

Thomas Donald Conlan

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Princeton University
East Asian Studies Department
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Princeton, New Jersey 08544

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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
Major concentration: Japan before 1600
Minor concentration: Japan since 1600
August 1998

Kyoto University, Faculty of Letters, Ph.D. Program, History
Attended from April 1995 until 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

From Sovereign to Symbol: An Age of Ritual Determinism in Fourteenth-Century Japan.
New York: Oxford University Press, October 2011.

Weapons and the Fighting Techniques of the Samurai Warrior, 1200-1877. New York: Amber Press, August 2008. Translated into Japanese as *Zusetsu Sengoku Jidai: Buki Bōgu Senjutsu Hyakka* (図説 戦国時代 武器・防具・戦術百科). Tokyo: Hara Shobō 2013.

State of War: The Violent Order of Fourteenth-Century Japan. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Center for Japanese Studies, December 2003.

In Little Need of Divine Intervention: Takezaki Suenaga's Scrolls of the Mongol Invasions of Japan. Ithaca: Cornell University East Asia Program, August 2001. Third revised printing, 2009.

Forthcoming Articles

Warfare in Japan, 1200-1550. Reuven Amitai, Anne Curry and David A. Graff, eds. The Cambridge History of War, vol. 2 (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press).

The Failed Attempt to Move the Emperor to Yamaguchi and the Fall of the Ōuchi. Japanese Studies.

Published Articles

Myth, Memory and the Scrolls of the Mongol Invasions of Japan. Elizabeth Lillehoj, ed. Archaism and Antiquarianism in Korean and Japanese Art (Chicago: Center for the Art of East Asia, University of Chicago and Art Media Resources, 2013), pp. 54-73.

Shiryō shōkai: Yoshida Kanemigi ga utsushita Ōuchi keizu. (The Ōuchi genealogy copied by Yoshida Kanemigi). Yamaguchi kenshi kenkyū 21 (March 2013), pp. 65-70.

Ema : une famille samourai. Les Grands Dossiers des sciences Humaines, “La guerre, des origines à nos jours,” hors-série Histoire n° 1 (Novembre-Décembre 2012), pp. 52-55.

Medieval Warfare. Karl Friday, ed. Japan Emerging: Introductory Essays on Premodern History (Westview Press, 2012), pp. 244-53.

The Two Paths of Writing and Warring in Medieval Japan. Taiwan Journal of East Asian Studies 8.1 (June 2011), pp. 85-127. <http://www.eastasia.ntu.edu.tw/chinese/data/201106/8-1-85-127.pdf>

The Ashikaga Shogunate, Mongol Invasions, and Nanbokuchō Wars. Gordon Martel, ed. The Encyclopedia of War (London: Wiley-Blackwell, 2011).

Instruments of Change: Organizational Technology and the Consolidation of Regional Power in Japan 1333-1600. John Ferejohn and Frances Rosenbluth eds., War and State Building in Medieval Japan (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2010), pp. 124-58.

Traces of the Past: Documents, Literacy and Liturgy in Medieval Japan. Gordon Berger, Andrew Goble, Lorraine Harrington, G. Cameron Hurst III, eds., Currents in Medieval Japanese History: Essays in Honor of Jeffrey P. Mass (University of Southern California East Asian Studies Center: Figueroa Press, 2009), pp. 19-50.

Thicker than Blood: The Social and Political Significance of Wet Nurses in Japan, 950-1330. Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies 65.1 (June 2005), pp. 159-205.

The Culture of Force and Farce: Fourteenth-Century Japanese Warfare. Edwin O. Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies Occasional Papers in Japanese Studies. No. 2000-01 (January 2000). <http://rijs.fas.harvard.edu/pdfs/conlan.pdf>

The Nature of Warfare in Fourteenth-Century Japan: The Record of Nomoto Tomoyuki. The Journal of Japanese Studies 25.2 (Summer 1999), pp. 299-330.

On the Nature of Warfare in the Fourteenth Century (Nanbokuchōki kassen no ichikōsatsu), in Ōyama Kyōhei sensei taikan kinen ronshūkai, ed., Nihon shakai no shiteki kōzō kodai chūsei (Kyoto: Shibunkaku, 1997), pp. 417-39.

Largesse and the Limits of Loyalty in the Fourteenth Century, in Mass, ed., The Origins of Japan's Medieval World (Stanford University Press, 1997), pp. 39-64.

Book Reviews

David Lurie. Realms of Literacy: Early Japan and the History of Writing (East Asian Monographs, number 335. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2011). American Historical Review 117.4 (October 2012), p. 1203.

Lori Meeks. Hokkeji and the Reemergence of Female Monastic Orders in Premodern Japan (Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2010). The Journal of Asian Studies 70.3 (August 2011), pp. 844-46.

Judith Fröhlich. Rulers, Peasants and the Use of the Written Word in Medieval Japan (New York: Peter Lang, 2007). Monumenta Nipponica 63.1 (Spring 2008), pp. 161-63.

Mikael S. Adolphson. The Teeth and Claws of the Buddha: Monastic Warriors and Sōhei in Japanese History (Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2007). Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies 68.1 (June 2008), pp. 182-89.

Mikael Adolphson, Edward Kamens, and Stacie Matsumoto, eds. Heian Japan: Centers and Peripheries (Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2007). The Journal of Japanese Studies 34.2 (Summer 2008), pp. 467-71.

Olaf G. Liden, Tanegashima: The Arrival of Europe in Japan (Copenhagen: Nordic Institute of Asian Studies, 2002). Monumenta Nipponica 58.3 (Autumn 2003), pp. 412-14.

Lee Butler, Emperor and Aristocracy in Japan, 1467-1680 (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Asia Center, 2002). The Journal of Asian Studies 62.4 (November 2003), pp. 1239-40.

G. C. Hurst, Armed Martial Arts of Japan (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1998). Monumenta Nipponica 54.1 (Spring 1999), pp. 162-65.

ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES:

Selected Presentations

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

The Aborted Attempt to Move the Emperor to Yamaguchi: 1551 as a Turning Point in Japanese History.

Princeton University East Asian Studies Department Colloquium Series
October 23, 2013

Samurai, Arms, and Armor
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
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
February 22, 2013

Presented at Conference, Mongols on the Margins, UCLA
<http://www.international.ucla.edu/news/article.asp?parentid=130661>

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)
Kyoto saikyojō kenkyūkai
July 8, 2012

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

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

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

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

The History You Do Not Know: My Journey to Medieval Japan

September 11, 2009

Karofsky Faculty Encore Lecture, Bowdoin College.

<http://www.bowdoin.edu/podcasts/audio/CH/common-hour-thomas-conlan.mp3>

Sovereign Authority and the Medieval Japanese State

May 9, 2009

Presented at the Symposium, "Text and Context: New Directions in Medieval Japanese Literary and Historical Studies," Bowdoin College.

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

Presented at "Reconstructing Medieval Japan: A Symposium in Honor of Jeffrey P. Mass," Stanford University.

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

History of East Asia Until 1800

The Origins of Japanese Culture and Civilization

Readings in Ancient and Medieval Japanese History

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

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

Chair, Asian Studies Program, Bowdoin College January 2004-July 2007.

Served on NEH panel to evaluate fellowships for research in East Asia.

Served as an external reviewer of tenure files and press manuscripts

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://learn.bowdoin.edu/asian-studies/mongol-invasions/> and
<http://www.bowdoin.edu/mongol-scrolls/>

<http://learn.bowdoin.edu/heijiscroll>

Consulting Editor and Contributor to “Rise of the Shogun: Life in Medieval Japan,” Calliope: Exploring World History, vol. 16 no. 5 (January 2006).

Joined a Japan Foundation round table discussion, “On the past, present, and future of Japanese Studies” on July 8, 2002. Published in Kokusai Kōryū no. 97 (10.2002), pp. 68-79.

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). 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 the Wall Street Journal, Reuters, the LA Times, and the Sacramento Bee concerning the warrior culture of Japan.

NATIONAL ACADEMIC AWARDS:

2011-12	Japan Foundation Japanese Studies Fellowship
2002	Suntory Foundation Grant to defray publication expenses for <i>State of War</i>
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:

2010	Bowdoin College Faculty Development Grant to defray publication expenses for <i>From Sovereign to Symbol</i>
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 <i>State of War</i>
1999-2005	Freeman Fellowships
1997-98	Dissertation Fellow, Stanford Humanities Center
1997-98	FLAS Fellowship
1991-94	Full Tuition Fellowship, Stanford University

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)