Thomas Donald Conlan
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Curriculum Vitae

EMPLOYMENT

Princeton University: Professor of Medieval Japanese History, Joint Appointment, Department of East Asian Studies and History
July 2013-present

Bowdoin College: Professor of Japanese History, Joint Appointment, Asian Studies Program and Department of History
July 2010-June 2013

Bowdoin College:  Associate Professor of Japanese History, Joint Appointment, Asian Studies Program and Department of History
July 2004-June 2010

Bowdoin College:  Assistant Professor of Japanese History, Joint Appointment, Asian Studies Program and Department of History
July 1998-June 2004

EDUCATION

**Stanford University**, Ph.D., History
August 1998
Major concentration:  Japan before 1600
Minor concentration:  Japan since 1600

**Kyoto University**, Faculty of Letters, Ph.D. Program, History
April 1995-September 1997

**Stanford University**, M.A., History
June 1992

**The University of Michigan**, B.A. History and Japanese, with Highest Honors
April 1989

PUBLICATIONS

Monographs


Forthcoming Articles


Published Articles


Review Articles


Book Reviews


**NATIONAL ACADEMIC AWARDS**

2019-20 Toshiba International Foundation grant for Sakuramotobō documents research
2018-19 ACLS Fellowship
2011-12 Japan Foundation Japanese Studies Fellowship
2002  Suntory Foundation Grant to defray publication expenses for *State of War*
2001-2  NEH Fellowship for College Teachers
2001-2  Fulbright Senior Scholar Award
2001-2  Japan Foundation Japanese Studies Fellowship (declined)
1994-97  Japanese Ministry of Education Fellowship
1989  Phi Beta Kappa

**INTRAMURAL AWARDS**

2017-18  Old Dominion Faculty Fellow
2017-19  David A. Gardner '69 Magic Project in the Humanities Council grant
          “The Story of Slag: Creating a Chronology of Copper Smelting for Japan 700-2000”
2016  UCHR&SS grant “Visualizing the Ōnin War (1467-77): Ten Years in Ten Minutes.”
2015-16  Old Dominion Faculty Fellow
2014  Digital Humanities Summer Stipend
2010  Bowdoin College Faculty Development Grant to defray publication expenses for *From Sovereign to Symbol*
2009  Karofsky Faculty Encore Lecture, nominated by the 2010 Bowdoin Senior Class
2007-8  Bowdoin Faculty Leave Fellowship
2000  Fletcher Family Research Grant to defray publication expenses for *State of War*
1999-2005  Freeman Fellowships
1997-98  Dissertation Fellow, Stanford Humanities Center
1997-98  FLAS Fellowship
1991-94  Full Tuition Fellowship, Stanford University

**ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES**

**Selected Presentations**

*Apotheosis, Sacred Space, and Political Authority in Japan 1486-1599*
Central European University, Budapest  January 15, 2019

*Kings in All But Name: Ritual, Religion and Ōuchi daimyō of Western Japan 1350-1550*
University of Vienna  January 14, 2019

*Understanding the Samurai through Five Documents (Two Forgeries)*
Comparative Diplomatics Workshop, Princeton University  October 23, 2018

*Understanding Ōuchi Genealogies: Thoughts on the Political and Ritual Ramifications of the Oldest Surviving Version.*
Workshop on Visual and Textual Lineages in Premodern East Asia
Princeton University  May 5, 2018
In the Eye of the Beholder: On the Experience of “Colorblindness”  March 1, 2018  
Princeton University

The Story of Slag: Copper Mining in Ancient and Medieval Japan  February 7, 2018  
Princeton University

Law and Violence in Medieval Japan  December 9, 2017  
Delaware Valley Medieval Association, Princeton

Japan’s Magna Carta: The Jōei Code of 1232  October 21, 2017  
The Baronial Order of the Magna Carta, Princeton

Kings in All but Name: The Ōuchi and the Age of Yamaguchi 1408-1551  September 21, 2017  
University of British Columbia

The Question of the ‘Rise of the Warriors’ during the Warring States Era  May 18, 2017  
Axel and Margaret Ax:son Johnson Foundation seminar The Making of the Samurai in Tokugawa Japan  Engelsberg Ironworks

Of Prophecies and Histories: Toward A New Understanding of Fifteenth-Century Japan and the “Ōnin War” (1465-78)  February 8, 2017  
Princeton University

The Arms and Armor of the Samurai  November 4, 2016  
Opening lecture Frist Center for the Visual Arts  

Princeton University

The Creation of a Japanese Scenery: From the Northern Mountains (Kitayama) to the Golden Pavilion (Kinkakuji)  February 10, 2016  
Princeton University

When Men Become Gods: The Ritual Basis for Political Authority in Japan 1351-1551  February 3, 2015  
Princeton University  April 16, 2015  
Columbia University

The Age of Yamaguchi (1465-1551): Toward A New Understanding of Japanese History  December 15, 2013  
The Third Annual Joint Fudan-Princeton-Tokyo University International Conference

The Aborted Attempt to Move the Emperor to Yamaguchi: 1551 as a Turning Point in Japanese History  October 23, 2013  
Princeton University East Asian Studies Department Colloquium Series
Samurai, Arms, and Armor  
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston  
Brigham Young University  
April 24, 2013  

Imagining the Wars of Thirteenth Century Japan  
Williams College  
March 8, 2013  

From Ad Hoc to Ongoing: The Mongol Invasions and the Institutionalization of Authority of Japan  
Presented at Conference, Mongols on the Margins, UCLA  
February 22, 2013  

Ritual Mimesis and Performative Sovereignty in Fourteenth-Century Japan  
University of Southern California  
February 21, 2013  

Kings in All but Name: Japan in the Age of Ōuchi Dominion 1408-1551  
Yale University Council of East Asian Studies  
October 4, 2012  

One More Kakitsu Disturbance (in Japanese)  
July 8, 2012  

New Directions in the Study of Pre-Modern Japan  
Modern Japan Workshop Roundtable Discussion, Harvard University  
October 23, 2010  

The Two Paths of Writing and Warring in Medieval Japan  
Presented at the University of British Columbia Workshop “Civilian vs. Military in East Asia”  
August 23, 2010  

Where West Meets East: The Courtly Warriors of the Kamakura Age  
Presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Philadelphia  
March 27, 2010  

Ritual Determinism in Fourteenth-Century Japan  
Presented at Columbia Center for Japanese Religion Purity Workshop, Columbia University  
February 19, 2010  

The History You Do Not Know: My Journey to Medieval Japan  
Karofsky Faculty Encore Lecture, Bowdoin College  
September 11, 2009  

Sovereign Authority and the Medieval Japanese State  
Presented at the Symposium, “Text and Context: New Directions in Medieval Japanese Literary and Historical Studies,” Bowdoin College  
May 9, 2009  

Judicial Function of Violence in Japan (1200-1598)  
Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Atlanta (April 5, 2008) and University of Massachusetts Amherst (March 9, 2013)
Visualizing the Past Through the Mongol Scrolls
November 4, 2006
Presented at the Symposium “Reinventing the Past: Antiquarianism in East Asian Art and Visual Culture,” Franke Institute, University of Chicago

On War and Judicial Violence in Medieval Japan
March 16-18, 2006
Presented at the Symposium “War and Politics in Medieval Japan,” Kyoto.

Myth, Memory and the Mongol Invasions of Japan
March 1, 2006
(Emory University), September 22, 2006 (Brandeis College) March 18, 2008 (University of Pennsylvania), October 23, 2009 (Duke University)

Adapting to Endemic War: Fourteenth Century Improvements in Arms and Armor
March 7, 2004
Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, San Diego

Courtly Archivists of Precedent and Political Authority in Japan 850-1350
October 6, 2001
Presented at a Workshop “Experts and Expertise in Pre- and Early Modern Societies,” University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

From Sovereign to Symbol: A Liturgy of Legitimation in Fourteenth Century Japan
May 5, 2001

The Role of Women and Weapons in Medieval Japanese Warfare
April 14, 2000
Presented at the Symposium of Comparative Medieval History, University of San Francisco

In Little Need of Divine Intervention
March 11, 2000
Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, San Diego

The Culture of Force and Farce: Fourteenth Century Japanese Warfare
September 24, 1999 and March 20, 2000
Presented at the Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies, Harvard University and The Donald Keene Institute, Columbia University

Innovation or Application? The Role of Technology in War
March 13, 1999
Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Boston

Largesse and the Limits of Loyalty: Lordly Obligations in the Age of Two Courts
September 2, 1994
Presented at a Symposium on Fourteenth Century Japan, Hertford College, Oxford University
Teaching

Princeton University
Graduate
Research Seminar in Ancient and Medieval Japanese History (EAS 526/HIS 525)
Readings in Ancient and Medieval Japanese History (EAS/HIS 568)
Sources in Ancient and Medieval Japanese History (EAS 525/HIS 520)
Sources in Ancient Japanese History (EAS 528/HIS 548)

Undergraduate
Conquests and Heroes: A Comparative History of War (FS 128)
History of East Asia Until 1800 (HIS EAS 207)
The Origins of Japanese Culture and Civilization (EAS 218 HIS 209)

Bowdoin College
The Origins of Japanese Culture and Civilization
The Emergence of Modern Japan
Living in the Sixteenth Century
Japan and the World
Conquests and Heroes: A Comparative History of War
A Comparative History of Kingship
The Courtly Society
The Warrior Culture of Japan

Stanford University
The Wars of the Samurai

Other Academic Activities


Created a website
The Onin War: Visualizing 12 Years of War in Japan, 1465-78
http://commons.princeton.edu/onin/

Devised a website to read Japanese documents
http://komonjo.princeton.edu
Helped create web pages about the Mongol Invasion Scrolls, with an interactive map, and the Heiji Scrolls.
http://digital.princeton.edu/mongol-invasions/ or http://learn.bowdoin.edu/asian-studies/mongol-invasions/
http://digital.princeton.edu/mongol-scrolls/ or http://web.bowdoin.edu/mongol-scrolls/
http://digital.princeton.edu/heijiscroll/ or http://learn.bowdoin.edu/heijiscroll

Interviewed for the Podcast “Meiji at 150.”
https://meijiat150.arts.ubc.ca/podcast/

Created a website of WW2 Japanese photos
http://learn.bowdoin.edu/japanesephotos/

Elected to the Princeton University Committee of the Library and Computing
July 2019-July 2022

Director of Graduate Studies, Princeton University Department of East Asian Studies
July 2016-June 2018

Chair and discussant for the conference Documents and Institutions Across Eurasia in Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages
Princeton University
May 7-8, 2018

Presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Washington DC
March 24, 2018

Helped design a professional development course for secondary school teachers entitled: Medieval Japan: People & Systems in the World of the Shogunate. Also gave four lectures on Japan from the Warring States through Unification
Japan Society, New York
December 2, 2017

Organized and served as a discussant for the conference Issues Regarding Religion and Society in Ancient and Medieval Japan (日本古代中世の社会と宗教と言説)
Princeton University
November 4, 2017

Discussant for the roundtable Military Cultures in Japan, China, and Europe.
Vanderbilt University.
November 4, 2016

Respondent for papers written by Ebara Masaharu and Nishita Tomohiro for the symposium Treasure from Japan: An International conference on Pre-modern books and Manuscripts in the Yale University Library
March 9, 2015


Discussant for Uejima Susumu for the workshop “New Sources for the Study of Japanese Religions” Princeton University, March 16, 2014


Helped organize “‘Text and Context: New Directions in Medieval Japanese Literary and Historical Studies” A Colby Bates and Bowdoin (CBB) Initiative, to be held at Bowdoin College, May 8-10, 2009

Curated “Japan and the World,” A Becker Gallery Exhibit at the Bowdoin College Museum of Art, October 6-November 8, 2009


An Introduction to Japanese History and Culture. BNAS (Brunswick Naval Air Station), April 4, 2007

Visualizing the Warrior Culture of Japan. NCTA: Teaching of East Asia. Belfast Area High School, March 17 2007


Appeared on the National Geographic specials Warrior Graveyard: Samurai Back from the Dead (aired March 23, 2012), Samurai: Behind the Blade (aired December 2, 2003) and the History Channel special Samurai (televised December 8, 2003), along with the Discovery channel special Ancient Assassins (February 12, 2017). In addition, was interviewed by Newsday for an article about the Mongol Invasions of Japan (December 17, 2002) and appeared on the radio program “These Days” station KBBS, San Diego, December 4, 2003. Have also been interviewed by Muy Historia (January, 2016), the Wall Street Journal, Reuters, the LA Times,
and the Sacramento Bee concerning the warrior culture of Japan and by Michael Kuhne for an Accuweather article (Nov. 21, 2014) “Archaeological evidence sheds light on Japan’s legendary kamikaze winds” [link]


RESEARCH INTERESTS:

Conceptions of law, justice, and feuding; Buddhism and medieval political ideologies; international relations and ethnic identity; military, social, cultural and institutional history

LANGUAGES:

Japanese (fluent)
Proficiency in Classical Japanese and Classical Chinese (kanbun)
Paleography (ability to decipher handwritten Japanese documents and texts)