

Paul Kreitman

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Career

- Assistant Professor, Columbia University Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, July 2016-
- Japan Society for the Promotion of Science International Research Fellow, Osaka University, March 2019-March 2020
- Junior Research Fellow, Institute of Historical Research, School of Advanced Studies, University of London, September 2015-August 2016
- Senior Teaching Fellow, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, September 2015-August 2016
- Japan Foundation Visiting Fellow, University of Tokyo Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia, August 2012-October 2013
- Carbon Offset Consultant, Mitsubishi UFJ Securities, July 2007-July 2009
- Northpoint Network Trading Co., Sapporo, Support Staff, December 2006-June 2007
- Intern at [Nobel Peace Prize-winning] Grameen Bank, Dhaka, Sept-Oct 2006

Education

- Ph.D., Princeton University History Dept., September 2015: “Feathers, Fertilizer & States of Nature: Uses of Albatrosses in the U.S.-Japan Borderlands, 1856-1965” (Advisors: Sheldon Garon, David Howell)
- B.A. (1st Class Hons) Modern History, Balliol College, University of Oxford, June 2006

Research

- “Attacked by Excrement: the political ecology of shit in wartime and postwar Tokyo” (*Environmental History* 23:2, 1 April 2018)
- *Japan’s Desert Islands: Nature and Sovereignty* [book manuscript, under contract with Cambridge University Press]
- “Nature and Sovereignty Conservation on Hawaii’s Desert Islands, 1898-1911” [under review with *The American Historical Review*]
- “Total War and Big Hydro: the transnational wartime origins of the Yangtze Three Gorges Dam” [under review with *The Journal of Asian Studies*]
- “Spectacular Sovereignty: commodity and nature production on desert islands” [slated for publication in forthcoming *Past & Present* special issue on sovereignty and natural resources]

Reviews

- Danny Orbach, *Curse on this Country: The Rebellious Army of Imperial Japan* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2017) in *Pacific Affairs* 91:2 (June 2018)
- Gregory Rosenthal, *Beyond Hawai’i: Native Labor in the Pacific World* (University of California Press, 2018) forthcoming in *Environmental History* 24:4 (October 2019)

Select Invited Talks

- “Japan’s Ocean Borderlands: Nature and Sovereignty Conservation at the Edge of the Inhabitable” delivered at Hokkaido University Slavic-Eurasian Research Center, 2 August 2019
- Interview with Tristan Grunow, *The Meiji at 150 Podcast*, podcast audio, June 28, 2019. <https://meiji150.podbean.com/e/episode-117-dr-paul-kreitman-columbia/>
- “The Nature of UNCLOS: Islands & Oceans in the Anthropocene” delivered at a conference on “From ‘Pelagic Empires’ to EEZs: the transformation of Asia’s Pacific since the 19th Century” hosted by National University of Singapore Asia Research Institute, 24 January 2019
- “Bird and Sovereignty Conservation on Hawaii’s Desert Islands, 1898-1911” delivered at the

- Georgetown University Institute for Global History, Washington D.C., 20 March 2018
- “Spectacular Sovereignty in the South China Sea: Japan's offshore guano mines, 1902-1939” delivered at Yale University, 26 January 2018
 - “The Marcus Island Incident: Commodities, Colonization & Sovereignty on a North Pacific Border Island” delivered at symposium on Sovereignty, Economy & the Global Histories of Natural Resources at Magdalen College, University of Cambridge, 19 December 2017
 - “Bonito, Birdshit, and Torpedoes: Japanese Economic and Military Expansion into the South China Seas, 1918-1939” delivered at Vassar College, 19 October 2017
 - “Biodiversity production on a Hawaiian border island, 1890-1911” delivered at the Biodiversity and its Histories Workshop hosted by the Center for Science and Society at Columbia University and the New York Botanical Garden, 24 April 2017
 - “Birdshit, Bonito, Torpedoes: Commodity and Sovereignty Production in the Spratly Islands, 1918-1939” delivered at the Modern Japan Seminar, New York, 30 September 2016
 - “Saving the Japanese Albatross: Wildlife and Sovereignty Conservation in Postwar Japan” delivered at the University of Oslo East Asian Lunch Seminar, 12 November 2015
 - “The Marcus Island Incident: Imperialism or Colonialism?” delivered at workshop on “Japanese Imperialism in and across the Pacific,” University of Zurich, 4 September 2015
 - “Total War, Techno-Utopia and Big Hydropower: the wartime transnational origins of the Three Gorges Dam” delivered at Shanghai University of Science and Technology American House, 13 December 2013
 - “*Nijū seiki zenhan Kantō no shimogoe junkan: yūkibutsu no kajōka to Tōkyō no shinyō-zeme*” (“Attacked by Excrement: nightsoil circulation and organic overload in early 20th century Kantō”) delivered at Osaka University, 23 May 2013
 - “The Northeast Asian Nutrient Pump: The Manchurian Soybean in Japan’s Green Revolution, 1895-9141” delivered at workshop on “Empire and Beyond: Manchuria in the Modern World”, Harvard University, 6 May 2011

Convener

- “Islands and Oceans in East Asia” panel at the Association for Asian Studies annual conference, Washington DC, 24 March 2019 - with Toshihiro Higuchi (Georgetown University) & Edward Boyle (Kyushu University), & Sakura Christmas (Bowdoin University) as discussant.
- Convened four-part themed lecture series on “Japan: Science, Environment, Technology” via Donald Keene Center and Weatherhead East Asian Institute (Fall 2017)

Select Conference Papers

- “Trans-war Island Disputes in the South China Sea: Birdshit, torpedoes and state-making” delivered at the Association for Borderlands Studies World Conference, Vienna & Budapest, 10 July 2019
- “Bird Pirates, Border Islands, and Non-Colonial Sovereignty: The Origins of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, c.1900-1909” delivered at the American Society for Environmental History annual conference, Riverside CA, 17 March 2019
- “The Search for the Ryūkyū Albatross: Sovereignty and Wildlife Conservation in the Senkaku Islands, 1945-1972” delivered at the European Association for Japanese Studies conference, Lisbon, 1 September 2017
- “Manufacturing Scarcity: The Rasa Island Guano Company and Japan’s quest for autarky, 1911-1945” delivered at the American Society for Environmental History annual conference, San Francisco, 15 March 2014
- “Hokubei ni okeru Nihon senmonka ikusei jigyō” (“Organizations promoting training of Japan specialists in North America) delivered at International House, Tokyo, 19 February 2013
- “Dongbeiyi de guqi jitong: Zhongguo Dongbei de huangdou dui jindui Riben luse geming de yingxiang” (“The Northeast Asian Nitrogen Pump: the influence of the Manchurian Soybean on Japan’s Green Revolution”) delivered at the Tsinghua University Inter-University Program for Chinese, Beijing, 8 December 2011
- “Nihon shokuminchi o meguru shiryō chōsa” (“Survey of archival resources pertaining to the Japanese colonial territories”) delivered at I-House Japan, Tokyo, 19 February 2011

Teaching Experience

- GR8839 Modern Japan: Environment, Science, Technology [PhD seminar] (Columbia F17)
- GR8910 Introduction to History and Historiography [co-taught PhD seminar] (Columbia S18)
- GU4847 Modern Japan [upper-level undergraduate seminar] (Columbia F17 & S19)
- GR6200 MA Workshop in East Asian History [MA methods course] (Columbia S17 & S18)
- GU4822 Troubled Islands of the Indo-Pacific [BA/MA seminar] (Columbia S17)
- GR6510 Japan Bibliography incl. digital humanities [PhD seminar] (Columbia F16)
- UN1361 East Asian Civilizations: Japan [BA survey course] (Columbia F16, S18, F18)
- 15PHIH Japanese Modernity [MA seminar] (SOAS, F15 & S16)
- HIS208 Modern East Asia [section instructor for BA survey course] (Princeton S12)

Graduate students advised:

- PhD: Michelle Hauk, Ryo Kawashima, Isaac Tan
- M.A.: Yuli Kou (Sept 2017), Scott Miller (May 2018), Thomas Flippin (May 2019)
- B.A.: Spencer Cohen (May 2018), Juzhi (Peter) Zheng

Fellowships

- Japan Society for Promotion of Science Research Fellowship (accepted for 2019-20)
- Harvard University Weatherhead Center Research Fellowship in US-Japan Relations (declined)
- Japan Foundation Fellowship, 2012-2013

Awards

- American Society for Environmental History, Leopold-Hidy Award for Best Article, 2018
- Distinction in general examinations, Princeton University, 2011
- Princeton University History Department Davis Prize, 2009-2014
- Princeton University Council of Humanities Perkins Prize, 2009
- Sasakawa Foundation Scholarship, 2003
- Balliol College Gay Scholarship, 2002

Academic Service

- History-East Asia joint-program coordinator
- Japan history field representative for PhD & MAO admissions
- Donald Keene Center for Japanese Studies board member
- Weatherhead Institute Faculty Review Committee: UG/MA Summer Fellowships (2018-19)
- Faculty award panel: 2018 Carl B. Boyer Memorial Prize in the History of Science
- Workshop co-organizer for 'Environmental Approaches to East Asian Texts' (Spring 2017)
- Organized four-part themed lecture series on "Japan: Science, Environment, Technology" via Donald Keene Center and Weatherhead East Asian Institute (Fall 2017)

Languages

Japanese (fluent), Mandarin (reading and conversational), French (reading)

References

Sheldon Garon, Nissan Professor of Japanese History, Princeton University
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David Howell, Professor of Japanese History, Harvard University
dhowell@fas.harvard.edu
Tel: +1 617-495-8367

Angus Lockyer, Lecturer in the History of Japan, SOAS, University of London
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