

Isami Sawai

Address: W9-11, 2-12-1, Ookayama, Meguro-ku, Tokyo, Japan, 152-8550

Tel: +81(0)70-8446-4380 Email: i.sawai@ila.titech.ac.jp

Areas of Specialization

Political and Diplomatic History of Modern Japan
International History of East Asia

Professional Experiences

Associate Professor

April 2024-Present

Institute for Liberal Arts
/ Department of Social and Human Sciences, School of Environment and Society
Tokyo Institute of Technology
Course Taught:
Modern Japanese History, 1853-1917
Modern Japanese History, 1918-194
Politics and Foreign Relations in the 19th-century Japan and East Asia
Tokyo Tech Visionary Project

Assistant Professor

April 2023-March 2024

Department of Contemporary Societies,
Faculty of Humanities, Seikei University
Course Taught:
Modern Japanese History, 1853-1917
Modern Japanese History, 1918-1945
Japan and the World in the Post-war Period
Politics and Foreign Relations in the 19th-century Japan and East Asia
Fundamental Academic Skills

Visiting Scholar

April 2023-July 2023

Weatherhead Scholars Program
Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University

Postdoctoral Fellow

April 2022-March 2023

Weatherhead Scholars Program
Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University

Cross-border Postdoctoral Research Fellow

October 2021-March 2023

Japan Society for the Promotion of Science
(Affiliated to Faculty of Law, Hosei University)

Project Lecturer

April 2021-September 2021

Institute of Business Law and Comparative Law & Politics
Graduate Schools for Law and Politics, The University of Tokyo
Course Taught: Japanese Studies in English-speaking Academia

Research Associate

July 2019-March 2021

Graduate Schools for Law and Politics, The University of Tokyo

Graduate Teaching Assistant

September 2018-June 2019

Department of International History, London School of Economics
Course Taught:
Modernity and the State in East Asia: China, Japan and Korea since 1840 (GTA)

Visiting Research Fellow

July 2016-March 2017

Research Center for Advanced Science and Technology, The University of Tokyo

Research Associate

April 2015-June 2016

Graduate Schools for Law and Politics, The University of Tokyo

Teaching Assistant

April 2013-March 2014

Faculty of Law, The University of Tokyo
Course Taught: Political and Diplomatic History of Modern Japan (TA)

Education

MPhil/ PhD Program

Department of International History, London School of Economics and Political Science

September 2016-May 2021

Degree: Doctor of Philosophy in International History (awarded in February 2022)

Concentration: International History of East Asia (China and Japan)

Dissertation Title: ‘East Asia before “Diplomacy”’: The Transformation of China and Japan’s Foreign Policy-making, 1858-1881’

Supervisor: Antony Best

Examiner: Hans Van de Ven (Cambridge), Andrew Cobbing (Nottingham)

—**LSE Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education**

(Associate Fellow of the Higher Education Academy)

September 2018-July 2019

—**Affiliated PhD Student**

The Suntory and Toyota International Centres for Economics and Related Disciplines, London School of Economics and Political Science

January 2018-May 2021

—**Visiting Scholar, Institute of Modern History, Academia Sinica (Taiwan)**

January 2018-June 2018

—**Visiting Research Student, Department of History, Peking University**

September 2017-December 2017

—**Summer School in Global and Transnational History**

Department of History and Civilisation, European University Institute

September 2017

Master Program

Graduate Schools for Law and Politics, The University of Tokyo

April 2013-March 2015

Degree: Master of Philosophy in Political Science (awarded in March 2015)

Concentration: Political and Diplomatic History of Modern Japan

Dissertation Title: ‘From “Relation” to “Diplomacy”’: Gaikoku-kōsai in the Early Meiji Period, 1868-1869’ (Japanese)

Supervisor: Kaoru Iokibe

Examiner: Kaoru Iokibe, Tadashi Karube (The University of Tokyo)

Undergraduate Program

Faculty of Law, The University of Tokyo

April 2011-March 2013

Degree: Bachelor of Laws (awarded in March 2013)

Concentration: Political Science

College of Arts and Science (Junior Division), The University of Tokyo

April 2009-March 2011

Concentration: Humanities and Social Science I

Publications

‘Japan’s Entry Restrictions during the Coronavirus Pandemic: The Case of Non-Japanese Spouses/Partners of Japanese Nationals (2)’, *Hōgaku Shrin* [Review of Law and Political Sciences], Vol. 121, No. 3-4 (Japanese)

‘Japan’s Entry Restrictions during the Coronavirus Pandemic: The Case of Non-Japanese Spouses/Partners of Japanese Nationals (1)’, *Hōgaku Shrin* [Review of Law and Political Sciences], Vol. 120, No. 3 (Japanese)

‘Oka Yoshisato and Political Science in Postwar Japan: From Behaviourism, Symbolism to Performance’, in Ryosuke Maeda ed, *Academics and Imaginations in Postwar Japan*, Tokyo: Yoshida Shoten, 2022 [invited] (Japanese)

‘Japan's strict border measures against foreigners may go beyond scope of law: scholar’, *The Mainichi Shimbun* (Online, English), December 18, 2021

‘The Meiji Restoration Sesquicentennial from the Viewpoint of a Young Japanese Historian’, *Ming Pao Monthly*, Vol. 53, No. 8, 2018 [invited] (Traditional Chinese, Hong Kong)

‘Nobuyoshi Sawa and Politics and Foreign Relations in Nagasaki 1868-1869 (2)’, *Ronsyū Kinsei* [Journal of Early Modern Japanese History], No. 39, 2017 [peer-reviewed] (Japanese)

‘From “Relation” to “Diplomacy”’: Gaikoku-kōsai in the Early Meiji Era 1868-1869’, *Kokka Gakkai Zasshi* [Journal of the Association of Political and Social Sciences], Vol. 129, No. 9-10, 2016 [peer-reviewed] (Japanese)

‘[Book Review] Shogo Suzuki, *Civilisation and Empire: China and Japan’s Encounter with European International Society*’, *Kokka Gakkai Zasshi* [Journal of the Association of Political and Social Sciences], Vol. 129, No. 9-10, 2016 [invited] (Japanese)

‘Nobuyoshi Sawa and Politics and Foreign Relations in Nagasaki 1868-1869 (1)’, *Ronsyū Kinsei* [Journal of Early Modern Japanese History], No. 38, 2016 [peer-reviewed] (Japanese)

Presentations

“International Politics for International Judges—Postwar Japan, ROC, and Elections of the International Court of Justice, 1954-1960”, The Japan Association of International Relations 2023 Annual Convention, 11 November 2023 [peer-reviewed] (Japanese)

“Becoming an International Legal Adviser in Gaimushō—The Life of Eli T. Sheppard in China and Japan”, Japanese Association of Modern East Asian History Monthly Research Seminar, 9 September, 2023 (Japanese)

“Reading Shinzō Abe's Memoir —Regarding Coronavirus Pandemic and International Responses”, Seiji Lose (Komaba Research Campus Open House 2023), 10 June, 2023 [invited] (Japanese)

“‘Jiaoshe交渉’, ‘Kōsai交際’, and ‘Gyorin交隣’: The Transitional Styles of East Asian Foreign Policy-making, the 1860s-70s’, New diplomatic History Network 5th Conference, 27 May, 2023 [invited]

“‘Diversity and Inclusion’ in International Legal Order?: East Asia, Cold War, and the Elections of the International Court of Justice, 1954-1966”, Weathered Scholars Program Research Seminar, Harvard University Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, 11 May, 2023

‘Japan’s Entry Restrictions in the Coronavirus Pandemic: The Case of Non-Japanese Spouses/Partners of Japanese Nationals’, Japan Association for Migration Policy Studies 2021 Winter Conference, 12 December, 2021 [peer-reviewed] (Japanese)

‘Oka Yoshisato and Political Science in Postwar Japan’, UTokyo Center for Contemporary Japanese Studies Early-Career Scholar Forum, 5 November, 2021 [invited]

‘Reconsidering the Foreign Relations in East Asia before ‘Diplomacy’: China’s “Jiaoshe交渉” and Japan’s “Kōsai交際”, 1858-1873’, Hokkaido University Political Studies Workshop, Sapporo, Japan, scheduled on 21 October, 2021 [invited] (Japanese)

‘The “Establishment” of the “Standard of Civilisation”: Japan, China, and Western International Lawyers 1873-1881’, Japanese Political Science Association, Tokyo, Japan, 25

September, 2021 [peer-reviewed] (Japanese)

‘Between “Jiaoshe交渉” (Negotiation) and “Kōsai交際” (Intercourse) :Rethinking China and Japan's Foreign Relations from their own Frameworks’, Cluster of Excellence 'Asia and Europe in a Global Context', Heidelberg University Research Seminar, Heidelberg, Germany, 19 June, 2019 [Invited]

“Jiaoshe交渉”, “Kōsai交際”, and Diplomacy: Revisiting the Transformations of China and Japan’s Foreign Relations 1868-1873”, The 4th Congress of the Asian Association of World Historians, Osaka, Japan, 5 January, 2019 [peer-reviewed]

‘What is “Diplomacy”? : The Struggle for Modern Foreign Relations in the Early Meiji Era’, British Association for Japanese Studies Conference 2018, Sheffield, UK, 7 September, 2018 [peer-reviewed]

‘Nobuyoshi Sawa and Foreign Relations in Nagasaki 1868-1869: With a Focus on His Diaries’, Research seminar of the Society of the History of the Meiji Restoration, Tokyo, Japan, 14 July, 2018 [invited] (Japanese)

“Jiaoshe交渉” and “Kōsai交際”: Reconsidering China and Japan’s Transformation of Foreign Relations, 1868-1873”, AAS-in-Asia 2018, Delhi, India, 7 July, 2018 [peer-reviewed]

‘From Kōsai交際 to Gaikō外交: Revisiting Japan's foreign relations in the Meiji Restoration’, 24th Annual Japan Studies Association Conference, Honolulu, US, 4 January, 2018 [peer-reviewed]

‘Reconsidering the “Standard of Civilisation”: The Communications and Negotiations between Western International Lawyers and East Asian Practitioners’, European University Institute Summer School: Comparative and Transnational History, Florence, Italy, 20 September, 2017

‘Western International Lawyers and China and Japan’s Informal Diplomacy: the Mutual Formulation of the “Standard of Civilisation”’, Asian Society of International Law 6th Biennial Conference Junior Scholars’ Workshop, Seoul, South Korea, 24 August, 2017

‘The “Establishment” of the “Standard of Civilisation”: Japan, China, and Western International Lawyers 1873-1881’, King’s College London World History Student Conference, London, UK, 6 May, 2017

Scholarships and Grants

Suenobu Foundation Overseas Research Grant, April 2022-March 2023

JSPS Cross-border Research Fellowship, October 2021-March 2026 [scheduled]

Matsushita Konosuke Foundation Research Grants, October 2019-September 2021

LSE PhD Partnership Mobility Bursaries, London School of Economics, September 2017-December 2017

LSE PhD Studentship, London School of Economics, September 2016-May 2021

Yoshida Scholarship Foundation Studying Abroad Program, July 2016-June 2019

Nomura Foundation Social Science Research Grant, April 2015-March 2017

Scholarship for Graduate Student with Extremely Excellent Record: Japan Student Services Organisation, April 2013-March 2015

*Japan Society for the Promotion of Science DC1, April 2015-March 2018 [Declined an offer due to my appointment as a research associate at UTokyo]

Awards and Honors

Yoshino Sakuzō Research Award, Yoshino Sakuzō Memorial Museum, February 2023

Valedictorian, Master Program, Graduate Schools for Law and Politics, The University of Tokyo, March 2015

Scholarship for Graduate Student with Extremely Excellent Record: Japan Student Services Organisation, March 2015

Valedictorian, Undergraduate Program, Faculty of Law (Political Science Course), The University of Tokyo, March 2013

Summa Cum Laude, Faculty of Law, The University of Tokyo, March 2013

Professional Memberships

Japanese Political Science Association, October 2015-present

Association for Asian Studies, March 2017-present

European Association for Japanese Studies, May 2017-present

Association for the History of the Meiji Restoration, July 2018-present

The Japan Association of International Relations, April 2022 [scheduled]-

Languages

Japanese (Native)

English (CEFR C2 level)

Mandarin Chinese (CEFR C1 level): HSK Test Level 6 (August 2018)
TOCFL Test Level 5 (August 2019)

Korean (CEFR B1 level)

Community Involvements/ Outreach

Assistant Special Adviser, International Law Student Exchange Council, April 2013-
March 2014

Observer, Political and Diplomatic History Research Division, The Tokyo
Foundation for Policy Research, September 2015-present