

## MICHELE M. MASON

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[mmmason@umd.edu](mailto:mmmason@umd.edu)

### EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Associate Professor, University of Maryland, College Park 2007-present

Affiliations: Women's Studies, Film Studies, and Comparative Literature Program

### EDUCATIONAL HISTORY

Japan Studies Postdoctoral Fellow, Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies, Stanford University 2005–2007

Ph.D. University of California, Irvine, Modern Japanese Literature August 2005

M.A. University of California, Los Angeles, Modern Japanese Literature June 1995

B.A. University of Oregon, Eugene, Linguistics and Japanese June 1989

Graduate Research Student, University of Tokyo September 2000–March 2002  
September 1996–July 1997

Inter-University Program for Japanese Language Studies, Japan 1995–1996

### RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS

Modern Japanese literature and history, colonial and postcolonial studies, gender and feminist theory, masculinity studies, Hiroshima and Nagasaki in literature and memory, nuclear abolition and global *hibakusha* (atomic survivor) movements, environmental humanities, film studies, and contents tourism.

### WORKS IN PROGRESS

*Nagasaki's Afterlives: A Cultural Legacy Beyond Atomic Ruin*, book manuscript in progress

*Nuclear Futures in the Post-Fukushima Age*, edited volume with Hester Baer, (contract with West Virginia University Press' Energy and Society Series, forthcoming 2021)

"Popular Culture and the Nation" (contributor) and "Mass Media" (translator), Invited book chapter contributions to the *Cambridge History of Japan Volume III: The Modern Nation and Empire*, forthcoming in 2021.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Books:**

*Dominant Narratives of Colonial Hokkaido and Imperial Japan: Envisioning the Periphery and the Modern Nation State* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2012)

*Reading Colonial Japan: Text, Context, and Critique*, eds. Michele M. Mason and Helen J.S. Lee (Stanford University Press, 2012).

### **Book Chapters:**

“Bodies of Anger: Atomic Survivors in Nakazawa Keiji’s *Black Series*” in *Rewriting History in Manga: Stories for the Nation*, eds. Nissim Otmazgin and Rebecca Suter (Palgrave, 2016), 75-94.

“Nihon kokka ni okeru bushidō to jendā saretashintai: samurai shigansha e no gekibun,” *Nihon no “otokorashisa”*: samurai kara otaku made “dansesei” no henkan wo ou (Tokyo: Akashi Shobo, 2013), 81-105. Japanese translation of “Empowering the Would-be Warrior: *Bushidō* and Gendered Bodies of the Japanese Nation” (see below). I was responsible for the translation of my original chapter.

“Writing Hiroshima and Nagasaki in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: A New Generation of Historical *Manga*” in *War in Popular Culture: Course Reader 3*, ed. Matthew Penney (Asia-Pacific Journal: Japan Focus, 2012). Reprint.

“Empowering the Would-be Warrior: *Bushidō* and Gendered Bodies of the Japanese Nation” in *Recreating Japanese Men*, eds. Sabine Frühstrük and Anne Walthall (University of California Press, 2011), 68-90.

### **Peer Reviewed Articles:**

“Seventeen’s Battle with the Cult of Masculinity: Reading Ōe Kenzaburō’s 1960s Critique of Rightist Resurgence in the Age of Abe,” *Asia-Pacific Journal*, Volume 15, Issue 4, No. 4, February 15, 2017.

“Dishing Out *Silver Spoon*: Agricultural Tourism in the Tokachi-Obihiro Area of Hokkaido,” *International Journal of Contents Tourism*, 1.2: 2016, 31-43.

Komori, Yōichi, “Rule in the Name of Protection: The Japanese State, the Ainu and the Vocabulary of Colonialism,” trans. Michele M. Mason, *Asia-Pacific Journal*, Volume 11, Issue 8, No. 2, February 25, 2013. Reprint from *Reading Colonial Japan: Text, Context, and Critique*. (Peer-reviewed, open-source, online journal, 9 pages in print)

“Revisiting Narratives of Meiji ‘Progress’: *Seiji Shōsetsu* as Sexual and Political Opposition,” *Japan Forum* 23(1) 2011, 49-66.

“A New Generation of Historical *Manga*: Writing Hiroshima and Nagasaki in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century,” *The Asia-Pacific Journal*, 47-5-09, November 23, 2009.

“Nanshoku to kokka: hara hōitsuan no anchu seijika” (“Male-Male Sexuality and the Modern Japanese Nation: Hara Hōitsuan’s *Secret Politician*”) *Jendā shigaku (Gender History Journal)* Volume 4 (2009), 7-20.

#### **Book Reviews:**

Book Review: *Playing War: Children and the Paradoxes of Modern Militarism in Japan* (Sabine Frühstück, 2017), *Monumenta Nipponica*, forthcoming 2020

Book Review: *Liminality of the Japanese Empire: Border Crossings from Okinawa to Colonial Taiwan* (Hiroko Matsuda, 2019) *Journal of Japanese Studies*, forthcoming Spring 2020

Christopher P. Hanscom and Dennis Washburn, eds. *The Affect of Difference: Representations of Race in East Asian Empire*, *Journal of Japanese Studies*, Volume 44, Number 1, Winter 2018, 219-224.

Angles, Jeffrey, *Writing the Love of Boys: Origins of Bishōnen Culture in Modernist Japanese Literature*, *Monumenta Nipponica*, Volume 68, Number 2, 2013, 132-136.

Mark Driscoll, *Absolute Erotic, Absolute Grotesque: The Living, Dead, and Undead in Japan’s Imperialism, 1885-1945*, *Social History*, February 13, 2012, 73-75.

#### **Non-Refereed Publications:**

Faculty Voice, “Nuclear Futures in the Post-Fukushima Age,” Fall 2018, co-authored with Hester Baer

### **PAPERS, PRESENTATIONS, AND WORKSHOPS**

#### **Refereed Presentations:**

“Breaking New Ground in Nagasaki: Seirai Yuichi’s Ground Zero Literature, Nuclear World Conference, Sydney, Australia, October 1-3, 2020 (postponed)

“Narrating Nuclear Phantasms in *Fukushima, Mon Amour*, Environmental Humanities Conference: Nuclear Narratives, Stockholm, Sweden, August 5-8, 2020 (postponed).

Discussant for Panel: Meiji Colonialism in Hokkaido and Transnational Colonial Exchanges, European Association for Japanese Studies Conference, Universidade NOVA, Lisbon, Portugal, September 2017.

Discussant for Panel: 3.11 Art and Public Discourse: Representing the Disaster in Manga, Film and Literature, South Eastern Conference of the Association of Asian Studies, University of Virginia, January 2015.

“Doing Battle with the Cult of Masculinity: Ôe Kenzaburo’s Critique of the 1960s Rightist Resurgence in *Seventeen*,” European Association for Japanese Studies, Slovenia, August 2015.

"Challenging Media Myths: Anti-Nuclear Songs in the Post-Fukushima Era," Annual meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Toronto, Canada. March 2012.

"Translating 'Salome' Across Time, Culture, and Media." Reading Comparatively: Theories, Practices, Communities Conference, University of Maryland, College Park. November 2010.

"Regendering the Colonial Hokkaido Pioneer," Asian Studies Conference Japan, Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan, June 2010.

"A New Generation of Historical *Manga*: Writing Hiroshima and Nagasaki in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century," Conference sponsored by Institute of Comparative Culture, "Revisiting Postwar Japan," Sophia University, Tokyo, Japan, May 2009.

"Imminent Nuclear Catastrophe?: Understanding the Language of U.S. Censorship and Obfuscation," Conference sponsored by Center for Ideas and Society, "Catastrophe and Conversion: Political Thinking for the New Millennium," University of California, Riverside, June 2008.

"Bishōnen and Brotherly Love: Conflicted Masculinity in Hara Hōitsuan's *The Secret Politician*," Annual Meeting for the Association for Asian Studies, April 2006.

"Heroes Sprout From the Fields": The Manly Discourse on Japan's First Colony, Hokkaido," Hawaii International Conference on the Arts and Humanities, Honolulu, January 2004.

"*Bushidō* Reworked: The Way of the Warrior as Cure in Modern Japan," Annual Conference of the Western Humanities Alliance, Davis, October 2001.

"The Gendering of a Nation: Nitobe Inazō's Changing Notions of *Bushidō*," Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, San Diego, March 2000.

"Where Have All the Queers Gone?: Reclaiming Japan's History of Male-Male Sex," Annual Thinking Gender Conference, Los Angeles, March 1998.

#### **Invited Presentations:**

"Speculating on Human Futures After Fukushima," Steam Salon Talk, University of Maryland, March 7, 2019, with Hester Baer

"Nuclear Futures: Theorizing Environmental Humanities for the Post-Fukushima Age," Roundtable on Teaching Sustainability and Environmental Issues in Language and Culture Courses, School of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, University of Maryland, November 29, 2018

(Un)Speakable Suffering and Bodies of Anger: Emotional Labor in Nakazawa Keiji's *Manga* and Survivor Activism, Keynote Speech for the Graduate Student Conference on Asian Studies, Colorado University, Boulder, February 2017

SLLC In Progress, In Press, In Print: *Fieldwork in the Humanities*, April 2017

Comments on "Narrating Lived Experience: The Stories of Korean Atomic Bomb Survivors", Towson Academy of Scholars Annual Presentation, November 2015

Questioning the Bomb: History and Non-Proliferation: A Panel Discussion, University of Maryland, College Park, October 2015

"*Rabbit in the Moon* as Internment History," Day of Remembrance: 73rd Anniversary of Japanese-American Internment, University of Maryland, College Park, February 2015.

Remembering Japan's 2011 Triple Disaster, University of Maryland, College Park, March 2015

"Novel Ways of Rewriting Colonial Hokkaido: Ikezawa Natsuki's *A Vast Quiet Land*," Harvard University, Harvard, February 2014.

"Bushido and the Gendered Bodies of the Japanese Nation," Mellon Sawyer Seminar, University of Washington in St. Louis, September 2013

"Depicting Ainu in Postwar Manga: Tezuka Osamu's Postcolonial Conundrum," Hokkaido International Foundation, July 2013

"Depicting Ainu in Postwar Manga: Tezuka Osamu's Postcolonial Conundrum," Bates College, Lewiston. April 2013.

"Challenging Media Myths: Anti-Nuclear Songs in the Post-Fukushima Era," Annual meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Toronto, Canada. March 2012.

"Testifying to the Future in the Age of Global Hibakusha," Yonsei University, Seoul, Korea, October 2011.

"Rethinking National Narratives of Hiroshima and Nagasaki." Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan, January 2011.

"Making Films, Framing Histories," Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan, January 2011.

"'Patriotic Pioneers' and Imperial Prestige: Re-Reading the Master Narrative of Colonial Hokkaido," Princeton University, Princeton, November 2010.

"Global *Hibakusha*: Thinking about Atomic Survivors in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century." University of California, Berkeley, February 2009.

"On the Ground Under the Mushroom Cloud," University of Redlands, Redlands, March 2008.

"Making Modern Masculine Japan: Literature, Hokkaido, and the Meiji Colonial Project." University of Florida, Gainesville, October 2007.

"Manly Narratives: Writing Hokkaido into Imperial Japan," Stanford Japan Luncheon Series, Stanford, November 2005.

## **Workshops:**

“Recognizing Nuclear Victims: Hiroshima and Nagasaki Survivor Activism Before and After the Fukushima Disaster,” 75 Years After Hiroshima and Nagasaki: Science and the Contested Histories of Radiation Exposure Workshop, Corvallis, Oregon, August 5-8, 2020 (postponed)

Participant and Presenter: Cambridge History of Japan Workshop, Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Toronto, March 17, 2017

Participant and presenter: Masculinities in Japan Workshop, University of California, Santa Barbara, January 31-February 2, 2008.

## **WORKSHOP ORGANIZATION**

*Nuclear Futures in the Post-Fukushima Age*, University of Maryland, College Park. April 11-13, 2019. Co-organized with Hester Baer.

*Resituating Nagasaki in Time and Place*, University of Maryland, College Park, April 13, 2015.

## **MEDIA AND WEBSITES**

### **Film:**

*Witness to Hiroshima* (Dir. Kathy Sloane 2008) Co-Producer and Interpreter.

### **Film Festivals, Screenings, and Q&A Sessions:**

Association for Asian Studies' Film Expo 2011: Seeing Asia Eye to Eye, April 2, 2011, Q&A

Women's Film Institute Shorts Tour, Oakland & San Francisco, CA, October 20 & 27, 2010

San Diego Asian Film Festival, San Diego, CA, October 21 & 27, 2010

Mill Valley Film Festival, Mill Valley, CA, October 8 & 12, 2010

Images and Voices of Hope, Haines Falls, NY, September 23, 2010

Grey's Reef National Marine Sanctuary Ocean Film Festival, Savannah GA, September 18, 2010

Hibakusha Stories Film Festival, New York, NY, May 9, 2010

Moving Images Film Festival as part of Bioneers Conference, San Rafael, CA, October 16, 2009

New Hampshire Film Festival, October 15, 2009, Portsmouth, NH, Two Screenings

Woods Hole Film Festival, July 29, 2009, Woods Hole, MA

Asian American International Film Festival, July 24 and 25, 2009, New York, Screenings and Q&A

California State University, East Bay, Diversity Center, February 25, 2009, Hayward CA, Screening and Q&A

California State University, East Bay, Diversity Center, February 25, 2009, Hayward CA, Screening and Q&A

Pacific Film Archives' Human Rights Watch Film Festival, February 27, 2009, Berkeley, CA, Screening and Q&A

University of Maryland International Film Series, War and Cinema, November 19, 2008, College Park, MD, Screening and Q&A

## **Film-Related Awards and Nominations:**

Award of Appreciation: Inspiring Media in an Open-Source World (as co-producer of *Witness to Hiroshima*), Images and Voices and Hope Summit, September 2010

Award of Excellence: Winner of the Short Film Category, Grey's Reef National Marine Sanctuary Ocean Film Festival, Savannah GA, September 2010

Nomination: "Excellence in Short Filmmaking," Asian American International Film Festival, NY, 2009

Nomination: "Best Documentary Short Jury Award," Woods Hole Film Festival, Woods Hole, MA, 2009

## **Websites:**

*Witness to Hiroshima* (FILM) [witnesshiroshima.com](http://witnesshiroshima.com), 2010

Nuclear Futures in the Post-Fukushima Age (multi-year, interdisciplinary, collaborative research and teaching project) [blog.umd.edu/nuclear-futures-post-fukushima](http://blog.umd.edu/nuclear-futures-post-fukushima), 2018

## **ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS AND SERVICE**

### **Administrative Appointments:**

Japanese Minor Advising, Fall 2009 – Fall 2010, Spring 2012 – Spring 2014, Spring 2015 - Fall 2018	
Coordinator of the Certificate in East Asian Studies	2012-2018
Director of the Center for Asian Studies (CEAS)	2015-2018
Head, Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures	2018-present

### **Service to the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures:**

Chair of Search Committee: Premodern Japanese Cultural Studies, Fall 2017-Spring 2018

Member, APT Subcommittee: Andrew Schonebaum, Fall 2015

Member, Ad hoc Kakehashi Project Committee, When the Japanese Government (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) suddenly informed the Japanese Program that we had been chosen to participate in the Kakehashi (Bridge for Tomorrow) Program, which provided 11 UM students an all-expense-paid study tour to Japan for nine days in January 2016, we quickly had to design the application process. Duties included designing multiple application documents, deciding eligibility criteria, promoting the program, advising students, reading the 24 applications, and choosing the 11 participants, Fall 2015

U.Achieve Reviewer, 2015 Mar, Reviewed U.Achieve success rate for 1) Japanese Minor and 2)

Chair, SLLC Post-Tenure Review Committee, Spring 2015

Organizer of Japan Speaker Series, Spring 2008 – Fall 2010, Spring 13 – Fall 13

Daniel Serrano, Undergraduate Research Assistant Program, Fall 2008-Spring 2009

Sasha Kotliarova, Translation Project (submitted two polished translations (a literary work and a piece of criticism) to Shizuoka International Translation Competition, Fall 2008

### **Service to the School of Languages Literatures and Cultures:**

Member of Search Committee: German Environmental Humanities, Fall 2018-Spring 2019

Member of Search Committee: Chinese Regional/Sinophone Studies, Fall 2013 – Spring 2014

SLLC Salary and Merit Committee, Chair of Service Subcommittee, Fall 2012 – Spring 2014

SLLC Initiatives Committee, Fall 2012 – Spring 2014  
SLLC Liaison to Center for Literary and Comparative Studies, Fall 2012 – Spring 2014  
SLLC APT Advisory Subcommittee, Mehl Penrose, Spring 2013  
SLLC Commencement Speaker Selection Committee, Fall 2012 – Fall 2013  
SLLC Academic Job Dossier Workshop, Spring 2014  
SSLC Self-Study Committee (Preparation for External Review), Spring 2012  
SLLC Travel and Events Committee, Fall 2008 – Fall 2010  
Library Liaison (East Asian Collection), Fall 2009 – Fall 2010  
Study Abroad Liaison, Fall 2009 – Fall 2010

**Service to the College:**

ARHU Collegiate Council, 2018-present  
ARHU First-Year Experience Committee, 2013-2014  
ARHU Search Committee: Honors Humanities Director, Spring 2013  
Panel Moderator for D.C. Queer Studies Symposium, April 17, 2009  
Panelist for Women’s Studies Department’s Graduate Colloquium, “Feminist Approaches to Research,” November 19, 2007  
Committee Member: Julia Topper, Passed Doctoral Defense (“The Rising Step: Japanese Transmission and Transformation of Irish Step Dance”) Fall 2017, Ethnomusicology, Committee Member.  
M.A. Committee Member: Nathaniel Gailey-Schiltz, 2014-2016, Ethnomusicology, Committee Member.  
M.A. Committee Member: Alexander Graves Fall 2015

**Service to the Campus:**

Member, Selection Committee for the Yearly 20th Century Japan Research Awards, Fall 2015-Present

Planning Committee Member: Gordon W. Prange Collection’s 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exhibit, *Crossing the Divide: An American Dream Made in Japan, 1945-1945* (designing exhibit, writing historical materials, giving lectures and tours of exhibit), Spring 2017 -Summer 2019

Search Committee: East Asian Library/Curator of Gordon G. Prange Collection, Fall 2013 – Spring 2014

**Service to the Field:**

Contributing Editor, *Asia Pacific: Japan Focus*, March 2020-present

PH.D. Committee Member, Joel Legassie, 2014-2018, Japanese History, Committee Member, University of Victoria, Canada.

Joanna Moody, 2012-2013, Honor’s Thesis (Passed), “The Ainu Speak of Famine: How Oral Traditions Reflect and Inform Historical Analysis of Changing Food Practice and Trade Relations in Early Modern Period Hokkaido,” Japanese Studies, Outside Examiner, Bates College, Maine.

*Reviewing Activities for Journals and Presses—Article Manuscripts*

*Journal of Japanese Language and Literature*, 2018  
*Japanese Studies*, 2015  
*Journal of Historical Geography*, 2015  
*U.S.-Japan Women's Journal*, 2015  
*Journal of World Literature*, 2015  
*Monumenta Nipponica*, 2014  
*Critical Asian Studies*, 2014  
*U.S.-Japan's Women's Journal*, 2013  
*Japan Forum*, 2012

*Reviewing Activities for Journals and Presses—Book Manuscripts*  
University of Minnesota Press, 2012

## **TEACHING**

### Thematic Courses:

JAPN 425	The Atomic Bomb in Literature and Memory
JAPN 424	"Japan" From the Margins
JAPN 335	Troubling Gender and Sexuality in Japan
JAPN 325	Japanese Literature and Film
JAPN 315	Reading Japanese Empire

### Language Courses:

JAPN 401	Readings in Modern Japanese
JAPN 402	Readings in Japanese Cultural Studies
JAPN 407	The Art of Translation

### Graduate Courses:

SLLC/CMLT	Nuclear Futures: Theorizing Environmental Humanities for the Post-Fukushima Age (co-taught with Hester Baer, Spring 2019)
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## **GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS**

Northeast Asia Council Japan Studies Grant (Small Scholarly Conferences on Japanese Studies),  
Title/Date of Conference: *Nuclear Futures in the Post Fukushima Age* (April 11-13, 2015),  
Association for Asian Studies, Awarded 2018, \$5,000.

Japan Society for the Promotion of Science Grant: Contents Tourism Project, Research Faculty of  
Media and Communication, Hokkaido University, PIs: Drs. Philip Seaton and Takayoshi Yamamura,  
August 2015, Summer Research on Contents Tourism in Tokachi-Obihiro, Hokkaido.

Northeast Asia Council Japan Studies Grant (Small Scholarly Conferences on Japanese Studies),  
Title/Date of Conference: *Resituating Nagasaki in Time and Place* (April 13, 2015), Association for  
Asian Studies, 2014.

Summer Research and Scholarship Award, Project Title: *The Legacy of Neglected Nagasaki*,  
University of Maryland, 2013.

Postdoctoral Fellowship for Foreign Researchers, Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, Japan, 2010-2011.

Film/Video Grant, Title of Project: *Witness to Hiroshima*, Lucius and Eva Eastman Fund (San Francisco), 2009.

Northeast Asia Council Japan Studies Grant (Short-term Research Travel to Japan), Title of Project: *Fantasies of Freedom: Arishima Takeo and Hokkaido*, Association for Asian Studies, December 18, 2008 – January 19, 2009.

Small Grants in the Arts, Title of the Project: *Witness to Hiroshima*, Fleishhaker Foundation (San Francisco), 2007.

Fulbright Research Fellowship, Fulbright Program, \$29,000/year, 2000-2002.

## **OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

Nihon Hidankyo: Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations, translator/interpreter and logistics assistant for U.S. visits to Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conferences. Nihon Hidankyo is the only national organization of A-bomb survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan. 2006-present.

Film Festival Organizer, Brentwood Arts Exchange, Connections: Real and Imagined, May 16, 2020 (postponed)

Euro-Asian Short Film Festival, Guest Panelist, Japan Information and Culture Center (Japanese Embassy), June 3, 2019.

“Tracing Paper-Theater Through Japan’s History,” Gordon W. Prange Collection Exhibit Symposium, Crossing the Divide: An American Dream Made in Japan, 1945-1952, Japan Information and Culture Center (Japanese Embassy), May 10, 2019

Panel Expert (Film), AFI Screening of *Rashomon* (dir. Kurosawa Akira), April 29, 2019

Discussant, SLLC Graduate Colloquium 'Forbidden, Forgotten Erased,' April 5, 2019

DC-Area Japanese and Korean Humanities Group, steering committee. Semesterly meetings for scholars in D.C., MD, and VA to workshop papers-in-progress. Hosted meeting in Spring 2017 and co-hosted meeting with Jyana Browne in Spring 2019.

Euro-Asian Short Film Festival, Guest Panelist, Japan Information and Culture Center (Japanese Embassy), June 8, 2017.

Western States Legal Foundation, board member and translator. A non-profit, public interest organization founded in 1982, which monitors and analyzes U.S. nuclear weapons programs and

policies and related high technology energy and weapons programs, with a focus on the national nuclear weapons laboratories. 2006-2012