

Library



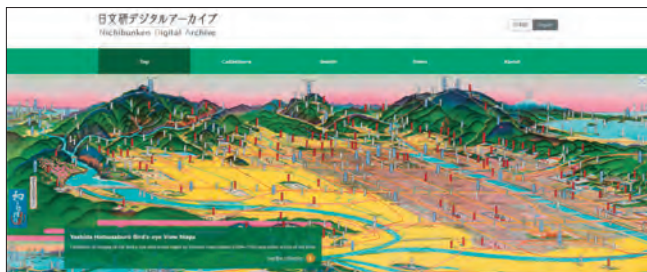
The Nichibunken Library collects a wide range of materials needed for research on Japan and makes these materials available to researchers. It also provides access to Japanese studies-related information of various kinds. The 620,000 titles in the library can be searched via OPAC, CiNii, and OCLC WorldCat (as of March 31, 2026). Researchers outside Nichibunken may use the Inter-Library Loan (ILL) system to apply for document copying and loans of books and other materials. The collection prioritizes books about Japan written in other languages and translations of Japanese works originating in Japan and overseas. In addition to books and periodicals, the collection includes colored photographs from the late Edo and Meiji periods, old maps, and video, DVD, and CD audio and visual materials.



Public Databases Access



Nichibunken develops databases of the materials in its collection, of sources uncovered as a result of research by faculty, and of Japan-related materials owned by other organizations. Currently there are 46 databases available online (as of March 31, 2026)



The Nichibunken Digital Archive

Visiting Research Scholars and Fellows

As an international research center, Nichibunken opens its doors to the world by inviting scholars from many countries to carry out international and interdisciplinary research related to Japanese culture. These invited scholars include “visiting research scholars,” salaried by Nichibunken and resident there for up to a year, and “visiting research fellows,” whose research stays are supported by other foundations.

In addition to carrying out their own research, visiting scholars take part in team research projects organized by Nichibunken professors and deliver presentations at seminars, forums, and international meetings. They will also receive support in disseminating the results of their research.

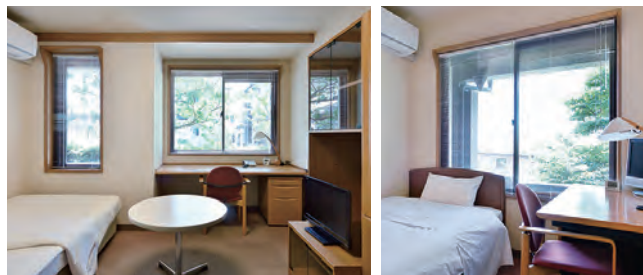
Close collaboration between Nichibunken faculty, visiting scholars, and team research members will provide the foundation for the further development of Japanese studies in the world.

Applications for Visiting Research Scholars (Left) and Fellows (Right)



Nichibunken House

Nichibunken House consists of family- and single-occupancy units. Family-occupancy units are primarily for visiting research scholars who stay for a long term with their families. Single-occupancy units comprise two zones, one for long-term users and the other for guests such as team researchers for a short stay.



PhD Program at Nichibunken



Nichibunken is the institutional home of the Japanese Studies Program, Graduate Institute for Advanced Studies, SOKENDAI. The Program promotes interdisciplinary and comprehensive Japanese studies education and research from an international perspective. Students from abroad as well as from Japan enroll in the doctoral program.



Nichibunken is an international hub supporting research on Japanese culture.

National Institutes for the Humanities
**International Research Center
for Japanese Studies**

**NICHIBUNKEN BROCHURE
2026**

Faculty

(As of May 1, 2026)

Director-General

INOUE Shōichi History of manners and customs

Deputy Directors-General

Frederik CRYNS History of the Sengoku period; interaction between the Western world and Japan
KUSUNOKI Ayako Japanese political and diplomatic history; security studies

Professors

ENOMOTO Wataru Medieval history of international exchange
ISODA Michifumi Japanese history
ITŌ Takayuki History of Chinese thought; cultural interaction in East Asia; comparative culture
LIU Jianhui History of cultural connections between Japan and China
MATSUDA Toshihiko History of Japanese and Korean relations
TIMON SCREECH Art history and history of the Edo period
SEKINO Tatsuki Informatics
TAKII Kazuhiro Constitutional history; comparative legal history
YAMADA Shōji Informatics; history of cultural exchange
YASUI Manami Cultural anthropology; Japanese folklore studies
ZHAN Xiaomei History of artistic connections between Japan and China in the modern age

Associate Professors

Edward BOYLE Border studies; heritage; islands
GOZA Yūichi Japanese medieval history
KATAOKA Mai Modern Japanese literature; comparative literature
NAKAMARU Takafumi Japanese classical literature
NISHITANI Isao Buddhist cultural history; Buddhist art history
ŌTA Nanako Media history

Assistant Professors

SUN Shiyu Sociology (Family and Migration); Gender Studies; STS

Specially Appointed Associate Professors

BABA Yuki^{*1} Digital archives; bibliography; history of science and technology
ZHOU Yufei History of economic thought; history of social thought

Specially Appointed Assistant Professors

KWON Minhyeok Japanese literature and culture; digital humanities
LIU Yang^{*2} Maritime history of early modern East Asia
Zahra MOHARRAMIPOUR Comparative literature and culture
Oliver WHITE Japanese early modern popular literature

^{*1} Project Associate Professor (Center for Innovative Research, National Institutes for the Humanities) and concurrently Specially Appointed Associate Professor (International Research Center for Japanese Studies)

^{*2} Project Assistant Professor (Center for Innovative Research, National Institutes for the Humanities) and concurrently Specially Appointed Assistant Professor (International Research Center for Japanese Studies)

Team Research Projects 2026

(As of May 1, 2026)

Title of Project	Project Leader(s)
City and Monument: Urban Planning and Memory in Japan, from the Perspective of Visual Culture	Professor TIMON SCREECH
Island Japan: Fluid Bodies, Senses, Imaginaries	Associate Professor Edward BOYLE
The Correlation between Body and Mind (Embodied Knowledge) and Nature (the Environment): Considering and Promoting Alternatives from East Asia	Professor ITŌ Takayuki
Life, Illness, and Death in the Japanese Colonial Empire	Professor MATSUDA Toshihiko
Research on Animal Welfare Movements: Diverse Approaches to Aiding Animals	Visiting Professor Barbara HOLTHUS
Beyond the Postwar and Modernity: Japan in the 1970s	Associate Professor NAKAMARU Takafumi
The Formation and Transformation of the Cultural Commons	Professor KUSUNOKI Ayako
Anthologizing “ <i>Chi</i> (Knowledge)” for the Future: An Interdisciplinary Perspective	Professor YAMADA Shōji
Knowledge in State Formation: Japan in Comparative Constitutional History	Associate Professor KATAOKA Mai
Laying the Foundations for the Research and Appreciation of Japanese <i>Kanbun</i> Literature	Professor TAKII Kazuhiro
The Direction of Nationalism: Contemporary Politics and the Drift Toward Conservatism, Religion, and Populism	Associate Professor NAKAMARU Takafumi
Rethinking Discourses on East Asia: From Postwar Thought to Regional Praxis	Visiting Research Scholar Kenneth James RUOFF
Intersections of Culture and Power through Practices of Payment: Moneyless Exchange and Order beyond Institutions	Visiting Professor KATAOKA Kōhei
The Potential of Statistics, Yearbooks, Gazetteers and Other Materials in the <i>Nitchū Bunko</i> for Research on Modern Chinese History	Associate Professor GOZA Yūichi
Comparative History of Cultural Mediators	Visiting Professor KŌNO Kenji
The Transformation of “ <i>Bunjin</i> Culture” in Modern Japan	Professor YASUI Manami
Reconstructing Modern East Asian Cultural History II: Focusing on the 20th Century	Visiting Professor KAWASHIMA Shin
Voyaging Voices: Global Japanese Studies Resonating through the Radio Waves	Professor LIU Jianhui
Historical Change and Contemporary Transformations of the Saigoku Kannon Pilgrimage	Professor ENOMOTO Wataru
	Professor ZHAN Xiaomei
	Professor LIU Jianhui
	Associate Professor ŌTA Nanako
	Visiting Research Scholar KIM Yong Ui

About Nichibunken

The International Research Center for Japanese Studies (Nichibunken) was founded in 1987 to pursue international, interdisciplinary, and comprehensive research on Japanese culture and to provide research cooperation and support for Japanese studies scholars around the world.

In addition to research on the distinctiveness of Japanese culture, Nichibunken emphasizes comparative studies and cultural exchange. Its professors lead diverse interdisciplinary team research projects on Japanese culture that bring together specialists from a wide range of fields, within and outside Japan. Nichibunken engages in international research collaboration of various kinds, shares information with scholars and research institutions around the world, and sponsors the participation of its faculty at scholarly meetings held overseas.



Consortium for Global Japanese Studies

Nichibunken established the Consortium for Global Japanese Studies in 2017, the first initiative of its kind in Japan. The Consortium was founded in order to meet the needs of universities and research institutes offering international/global Japanese studies programs, and to facilitate networking among its members. The Consortium will, through the participation of members in joint research meetings and international symposia on international/global Japanese studies, serve as an intermediary body connecting the domestic research community with international research networks.



「国際日本研究」
コンソーシアム
Consortium for Global Japanese Studies



Japan Review

Japan Review is a peer-reviewed, interdisciplinary, and fully Open Access Japanese Studies journal that publishes articles, research notes, review essays, and translations of important texts relating to Japan. Submission to *Japan Review* is open to all those engaged in the study of Japanese culture past and present.



Nichibunken Open Access



PDF files of Nichibunken publications are available on the Nichibunken website.



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<https://www.nichibun.ac.jp/en/>

