

The Courtauld

Japanese Studies: Past, Present and Future

2025–2026 Lecture Series

The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Centre for Buddhist Art and Conservation at the Courtauld Institute is delighted to announce its 2025–2026 Lecture Series, exploring the many aspects of Japanese studies in the UK and beyond. This year's series is presented in collaboration with the Royal Asiatic Society (RAS), the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures (SISJAC), and the Courtauld Institute.

The four lectures hosted at the Courtauld Institute will focus on Japanese Buddhist heritage, bringing together diverse perspectives from art history, Buddhist studies, conservation, and curatorial practice. Additional lectures will take place at the partner venues and will also be livestreamed from the RAS and SISJAC, with several events offered online only.

Lectures and events are open to all but please register as spaces are limited in some venues. The start time is 18:30 at the RAS and SISJAC and 18:00 for The Courtauld unless otherwise indicated.

September – December 2025

Tuesday 9 September (RAS)

Studying Japan from the UK: New Challenges and Historical Precedents
Jennifer Coates

Thursday 18 September (SISJAC online only)

Tradition Reimagined: Okinawan Art and Kōgei in the 21st Century
Eriko Tomizawa-Kay

Thursday 16 October (SISJAC online only)

The Art of Manga
Nicole Coolidge Rousmaniere

Tuesday 21 October (The Courtauld)

"Japanese Buddhist Art at The British Museum: Collection, Curation, Conservation and Collaboration"
Rosina Buckland, Alex Owen, and Elize Doherty

Friday 7 November (RAS)

Shiro 城: A Photographic Exploration of Japanese Castles
Bashar Tabbah

Wednesday 3 December (The Courtauld)

The Lives and Afterlives of Buddhist Icons: Deactivation and Reactivation Rituals in Medieval Japan
Benedetta Lomi

Thursday 11 December (RAS)

Japanese Mythology Across Cultures: Gods, Encounters, and Global Views
Kikuko Hirafuji

The Courtauld

Thursday 18 December (SISJAC)

Nara on the Silk Road?

Susan Whitfield

January - May 2026

Thursday 8 January (RAS)

Barbarians: The First Century of Encounter Between Japan and Europe

Chris Harding

Tuesday 3 February (The Courtauld)

TBC

Halle O'Neal

Thursday 12 February (RAS)

TBC: Doing Field Research in Japan: A Long View

Joy Hendry

Wednesday 4 March (The Courtauld)

Conservation Practices in Japan

Yuki Russell

Thursday 19 March (RAS/SISJAC online only)

Surviving the Apocalypse: Catastrophe Archaeology in Ancient Japan

Junzo Uchiyama

Thursday 26 March (RAS)

Hidden knowledge: why Edo-period Japan was not a print society

Peter Kornicki

Thursday 2 April (RAS)

No theatre masks: demonstration and discussion (details TBC)

Kitazawa Hideta

Tuesday 14 May: Closing lecture at RAS AGM

Towards 150 years of Japanese archaeology and its broader Asian connections

Simon Kaner

Lectures to be held at the following places, as indicated. A contact person is given for registration and online lectures.

The Royal Asiatic Society (RAS)

14 Stephenson Way

London NW1 2HD

Mb@royalasiaticsociety.org

Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures (SISJAC)

64 The Close

Norwich NR1 4DH

sisjac@sainsbury-institute.org

The Courtauld

The Courtauld Institute of Art

Vernon Square

Penton Rise

London WC1X 9EW

Sujatha.Meegama@courtauld.ac.uk (for 2025 lectures)

lan.pu@courtauld.ac.uk (for 2026 lectures)