

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

Held via Zoom

9 September 2021, 2pm

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Chair: Dr Christopher Hood

Dr Jennifer Coates (Honorary Secretary)

Dr Ian Rapley (Honorary Treasurer)

Dr Hannah Osborne (Chief Editor of *Japan Forum*)

Dr Fabio Gygi (Chair of the JRC at SOAS)

Dr Mara Patessio (Executive Secretary)

Dr Victoria Young

Dr Robert Aspinall (Chair of The Japan Chapter)

20 BAJS members in attendance including Council Members.

1. MINUTES OF THE 2020 AGM:

Minutes from the previous AGM held via Zoom were accepted as a true record.

2. MATTERS ARISING:

2.1 Japan Foundation Survey and Report. On behalf of BAJS and The Japan Foundation, thank you to all those who took part in the Survey. The report will be published today and will be available to all those who want to see it.

2.2 The Survey has shown that there are many lone scholars based at universities around the UK who have some interest in Japan, and BAJS needs to reach out to them and make them part of what BAJS does.

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

3.1 Thank you to Helen Macnaughtan, who has now stepped down, for her work on the BAJS Council as SOAS JRC Chair, and welcome to Fabio Gygi instead.

3.2 Also thank you to Michael Salter at The Japan Foundation for all his help during the past years. Michael is moving on to a different career and we wish him all the best.

3.3 All BAJS activities have been impacted by the continuing pandemic, but we are planning more in-person events again, for example the JF/BAJS Postgraduate Workshop in February 2022, that will most likely be hosted by UEA.

3.4 I have been speaking to UCML and AHRC regarding JS recent problems and challenges. A letter was sent to Gavin Williamson discussing the replacement to Erasmus. In reality the Erasmus Plus never supported JS whereas the new format at least provides for students wanting to go to Japan, with the Welsh version also allowing for exchange.

3.5 The contract with Taylor and Francis, to have Japan Forum continuing to be published by them, has been signed. On top of this Hannah Osborne, as noted in an email earlier this year, is the new Chief Editor of *Japan Forum*. We would like to thank all those involved in the bidding process once again and wish well to all those part of the new team.

3.6 We are discussing with BATJ ways to strengthen our associations' ties. One way is to allow our Executive Secretary and their Chair to attend each other's meetings. MP is working on this connection.

3.7 This is my final year as President of BAJS. Please email me if you intend to apply for the post. The Council will start looking for a new President in January and ideally that person will come on Council from the spring.

4. HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT:

We have a total of 231 members divided as follows:

102 students
33 honorary
39 tier 3
19 tier 2
31 tier 1

5. HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT

5.1 In 2020 we paid out 3 sets of John Crump Studentships so the accounts reflect this additional spending. Everything will be rebalanced from this year, with only 1 set of JCS will be accounted for in the budget in 2021.

5.2 On the other hand, due to the pandemic we funded no conference attendance trips for students or conference organisation support for colleagues.

5.3 The guidance from the Charity Commission is still to have less than £100,000 in our accounts. We are well within that figure for most of the financial year, with £70,000 at the beginning of 2021, though that number moves to above £100,000 for a few months when we get a lump sum from Taylor & Francis for the royalties of *Japan Forum*.

6. JAPAN FORUM

6.1 We have negotiated with T&F to publish an extra-large issue to help with the substantial backlog of articles ready for publication that we inherited from the previous editorial team. Publication is proceeding well and all issues until the end of 2022 have been planned. We have some great articles and special issues coming up, but please keep sending your submissions.

6.2 The 2021 Ian Nish Prize winner is Dr. Mark Player from the University of Reading for the article “*UtoPia: An early history of Pia and its role in Japan's 'self-made' film culture*”. Dr. Player will be the speaker of the next BAJS Podcast.

7. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY’S REPORT:

7.1 We have started organising the 2022 JF/BAJS Postgraduate Workshop that will hopefully be held in person. Working with Michael Salter has been a pleasure and I am sure that his successor will be as good, but we will miss Michael!

7.2 We have received a high number of John Crump studentships during the past year and almost all of them were accepted.

7.3 We have also received a very large number of applications for the Ivan Morris Prize which is a great news and we hope that this trend will continue in the coming years, so please keep publicising it with your students.

7.4 Three new *Japan Forum* podcasts have been created by Oliver Moxham. The listeners are split almost down the middle between male and female, most are from the UK (36%) but many also from Japan (29%), the US (10%), and Germany (6%). If any member would be willing to be interviewed please get in touch.

8. BAJS JAPAN CHAPTER

8.1 Unfortunately there have been no in-person events last year but hopefully the situation will improve next year, when we are hoping to organise a conference in Nagoya. We can sponsor PhD students’ travel to attend conferences and PhD workshops but if you have any further suggestions of what we could do please get in touch.

8.2 If you want more information about the Japan Chapter please listen to the Podcast number 2.

9. CONFERENCES:

Sep 2022 - the University of Manchester will host the BAJS Conference with a hybrid format but with the majority of attendees in Manchester.

August 2023 - EAJS at Ghent

Sept 2023 – JEASC?

The latter two conferences should not be organised that close to each other, so CPH will talk to the Presidents of BACS and BAKS to discuss further options and will update members on any decision made.

10. COUNCIL ELECTIONS:

10.1 - Dr Ian Reader has accepted to continue as Treasurer of BAJIS for the next two years.

10.2 - Fabio Gygi has taken over from Helen Macnaughtan as Chair of the JRC at SOAS and is therefore a new BAJIS Council Member.