

Sayaka Chatani

A historian of the Japanese colonial empire, modern East Asia, Korean diaspora,
ideologies & emotions, and social & oral histories

11 Arts Link, AS 1-05-43 Singapore 117573

chatani@nus.edu.sg; sayakachatani.com

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

National University of Singapore, Singapore

Presidential Young Professor, April 2019-present.

Assistant Professor, Department of History, July 2017-present.

National University of Singapore, Singapore

FASS Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of History, 2015-2017.

European University Institute, Florence, Italy

Max Weber Postdoctoral Fellow, 2014-2015.

EDUCATION

Columbia University, New York City, NY

Ph.D. in History, International and Global History, October 2014.

ADVISORS: Charles Armstrong, Carol Gluck

EXAM FIELDS: Theories and Practices of Modern Imperialism and Colonialism, Global History of
Childhood and Youth, Modern Japan, and Modern Korea

DISSERTATION TITLE: *Nation-Empire: Rural Youth Mobilization in Japan, Taiwan, and Korea,
1895-1945*

The George Washington University, Washington, DC

Master of Arts in Political Science, May 2007.

ADVISOR: Bruce Dickson

MAJOR FIELD: Comparative Politics (Chinese politics)

MINOR FIELDS: Political Theory, International Relations

School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University, New York City, NY

Master of International Affairs, May 2003.

CONCENTRATION: International Security Policy, China-Taiwan Relations

Sophia University, Tokyo, Japan

B.A. in Law, March 2001.

MAJORS: International Law, International Security Issues

PUBLICATIONS

Book

Nation-Empire: Ideology and Rural Youth Mobilization in Japan and Its Colonies, Studies of the
Weatherhead East Asian Institute, Columbia University (Cornell University Press, December 2018)

Recipient of *Choice Outstanding Academic Title Award 2019*

Listed as one of the five books in “The Best Books on the Japanese Empire” by Dr.

Jeremy A. Yellen: <https://shepherd.com/best-books/the-japanese-empire>

Reviewed by:

Journal of Japanese Studies (Peter Cave)
The American Historical Review (Carter J. Eckert)
Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies (Sungyun Lim)
The Journal of Asian Studies (Sidney Xu Lu)
Social Science Japan Journal (Brian Tsui)
The Journal of Asian Studies (review article by Tristan Grunow)
Sungkyun Journal of East Asian Studies (Hyung-Gu Lynn)
Asian Politics & Policy (Ralph Chan)
Global Japanese Studies (George Z. Gonzales)
The Pacific Affairs (Michael Wert)
The Journal of the History of Childhood and Youth (Nick Kapur)
Choice Reviews (M.D. Ericson)
The Journal of Social History (Emer O'Dwyer)
History: Review of New Books (Yasuko Sato)

Journal Articles

- “Becoming Korean: Japanese Wives in the Boundary Formation of a Leftist Zainichi Community,” *Critical Asian Studies* 54 no.1 (March 2022): 105-127.
- “Revisiting Korean Slums in Postwar Japan: *Tongne* and *Hakkyo* in the Zainichi Memoryscape,” *Journal of Asian Studies* 80 no. 3 (August 2021): 587-610.
- Co-authored with Amy Stanley, Hannah Shepherd, Chelsea Szendi Schieder, and David Ambaras, “‘Contracting for Sex in the Pacific War’: The Case for Retraction on Grounds of Academic Misconduct,” *The Asia-Pacific Journal: Japan Focus* 19, issue 5, no. 13 (March 2021).
- “A Man at Twenty, Aged at Twenty-five: The Conscription Exam Age in Japan,” contributed to the roundtable “Chronological Age: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis,” *American Historical Review* 125, no. 2 (April 2020): 427-437.
- “Between ‘Rural Youth’ and Empire: Social and Emotional Dynamics of Youth Mobilization in the Countryside of Colonial Taiwan under Japan’s Total War,” *American Historical Review* 122 no.2 (April 2017): 371-398.
- “The Ruralist Paradigm: Social Work Bureaucrats in Colonial Korea and Japan’s Assimilationism in the Interwar Period,” *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 58 no. 4 (October 2016): 1004-1031.

Book Chapters

- “Belief and Ideology,” a chapter in *The History of Youth: The Age of Empire* volume edited by David Pomfret. Bloomsbury, forthcoming.

- “Youth and Rural Modernity in Japan 1900s-1920s” in *Transnational Histories of Youth in the Twentieth Century*, edited by Richard Jobs and David Pomfret (London and New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2015), 23-44.

Other Publications

- 「なぜラムザイヤー論文は『事件』となったのか」岩波書店『世界』2021年5月号

Book Reviews

- *Guns, Guerillas, and the Great Leader: North Korea and the Third World* (2021) by Benjamin R. Young. *Diplomatic History* (forthcoming).
- *Japan's Carnival War: Mass Culture on the Home Front, 1937-1945* (2019) by Benjamin Uchiyama. *The American Historical Review* 126 no.1 (April 2021): 292-293.
- *Student Radicalism and the Formation of Postwar Japan* (2019) by Kenji Hasegawa. *The Journal of History of Childhood and Youth* 13, no. 2 (2020): 317-319.
- *Ennobling Japan's Savage Northeast: Tōhoku as Japanese Postwar Thought* (2017) by Nathan Hopson. *Global Intellectual History* (June 2018).
- *Building a Heaven on Earth: Religion, Activism, and Protest in Japanese Occupied Korea* (2015) by Albert L. Park. *The Journal of Religion* (April 2017): 286-287.

WORK IN PROGRESS

- Co-authored with Chien Wen Kung and Taomo Zhou, “Nationalizing Belonging: The Cold War, Regionalism, and Asian Diasporic Communities” a journal article under review.
- “Resituating Zainichi in History: Three Potential Perspectives” (a draft journal article)
- *Project Korea: North Korean Zainichi in Postimperial Japan* (a book project)
- *After Exodus: How Zainichi Reshaped North Korea* (a book project, being co-authored with KumHee Cho)

WEB PROJECT

Editor, *Grassroots Operations of the Japanese Empire: primary sources translated for teaching purposes*

www.japaneseempire.info

Hosting the English translation of a number of select Japanese, Korean, and Chinese primary sources with introductions written by expert historians.

SELECTED GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- NUS ODPRT Research Excellence, 2020.
- NUS Presidential Young Professorship, April 2019-March 2024.
- NUS Start-up Grant, March 2018-September 2019.
- NUS Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Book Grant, 2018.
- The Canon Foundation in Europe Research Fellowship, 2014-2015.

- The Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation Dissertation Award, 2013-2014.
- Shawn Fellowship for New Directions in Historical Research, 2013.
- The Konosuke Matsushita Memorial Foundation Research Grant, 2012.
- Social Science Research Council, International Dissertation Research Fellowship, 2011.
- Center for Chinese Studies (ROC) Research Grant for Foreign Scholar in Chinese Studies, 2011.
- Shincho Graduate Research Fellowship, 2010-2011.
- Graduate School of Arts and Sciences International Travel Award, Columbia University, 2010-2011. (declined)
- Japanese-American Association Honjo Graduate Fellowship, 2010.
- Multiyear Fellowship, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Columbia University, 2007-2014.
- Selective Excellence Graduate Research Assistantship at the Sigur Center for Asian Studies, the George Washington University, working on “Memory and Reconciliation in the Asia-Pacific,” 2006-2007.
- Multiyear Fellowship, Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, the George Washington University, 2005-2007.
- International Security Policy Program Assistantship, SIPA, Columbia University, 2002-2003.

SELECTED SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS, & CONFERENCE TALKS

2022

“Zainichi and Postimperial Japan through the lens of Chongryon.” A lecture scheduled to deliver for *Race and Society around the World* speaker series, University of Virginia on 13 April, 2022.

“Zainichi Koreans in the Politics of Decolonization and Deimperialization.” A lecture scheduled to deliver for the Program on U.S.-Japan Relations, the Edwin O. Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies, and the Korea Institute, Harvard University on 4 April, 2022.

Co-organizer (with Sungyun Lim), a NEAC-sponsored virtual panel, “Breaking Through the Old Paradigm: Expanding the Landscape of the ‘Comfort Women’ Issue,” the *Association of Asian Studies 2022 Annual Conference*, Honolulu, Hawai’i. 25 March, 2022.

“Resituating Zainichi in History: Three Approaches.” An open webinar invited to deliver at the Centre for East and Southeast Asian Studies, Lund University. 2 February, 2022.

2021

Invited to speak and discuss with Aaron William Moore and Ran Zwigenberg at a webinar “August 1945 in the Asia-Pacific Theater: From Total War to Nuclear War,” hosted by Institute of Contemporary Asian Studies, Temple University Japan Campus. 6 August, 2021.

“Revolutionary Conservatives: Young Women’s Activism in Pro-North Korean Zainichi Community,” a paper presented online at the *Society for the History of Children and Youth XI Biennial International Conference*, hosted by the National University of Ireland Galway. 23 June 2021.

Invited to speak [in Japanese] at an online symposium, “Thinking about ‘Now’ of International Japanese Studies: From Sites of Educational Practice” (『国際日本学の今を考える：教育実践の

現場から』) , hosted by Global Studies in Japanese Cultures, Waseda University. 19 June 2021.

Invited to speak at an online research seminar with Leo Ching, “Feelings for Japan: Exploring Taiwanese Sentiments Toward Japanese Colonialism,” organized by Peter Cave and Erica Bafelli at University of Manchester. 28 April, 2021.

Invited to speak at an online panel with Tadashi Ishikawa and Fang Yu Fu, “Taiwan Makes History I: The Gender of Empire,” at Center for Taiwan Studies University of California at Santa Barbara. 13 April, 2021.

Invited to speak at a roundtable discussion, “Studying Ethnicity and Urban Governance in an Interconnected Asia,” in *Managing the Cosmopolitan City: Inter-Asian Strategies of Ethnic Administration, Past and Present*. Conference at Asia Research Institute, NUS. 14 January, 2021.

2020

“The Emotional Topography of the Zainichi Memoryscape: Korean Ghettos in Postwar Japan Revisited,” delivered at:

The Program in East Asian Studies, Johns Hopkins University, 10 February

Weatherhead East Asia Institute, Columbia University, 11 February

Japanese History Workshop, Yale University, 12 February

Japanese Studies Seminar, NUS, 11 March

“Ideology, Emotions, and Youth in Japan’s Nation-Empire,” an invited lecture delivered for the Daniel C. Morrissey '88 and Chanannait Paisansathan, MD Distinguished Lecture Series in Asian Studies, Boston College. 5 February, 2020.

Convener of a workshop, *Asian Diasporas and the Cold War*, inviting seven speakers at NUS, 15 January, 2020; Presenting “Korean Diaspora in Japan and Their Transborder Emotional Community.”

“Locating Japanese Wives in the Chongryun-Zainichi History,” presented in a panel “Methods of the Margins: Archives of Women and Gender Histories in 20th-Century ‘Japan’,” *American Historical Association 134th Annual Meeting*, New York. 4 January, 2020.

2019

Invited speaker, delivered “Youth and the Japanese Empire,” *Re-Thinking Singapore and Global History* Conference, organized by National Institute of Education, at National Museum of Singapore. 4 Nov 2019.

Convener of a mini-workshop on the Chongryon economic activities, inviting Professor O Kyu Sang and KumHee Cho, at NUS. 26-28 June, 2019.

Discussant at the “Reconceptualizing the Cold War: On-the-ground Experiences in Asia” Workshop, organized by A/P Masuda Hajimu, at NUS. 22-23 June, 2019.

“Nation-Empire: Ideology and Rural Youth Mobilization in Japan and Its Colonies,” the *Association of Asian Studies 2019 Annual Conference*, Denver, USA. 23 March, 2019.

FASS Bookshare Talk: “Nation-Empire: Ideology and Rural Youth Mobilization in Japan and Its Colonies,” at NUS. 8 March, 2019.

Discussant on 2010 and 2015 reports on Japan, South Korea, and China in “Making Identity Count in Asia” Conference, at NUS. 10 January, 2019.

2018

“The Quiet Revolution: The Rise of Youth in Rural Administration in Colonial Korea,” presented at the *Children and Youth in a Global Age* Conference, the University of Hong Kong. 25 May, 2018.

“Belief and Ideology” a draft chapter discussed at *Youth in the Age of Empire* Symposium, organized by David Pomfret at the University of Hong Kong. 24 May, 2018.

2017

“After the Empire: Back in Villages,” presented at the workshop, *After Total War: mobilization and its aftermath in the Japanese wartime Empire*, the Weatherhead East Asian Institute, Columbia University. 13 May, 2017.

2015

“Feeling the Empire: Rural Youth, the *Seinendan*, and Miyagi Villages in the 1930s,” presented at the invitation-only workshop, *Childhood, Education, and Youth in Pre-1945 Japan and Beyond*, the University of Manchester. 23 November, 2015.

“‘Modern Youth’ and Colonial Nationalisms in the Japanese Empire,” presented at the Departmental Seminar, National University of Singapore. 9 September, 2015.

“Youth at the Dual Peripheries: Okinawan Youth in the Japanese Empire, 1880s-1910s,” presented at the 9th Max Weber Fellows’ June Conference, European University Institute. June 2015.

Max Weber Programme Working Paper. “From Mobilization to Mobility: the Making of the ‘Rural Youth Industry’ in Japan’s Northeast Region, 1900s-1920s.” March 2015.

2014

Roundtable panel, “A Global Age: Doing Transnational Histories of Youth,” discussed with Richard Jobs and David Pomfret, American Historical Association 128th Annual Meeting, Washington, DC. January 2014.

2013

“Youthful Nationalisms in Colonized East Asia,” presented at the New Directions in Historical Research by the Shawn Fellows, Columbia University. October 2013.

“Youth Mobilization in the Japanese Nation-Empire: Towards a Social Theory of Nationalism,” presented at the 18th Annual Association For The Study of Nationalities World Convention, Columbia University. April 2013.

2012

“Nation-Empire: Youth Mobilization in Japan’s Colonized Peripheries,” presented at the Social Science Research Council International Dissertation Research Fellow Workshop. October 2012.

“Global, National and Local Interactions in the Making of Rural Youth in the Japanese Empire 1900s-1920s,” presented at the invitation-only workshop for book project, *A Global Age: Transnational Histories of Youth in the Twentieth Century*, The University of Hong Kong. June 2012.

“Strategic Compliance: Rural youth mobilization in Colonial Taiwan and Imperial Japan,” presented at the Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Toronto. March 2012.

2010 and before

“Hypothesis on ‘Rural Youth’ as an Occupational Space: Miyagi and Colonial Korea Compared,” delivered in Japanese at the Next-Generation Forum, Organization for Asian Studies, Waseda University, Tokyo, November 2010.

"Voice of Resistance? School Strikes in Colonial Korea 1937-1940," presented at the Graduate Student Conference on East Asia, Columbia University, February 2009.

"Colonizing Teachers in Taiwan: An Analysis Through *Taiwan Kyōiku* 1940," presented at China Undisciplined, Center for Chinese Studies, UCLA, May 2008.

LANGUAGES

Japanese - Native Speaker

Korean - Advanced Proficiency

Yonsei University Korean Language Institute; Seoul National University Language Education Institute, Seoul. Summers 2006-2008

Mandarin Chinese - Advanced Proficiency

International Chinese Language Program, National Taiwan University, Taipei, Taiwan. September 2003–December 2004

Classical Chinese and Classical Japanese - Intermediate Reading Proficiency

TEACHING

National University of Singapore

HY1101: Asia and the Modern World

An introductory-level undergraduate lecture

HY2232: Modern Japan: Conflict in History

An introductory-level undergraduate lecture

HY2220: Korea in the Twentieth Century

An introductory-level undergraduate lecture

HY3206: East Asian International Relations

An upper-division undergraduate lecture-seminar

HY4233: Japanese Colonialism and Imperialism

An upper-division undergraduate seminar

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- Serving as a referee for 2021 Fass-Sandin Article Prize on the best peer-reviewed journal article on the history of childhood or youth, organized by the Society for the History of Childhood and Youth.
- Served as a volunteer commentator for *the 1st Japanese Research Showcase History by Early Career-History Workshop* (rep. University of Tokyo). 21 and 22 February, 2022.
- Invited to speak at panel discussion, “Why is the Comfort Women” issue so intractable?: After Ramseyer: Challenges and Opportunities for Reconciliation,” for *The Women’s Table, YALE STAND*. 15 November, 2021.
- Discussed “how historical revisionism emerges” in a popular Japanese podcast channel [Tetsugaku nyūmon channeru](#), with Nogawa Motokazu, 9 November, 2021.
- Interviewed by BBC on the Chongryon Zainichi community in Japan and featured in [The Lazarus Heist, Episode 8: The multimillion mistake](#), published on 14 June, 2021.
- Interviewed by [Huffington Post Japan](#), Tokyo Shinbun, and Kanagawa Shinbun on the Ramseyer case.
- Invited to speak about the situation of international responses to J. Mark Ramseyer “Contracting for Sex in the Pacific War” in a web seminar, “Enough Already: The Denial of Comfort Women being Sexual Slaves,” organized by Fight for Justice, the Historical Science Society of Japan, the Association of Historical Science, the History Educationalist Conference of Japan. 14 March, 2021.
- Published A conversation with Chelsea Szendi Schieder on [Nation-Empire, Society of History of Childhood and Youth podcast](#) series. 14 February, 2021.
- A Zoom lecture to students at Pasir Ris Crest Secondary School on “Japanese Empire and World War II,” 13 January, 2021.
- Interviewed by Nathan Hopson, *New Books Network: East Asian Studies*, 11 March, 2019. https://newbooksnetwork.com/sayaka-chatani-nation-empire-ideology-and-rural-youth-mobilization-in-japan-and-its-colonies-cornell-up-2018/?fbclid=IwAR2yXGblXiEw2zt1go4qCR6Q_mlxp62KbAcfCC10rlpHB6mftalyqpwe_Gg
- An interview by Tristan Grunow, *The Meiji at 150 Podcast*, podcast audio, 9 November, 2018. <https://meijiat150.podbean.com/e/episode-76-dr-sayaka-chatani-nus/>.
- A panel talk and brief discussion for “Decolonizing Contemporary Conceptions of Fascism,” a student event at Yale-NUS, 13 October, 2018.
- Interviewed by Eugene Yang of the Australian Broadcast Company on the Chongryon Koreans in Japan for his video and article, “Japan’s stateless Chongryon Koreans long for reunification after leaving North Korea behind,” broadcasted on 28 July, 2018, *ABC News*. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-07-28/japans-stateless-chongryon-koreans-long-for-reunification/9982024>
- Delivered A public lecture, “The Japanese Community in Prewar Singapore,” delivered for The Battle For Singapore Public Talks, *Voices from the Ground*, at the National Museum of Singapore, 28 February, 2016.
- Delivered A public talk with Nobuaki Takekawa for his art exhibition, “Rolling the Dice of History,” at Ota Fine Arts, Singapore, 12 February, 2016.
- Contributed an article “Generations as an Analytical Category for Modern Global History,” Max Weber Program Newsletter 8, European University Institute, Italy, winter 2015.