

Curriculum Vitae

Kerry Smith, Professor, Department of History, Department of East Asian Studies
Brown University, Providence, RI 02912 USA

Education

Ph.D. June 1994, Harvard University, History and East Asian Languages.
B.A. 1985, Harvard University, East Asian Studies.

Positions

2024-present Professor of History and East Asian Studies, Brown University
2002-2024 Associate Professor of History and East Asian Studies, Brown University.
Jan.-April 1999 Visiting Associate Professor, Institute of Social Science, University of
Tokyo.
1997-2002 Assistant Professor of History, Brown University.
1994-1997 Sue and Eugene Mercy Assistant Professor of History, Connecticut
College.

Books

Predicting Disasters: Earthquakes, Scientists, and Uncertainty in Modern Japan, University of
Pennsylvania Press, Critical Studies in Risk and Disaster series, 2024.

A Time of Crisis: Japan, the Great Depression, and Rural Revitalization. Harvard East Asian monographs;
191. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Asia Center: Distributed by Harvard University Press,
2001. Released in paperback edition, 2003.

Chapters in Books

“Lives Without Mosquitoes and Flies,” in David A. Bello and Daniel Burton-Rose, eds. *Insect
Histories in East Asia*, University of Washington Press, 2023, pp. 117-156.

“The Tōkai Earthquake and Changing Lexicons of Risk,” in Jacob A. C. Remes and Andy
Horowitz, eds. *Critical Disaster Studies: New Perspectives on Vulnerability, Resilience, and Risk*,
University of Pennsylvania Press, 2021, pp. 149-164.

“Land Reform in East Asia,” and “Landlords and Tenancy in East Asia,” both entries in the
“Land” section of the *Encyclopedia of the Modern World*, Oxford University Press, 2008.

“A Land of Milk and Honey: Rural Revitalization in the 1930s,” in Gail Lee Bernstein,
Andrew Gordon, and Kate Nakai, eds. *Public Spheres, Private Lives*. Harvard East Asia
Monographs, Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Asia Center: Distributed by Harvard
University Press, 2005, pp. 171-52.

“Building the Model Village: Rural Revitalization and the Great Depression,” in Ann Waswo
and Nishida Yoshiaki, eds. *Farmers and Village Life in 20th Century Japan*. RoutledgeCurzon Press,
2003, pp. 126-155.

Refereed Journal Articles

“Introduction,” Special Issue on the 100th Anniversary of the 1923 Great Kantō Earthquake, *Asia-Pacific Journal: Japan Focus*, 21:8 (September 1, 2023).

“Lessons from the Great Kantō Earthquake,” Special Issue on the 100th Anniversary of the 1923 Great Kantō Earthquake,” *Asia-Pacific Journal: Japan Focus*, 21:8 (September 1, 2023).

“Earthquake Prediction in Occupied Japan,” *Historical Social Research* 40 no. 2 (2015): 105-33.

“The Shōwa Hall: Memorializing Japan’s War at Home.” *The Public Historian*, 24:4 (Fall 2002):35-64.

Non-refereed Journal Articles

“Commentary on ‘Sources of Disaster: A Roundtable Discussion on New Epistemic Perspectives in Post-3.11 Japan’.” *East Asian Science, Technology and Society: An International Journal* 15, no. 4 (2021): 501–5.

“Terminology of Uncertainties: Earthquake Prediction in (Modern) Japan,” in *Accounting for Uncertainty: Prediction and Planning in Asian History, Preprint 496*, edited by Zhao Lu and Michael Lackner Dagmar Schäfer, 80–89. Berlin: Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, 2019.

“History is Harsh’: Prime Minister Abe, the Joint Session of Congress, and World War II,” *Japan Focus: The Asia-Pacific Journal*, May 20, 2015, <https://apjff.org/-Kerry-Smith/4830/article.html>.

“Ryōtaisen kanki no shakaishi no shutsugen,” (The Emergence of a Social History of Interwar Japan), Miyazaki Akira, trans., *Gendai Nihon shi*, no. 6 (2000), pp. 348-367.

Book Reviews

Review of *Middlemen of Modernity: Local Elites and Agricultural Development in Modern Japan* by Christopher Craig. *Pacific Affairs* 95, no. 4 (2022): 850–52.

Review of *Japan’s Imperial Underworlds: Intimate Encounters at the Borders of Empire* by David R. Ambaras.” *The Journal of Japanese Studies* 46, no. 2 (2020): 487 – 491.

Review of David G. Wittner; Philip C. Brown, eds. *Science, Technology, and Medicine in the Modern Japanese Empire*. *Isis* 109, no. 4 (2018): 862–63.

Review of Yasuhiro Makimura. *Yokohama and the Silk Trade: How Eastern Japan Became the Primary Economic Region of Japan, 1843–1893.*” *The American Historical Review* 123, no. 4 (2018): 1302–3.

Review of Bruce Batten and Philip C. Brown, eds., *Environment and Society in the Japanese Islands: From Prehistory to the Present* (Oregon State University Press, 2015), *Journal of Japanese Studies*, 43:1 (Winter 2017): 244-248.

Review of Kevin Ruoff, *Imperial Japan At Its Zenith: The Wartime Celebration of the Empire’s 2,600th Anniversary* (Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press, 2010), *Japan Forum*, 24:2 (June 2012):241-243.

Review of Scott O'Bryan, *The Growth Idea: Purpose and Prosperity in Postwar Japan* (Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press), 2009, *American Historical Review*, 116:2 (April 2011):434-435.

Mariko Asano Tamanoi, *Memory Maps: The State and Manchuria in Postwar Japan* (Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2009), *Monumenta Nipponica*, 65:1 (Spring 2010):241-244.

Review of Mariko Asano Tamanoi, *Memory Maps: The State and Manchuria in Postwar Japan* (Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2009), *Monumenta Nipponica*, 65:1 (Spring 2010):241-244.

Review of Edward S. Miller, *Bankrupting the Enemy: The U.S. Financial Siege of Japan before Pearl Harbor*. (Annapolis: Md., 2007), *Journal of Japanese Studies* 35:2 (Summer 2009), pp. 443-447.

Review of Sheila Miyoshi Jager and Rana Mitter, eds., *Ruptured Histories: War, Memory, and the Post-Cold War in Asia*. (Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press, 2007), *Pacific Affairs* 81:4 (Winter 2008-2009): 604-605.

Review of Penelope Franks, *Rural Economic Development in Japan: From the nineteenth century to the Pacific War* (Routledge, Routledge Studies in the Modern History of Asia, 2006), *Monumenta Nipponica*, 61:2 (Summer 2006), pp. 257-260.

Review of Dimitri Vanoverbeke, *Community and State in the Japanese Farm Village: Farm Tenancy Conciliation, 1924-1938* (Leuven: Leuven University Press, 2004), *Journal of Japanese Studies*, 30:1 (Winter 2006).

Review of Sandra Wilson, ed. *Nation and Nationalism in Japan* (London: RoutledgeCurzon, 2002), *Asian Studies Review*, 29:3 (November 2005). 316-318.

Review of Simon Partner, *Toshié, A Story of Village Life in Twentieth-Century Japan* (University of California Press, 2004), *Social History*, 30:4 (November 2005), pp. 532-533.

Review of William Steele, *Alternative Narratives in Modern Japanese History* (London: RoutledgeCurzon, 2003), *Monumenta Nipponica* 59:3 (Autumn 2004).

Review of Jeffrey Hanes, *The City as Subject: Seki Hajime and the reinvention of Modern Osaka* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2002), *Journal of Japanese Studies* 29:2 (Summer 2003), pp. 424-429.

Review of John W. Dower, *Embracing Defeat: Japan in the Wake of World War II* (New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 1999), *Bulletin of Concerned Asian Scholars* 32:1 (July-September 2000), pp. 58-60.

Review of Sharon A. Minichiello, ed., *Japan's Competing Modernities: Issues in Culture and Democracy 1900-1930* (Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1998), *Journal of Asian Studies*, 58:3 (August 1999), pp. 849-852.

Review of Stephen Vlastos, ed. *Mirror of Modernity: Invented Traditions of Modern Japan* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1998), *Social History*, 25:1 (January 2000), pp. 119-121.

Review of Mariko Asano Tamanoi, *Under the Shadow of Nationalism: Politics and Poetics of Rural Japanese Women* (University of Hawaii Press, 1998), *Monumenta Nipponica*, 54:1 (Spring 1999), pp. 154-157.

Review of Mori Takemaro and Ōkado Masakatsu, eds eds., *Chiiki ni okeru senji to sengo* (Tokyo: Nihon Keizai Hyōronsha, 1996) (Wartime and the Postwar in the Periphery), *Social Science Japan Review* 1:2 (October 1998), pp. 304-308.

Awards and Academic Honors

2021	Karen T. Romer Award for Excellence in Advising.
2016-17	Residential Fellowship, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin (MPIWG, Department III, Artefacts, Action, and Knowledge) and The International Consortium for Research in the Humanities at the Friedrich- Alexander University Erlangen-Nuremberg (IKGF), for work in a joint project on Accounting for Uncertainty: Prediction and Planning in Asia's History.
2015-2017	Stanton Foundation Course Development Grant, with Ethan Pollock, for "Global History of the Atomic Age," (\$50,000).
2015-16	Northeast Asia Council Association for Asian Studies Travel Grant
2003	G. Wesley Johnson Prize, National Council on Public History (given for the best article in <i>The Public Historian</i> that volume year)
2000	Presidential Fellow, Salzburg Seminar Session 384
1999	Northeast Asia Council Association for Asian Studies Travel Grant
1998 - 1999	NEH Fellowship for College Teachers and Independent Scholars
1990 - 1993	Foreign Research Scholar, Institute of Social Science, University of Tokyo.
1992 - 1993	Harvard University Reischauer Institute for Japanese Studies, Supplemental Dissertation Grant.
1991 - 1992	Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship.
1990 - 1991	IIE Fulbright Graduate Research Fellowship.
1988 - 1990	Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship.
1985 - 1986	Japan Foundation Fellowship (Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Studies, Tokyo).

Invited Lectures

Invited discussant for a panel on "*In the Wake of Post-Ecological Disasters, Part II: Recovering the Processes of Community-Building*," at the annual meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Columbus Ohio, March 2024.

Book-launch panel on Gennifer Weisenfeld's *Gas Mask Nation: Visualizing Civil Air Defense in Wartime Japan*, Brown University, April 2023.

Guest speaker, book launch event for Jessamyn Abel's *Dream Super-Express: A Cultural History of the World's First Bullet Train*, Pennsylvania State University, April 2023.

Discussant for a book-launch panel on Gennifer Weisenfeld's *Gas Mask Nation: Visualizing Civil Air Defense in Wartime Japan*, Brown University, April 2023.

"Japan in 1968," in Francoise Hamlin's AFRI 1968, "1968: A Year in Review," October 25, 2018.

"Japan, Disasters and History," in Brian Lander's HIST 1820B, Environmental History of East Asia, April 12, 2018.

"The 70th Anniversary of the End of the Asia-Pacific War: Reflections on the Politics of Memory," and "Teaching the Asia-Pacific War," Providence College, April 15, 2016.

"Every 69 Years: Histories of the Next Great Kantō Earthquake," Amherst College, December 5, 2014.

Invited discussant: "The Significance of 'the Frontier' to Japanese History," Council on East Asian Studies, Yale University, April 9, 2014.

Invited discussant: Mark Metzler on "Schumpeter's Guide to the Postwar Japanese Miracle," Columbia University Modern Japan Seminar, November 7, 2013.

Appeared in "Fire Twister," an episode of the History Channel feature *Perfect Storm: Disasters That Changed the World*, filmed in Tokyo in September 2012, first aired in April 2013.

Chair and discussant: Panel on "From Heavenly Punishment to Colonial Panics: Fractured Responses to the 1923 Great Kanto Earthquake and Korean Massacres," Annual Conference of the Association for Asian Studies, San Diego, March 23, 2013.

"Documenting 'The Worst Conflagration in the History of the World': Seismograms and the Great Kantō Earthquake," Wesleyan University, September 2012.

"Explaining 'The Worst Conflagration in the History of the World': Science and the Great Kantō Earthquake," Japan Forum, Harvard University, February 2012.

"Provocations: Narrating the Great Kantō Earthquake," Modern Japan History Workshop, Yale University, November 2011.

Discussant: "Cultural Production, Collective Catastrophe, Memory and History, Progress and Repair," APMA workshop with Ha Jin and Wing Tek Lum, November 2011.

Discussant: Panel on "The Making of Nationalist Consciousness in Japan and China in the Early 20th Century," New England Association of Asian Studies Annual Meeting, October 2011.

Organizer and speaker, "Japan's Multiple Disasters: A Conversation with Brown Professors," March 2011. With Karen Fischer, George Seidel, and Terry Tullis. Repeated for Staff Development Day, June 2011.

Appeared on CNN's "Weekend with Don Lemon," NPR's "The Takeaway," and local radio and news shows in the aftermath of the 3.11 disaster.

“Terror and Justice in the Aftermath of the Great Kantō Earthquake,” Asian/Pacific Studies Institute, Duke University, April 2009.

“Punishing Violence: State-sanctioned Killing and the Destruction of Tokyo, 1923,” Conference on Violence and Civilization, Joukowsky Institute for Archaeology and the Ancient World and the Cogut Center for the Humanities, Brown University, March 2009.

“Absent Images and the Public History of Disaster,” presented at Open Source History: Making History Public/American Association for History and Computing Annual Meeting, Brown University, April 2007.

“Imamura Akitsune and the Great Kantō Earthquake,” presented at “Responses to Destruction in Japan,” a joint colloquium sponsored by the Japanese Society for the Promotion of Science and the Center for Japanese Studies, University of California, Berkeley, October 2006.

“On Using Visual/Language Materials in History Classes,” presented at the New England Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting as part of a panel presentation on “Levels of Meaning: Incorporating Japanese Language Resources into the Undergraduate Curriculum,” at Dartmouth College, November 2004.

“Japanese War Museums,” Global Ethics Seminar, Watson Institute, September 28, 2004.

“Model Villages: Rural Revitalization and the Modern Countryside,” presented at *Rural Histories: Farmers and Village Life in 20th Century Japan*, the 11th Symposium of the Institute of Social Science, University of Tokyo, St. Antony’s College, Oxford University, 14-15 December 2000.

“Building the Model Village: Rural Revitalization and the Great Depression,” presented at the 10th Institute of Social Science Symposium, *Rural Histories: The Japanese Countryside in the 20th Century*, University of Tokyo, March 21-22, 2000.

“A Land of Milk and Honey: Rural Revitalization in the 1930s,” presented at the Symposium on Modern Japanese History, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, May 1999.

“Chichi to mitsu no nagaruru sato: keizai kōsei undō to nōson shakai,” Institute of Social Science Staff Seminar, University of Tokyo, March 1999.

“War, Reform and Prosperity,” presented at the Competing Modernities in Twentieth Century Japan Conference Series, Part II: Empires, Cultures, Identities, 1930-1960, February 1998, University of California, San Diego.

Papers Read

“Lessons from the Great Kantō Earthquake,” part of a panel on “Colonial Panic, Racialized Violence, and the Lessons of Fractured Histories: Revisiting the Revealed Rift Zones of the Kantō Earthquake Korean Massacre 100 Years Later,” Annual Conference of the Association for Asian Studies, Boston, Massachusetts, March 2023.

“Putting Northeastern Japan at Risk: Earthquake Prediction and Earth Sciences in the 1970s,” American Society for Environmental History Annual Meeting, as part of a panel presentation on “Japan’s Northeast: Learning from and Living with Natural Disasters in the Long Twentieth Century” Eugene, Oregon, March 2022.

“The Tōkai Earthquake and Changing Lexicons of Risk,” presented by invitation at the Critical Disaster Studies Conference, September 21-22, 2018, New York University.

“Making Disasters Natural: Seismology and Prediction Regimes in Modern Japan,” presented as part of the conference on “Knowledge Production about Planet Earth and the Global Environment as Indicators of Social Change,” convened by the Institute of History of the University of Bern and the History Department of the University of Zurich, January 23rd–25th, 2013.

“Forecasting as History: Japan’s Modern Earthquakes,” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Montreal, November 2011.

“Moving Targets: the Toranomom Incident, Namba Daisuke and a Taishō Trial,” Japanese Studies Association of Australia, Fifteenth Biennial Conference, Canberra, Australia, July 2007.

“What Was Lost: The Murder of Ōsugi Sakae and the Trial of Amakasu Masahiko,” presented at the Conference on Natural Disaster in Asian History, Culture and Memory,” National University of Singapore, August 2005.

“Finding Fault,” presented at the Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Chicago, as part of a panel presentation on “Unsteady Ground: The Great Kantō Earthquake,” April 2005.

“Fault Lines: Science, Decadence and the Great Kantō Earthquake” presented at the International Conference of Asia Scholars, Singapore, as part of a panel presentation on “State, Society and the Great Kantō Earthquake” August 2003.

“Under Re-construction: Rural Japan in the 1930s,” presented at the International Conference of Asia Scholars, Noordwijkerhout, The Netherlands as part of a panel presentation on Remaking Lives: Popular Responses to the Depression in Japan, Brazil and Manchuria, June 1998.

“Re-creating the Countryside: Rural Responses to the Great Depression in Japan,” presented at the New England Conference of the Association for Asian Studies as part of a panel presentation on Strains of Transition in Prewar Japan,” October 1996, Burlington, Vermont.

“The Showa depression and rural reform: solving the village problem,” presented at the Annual Conference of the Association for Asian Studies as part of a panel presentation on “Rural Crisis and Fascism in Pre-War Japan Reexamined,” March 1994, Boston.

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