

## UCML Executive

Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2023

### Report of the East Asian Studies Rep

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#### **British Association of Chinese Studies (BACS):**

BACS current has two award competitions ongoing: the ECR (Early Career Researcher) Prize and the Best Doctoral Thesis Prize. Applications have closed. The results will be announced at our annual conference, which will be held at KCL on 7 & 8 September 2023.

BACS notes the ongoing debates about Confucius Institutes in the UK. We believe that this discussion must not lose sight of the importance of securing and building provision of Chinese language and China-related education in the UK at a time when China's global significance continues to grow.

#### **British Association of Korean Studies (BAKS):**

The BAKS has held two events, including a panel in Edinburgh scheduled for June looking at Korean Studies, past and present. We have revived the Royal British Legion-BAKS Bursaries for study abroad in Korea after a hiatus during the pandemic, and we continue to receive a promising number of submissions for our annual undergraduate dissertation prize. The European Journal of Korean Studies is continuing to grow in stature. We are working with the British Association for Chinese Studies and the British Association for Korean Studies to organise the Joint East Asian Studies Conference due to be held in June 2024.

Studies of Korean language continue to attract healthy student cohorts, but the sustainability of numbers is always a concern and something the Korean Studies departments across the UK are conscious about.

#### **British Association of Japanese Studies (BAJS):**

**New leadership of BAJS:** Prof Peter Kornicki has taken over as President of BAJS, Dr. Ruselle Meade is our new Treasurer, and Dr Chris Perkins has been voted onto Council. Dr Sam Bamkin is our new Japan Chapter president.

**Events:** The GBSF Studentship Day on November 11<sup>th</sup> was a great success. The recipients of the studentships presented their work, and we got a clear idea of some of the research

projects that GBSF supports and the vigour of Japanese Studies in the UK, all thanks to the support of GBSF.

**John Crump Studentships:** The Council received 5 applications, and decided to fund all of them for the amounts requested.

**Japan Forum journal:** All is proceeding smoothly with *Japan Forum*, articles are trickling through, they are processed at a steady pace, and the new Managing Editor has settled down in the role.

**CONFERENCES:**

JF/BAJS Postgraduate Event, 18<sup>th</sup> March 2023, SOAS.

EASJ, August 2023, Ghent.

JEASC, 26-28 June 2024, UCLan.

BAJS Conference, September 2025, venue t.b.c.

**Issues and concerns:** We are concerned about the continuing rising cost of airfare to Japan, which is exceeding the maximum allowance offered by most specialist funding institutions. Like most areas of study, we also have concerned about students' use of ChatGPT, both for translation topics and among international students writing in English.