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Teaching interests: Japanese history, material culture studies

Research interests: medieval and early modern Japan

#### EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

- 2011–present, Director, Triangle Center for Japanese Studies
- 2010–present, Associate Professor (with tenure), Asian Studies Department;  
Adjunct Associate Professor, History Department, University of North  
Carolina at Chapel Hill
- 2007–2010, Associate Professor (with tenure); 2008–2010, Chair of Asian Studies,  
Occidental College
- 2001–2007, Luce Assistant Professor of Asian Studies, Occidental College

#### EDUCATION

- 2001, **Princeton University**, Ph.D., East Asian Studies Department. Exam fields:  
history of medieval Japan; history of early modern Japan, history of early  
modern China
- 1998–99, **Kyoto University**, visiting researcher, Japanese History
- 1994, **Oberlin College**, B.A., honors in East Asian Studies, history minor
- 1992–93, **Associated Kyoto Program, Doshisha University**, Kyoto, Japan

#### DISTINCTIONS AND AWARDS

- 2011–2012, National Humanities Center **Fellowship**
- 2012, **Research Fellowship**, Medieval and Early Modern Studies Program, UNC  
(declined)
- 2008–2010, **Associate-in-Research**, East Asian Studies Center, USC
- 2007–2008, **NEH Fellowship**
- 2001, **Sainsbury Postdoctoral Fellowship**, SOAS, University of London
- 1999–2000, **Santokuan Fellowship**
- 1998–99, **Fulbright–IIE Grant**
- 1998, **Fulbright–Hays Grant** (declined)
- 1998, **Smithsonian Predoctoral Fellowship**, Freer and Sackler Galleries
- 1997–1998, **Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (FLAS)**
- 1997, **Ford Foundation/Council on Regional Studies Predissertation Grant**
- 1994–95, **Watson Fellowship**
- 1994, **Honors in East Asian Studies**, Oberlin College
- 1994, inducted to **Phi Beta Kappa**, Oberlin chapter

## BOOKS

- Tokugawa* (forthcoming), A study of Tokugawa Ieyasu (1543–1616) and his age.
- What's the Use of Art? Asian Visual and Material Culture in Context*. Co-editor with Jan Mrazek. Honolulu, HI: University of Hawai'i Press, 2007.
- Handmade Culture: Raku Potters, Patrons, and Tea Practitioners in Japan*. Honolulu, HI: University of Hawai'i Press, 2005. Nominated for the John Whitney Hall Book Prize and the Jacques Barzun Prize in Cultural History.
- Japanese Tea Culture: Art, History, and Practice*. Editor. London and New York: Routledge, 2003; paperback edition, 2007.

## ESSAYS

- "Art, Agency, and Networks in the Career of Tokugawa Ieyasu." *Blackwell Companion to Asian Art*. Ed. Deborah Hutton and Rebecca Brown. New York: Wiley-Blackwell, 2011. (Note: not peer-reviewed)
- "The Empire of Things: Tokugawa Ieyasu's Material Legacy and Cultural Profile." *Japanese Studies* 29:1 (May, 2009): 19–32.
- "A Raku Wastewater Container and the Problem of Monolithic Sincerity." *Impressions* 30 (2008). In Japanese translation: "Raku no kensui to ichimaiwateki seijitsusei no mondaiten." *Bijutsu Forum* 21 (2010).
- "Introduction to the Early Modern Warrior Experience." *Early Modern Japan* 16 (2008).
- "Wrapping and Unwrapping Art." In Mrazek and Pitelka, eds. *What's the Use of Art? Asian Visual and Material Culture in Context*. Honolulu, HI: University of Hawai'i Press, 2007.
- "Back to the Fundamentals: 'Reproducing' Rikyû and Chôjirô in Japanese Tea Culture." In Rupert Cox, ed. *The Culture of Copying in Japan: Critical and Historical Perspectives*. London and New York: Routledge, 2007. Slightly altered and in Japanese translation: "Chanoyu ni okeru 'utsushi': dentô bunka no eizokuka" [Reproduction in Japanese Tea Culture: The Perpetuation of Traditional Culture]. *Wabi: Chanoyu Kenkyû* 4 (2007).
- "Tea Taste: Patronage and Collaboration among Tea Masters and Potters in Early Modern Japan." *Early Modern Japan: An Interdisciplinary Journal*. Fall–Winter, 2004.
- "Introduction to Japanese Tea Culture." In Morgan Pitelka, ed. *Japanese Tea Culture: Art, History, and Practice*. London and New York: Routledge, 2003.
- "Sen Kôshin Sôsa and the Writing of Tea History." In Morgan Pitelka, ed. *Japanese Tea Culture: Art, History, and Practice*. London and New York: Routledge, 2003.
- "Sadô ni okeru 'tezukuri' no imi" [The Meaning of the "Handmade" in Tea Culture].

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In Kumakura Isao, ed. *Yûgei bunka to dentô* [The Culture and Tradition of the Arts of Play]. Tokyo, Japan: Yoshikawa Bunko, 2003. I wrote this essay in Japanese. (Note: not peer-reviewed.)

“Kinsei ni okeru Rakuyaki dentô no keisei” [The Structure of Tradition in Early Modern Raku Ceramics]. *Nomura Bijutsukan Kiyô* (Spring, 2000). I wrote this essay in Japanese. (Note: not peer-reviewed)

#### WORK IN PROGRESS

Morgan Pitelka. *Sixteenth-Century Losers: Daily Life and Destruction in a Japanese Castle Town*. I am writing this book about Ichijôdani and its destruction in the sixteenth-century wars of unification during my year as a Fellow at the National Humanities Center.

Morgan Pitelka. *The Politics of Time in Seventeenth-Century Kyoto*. This project examines the cultural practices and products of tea masters, aristocrats, and elite urban commoners in the imperial capital after the establishment of the Tokugawa shogunate in Edo.

“The Tokugawa Storehouse: Ieyasu’s Encounters with Things.” *Early Modern Material Culture*. Ed. Paula Findlen (Routledge, forthcoming).

“Biography and Japanese History: Writing (and Contesting) the Story of Tokugawa Ieyasu.” *Asia in the Classroom and the Academy: New Ideas in Scholarship and Teaching*. Ed. Suzanne Barnett, forthcoming.

“Tea and the Politics of Culture in Early Modern Japan.” With Rebecca Corbett. *The History of Japanese Art*. Vol. 2. Ed. Quitman Eugene Phillips. Honolulu, HI: University of Hawaii Press, forthcoming.

#### SELECTED REVIEWS

Review of *Lords of the Samurai: The Legacy of a Daimyo Family*, San Francisco Museum of Asian Art, 2009. For *Early Modern Japan* (2011).

Review of Morihiro Ogawa, ed. *Art of the Samurai: Japanese Arms and Armor, 1156–1868*. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, 2009. For *Japanese Studies* (2010).

Review of Karen M. Gerhart. *The Material Culture of Death in Medieval Japan*. University of Hawaii Press, 2009. For *The Journal of Japanese Studies* (2010).

Review of Elizabeth Lillehoj, ed. *Acquisition: Art and Ownership in Edo-Period Japan*. Floating World Editions, 2007. For *CAA Reviews* (2008, online)

Review of Tamara Hareven. *The Silk Weavers of Kyoto: Family and Work in a Changing Traditional Industry*. University of California Press, 2002. For *Journal of Modern Craft* (2008).

Review of Kim Brandt. *Kingdom of Beauty: Mingei and the Politics of Folk Art in Imperial Japan*. Duke University Press, 2007. For *The Journal of Japanese Studies* (2008)

Review essay: “Representation and Power in the Visual Culture of Japan.” Focusing on Melinda Takeuchi, ed. *The Artist as Professional in Japan*. Stanford University Press, 2004; and Joshua S. Mostow et al., eds. *Gender and Power in the Japanese Visual Field*. University of Hawaii Press, 2003. For *Ars Orientalis* 35 (2008)

Review of Eiko Ikegami. *Bonds of Civility: Aesthetic Networks and the Political Origins of Japanese Culture*. Cambridge University Press, 2005. For *The Journal of Japanese Studies* (Winter, 2007)

Review of Wm. Theodore de Bary, Carol Gluck, and Arthur E. Tiedemann, eds. *Sources of Japanese Tradition, 1600 to 2000*. Columbia University Press, 2005. For *Early Modern Japan* (Fall, 2007)

#### SELECTED LECTURES, SYMPOSIA, CONFERENCES

- 2011, April 29–30, UNC and North Carolina State University, “Visual Culture and Identity: Narratives in the Making of Modern India” conference, **panel chair**, “Deploying Space in Identity Narratives”
- 2011, April 9, North Carolina State University, “Boundaries in Question: Japanese and French Empires in East Asia” conference, **panel chair**, “Colonial Knowledge”
- 2011, January 16, Southeast Conference, Association for Asian Studies, UNC, “Japanese Politics and History,” **panel chair**
- 2010, November 10, Ackland Art Museum, UNC, **lecture**, “Drinking Tea and Collecting Art in Japan in the 16th and 17th Centuries”
- 2010, March 27, The Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, **discussant** for panel “Family and House in Premodern Japan: An Exploration of the Uesugi”
- 2010, February 12–13, University of California at Berkeley, “Lost Strands of the Sixteenth Century,” **paper presented**, “Absent Actors: Falconry in and out of the Long Sixteenth Century”
- 2010, January 29–30, Stanford University, “Early Modern Things Workshop,” **paper presented**, “The Shogun and His Things”
- 2009, November 22, Fowler Museum, “Steeped in History: The Art of Tea” exhibition, **paper presented**, “Tea of the Samurai in Times of War and Peace”
- 2009, September 25, Beloit College, “Asian Studies Colloquium on Teaching,” **keynote lecture**, “Objects Have Agency: Using Things to Rethink History Research and Pedagogy”
- 2009, April 25, Princeton University, “Pieces of Sengoku” Symposium, **paper presented**, “The Social Life of Ieyasu's Things: Tokugawa Probate in the Long Sixteenth Century”
- 2009, April 19, Bowers Museum, **keynote lecture**, “Art of a Warlord, Shogun, and Deity: Tokugawa Ieyasu (1543–1616) and the Politics of Samurai Culture”
- 2009, March 13, Harvard University, Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies, **paper presented**, “The Life and Afterlife of Tokugawa Ieyasu”
- 2009, February 10, University of California at Irvine, **paper presented**, “The Shogun's Things: Material Culture in the Life of Tokugawa Ieyasu”
- 2008, December 13, USC, **workshop organizer**, “Japan's Long Sixteenth Century,” **paper presented**, “Culture and Contingency in the Career of Tokugawa Ieyasu”
- 2008, April 29, USC History Department, **paper presented**, “Tokugawa Ieyasu: Thoughts on Biography, Material Culture, and Japan's Long Sixteenth Century”
- 2008, March 4, UCLA Center for Korean Studies, **paper presented**, “Acquiring and Possessing Korean Things: Material Culture and National Identity in Japan”
- 2008, January 30, Symposium: The Early Modern in East Asia: The Challenges of Periodization, USC–Huntington Early Modern Institute, **paper presented**,

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- “Afterlives of the Shogun: Tokugawa Ieyasu's Material Legacy in Early Modern and Modern Japan”  
2007, December 5–7, Japanese History Workshop, University of Sydney, **keynote lecture**, “Shogun, Deity, National Hero: Tokugawa Ieyasu and Japanese History”  
2007, May 2007, Columbia University, Festschrift Conference in Honor of Henry D. Smith II, **paper presented**, “Function, Performance, and Reproduction in the Making of ‘Large Sidearm’ at Wakayama Castle”  
2007, March 24, Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, **paper presented**, “The Collection of Tokugawa Ieyasu: A Late Medieval ‘Empire of Things,’ on the panel “Coins, Collections, and Curiosities: Valuing Foreign Objects in Medieval and Early Modern Japan”

#### TEACHING

- 2010 to present, UNC–Chapel Hill  
“Early Modern Japanese History and Culture”  
“Japanese Tea Culture”  
“Asia: An Introduction”  
2002 to 2010, Occidental College  
“Medieval and Early Modern Japan”  
“Reading and Writing Histories of Japan”  
“Modern Japan”  
“Japanophilia: Orientalism, Nationalism, Transnationalism”  
“Displaying Premodern Japan”  
“Korean History and Culture”  
“Introduction to Asian Studies”  
“Asian Studies Senior Seminar”

#### SERVICE

- 2011–2013, co–applicant on successful Japan Foundation Grant, “Triangle Center for Japanese Studies”  
2009–, Editorial Advisory Board, *The Journal of Japanese Studies*  
2009–2010, Occidental College, elected member of Advisory Council (college–wide tenure and promotion committee)  
2008–2010, Board Member, Associated Kyoto Program  
2005–2009, Officer, Delta chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, Occidental College  
2004, Occidental College, advisor of the year award  
2003–2006, Occidental College, elected member of Faculty Council (college–wide faculty governance)  
I have also been active as an external reviewer of tenure files and as an outside reader of journal essays and press manuscripts