



# The Samurai & the Cross

## Jesuit Missionaries & Education in Early Modern Japan

**6.15 - 7.30 pm**  
**2 September 2022**

**GRASSI Museum für Völkerkunde zu Leipzig**  
**Main Lecture Hall • Entrance via Täubchenweg**



Dr. M. Antoni J. Ucerler, S. J.  
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After the arrival of Francis Xavier in 1549, a new era of European Christian encounters with Japanese culture began. Xavier's successors found themselves, however, in the midst of "Warring States Japan", where samurai warlords were vying with each other for dominance. The Jesuits soon established a college to train both European and Japanese missionaries in the liberal arts and theology. This presentation will highlight how a unique textbook preserved in three manuscripts in the Vatican, Oxford, and Wolfenbüttel played a key role in communicating Christianity to the Japanese in the early seventeenth century.

**Festive reception & book launch after the lecture**  
**Free admission, registration required ([juan.castillo@uni-leipzig.de](mailto:juan.castillo@uni-leipzig.de))**





# Outline

The symposium examines transnational relations between Japan and (Counter-) Reformation Europe through the lens of translation. The translation concept adapted includes linguistic as well as cultural translations. Contributors analyze various translation processes including the translation of European religious thought into Japanese, the translation of Japanese and European images and artefacts and the translation of Jesuit letters from Japan. We are particularly interested in discussing the “translation” of meaning, i.e. how texts, images and artefacts were rendered culturally significant to Japanese and European audiences. We are also keen to explore the agency of translators as well as the socio-cultural and political-economic dimensions of their translation strategies.

Questions explored include:

Are similar experiences and concerns more important in this early period of transnational encounters than the construction of otherness that focus on difference? How and to which extent did the Catholic mission in Japan contribute to the justification of Catholic “Universalism” through translation?

Co-organized by Dr. Katja Triplett  
(Leipzig University),  
Dr. Yoshimi Orii (Keiō University, Tokyo)  
and Dr. Pia Jolliffe (University of Oxford)

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Center of Advanced Studies in  
the Humanities and Social Sciences  
„Multiple Secularities – Beyond the West,  
Beyond Modernities”  
Nikolaistrasse 8-10  
04109 Leipzig, Germany

Conference venue:  
Nikolaistrasse 8-10 (Strohsackpassage),  
Room 5.55

Registration for online participation required.  
Email: [yorii@keio.jp](mailto:yorii@keio.jp)

Public lecture with festive reception and  
book launch, GRASSI Museum  
(entrance via Täubchenweg),  
2 September, 6.15 - 7.30 p.m.  
Registration required.  
Email: [juan.castillo@uni-leipzig.de](mailto:juan.castillo@uni-leipzig.de)



UNIVERSITÄT  
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GRASSI  
MUSEUM FÜR VÖLKERKUNDE ZU LEIPZIG

Staatliche Ethnographische Sammlungen Sachsen  
Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden



International  
Symposium

Religion, Translation and  
Transnational Relations:  
Japan and (Counter-)  
Reformation Europe

1-3 September 2022

# P R O G R A M

## Thursday, 1 September

9.30 -10 am	Welcome
<b>Section 1: Language</b>	
10 - 10.45 am	Keynote lecture: Explanations vs Definitions in the Early Japanese Missionary Translations ( <i>Toyoshima, Masayuki</i> )
10.45 - 11.15 am	Coffee Break
11.15 am - 12 pm	Pray and Wish in Jesuit Japanese Grammars ( <i>Kurokawa, Mari</i> )
12 - 2 pm	Lunch
2 - 2.45 pm	Translations, Bibliography, and the Materiality of Language ( <i>Bianchi, Alessandro</i> )
2.45 - 3.15 pm	Coffee Break
<b>Section 2: New Materials</b>	
3.15 - 4 pm	The Theological Sources of the Theory of "Dissimulation" During the Period of Persecution of Christianity in Japan ( <i>Orii, Yoshimi</i> )
4 - 4.45 pm	The Jesuit Compendia in Latin and Japanese: On the Provenance of Their Text Witnesses and Issues of Authorship ( <i>Osterkamp, Sven</i> )
4.45 - 5.15 pm	Summary of Day 1

## Friday, 2 September

9.30 - 10.15 am	Keynote lecture: The Discovery and Significance of Sufera-no nukigaki (Selection on the Sphere), a Japanese Translation of Jesuit Cosmology Textbook ( <i>Hiraoka, Ryuji</i> )
10.15 - 10.45 am	Coffee Break
<b>Section 3: Encounters</b>	
10.45 - 11.30 am	Keynote lecture: The Other End of the Encounter: Revisiting Cultural Agencies of the Christian Mission in Early Modern Japan ( <i>Higashibaba, Ikuo</i> )
11.30 am - 12.15 pm	Translation and Transnational Relations in Early Modern Japanese Confraternities ( <i>Tronu, Carla</i> )
12.15 - 2.15 pm	Lunch
2.15 - 3 pm	Visualizing Translation: The Painting Seminary in Japan and its Audiences ( <i>Curvelo, Alexandra</i> )
2 - 3.30 pm	Coffee Break
3.30 - 4 pm	Summary of Day 2
6.15 - 7.30 pm	Public lecture, GRASSI Museum für Völkerkunde zu Leipzig: The Samurai & the Cross: Jesuit Missionaries and Manuscripts in Early Modern Japan ( <i>Ucerler, Antoni</i> )

## Saturday, 3 September

<b>Section 4: Networks/Politics</b>	
9.30 - 10 am	"This Iaponian Palme-tree of Christian Fortitude" – Jesuit letters from Japan and the English (Counter-) Reformation ( <i>Jolliffe, Pia</i> )
10 - 10.45 am	Coffee Break
10.45 - 11.30 am	Cultural Translations and Edition Processes: A Study of the Jesuits' Texts Written from the Japanese Mission, Translated and Included by R. Hakluyt in The Principal Navigations (Vol. 2, 1599) ( <i>Hoyos Hattori, Paula</i> )
11.30 am - 12.15 pm	Remarks on the Bodleian Japanese Jesuit Missionary print of the Contemptus mundi jenbu (1596) and its Way into a European Collection ( <i>Triplett, Katja</i> )
12.15 - 1.15 pm	Lunch
1.15 - 2 pm	Concluding discussion

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