

Japan Studies Association of Canada (JSAC)



カナダ日本研究学会

Fall 2016

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Dear JSAC Members and Friends,

I hope you all had an enjoyable and productive summer. Apart from a family vacation in British Columbia, my summer involved visits to two nuclear power plants! The first was in June and entailed a two-day visit to the Chernobyl area of northern Ukraine. The second, in September, was to the stricken Fukushima Dai-ichi plant, which was facilitated by colleagues at Fukushima University. If you are interested in my research findings on what has happened to both these power plants and their surrounding communities then please come to the 'Globalization and the Response to Disaster' panel at our JSAC 2016 Conference.

Talking of which, Professor Shige Matsui and the Conference Organizing Committee have been working hard to bring you a stimulating and entertaining annual Conference this year at the University of British Columbia. A short interview with Shige is featured

later in the Newsletter. The JSAC Annual General Meeting will take place at the Conference and the draft Agenda can also be found in this Newsletter.

During the summer we held on-line elections for two JSAC Executive positions. I am very pleased to announce that Dr. Carin Holroyd will be our next JSAC President (2016-2019), and Dr. Norio Ota has agreed to continue in the position of Secretary-Treasurer for another 4-year term (2016-2020). Congratulations to Carin and Norio! Norio has updated the JSAC web site, and added a collection of papers from our last Conference held in Tokyo in 2015. Visit the website by clicking the link, or type the address into your web browser: www.jsac.ca.

As I am stepping down from my JSAC Presidency this will be the last Newsletter edited by me. It has been a pleasure to serve as JSAC President over the last three years. Sayonara!

David W. Edgington, President JSAC



Where in Japan?

Can you guess where this picture is from? The answer will be given in the Spring 2016 edition of the JSAC Newsletter.



The photo from the Spring 2015 Newsletter photo quiz was of a hanami (cherry blossom viewing) party along the Kamo River in eastern Kyoto.

Notice of the JSAC 2016 Annual General Meeting

The 2016 JSAC AGM will take place at 12:30p.m.-1:30p.m. in Room 105, the Peter Allard School of Law, University of British Columbia, on Saturday October 15th, 2016.

Draft Agenda

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Acceptance of Minutes from the 2015 AGM
3. President's Address
4. Treasurer/Secretary's Report
5. 2015 JSAC Conference Report
6. Introduction to Incoming JSAC President Carin Holroyd
7. Any Other Business

Interview with Professor Shige Matsui



Faculty of Law, University of British Columbia

Although Shige Matsui has been very busy arranging the JSAC Conference, I managed to interview him last month and asked him to introduce himself to JSAC members. - DE

Shige - Before joining UBC in 2006 I was teaching at the Osaka University School of Law. Now I have been here for ten years. My main teaching obligation involves Japanese Law and Introduction to Asian Legal System but I regularly teach Cyberspace Law, Comparative Constitutional Law and seminar on Freedom of expression.

I am also Director of the UBC Japanese Legal Studies program, which is a part of the Centre for Asian Legal Studies. Together with Korean Legal Studies Program and Chinese Legal Studies Program, we offer courses on Asian Law, accept visiting scholars from Asian countries, offer seminars and events on Asian Law, and engage in academic exchange with Asian countries.

As a co-director of the Centre for Japanese Research (CJR) of the Institute of Asian Research (IAR), UBC, we host about two dozen seminars, lectures and events each semester for researchers, students and the general public who have interest in Japan. For instance, I recently hosted a seminar on Japan's ratification of Hague Convention on child abduction.

I have enjoyed working with the 2016 JSAC Conference Organizing Committee this year. We have two very interesting keynote speakers. The Conference Opening Speaker is Professor John Owen Haley. He is a leading comparative law scholar, best known for his research on Japanese law. Professor Haley served as the Garvey, Schubert and Barer Professor of Law and International Studies at the University of Washington in Seattle. Chizuko Ueno is the Conference Keynote Speaker. She is a professor emerita at the University of Tokyo. Her research field includes feminist theory, family sociology and women's history. She is best known for her contribution to gender studies in Japan. For further information on our keynote speakers and the JSAC Conference see our webpage: <http://jsac2016.arts.ubc.ca/conference-schedule/>.

Incoming JSAC President Carin Holroyd

JSAC Statement of Intent

Thank you very much for this opportunity to state my case for selection as President of the Japan Studies Association of Canada (JSAC). I am extremely proud of my long association with JSAC. We have a strong core of members who are both experts in their own disciplines and on Japan itself. There is a shared love and appreciation for the country, its language and people and an interest in exploring the country's historical and contemporary challenges and strengths.

JSAC has been at the centre of my academic life from the beginning. I first attended a JSAC meeting in Edmonton in 1994. As an aspiring researcher, not yet enrolled in a PhD program, I approached the conference with great trepidation. I need not have worried. The JSAC community was warm and welcoming. They saw past my nervousness and, from the very beginning,

provided encouragement and friendship in equal measure. I have greatly valued the personal relationships that I have developed with the JSAC member over the years and truly appreciate the manner in which the group welcomes young academics into the group. As a much more seasoned academic – has it really been 22 years? – I can honestly say that the JSAC community is the most collegial, supportive and engaging scholarly group I have ever encountered.

My Background

I moved to New Zealand in 1995 and started my PhD program in Political Science at the University of Waikato. My thesis, comparing the manner in which three neo-liberal governments (Australia, Canada and Australia) responded to changes in the Japanese trading environment, was completed in 1999. I started a faculty career that took me from Bishop's University to Kansai-Gaidai University in Japan, the University of New Brunswick at Saint John, and the University of Saskatchewan, where I held a two-year SSHRC post-doctoral fellowship and taught in the USask-Hitachi MBA program. I secured a tenure-track position in Political Science at the



University of Waterloo before taking up my current position as Associate Professor of Political Studies at the University of Saskatchewan in 2012. I have taught Japanese business and Japanese/East Asian politics throughout my career. I integrate Japanese topics and issues extensively into my current courses in Political Studies and International Studies.

On the research side, I have maintained a strong interest in Japanese political economy. My initial work focused on Canada-Japan business relations, followed by a focus on scientific and technological innovation in Japan. My revised PhD dissertation was published as *Government, International Trade, and Laissez-Faire Capitalism; Canada, Australia and New Zealand's Relations with Japan* (2002). I have been funded by the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada for several projects related to Japanese Innovation and digital media in the country. I have also published a series of books on Japanese innovation, the Internet revolution in Japan, digital media in East Asia, and global digital media policies. My most recent co-authored book was *The Global Digital Economy: A Comparative Political Analysis* (Cambria, 2015). I have just submitted a revised copy of my manuscript tentatively titled *Green Japan: Environmental Technologies, Innovation Policy and the Pursuit of Green Growth* to a Canadian academic press.

Through JSAC, I learned of and secured a Ministry of Foreign Affairs research grant that enabled me to expand my research on Japanese business. I also received a Japan Foundation fellowship that launched my research on Japan's investments in environmental technologies. I was the co-organizer of JSAC meetings at the University of Saskatchewan (2001), University of Waterloo (2008), and the University of Saskatchewan (2013). I co-edited the proceedings of a JSAC conference, which were published by Routledge as *Japan in the Age of Globalization* (2011). Separately, I was co-applicant for a SSHRC workshop grant that allowed us to host a small workshop called "Japan in the New Economy," which we held at the University of Saskatchewan in 2013.

JSAC Presidency

As JSAC president, I would endeavour to build on the work of Presidents David Edgington and Ken Coates to strengthen JSAC and expand the organization's influence and impact. I would continue to promote JSAC's role of supporting scholarship on Japan and promoting Canadian awareness of Japan. I envision five main areas of focus during my Presidency:

1. Recruit additional members. JSAC's membership is small and many key members have retired or will retire soon. I would make a concerted effort to find other Canadian academics and researchers who work on Japan and encourage them to become involved with JSAC. I would focus, in particular, on young scholars, providing them with an entrée into the world of interdisciplinary Japan Studies.
2. Build connections with Japan scholars in other parts of the world. I have attended Asia and Japan related conferences and meetings in other parts of the world including the Association of Asian

Studies, the European Association of Japanese Studies, the Europe Japan Advanced Research Network, the New Zealand Asian Studies Society and the Japan Studies Association (US). I would like to invite scholars from other parts of the world to our annual conference, including more of our colleagues working in Japan. We have done this in the past, including in particular, Professor Norio Ota's fine work, but it would be nice to build stronger and more lasting links.

3. Celebrate our membership. Many of our JSAC members have been honoured by the Japanese and Canadian governments for their long-standing work on Japan. It would be great to draw more attention to these accomplishments and to capitalize on this collective expertise to inform discussion on Japan in Canada. JSAC can demonstrate its value to Canada and to the Canada-Japan relationship by maintaining a more active presence in the media and in public discussions about Japan.
4. Continue our efforts to connect with the Canadian government and the Canadian business community. It is important for JSAC to continue to be well connected with the Canadian government, the Embassy of Canada in Japan and, if possible, the Canadian business community involved with Japan. JSAC routinely reaches out to local business people and government officials to participate in the annual conference. I think that the organization can be more pro-active and can seek additional partnerships and collaborations that will encourage greater attention to Japan.
5. Maintain our remarkable engagement with the Japan Foundation. JSAC has been a major beneficiary of Japan Foundation financial support, professional guidance and network-building activities. The JSAC-Japan Foundation Lecture Series organized by David Edgington is an excellent example of the mutual benefit of our close partnership. It is vital that JSAC continue to cultivate this invaluable friendship and work with the Japan Foundation to promote Japan Studies in Canada.

The Japan Studies Association of Canada has been well served by its dedicated and hard-working membership. As our annual conference crosses the country, one cannot help but be impressed with the collegiality and professionalism of the JSAC team and their hard work and commitment to Japan Studies. Most Japan Studies specialists in Canada work in professional isolation, rarely having more than a handful of Japan researchers on their campuses. JSAC has long provided comfortable, encouraging and supportive space in Canada, allowing us to share our achievements, commiserate about our personal and professional challenges, and discuss our interest in Japan. I would be deeply honoured to serve as the President of this fine organization.

Carin Holroyd

Associate Professor, Political Studies

University of Saskatchewan

Members News

David W. Edgington (Professor, Department of Geography, University of British Columbia) conducted field-work in Japan focusing on the recovery of coastal communities impacted by the 2011 earthquake, tsunami and nuclear power plant accident.

He co-edited a set of papers from the 2015 JSAC Conference entitled: “Japan and Canada in Comparative Perspective: Economics and Politics; Regions, Places and People” (http://www.jsac.ca/jsac_web_pub/JSAC2015_comparative.pdf).

Norio Ota (Associate Lecturer, Department of Languages, Literatures and Linguistics, York University) submitted this report.

- Invited talk: 'A New attempt in Japanese Language Education in Canada' (in Japanese) at Korea University, July 15, 2016.
- Paper: 'Micromanagement and Control of Power in Universities' presented at the 5th International Power Conference: Power, Institutions & Authority, August 29-31, 2016, University of Tampere, Finland.

Grant Otsuki (Assistant Professor of Cultural Anthropology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Tsukuba) reports on a recent publication.

A paper co-written by Shiho Satsuka and me that originated at JSAC 2015 has been published in Japanese and English in Osaka University's *Mirai Kyosei Gaku* journal. Other papers in the volume are by fellow JSAC presenters Bonnie McElhinny, Mohacsi Gergely, Kiyoko Imai, Noriyuki Wakisaka, Yukari Enoi, and one co-written by a group of graduate students at the University of Toronto.

G. Otsuki and S. Satsuka, “What is Comparison? Translating Canadian Multiculturalism and Japanese Kyosei” (in English and Japanese)

<http://ir.library.osaka-u.ac.jp/dspace/handle/11094/56251>

Full Table of Contents: <http://ir.library.osaka-u.ac.jp/web/MKG/volume/mkg003.html>.

Brian Pendleton (Professor Emeritus, Asian Studies, Langara College) has been named the Editor of the NAJGA (North American Japanese Garden Association) Journal, which publishes peer-reviewed research and articles in four themes: Human Culture; Business Culture; Horticulture, Design and Maintenance; and Health and Wellness associated with historical and contemporary Japanese garden environments.

Stephen Nagy (Associate Professor, Politics and International Christian University) has a number of new publications and presentations.

Publications:

-(2016), 'Diplomatic Signaling or Doublespeak: An Analysis of PM Abe's Speech to the US. Congress in 2015 and his Domestic and Foreign Policy Initiatives', *Journal of Asian Politics and History*, Spring, Issue 8, pp.17-30. 2016

-(2016) "The South China Sea in 2016. Towards Recognising the Global Public Good of the SCS," in *World Commerce Review*, Volume 10, Issue 1, Pheonix Multimedia: United Kingdom, pp. 50-53.

Authored editorials, commentary:

(2016) "Japan's New China Strategy Has Ancient Roots," in *The National Interest*, June 6th, (<http://nationalinterest.org/blog/the-buzz/revealed-japans-new-china-strategy-has-ancient-roots-16478?page=show>)

(2016) "日本の対中外交姿勢は遣唐使の時代に回帰している/ Nihon no Tainaka gaikō shisei wa kentōshi no jidai ni kaiki shite iru/ The Divergence of Sino-Japanese Relations: Returning to Japan's traditional approach to managing relations with China," in *Diamond on Line*, Special Report. May 26, (<http://diamond.jp/articles/-/91897>)

(2016) "Obama in Hiroshima: a Pivot to Peace? The Many Messages of Obama's Visit to Hiroshima," in *Policy Forum*, Asia and Pacific Policy Society, May 26th, (<http://www.policyforum.net/obama-hiroshima-pivot-peace/>)

(2016) "Japan and the North Korea Dilemma: How Japan Can Build the Pressure on the Hermit Kingdom," in *Policy Forum*, Asia and Pacific Policy Society, February 25th, (<http://www.policyforum.net/japan-and-the-north-korea-dilemma>)

Conference Papers, Invited Lectures and Workshops:

- "Norms, trade and Security: Southeast Asian Countries' strategic approaches and perspectives on Japan Southeast Asia security Partnerships," *International Studies Association, Regional Conference*, City University, Hong Kong. June 25-27, 2016
- "India, China and US: Convergence or divergence, and prospects for peace in Asia--China--Japan relationship and the Korean peninsula, East and South China Sea issue and the role of the US in the

Asia-Pacific,” International Studies Association, Regional Conference, City University, Hong Kong. June 25-27, 2016

- “Competing regional projects as a challenge to national schools of International Relations: Repeating History? New model of International Relations,” International Studies Association, Regional Conference, City University, Hong Kong. June 25-27, 2016
- “In Flux Drivers behind Southeast Asian Countries’ strategic approaches on Japanese Southeast Asia security Partnerships,” Hong Kong Security Studies Group, Foreign Correspondence Club, Hong Kong. June 24th, 2016 (Invited, closed lecture)
- “Japan Southeast Asia Security Partnerships: A Southeast Asian Perspective” at the China Centre for Collaborative Studies of the South China Sea, Nanjing University, China. March 16th, 2016. (Invited lecture).

James (Jim) Tiessen (Associate Professor, and Director of the School of Health Services Management, Ryerson University), gave a presentation “Lost in (Knowledge) Translation? Mutual Learning and Japanese Health and Long-Term Care Practices” on March 18, 2016, as part of the Re-examining Japan in Global Context's ninth seminar at St. Antony's College at the University of Oxford.

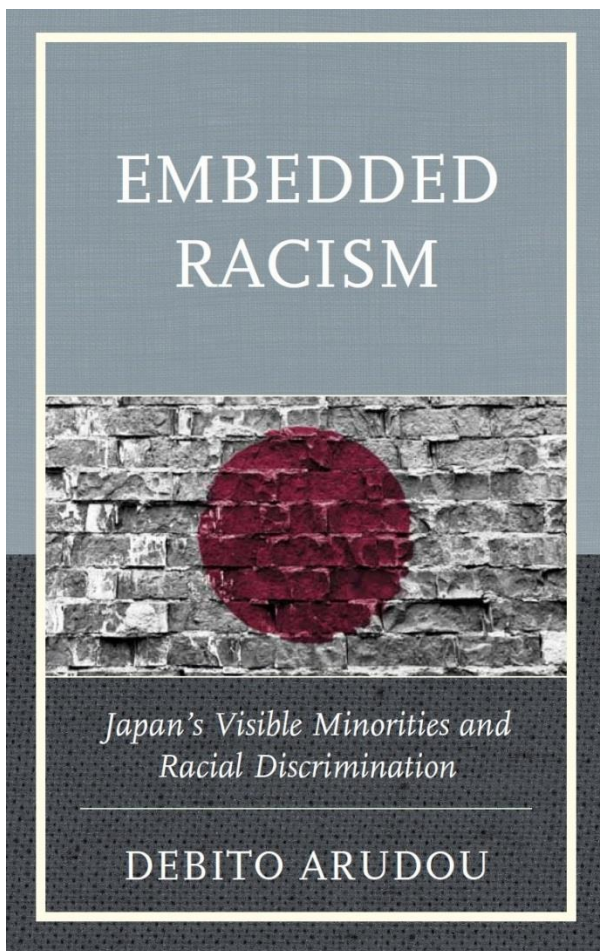
David Welch (Fellow, Munk School of Global Affairs, and Visiting Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Toronto, August 2016-July 2017) has made a number of presentations.

- “Justice and Equality as Both Problem and Solution in Asia-Pacific Security.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association, Atlanta, GA, March 18, 2016
- “Security Challenges and Opportunities.” Presentation to the Symposium, “Seeking Security and Prosperity in Uncertain Times: Japan and Canada Reconsider the Pacific Century”, Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto, March 30, 2016.
- “Justice Considerations in East Asia’s Territorial Disputes.” Presentation to le Département de Science Politique et Relations Internationales, University of Geneva, April 18, 2016.
- “Preventing Nuclear Proliferation.” Presentation to the “G7-United Nations Partnership to Meet Global Challenges” symposium, United Nations University, Tokyo, Japan, May 19, 2016.
- “The Role of the G7 in Security Governance.” Presentation to the 2016 pre-summit conference, “Challenges and Opportunities for Japan’s 2016 Ise-Shima Summit,” Toranomon Hills, Tokyo, Japan, May 20, 2016.
- “The South China Sea and the ‘China Challenge.’” Presentation to the 2016 Pre-G7 Ise-Shima Summit workshop, “Asia-Pacific Security Challenges,” Keio University, Tokyo, Japan, May 23, 2016.

- “South China Sea Disputes: A New Framework.” Presentation to the 30th Asia-Pacific Roundtable, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, June 1, 2016.
- Chair and Discussant, “Shifting Security Dynamics in East Asia” panel, AAS-in-Asia Conference, Kyoto, Japan, June 26, 2016
- “Belief Systems and Foreign Policy Styles: Obama, Clinton, Trump.” Shibusawa-Hepburn Distinguished Lecture, University of Tokyo, August 4, 2016. (I was Shibusawa-Hepburn Distinguished Visiting Scholar, University of Tokyo, August 2016, where I taught an intensive graduate course on U.S. foreign policy)
- “Reexamining Japan in Global Context.” Public presentation, Suntory Foundation, Osaka, Japan, August 10, 2016.

Please send your updates for the Spring 2017 Newsletter to Carin Holroyd (carinholroyd@gmail.com)

Book Review



Embedded Racism: Japan's Visible Minorities and Racial Discrimination
Debito Arudo

Lexington Books, Lanham, Maryland

First published in 2015

378 pp. \$64.99

ISBN: 1498513905

Book Review by Natasha Fox, PhD Student, Department of Geography, University of British Columbia

From the immigration crisis in Europe to the growing tensions around racism and law enforcement in the United States, discussion of institutionalized racism, exclusionary rhetoric in the media, and legal barriers to equality seems essential now more than ever. In his most recent book *Embedded Racism: Japan's Visible Minorities and Racial Discrimination* cultural critic, activist, and scholar Debito Arudo attempts to spark just such a discussion. A critical analysis of Japan's treatment of visible minorities (people living in Japan who do not display

phenotypical Japanese traits [page 8]) and the legal, political, and social mechanisms that perpetuate the exclusion of such minorities from various aspects of Japanese society, *Embedded Racism* is extremely well-timed. Arguing that racism operating through various institutions in Japan is akin to experiences of racism in the United States, Europe, and elsewhere, Arudo's carefully constructed work attempts to debunk the dominant narrative of Japanese exceptionalism, which he claims provides an escape from accountability to the rest of the world. Describing how structural racism behind institutional, legal, social, and media narratives influences the degree to which "outsiders" are constructed and consequently excluded from essential social and legal protections, *Embedded Racism* is an important contribution to the fields of geography, cultural, and area studies, albeit with some caveats.

In the introduction Arudo defines the theory of embedded racism as the factoring of race in the creation of politics, law, policy, and social order within Japan (page xiii). The section also lays out the book's theoretical backbone: the parallel of racialization of European and North American nation-state formation with that of Japan, a point discussed further below. Arudo also makes the claim that the exclusion of the discussion of visible minority experiences from the canon of Japanese Studies constitutes a blind spot in the field. This gap also underlies the barriers to non-wajin (Arudo defines wajin as "members of Japan's dominant, enfranchised, and privileged and ethnic majority"[81]) becoming fully accepted members of Japanese society. This analytical undoing of entrenched racialized assumptions within Japanese Studies is one of the book's notable contributions to literature on Japanese societal formation, and it is achieved from different angles throughout the book's ten chapters.

In Chapter 1 Arudo begins to unpack the book's central question of how Japan's legal system enables racism to be unconstitutional but not illegal. Beginning by contrasting some particularly egregious examples of racism with the official discourse that discrimination is illegal in Japan, Arudo asks how the two seemingly contradictory realities can coexist. The answer, he argues, is that "Japan's self-description of identity is a racialized one, predicated upon an 'Embedded Racism' grounded in visual identification, thus making it extremely difficult for people who 'look different' to be treated as 'Japanese'" (page 11). Chapter 2 describes in detail the mechanisms of Japanese racism and its background, as well as the ways in which Japan's racialized nation-state formation has paralleled that of other nations. Chapter 3 underlines the originality of the book with its extended list of "Japanese Only" establishments as evidence of *Embedded Racism's* eponymous thesis. Meticulously collected by Arudo himself, these case studies demonstrate how performative racism functions at the individual level. Chapters 4 and 5 explain how Japanese racism functions at the societal level, especially the legal foundations of racialized citizenship, its establishment through proof of Japanese bloodline, and the resulting uneven access to legal protections for citizens who are perceived as not having physical "Japanese features". Chapter 6 discusses ten legal cases illustrating the institutional obstacles experienced by non-citizens

living in Japan. Driving home his argument, Arudo's analysis of the cases reveals a careless application of jurisprudence when the claimant is a non-citizen, disproportionately harsh sentences being leveled against non-Japanese defendants, and inexplicably lenient sentences given to native Japanese convicted of crimes against foreigners. In Chapter 7 Arudo focuses on the treatment of foreigners in the Japanese media, arguing that the binary portrayal of foreigners either as objects of novelty or as criminals is the result of Japanese media functioning largely as a propaganda machine for official government platforms of intolerance toward foreigners. Chapter 8 demonstrates some instances of pushback (by labor unions, NGOs, and government officials) against the processes described in Chapter 7, concluding that these forms of opposition have been largely ineffective due to the Japanese government's insistence that wajin privilege is necessary to maintain social order. Chapter 9 attempts to more forcefully lay out why and how the theory of embedded racism is an ideal paradigm for understanding the cases discussed in the book. Finally, Chapter 10 argues that Japan's future as a global economic power rests upon its ability to successfully assimilate immigrants into Japanese society as fully contributing members, rather than continuing to confine them to the legal and social periphery.

At several points throughout the book Arudo acknowledges his use of Critical Race Theory, arguing that, although it was developed in the context of North American civil rights struggles, it is adaptable enough to be applied to race issues in the Japanese context (page 323). Critics of this use of theory, however, may argue that Japan's particular racial issues cannot be imagined in the same theoretical thread as the unspeakable violence and overt oppression experienced by people of color in the United States. Embedded Racism's arguments could be therefore be strengthened and its theoretical underpinnings made less assailable if it more deeply engaged with literature that has critiqued Japan's particular socio-historical development from the perspectives of empire and postwar solidification of racialized nationalism that some argue has characterized Japan's position in the world (the works of Harry Harootunian, Hyun Ok Park, and Bruce Cumings in particular come to mind). Furthermore, it is not clear enough where Arudo (an American-born Caucasian male) places himself within the structures that he problematizes. While he situates Japan's embedded racism partially within the legacy of the second world war, including Japan's aggression in Asia and its official and unofficial discourses on how to include and exclude konketsuji (children of Japanese and non-Japanese), for example, absent is an acknowledgement of the degree to which those very structures made possible the criticism that Arudo engages in as an American-born scholar in a place where the US military's presence remains controversial. Fortunately, these limitations are more than offset by Arudo's meticulously collected popular culture evidence, legal case studies, and wealth of experience living in Japanese society as a non-native citizen of Japan. Some limitations notwithstanding, Embedded Racism's contribution to both Japanese Studies and debates on race and contemporary racialized human experiences remain valuable contributions in their own right.

JSAC Executive 2015-2016

President (2013-2016):

Prof. David W. Edgington
Department of Geography
University of British Columbia
1984 West Mall,
Vancouver BC, Canada V6T1Z2
Tel: 1-604-822-5612
E-mail: david.edgington@ubc.ca

Secretary-Treasurer (2012-):

Prof. Norio Ota
Department of Languages, Literatures and Linguistics
York University
4700 Keele Street
Toronto, ON, Canada M3J 1P3
Phone: (416)736-2100 ext. 88750
E-mail: nota@yorku.ca

Regular Executive Members:

Prof. Fumiko Ikawa-Smith (2007-)
Department of Anthropology
McGill University
855 Sherbrooke Street West
Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3A 2T7
E-mail: fumiko.ikawa-smith@mcgill.ca

Prof. Jim Tiessen (2014-)
Ted Rogers School of Management
Ryerson University
350 Victoria Street,
Toronto, ON, M5B 2K3
E-mail: jhtiessen@ryerson.ca

Prof. Thomas Waldichuk (2015-17)
Department of Geography & Environmental Studies
Thompson Rivers University
900 McGill Road
Kamloops, BC, Canada V2C 0C8
Tel. 250-371-5718
Fax. 250-371-5697
E-mail : Twaldichuk@tru.ca

Professor Ken Coates (2013-2016)
Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy
University of Saskatchewan
E-mail: ken.coates@usask.ca

Please send your updates for the Spring 2016 Newsletter to carinholroyd@gmail.com