

Paul Kreitman

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Career

- Associate Research Scholar & Unson Microcollege Program Director, Weatherhead East Asian Institute, Columbia University, July 2025-
- Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, Columbia University:
 - Associate Professor in 20th Century Japanese History, July 2023-June 2025
 - Assistant Professor in 20th Century Japanese History, July 2016-June 2023
- Japan Society for the Promotion of Science International Research Fellow, Osaka University, Department of Languages and Cultures, 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

Education

- Ph.D., Princeton University History Dept., “Feathers, Fertilizer & States of Nature: Uses of Albatrosses in the U.S.-Japan Borderlands” (November 2015). Dissertation committee: Sheldon Garon (advisor), David L. Howell, Emmanuel Kreike, Ian Jared Miller (external examiner, Harvard University)
- B.A. (1st Class Hons) Modern History, Balliol College, University of Oxford, June 2006

Book

- *Japan's Ocean Borderlands: Nature and Sovereignty* (Cambridge University Press, 2023)

Peer-reviewed articles and book chapters

- “Nature and Sovereignty Conservation in the US-Japan Borderlands, 1898-1911, 1898-1911” [revise and resubmit from *The American Historical Review*]
- “Saving the Japanese Albatross: Nature and Sovereignty Conservation in Japan, Okinawa and the Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands” [revise and resubmit from the *Journal of Asian Studies*]
- “Japan's Sea of Islands” in Nadin Hée, Stephan Hübner, Ian Jared Miller and William Tsutsui (eds.), *Oceanic Japan* (University of Hawai'i Press, 2024)
- “Attacked by Excrement: the political ecology of shit in wartime and postwar Tokyo” (*Environmental History* 23:2, 1 April 2018)

Reviews

- “[Travels in a Vanished City: On Timon Screech's 'Tokyo Before Tokyo' and Amy Stanley's, 'Stranger in the Shogun's City: A Japanese Woman and Her World'](#)” in *The Los Angeles Review of Books* (11 November 2020)
- Gregory Rosenthal, *Beyond Hawai'i: Native Labor in the Pacific World* (University of California Press, 2018) in *Environmental History* 24:4 (October 2019)
- Danny Orbach, *Curse on this Country: The Rebellious Army of Imperial Japan* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2017) in *Pacific Affairs* 91:2 (June 2018)

Media

- “Watashi no shiten: suisai taisaku to ryūgakusei nyūkoku rūru, kokusai renkei o,” *Asahi Shimbun*, (22 February 2022)

- “Toward a New Cordon Sanitaire?” *The Financial Times* (12 January 2022)
- “[Chōnaikai ga korona-ka de koso yakuwari o hakki dekiru rikutsu: butsuri-teki kyori o torasetsutsu, tunagari mo tsukureru](#)” [Neighbourhood associations can show their usefulness in the coronavirus pandemic: they can maintain social distancing whilst forging new connections] in *Tōyō Keizai Online* (8 May 2020)
- “[In the fight against COVID-19, neighborhood associations could be Japan’s ace in the hole](#)” in *The Japan Times* (26 April 2020)
- “[COVID-19 and ‘Wartime Mobilization’ on the Record with Dr. Paul Kreitman \(Columbia\)](#)”, *Japan on the Record*, podcast audio (3 April 2020)
- Kentaro Iwata, (Paul Kreitman trans.) “[What Japan’s lockdown debate is missing](#)”, in *The Diplomat* (6 April 2020)
- “[Going to ‘War’ Against Coronavirus: Lessons in home front mobilization from war-time East Asia](#)”, in *The Diplomat* (25 March 2020)
- Interview with Tristan Grunow, *The Meiji at 150 Podcast*, podcast audio, 28 June, 2019. <https://meiji150.podbean.com/e/episode-117-dr-paul-kreitman-columbia/>
- “[The Midway of Our Movie Screens Ignores Its Place in America’s Oceanic Empire](#)”, *The New Statesman* (8 November 2019)

Select Invited Talks

- *Japan’s Ocean Borderlands: Nature and Sovereignty* book tour:
 - University of Toronto Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy, 9 September 2024
 - Lancaster University China Centre, 17 April 2024
 - Lingnan University Department of History/Chinese University of Hong Kong Japan Forum, 29 February 2024
 - Kyoto University Transcultural Studies Division, 19 February 2024
 - Princeton University Global History Seminar, 8 February 2024
 - Modern Japan History Association, 13 December 2023
 - University of Edinburgh Asian Studies Seminar Series, 22 November 2023
 - Johns Hopkins University History of Science, Technology and Medicine Colloquium, 27 April 2023
- “Guarding the Exits: Toward a History of Emigration Control in Japan, 1587-1981” at the Harvard International and Global History Seminar, 7 February 2024
- “Nature and Sovereignty Conservation on the Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands” at the University of Manchester, 12 October 2022
- “The Locked Country? Emigration Control in Japan, 1623-1907” at the École des hautes études en sciences sociales, Paris, 3 February 2021
- “Japan’s Ocean Borderlands: Nature and Sovereignty” at the École française d’Extrême-Orient, Kyoto, 27 May 2020
- “Bonins of Contention: Mobility, Ecology and Sovereignty in the 19th Century Pacific” delivered at the First International Workshop for the Informal Empire Research Group, University of Tokyo, 11 January 2020.
- “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
- “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 Hawai’i’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
- "Wildlife and Sovereignty Conservation in the Post-Annexation Hawaiian Borderlands, 1898-1910" at Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies Colonialism and Imperialism Graduate Student Workshop, Princeton, 12 March 2014
- "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 junksan: 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, 1895-1941" delivered at workshop on "Empire and Beyond: Manchuria in the Modern World", Harvard University, 6 May 2011

Convener

- Consortium of Asian and African Studies 14th annual symposium ("What is genocide, and what can universities do about it?"), Columbia University, 24-25 October 2024
- Workshop on "Empire and Mobility in Japan," Columbia University, 24-25 March 2023
- "Indigenous Histories of Global Japan: Empires beyond Empire?" panel at European Association for Japanese Studies tri-annual conference, Ghent, August 2020 [postponed to 2021 due to COVID-19]
- "*Teikoku to gurobaraizēshon: shakai-seitai-teki apurōchi*" [Empire and Globalisation: Socio-ecological Approaches] symposium at the International Research Center for Japanese Studies, Kyoto, 1 March 2020 - with Prof. Yoko Fukao (Osaka University)
- "Islands and Oceans in East Asia" panel at the Association for Asian Studies annual conference, Washington DC, 24 March 2019
- 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

- "Bonins of Contention: Beachcomber Citizenship in an Oceanic Borderland" at the Association of Asian Studies annual conference, Boston, 19 March 2023
- "The Chrysanthemum Curtain: Guarding the Exits in Cold War Japan" at the British Association of Japanese Studies annual conference, Manchester University, 9 September 2022
- "Vanishing Islands of Modern Japan: A Short History of Mujintō since 1945" at a workshop on "Water, Waterways and Seas in Modern Japan", at the École française d'Extrême-Orient, Kyoto, 30 May 2020
- "*Toire kara torishima e*" [From Bird Islands to Toilets] and "*Nihon no kaiyō bōdārando: shizen to ryōdoken no hogo*" [Japan's Ocean Borderlands: Nature and Sovereignty Conservation] at a symposium on "Empire and Globalisation: Social-Ecological Approaches", International Research Center for Japanese Studies, Kyoto, 1 March 2020
- "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 jigyo” (“Organizations promoting training of Japan specialists in North America) delivered at International House, Tokyo, 19 February 2013
- “Dongbeiya 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

- GU4818 Asian Mobilities [BA/MA seminar] (Columbia S23)
- GR8839 Borderland Japan [PhD seminar] (Columbia F20)
- GR8839 Modern Japanese History [PhD seminar] (Columbia S18, F22)
- GR8910 Introduction to History and Historiography [co-taught PhD seminar] (Columbia S18)
- GU4847 Modern Japan [upper-level undergraduate seminar] (Columbia F17 & S19)
- GR8839 Science, Environment, Technology in Modern Japan [PhD seminar] (Columbia F17)
- GR6200 MA Workshop in East Asian History [MA methods course] (Columbia S17, S18, S21)
- 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, S21, F22)
- 15PHIH Japanese Modernity [MA seminar] (SOAS, F15 & S16)
- HIS208 Modern East Asia [section instructor for BA survey course] (Princeton S12)

Students advised:

- PhD dissertation advisor: Michelle Hauk, Isaac Tan, Jason Butters
- PhD dissertation examiner: Alexander Kaplan-Reyes, Thomas Ryan, Sau-yi Fong
- PhD orals/prospectus examiner: Michelle Hauk, Peter Moody, Isaac Tan, Tianyuan Huang, Alexander Kaplan-Reyes, Harlan Chambers, Danping Wang, Stephanie Bell
- M.A.: Yuli Kou, Scott Miller, Thomas Flippin, Gabriel Yu, Christopher Lee, Samantha Ward, Rena Iwanaga
- B.A.: Spencer Cohen, Juzhi Peter Zheng, Tasnim Azman, Boss Pornprasert

Fellowships

- Heyman Society of Fellows Fellowship, 2023-24 (deferred)
- Japan Society for Promotion of Science Research Fellowship, 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
- Princeton University History Department Davis Prize, 2009
- Princeton University Council of Humanities Perkins Prize, 2009
- University of Oxford Sasakawa Foundation Scholarship, 2003

Academic Service

- Consortium of Asian and African Studies coordinator (2024-)
- Workshop organizer for “Mobility and Empire in Japan” (Spring 2023)
- Weatherhead Institute Japan & Cross-Regional Programming Review Committee (2022-23)
- Center for Science & Society Advisory Committee (2022-)
- Workshop organizer for “Borderland Asia: Japan & Hong Kong” (Spring 2021)
- History Department East Asia field representative (2020-21)
- History-East Asia joint-program coordinator (2018-19, 2020-21)
- Faculty award panel: Carl B. Boyer Memorial Prize in the History of Science (2018, 2020, 2023)
- Weatherhead Institute Faculty Review Committee: UG/MA Summer Fellowships (2018-19)
- Japan history field representative for PhD & MAO admissions (2017-18)
- Organized four-part themed lecture series on “Japan: Science, Environment, Technology” via Donald Keene Center and Weatherhead East Asian Institute (Fall 2017)
- Workshop co-organizer for ‘Environmental Approaches to East Asian Texts’ (Spring 2017)
- Donald Keene Center for Japanese Studies board member (2016-)
- Peer reviewer for *Asia Pacific Journal: Japan Focus*, *International Journal for Asian Studies*, *American Quarterly*, Cambridge University Press.

Languages: Japanese, Mandarin, French