

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR JAPANESE STUDIES**

Held at the University of Edinburgh

6 September 2019, 11-1

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Chair: Dr Christopher Hood

Council Members

Dr Erica Baffelli (Honorary Secretary)

Dr Ian Rapley (Honorary Treasurer)

Dr Bill Mihaloupulos (Editor of *Japan Forum*)

Dr Helen Macnaughtan (Chair of the JRC at SOAS)

Dr Mara Patessio (Secretariat)

Dr Peter Matanle

24 BAJS members in attendance (including Council Members)

1. MINUTES OF THE 2018 AGM:

Minutes from the previous AGM held at the University of Sheffield in September 2018 were accepted as a true record.

2. MATTERS ARISING:

There were no matters arising that were not already covered in the agenda.

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

3.1 It has been another busy year for BAJS. We would like to thank the membership, the sponsors, and our partners for their collaborative efforts.

3.2 The new Constitution was adopted on May, 1st, 2019, and BAJS would like to thank everyone for their comments and contributions.

3.3 As per the Constitution, I offered to step down at the end of my first term, but given that no one has come forward to take over my role as President I have agreed to stay for a second term.

3.4 Yesterday was the last Council Meeting for Dr. Peter Matanle, who for the past year has been a Co-opted Member. BAJJS would like to thank him for his hard work. Since early 2019 Dr. Victoria Young, from Cambridge University, has been a Co-opted Member, and we would like to have her become a full Council Member. This was agreed by the BAJJS AGM.

3.5 Dr. Robert Aspinall has been chosen as the new Director of the Japan Chapter, and the BAJJS Council Members look forward to working with him and decide what the Japan Chapter can and should be doing. An email will be sent out soon regarding this last point.

3.6 The Postgraduate Network has also been revived. Warren Stanislaus (University of Oxford) is the new coordinator and a questionnaire on what the network should do for its members has already been sent out.

3.7 Surprisingly, we have seen a drop in John Crump Studentship applications. We were in fact expecting higher numbers of applications due to the lack of funding for Ph.D. students during their writing-up year. If you are a student, please apply (up to two successful applications per student will be allowed), and if you are an academic please ask your students to do so.

4. HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT:

4.1 The problem caused by how our system counted BAJJS members has been resolved, here are the current figures:

Total of 280 members, of which:

50 tier 1

31 tier 2

42 tier 3

18 honorary

131 student/unwaged

8 no information available

4.2 We have received no news on the REF readers for the REF Panel. We will let you know if there is any development on this item.

5. HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT

5.1 As a former accountant, in my first year as Treasurer of BAJJS I have tried to understand what an annual BAJJS account outlook looks like. Because of the way our Charity is organised, the Charity Commission wanted us to keep below £100.000 of

capital. That was achieved at the end of 2017, so we are currently in a good and steady financial position.

5.2 Because of the above, the good news is that BAJJS is, for the moment, in a position to use its resources to fund all the students' applications that merit to be funded.

5.3 BAJJS has also made savings by closing the historical HSBC account that was charging fees, by getting Paypal to recognise us as a Charity and therefore charge us lower fees, and by not shipping any more copies of *Japan Forum* to all our members, but only to those who prefer to receive them.

5.4 It is important to remind everybody that supporting *Japan Forum* means supporting BAJJS.

5.5 The AGM renewed the decision to award BAJJS Council Members a £1000 research allowance. This was originally intended to be used by Council Members to represent the organisation at conferences, but has also been understood as recognition of their contributions and work for BAJJS. Furthermore, given that it has been hard to find colleagues willing to become Council Members, the research allowance could be a further incentive.

6. JAPAN FORUM

6.1 Laurence Goodchild (Routledge) gave a presentation on *Japan Forum*. He stated that:

- Previously libraries would buy individual journals but at present they buy packages that include a number of journals. There are also other ways of accessing journals, like EBSCO, Research4life, Star. Because of the above, over 6000 institutions can access *Japan Forum*.

- Our revenues come from subscriptions - institutional, corporate, personal; and non-subscription - sales packages, single issues, licence fees, advertising.

- In 2018 the journal did very well with 70,001 downloaded articles by scholars in (in order of number of downloads) Europe and North America, East Asia, Australasia and South East Asia. There is still not enough information about access in Middle East, Africa and Latin America.

- The number of citations has not increased compared to 2018.

- The number of submissions fluctuate year to year. They were 80 in 2017, 62 in 2018, and 50 in 2019 (but it is only September). This year most submissions came from USA/UK/Japan, but also Australia, Germany, Canada, Korea, Armenia, Hong Kong, and Italy. *Japan Forum* is truly an international journal.

- About $\frac{3}{4}$ of submissions are accepted with or without rejections.

- To conclude, the outlook is good. *Japan Forum* has grown more where it was already established and expanded opportunities in developing countries. A potential disruptor is Open Access and what research funders will do in terms of their mandate, yet at present we cannot decide on these future factors.

6.2 Bill Mihaloupulos, Editor of *Japan Forum*:

- Congratulated the editing team for all their work and for having made it a successful journal.
- Informed the audience that Emily Chapman is now Senior Editor and that her previous position as Managing Editor has been taken up by Laurence Green.
- Commented on the fact that the journal wants to promote Japanese Studies especially in the UK and to give younger scholars the opportunity to publish. However, it is not getting enough articles in the Social Sciences and therefore asked for submissions from its readers and the audience, given that the members of BAJS are a pivotal force.
- Explained that the current editing team's contract of five year will end in August 2021. However, he would like to have the new team selected by September 2020, so as to overlap for some months. An email will be sent out before Christmas publicising this opportunity.

7. HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT:

7.1 We have been working closely with our partners the Japan Foundation and Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation to organise postgraduate conferences, and we will continue to do so in the coming year.

8. IVAN MORRIS PRIZE

The 2018 winners are:

Antonia Ellis-Rees (Cambridge - First Prize), 'Girls on Film: Fear and Female Revenge in Contemporary Japanese Horror'.

Sarah Tan Jia Min (National University of Singapore - Second Prize), 'Old Age in the Past, the Past in Old Age: Examining How the Media, State and Individual Coped with the Elderly and Aging in Early Meiji Japan (1872 -1878)'.

The 2019 winners are:

Sophie Grant (Cambridge – First Prize), 'Politicised Women's Bodies: Eugenics, Reproduction and the Politics of Blood, 1940-1955.'

Thomas Reynolds (Oxford – Second Prize), 'Catastrophe and Commercialism in the Saiyūsō.'

9. CONFERENCES:

9.1 The next BAJS AGM will be held in September 2020 at the University of East Anglia, where a one-day workshop on East Asian Studies will be held.

9.2 The University of Manchester has sent a bid to organise the 2021 BAJS Conference.