen monks, merchants and Japanese warrior elites, officials in the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries".

Paper 2

Neighborhood and Religious Communities in 18th-century Istanbul

Neighborhoods (*mahalle*) in Ottoman cities have been considered religiously organized autonomous communities and the smallest unit of urban administration. The conventional image of neighborhoods as religiously homogeneous entities and the cellular composition of urban spaces have no longer been tenable, with recent scholars probing the presence of internal dynamics at play within neighborhood structures. However, it still remains inexplicable as to how the actual workings of local communities overlapped or clashed with the layout of the city that the Ottoman ruling circles worked in.

This paper examines neighborhoods in Istanbul and explores how communal dynamics interacted with their involvement in administrative aspects, particularly in the 18th century, when recurrent revolts and deteriorated public order invited an expansion of state control over its subjects. I examine the court records of Istanbul, a motley collection of official documents the municipal judge received and produced, including imperial edicts, grand vizier's orders, and reports submitted to the Sublime Porte.

My examination reveals a nested profile in the demarcation of neighborhoods. Intramural Istanbul administratively comprised 258 neighborhoods, each of which was formed around a mosque and led by an imam. Intriguingly, Christian and Jewish neighborhoods formed around churches or synagogues seem to have officially been annexed to mosque-centered neighborhoods. I argue that the inclusion of



different religious communities under the overarching responsibility of an imam was concomitant with a process whereby each neighborhood assumed a spatialized collectivity, which may have been attuned to the state's aspiration to establish effective control over an urban population that was diverse in religion and origin and had increased geographical mobility and social fluidity. This unique phenomenon can be discussed against the larger backdrop of a structural change in legitimating Ottoman rule as well as the transformations undergone by state-subject relations during the 18th century.

Presenter Bio:

Madoka Morita is PhD candidate at the University of Tokyo and since January 2018 a Postgraduate fellow of Yale University. During the last academic year, she was a junior fellow of the Research Center for the Anatolian Civilizations, Koç University in Istanbul. Her PhD dissertation explores how the neighborhood functioned as a community as well as administrative unit in eighteenth-century Istanbul. She has published an article entitled "Between Hostility and Hospitality: Neighbourhoods and Dynamics of Urban Migration in Istanbul (1730–54)," in *Turkish Historical Review* in 2016, and a book chapter, "From Confusion to Tranquility: Public Space and Re-demarcating Social Boundaries in Istanbul (1730– 54)," *Human Mobility and Multiethnic Coexistence in Middle Eastern Urban Societies 2 Tehran, Cairo, Istanbul, Aleppo, and Beirut*, ed. Hidemitsu Kuroki (Tokyo: ILCAA, 2018).

Paper 3

Feminine Destinies: Gender and Sexuality in *Torikaebaya Monogatari*

This paper is a study of *Ima Torikaebaya*, the extant version of the Heian *monogatari Torikaebaya Monogatari*. It seeks to elucidate and compare the factors that shape the experiences of feminine characters in the text – the Head of Attendants, the Major Captain, and Yon no Kimi. To do so, it will survey premodern texts such as *Mumyôzôshi* and *Genji Monogatari*, and consider the ways in which notions regarding gender, anatomy and sex were perceived and formed. My interpretation of *Ima Torikaebaya* based on the abovementioned texts suggests that feminine destinies are heavily limited by masculine goals, both within and without the tale. However, I also find *Ima Torikaebaya* itself interrogates the category of ideal destinies for women by revealing the unhappiness overshadowed by the attainment of political and economic ascendancy for their family units.

Presenter bio:

Eunice Lee was an undergraduate student at the National University of Singapore's Japanese Studies department from 2013-2018. A recipient of the Monbukagakusho Scholarship in 2016, she studied classical Japanese as part of the Japanese Language Program at Keio University over the course of a year before returning to complete her studies with the department. Eunice previously participated in the Creative Arts Programme Mentorship in 2011 and went on to perform freelance translation for companies such as Kadokawa Shoten from 2014-2016. A lover of good stories and premodern history, her research interests lie in the *monogatari* genre, literary translation and mythology.

Paper 4

Old Age in the Past, the Past in Old Age: Examining How the Media, State and Individual Coped with the Elderly and Aging in Early Meiji Japan (1872 - 1878)

Focus on present-day issues related to the elderly in Japan has contributed to a very much contemporary view of aging in the country today. However, this also overlooks the possibility that a Japan of the past could, too, have coped with old age and an elderly population. In this view, this thesis turns to the period of the early Meiji years to examine the ways in which various actors – including the media, state and



elderly individuals themselves – coped with old age and aging in a time of social and cultural upheaval. Through an examination of empirical material from the early 1870s in Japan, including *nishiki-e shimbun* (picture newspapers), *chûkô setsugi* records (records of rewards for filial piety) and a diary by the female artist Kawai Koume from the early 1870s in Japan, I argue that in an era of change, it was elements of the past that came to serve as a reference point in dealing with the issue of old age. While this on the one hand translated itself into new freedoms with which to disparage previously more respectful views of the elderly in the media, it also provided a resource with which the state could redefine old, Confucian values related to elder care for liberal ends in society. Indeed, the elderly person, too, used familiar ways of the past to cope with old age in a time of rapid transformation. Ultimately, this thesis serves to highlight the related insight that it is perhaps precisely in looking back into history that ways to cope with aging and old age today may present themselves. It also contributes to scholarship not only in retrieving a narrative of an oft-forgotten group, but also in helping to better understand Japan's trajectory of modern development through the lens of old age.

Presenter bio:

Sarah Tan graduated from the National University of Singapore with a degree of Bachelor of Arts with Honours (Highest Distinction) in Japanese Studies in 2018. For her Honours year, she wrote a thesis on aging and how various actors, including the media, state and the elderly themselves, coped with the issue in early Meiji Japan. Her interests lie in studying Japanese history and the Japanese language, exploring issues related to aging, as well as learning languages. She is currently working at the Singapore branch of the Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation.

Chair: Prof Takashi Tsukada (Osaka City University)

Professor Tsukada is a graduate of the History Department at Tokyo University. After working at the Historiographical Institute at the University of Tokyo, he moved to the History Department at Osaka City University where he teaches early modern Japanese history. Professor Tsukada has authored and co-edited over forty research monographs in Japanese on topics that include early modern social history, outcaste history, early modern systems of status, and comparative urban studies.

SESSION 2

Paper 1

Early Meiji education reform and the Kagoshima *shihan gakko*

Not much remains of the early life of the Kagoshima shihan gakko; most of its buildings, school equipment and documentation perishing in the fighting of the Seinan War. What did survive was a set of documents taken home to Yamagata province by Hojo Kenzo, a graduate of the Tokyo shihan gakko, brought down in Meiji 9 (1876) to help with the establishment of Kagoshima's fledgling teacher training school. Kenzo's story is an article in itself, as he tried to join Saigo's Satsuma army during the civil war, ended up arrested and imprisoned by the government in Fukuoka before returning to Kagoshima in 1879 to work as the private tutor to Saigo Takamori's surviving children. However, this paper will focus on the shihan gakko documents he preserved, focussed mostly on the year 1876 when the school was formally established and covering the attendance records of the school's first teachers and pupils, the speeches made by the governor and other officials at its opening and the curriculum and rules by which it was run. The paper will attempt to use these documents to shed light on the early history of education reform in Kagoshima prior to the outbreak of the Seinan War and through this also try to glimpse some of the prefecture's challenges in defining its role and position within the new Japanese state.

Presenter Bio:

Rob Crawford is a new recruit to NUS's Japanese Studies MA program and will be focusing his research



on the transformation of Kagoshima following the Meiji Restoration. He is a founding partner and Singapore CEO of Ichigo Asset Management, a specialist Japan equity investment fund, and lived in Japan for 10 years prior to moving down to Singapore in 2009. His interest in Kagoshima is both academic and personal. His first contact with Japan was through a 2 year stay in Kagoshima with the JET program where he also met his wife and he and his family remain regular visitors to the prefecture.

Paper 2

Japan's victory in Russo-Japanese war and Nationalism movement in Malaya

The triumph of Japan over Russia in 1905 marked a significant rise of the Asia's giant to be part of the world's prominent imperialist. The Japan-Russo war has awakened the nationalist across Asia to be more aggressive in eliminating the colonials resided in respective nation. Malaysia is among the countries which under the control of colonials dominantly by the British around the period. The influence of the British in Malaya was so strong as it affected all from education to administration. The political power of Malay dignitaries was distorted by the role of British residents and advisors. Nationalism in Malaya was triggered by the exploitation of resources by the British. Although the cause which triggered the Japan- Russo war did not really have relation to anything that happened in Malaya, the victory of the Japanese empire in the war had set up a precedent showing that western civilization was possible to be toppled. The Russian defeat in the hands of Japan in 1905 not only threw a myth that Western powers could not be defeated but also raised Japan's status as a major force in Southeast Asia. In Malaya, a revolutionary movement led by Ibrahim Haji Yaakob, Ishak Haji Muhammad and Ahmad Boestamam were not hesitating to get Japanese support in order to free Malaya from British colonialism. In April 1938 they were able to set up a national left-wing political party called the Young Malay Union (Kesatuan Melayu Muda). This pro-Japanese movement with the slogan of "Asia for Asia" has the ambition to unite Malaya with Indonesia under the concept of 'Malaya Raya'.

Presenter Bio:

Mohd Zulfadhli Zakaria is a Researcher at Social Wellbeing Research Centre, where he actively involved in research projects on ageing and retirement. His role in the centre is mainly concentrated in fieldwork research, method planning and administer the data collection process. Mohd Zulfadhli completed his Master at University of Malaya and his undergraduate studies at MARA University of Technology in public administration and policy studies. His research interests lie in the area of public administration, policy studies, politics, international relation, history and social protection. He has collaborated actively with researchers in several other disciplines of social sciences, particularly public administration and politics, focusing on a comparative study between Malaysia with other Asian countries.

Paper 3

Conservatives in Modern and Post-modern Era: Evolution of Japanese Nationalism from the Meiji Era into Today's Society.

Conservatism today sounds like a bad fish. It is old, it is sour, it is hard to stand for. But people seems to enjoy it nevertheless. Conservatism is synonymous with old minded society. Finding conservatism in a country as advanced as Japan is something to be taken a note for. Japanese nationalism can be seen as a form of conservatism. It dates back to the Meiji Era when those in power were formulated a collective consciousness for Japanese people as Japanese people. Japanese nationalism united under the divinity of the emperor. Decades after the Meiji era, Japanese nationalism taken a push back after Japan lost the World War II. Under the Allies supervision, Japanese nationalism is gradually taken off along with the divine status of the emperor. In the globalized world today, people are starting to lose their sense of



identity. But, there are conservatives Japanese who declined to do so. These modern conservatives are in favour to bring back the old Japanese nationalism in order to strengthen Japanese identity in the global level. Not only promoting the revival of old Japanese nationalism, they are also promoting anti-diversity that is starting to take shape in Japanese society. They are openly opposing the *zainichi* and foreign people in Japan.

This research is intending to trace the evolution of Japanese nationalism from the Meiji Era throughout the today's society. How the dying nationalism during the postwar era can be revived in today's ever-changing society. I hope that this study would be comparable to similar study, so that it can be analyzed what really happened with today's society? Since the rise of the conservatives are not just happening in Japan. But also in different parts of the world like the United States and Indonesia, which both have different kind of history and society, but yet facing the same problem.

Presenter bio:

Bima Prawira Utama is a PhD student at the Department of International Relations, Padjadjaran University, Indonesia. His Research interest include: Japan's International Relations, Japanese Pop Culture, Extremism, and Soft Power. His current PhD research tentatively titled: "The Rise of Extreme Conservatives in Indonesia and Japan: a Comparative Study." He is also doing a joint research about Indonesian Soft Power in Asian Games 2018.

Chair: Professor Ashita Saga

Dr Ashita Saga is Professor of Modern Japanese History in the Graduate School of Literature and Human Sciences at Osaka City University, as well as Director of OCU's Urban-Culture Research Center.

SESSION 3

Paper 1

The Role of Local Japanese Governments in Implementing International Activities: from the Meiji Restoration to the Post-War Period

Currently, local governments in Japan are playing a critical role in building multi-layered and friendly international relations in a wide range of fields, fostering mutual international understanding, developing relationships of trust, and Japan's "brand." These kinds of their roles run parallel with the role of the central government in implementing national foreign policies. This paper explores the factors that have driven Japanese local governments during the post-war period that have played a strong role in implementing international activities differently from the Meiji Restoration period. Based on documentary research and field interviews, this research found that there are four important factors that drive the increasing role of local Japanese governments in implementing international activities: 1) the nation's constitution and laws; 2) politics and the administration; 3) policies and support from the central government; and 4) social and economic problems. In addition, throughout the post-war period, their roles in each decade have apparently shifted, from focusing on sister-city relations using a friendship-oriented model in the early post-war period to issue-based cooperation, which can be classified as an interest-oriented model at the present. These situations reflect a new trend in the engagement and roles of local Japanese governments regarding international affairs.

Presenter bio:

Nirinthorn Mesupnikom has been working as a researcher at the Institute of East Asian Studies (IEAS), Thammasat University (Rangsit Center), Thailand since 2015. She completed her M.A. degree from the



Faculty of Political Science in International Relations (English Program) at Thammasat University and wrote her M.A. thesis on the role of Japan in terms of East Asian financial cooperation. To date she has had two publications on this topic. Her current research interests lie in the area of international relations at the local level, particularly regarding the city diplomacy of Japan. Her current research work involves Thailand-Japanese relations at the local level, and the role of Japanese local governments in international cooperation regarding smart city development. Furthermore, she is responsible for tracking the Japanese economy. This includes writing a chapter on the contemporary Japanese economy for a book entitled "Japan Today," supported by the Japan Foundation. Her other responsibilities include supervision of the undergraduate students in the College of Interdisciplinary Studies at Thammasat University, who are researching East Asian studies. She has collaborated actively with researchers both in Thailand and foreign countries, and has served as a committee member working with the Center for Japanese studies under IEAS since 2015. She has also had a great deal of experience presenting research papers both at national and international conferences.

Paper 2

Transnational Human Rights Network Campaigns and Southeast Asia's Protracted Conflicts: The West Papua Conflict and the CPP-NPA-NDFP Rebellion

Transnational advocacy networks aim to influence international politics by altering the behavior of states and international organizations, ensuring that they adhere to international norms on different issues. Transnational human rights networks (THRN) often operate within states that are experiencing protracted conflicts. Human rights campaigns by these networks aim to influence policy-making and adherence to international human rights standards, making them crucial actors in efforts to resolve long-standing conflicts. The present study aims to assess the role of a crucial entity in conflict resolution efforts, transnational human rights networks, by evaluating the impact of their campaigns in conflict environments. The objective of this study is to contribute to the literature on transnational interactions and conflict resolution through an understanding of human rights networks as agents in efforts to address the roots of protracted conflicts. The premise of the analysis is that transnational networks operate in specific political contexts which Keck and Sikkink (2014) refer to as "opportunity structures." The two conflict environments (the Communist insurgency in the Philippines and the conflict for independence in West Papua) analyzed in this study serve as the context, or opportunity structure, by which the impact of transnational human rights campaigns will be evaluated. This author hopes that a comparative analysis of responses to transnational human rights network campaigns will lead to compelling arguments beyond the usual understanding of transnational advocacy networks as weak actors with little leverage and power in most contexts.

Presenter bio:

Raymond Andaya is currently a lecturer at the International Studies Department of De La Salle University in Manila, the Philippines. He recently obtained a double degree in International Public Policy from the Osaka School of International Public Policy in Osaka University, Japan, and International Studies major in Asian Studies from De La Salle University. His research interests include international relations, conflict resolution, and peacebuilding.

Paper 3

Japan's Soft Power and Cultural Diplomacy

Entering the 21st century, the rise of regionalism and soft power in other countries have made Japan reconsider the role of its soft power and redefine its foreign policy over the upcoming time. In March 2004, Japanese government adopted a soft power strategy, which was for the first time, the term "soft



power" was included in Japan's diplomatic bluebook. On one hand, thanks to the two strategic weapons, including popular culture and traditional culture for promoting the country, Japan has never been so attractive before. On the other hand, despite the diplomatic achievements gained from traditional strength, the Cool Japan strategy and educational programs, Japan's soft power still has some limitations. In international relations, all countries understand that cultural diplomacy is of great importance then in this context, soft power gains the growing interest of Japanese government as a cornerstone of its diplomacy. In particular, national cultural values are considered as a means of soft power for Japan to change its approach to international relations in the age of globalization. Therefore, this paper firstly aims at researching on Japan's concept of soft power and cultural diplomacy, secondly analyzing main factors contributed to the Japan's soft power in cultural diplomacy and lastly defining some of its effect and limitations in cultural diplomacy.

Presenter bio:

Nguyen Vo Huyen Dung is a lecturer, Head of International Relations Division, Department of International Studies, University of Foreign Language Studies, University of Danang, Vietnam. She graduated from Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University in Japan with a BA degree in Asia Pacific Studies in 2006 and a MA degree in International Cooperation Policy in 2008. Her majors are International Relations, International Cooperation Policy and Asia Pacific Studies.

Paper 4

The Quill of Qalam: Life and Networks beyond the Written Word

This thesis provides a historical analysis of the *Jawi*-script magazine, *Qalam*, published by Syed Abdullah bin Abdul Hamid al-Edrus, owner of the *Qalam* Press. *Qalam* magazine ran from July 1950 till 1969 and was *Qalam* Press' seminal publication. During its publication life, *Qalam* magazine was a medium for the post-World War II Malay milieu in Malaya (later to become Singapore and Malaysia) to comprehend contemporary socio-politics, including the complexities of Malay writing and the state of the still-colonized Malay-Muslim society then. This thesis hypothesizes that *Qalam* magazine, operating within the context of the post-war Malay language *Jawi*-script publication landscape, was a key player in the production of knowledge for the 1950s post-war Malay community in Singapore. It can be argued, however, that in the process of seeking to speak for the community, they may have ended up being biased themselves. This thesis will look into the emergence of *Qalam* magazine, its objectives and challenges within its editorials, and if possible, its reception. This project contributes to the existing literature on Malay language *Jawi*-script publications; specifically, on how producers of knowledge envisaged their immediate environment, whether producers of knowledge were able to effectively speak for the people and speak to issues of the day and how this has been received on the ground.

Presenter Bio:

Muhammad Zinnurain Bin Mohd Nasir is currently a Masters of Arts student (by research) in the Department of Southeast Asian Studies at the National University of Singapore (NUS). His current research interest revolves around the biographical construction and historical analyses of *Jawi*-script publications during the post-World War II period as a medium to comprehend the politics of magazine publishing (by extension, the publication landscape) and post-war Malay society in Singapore. This builds upon his previous research into the concept of Bangsa Melayu (loosely translated as Malay Nationalism) where he attempted to understand its conceptualisation through published Malay literature. He received his B.A. in History from Nanyang Technological University (NTU). His research interests include Singapore history (the construction of narratives and micro-histories), Asian nationalism(s) and identity politics.

Chair: A/P Robert Hellyer

Robert Hellyer is Associate Professor of History at Wake Forest University. His research focuses on early



modern and modern Japan, especially socio-economic perspectives related to trade. His publications include *Defining Engagement: Japan and Global Contexts, 1640-1868* (2009) and numerous articles emerging from his current project exploring Japan's export of green tea to the United States in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Acknowledgements

Image:

Ezuya, Shohachi. (1835). *Dai Nihon hayabiki saiken ezu*. Retrieved from:

http://library.artstor.org.libproxy1.nus.edu.sg/asset/SS33631_33631_1663654

