

Australia-Japan Research Centre
ANU Japan Institute



Australian
National
University

Japan Update 2025



3 September
2025

The Australia-Japan Research Centre

The Australia-Japan Research Centre (AJRC) is the centre of research, teaching and outreach on the Japanese economy in Australia. AJRC also conducts research to better understand the Australia-Japan relationship and both countries' strategic interests in the regional economy. AJRC was established in 1980 with support from governments and business communities in both Australia and Japan. Its research encompasses areas such as finance and macroeconomics.

The ANU Japan Institute

The ANU Japan Institute is Australia's largest network of distinguished and emerging scholars with professional expertise on Japan. The Japan Institute researches and teaches in disciplines spanning art, economics, environment, health, history, international relations, language, law, linguistics, politics, regulation and Japanese Studies.

The Japan Update 2025 is supported by the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, the Research Center for Advanced Science and Technology, the Japan Foundation, Sydney and the Japanese Studies Association of Australia.



JAPAN UPDATE 2025

Wednesday 3 September
Physics Theatre, ANU, Canberra

Australian Eastern Standard Time*

8.30-9am	<i>Tea and coffee</i>
9-9.10am	Welcome and introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shiro Armstrong, Director, Australia-Japan Research Centre, ANU
9.10-9.30am	Energy transition keynote <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Masakazu Sugiyama, Professor, Research Center for Advanced Science & Technology, University of Tokyo
9.30-10.30am	Energy transition panel <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Llewelyn Hughes, Professor of Public Policy, ANU• Leigh Livergood, Senior Manager, Oceania Strategy, Mitsubishi Australia• Masakazu Sugiyama, Professor, Research Center for Advanced Science & Technology, University of Tokyo
10.30-11am	<i>Morning tea</i>
11-11.30am	Economy and demographics keynote <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sagiri Kitao, Professor, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies• Discussant: Elena Capatina, Senior Lecturer in Economics, ANU• Chair: Ippei Fujiwara, Professor of Economics, Keio University & ANU
11.30-12.20pm	Economy and trade panel <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shiro Armstrong, Professor of Economics, ANU• Ippei Fujiwara, Professor of Economics, Keio University & ANU• TBC• Chair: Elena Capatina, Senior Lecturer in Economics, ANU
12.20-1.20pm	<i>Lunch</i>
1.20-1.40pm	Migration keynote <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nana Oishi, Associate Professor in Japanese Studies, University of Melbourne
1.40-2.40pm	People to people ties panel <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leonie Boxtel, Board Member, Australia-Japan Foundation and Chair, Melbourne Women's Foundation• Natsuko Ogawa, Chair, Australia-Japan Foundation & Partner, Ashurst• Nana Oishi, Associate Professor in Japanese Studies, University of Melbourne• Chair: Shiro Armstrong, ANU
2.40-3.10pm	<i>Afternoon tea</i>
3.10-3.30pm	Foreign policy keynote <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shin Kawashima, Professor, Department of International Relations, University of Tokyo
3.30-4.30pm	Foreign policy and politics panel <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shin Kawashima, Professor, Department of International Relations, University of Tokyo• Mie Oba, Professor of International Relations, Kanagawa University• Tomohiko Satake, Associate Professor, Aoyama Gakuin University• Chair: Lauren Richardson, Lecturer in International Relations, ANU
4.30-4.45pm	Closing and thank you <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ippei Fujiwara, Professor of Economics, Keio University & ANU• Simon Avenell, Professor, School of Culture, History, and Language, ANU

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Shiro Armstrong

Shiro Armstrong is Professor of Economics at the Crawford School of Public Policy at The Australian National University. He is Director of the Australia-Japan Research Centre, Director of the East Asian Bureau of Economic Research, and Editor of East Asia Forum. He also holds affiliations as Visiting Professor at Keio University, Research Associate at the Center on Japanese Economy and Business at Columbia Business School, and Non-resident Fellow at the Research Institute of Economy, Trade and Industry (RIETI), Japan. He is the recipient of the 2024 Nakasone Yasuhiro Award. Professor Armstrong is a member of the Board of the Australia Japan Foundation. His work focuses on international economic policy, with a particular emphasis on Australia-Asia relations.



Simon Avenell

Simon Avenell is Professor in the School of Culture, History, and Language and Director of the Japan Institute at the Australian National University. He specialises in modern Japanese history, postwar Japanese society and politics (1945-present), civil society, social movements, and the history of ideas. He has published in major Japan and area studies journals such as *The Journal of Japanese Studies*, positions: *east asia cultures critique*, *Social Science Japan Journal*, *Environmental History* and *Modern Asian Studies*.



Leonie Boxtel

Leonie Boxtel is Executive Officer of the Bowness Family Foundation and Board Member of the Australia-Japan Foundation. She has held senior roles across government, education, and the for-purpose sector, including as Executive Director of the Australia-Japan Foundation in Tokyo and founding director of Asialink's Asia leadership program. Her work focuses on Asia-Australia relations, philanthropy, and alumni engagement. She holds a Master of Business from RMIT and a Bachelor of Arts with First Class Honours in Japanese from Monash University.



Elena Capatina

Elena Capatina is a Lecturer in Economics. Her research is at the intersection of macroeconomics, labor economics and health economics. Elena's main expertise lies in the economic modeling of individual decisions with respect to precautionary savings, labour supply and insurance in the face of health risk. She works extensively on modeling the impact of health on earnings inequality through various channels such as endogenous labor supply decisions and human capital accumulation. Elena's research also highlights the importance of accounting for the health insurance and labor supply decisions of low skill workers in evaluating health care reform in the US. Elena's research has been published in a number of top-ranked journals including *Journal of Monetary Economics*, *Journal of Health Economics* and *Labor Economics*.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Ippei Fujiwara

Ippei Fujiwara is Professor of Macroeconomics at Keio University and The Australian National University. He is also Research Fellow at the Centre for Economic Policy Research, Fellow at the Asian Bureau of Finance and Economic Research and Faculty Fellow at the Research Institute of Economy, Trade and Industry. Professor Fujiwara holds positions as Deputy Director at the Centre for Applied Macroeconomic Analysis, ANU; Advisory Board Member at the Macroeconomics, Growth and History Centre, University of Kent; and Research Associate at the Globalization and Monetary Policy Institute, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas. He completed his DPhil in Economics at the University of Oxford. Professor Fujiwara's research focuses on international finance, monetary economics and macroeconomics.



Llewelyn Hughes

Llewelyn Hughes is Interim Director for the ANU Institute for Climate, Energy & Disaster Solutions, and Professor at the Crawford School of Public Policy. He is also a non-executive director at the Australia-Japan Innovation Fund, and a member of the Clean Energy Transition Advisory Committee at the Australia Japan Business Co-operation Committee. Hughes was previously employed at the Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University, and the Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Business and Government, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. He received his PhD from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and holds a Masters' Degree from the Graduate School of Law and Politics at the University of Tokyo.



Shin Kawashima

Shin Kawashima is Professor of International Relations at the University of Tokyo. He is Executive Director of Research at the Nakasone Peace Institute and a senior fellow at Japan's National Security Secretariat. He previously taught at Hokkaido University and is a member of the Science Council of Japan. His research focuses on Chinese and Taiwanese diplomatic history and contemporary international relations in East Asia. Professor Kawashima has written extensively for Think China and The Diplomat, and his books include Japan-China Relations in the Modern Era (Routledge, 2017) and Japan-China Relations, 2001-2022 (2023). He holds a PhD from the University of Tokyo.



Sagiri Kitao

Sagiri Kitao is Professor of Economics at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) in Tokyo. She specialises in macroeconomics and public policy, with a focus on demographic aging, social security, and fiscal reform. Prior to joining GRIPS, she held academic and policy roles at the University of Tokyo, Keio University, the City University of New York, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, and the University of Southern California. She also worked as a financial analyst at Goldman Sachs in Tokyo. Professor Kitao holds a PhD in Economics from New York University and a Master's degree from Harvard University. She has published widely in leading journals including the American Economic Review and Journal of Monetary Economics, and received numerous awards, including the Nakahara Prize (2016) and the Jiro Enjoji Memorial Prize (2015). She is a member of the Econometric Society, the American Economic Association, and the Japanese Economic Association.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Leigh Livergood

Leigh Livergood is Senior Manager, Oceania Strategy for Mitsubishi Australia, Ltd. Before relocating with the company to Australia, she worked for the Washington DC office of Mitsubishi Corporation (Americas) for eight years, where she advised the company on US energy policy developments and global geopolitical risk. Prior to joining Mitsubishi Corporation she was an analyst at Goldwyn Global Strategies, LLC, a private consulting and advisory firm, and she started her career in Washington DC as a research associate at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) Energy and National Security Program. She received her MA from the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), and BA in Political Science and Economics from Wittenberg University.



Natsuko Ogawa

Natsuko Ogawa is Chair of the Australia Japan Foundation and a Partner at Ashurst, specialising in mergers, acquisitions, and joint ventures involving Japanese businesses in Australia. With nearly three decades of experience, she has been central to the evolution of the Japan–Australia business relationship across sectors including energy, logistics, retail, and healthcare. Ms Ogawa spent four years in Ashurst's Tokyo office and served on the executive council of the Australian and New Zealand Chamber of Commerce in Japan. She currently co-chairs the Australia-Japan Business Council of Victoria and serves on the Advisory Board of the Australia-Japan Research Centre. A strong advocate for diversity, she chairs the Gender Equity and Inclusion Subcommittee of the Australia-Japan Business Co-operation Committee and was a founding member of the Australia-Japan Businesswomen's Network.



Mie Oba

Mie Oba is Professor of International Relations at Kanagawa University. She holds a Master's and PhD from the University of Tokyo, and her research focuses on East Asian and Asia-Pacific regionalism, integration theories, and international politics. She has written extensively on institutional developments in the region, including her widely cited article, *Further Development of Asian Regionalism: Institutional Hedging in an Uncertain Era* (2019). Professor Oba has received multiple awards for her work, including the Ohira Masayoshi Memorial Prize (2005), Okita Commemorative Award for Policy Research (2005), and the Nakasone Yasuhiro Incentive Award (2015).



Nana Oishi

Dr Nana Oishi is Associate Professor in Japanese Studies at the University of Melbourne. She previously held positions as Professor of Sociology at Sophia University and Policy Analyst at the International Labour Organization (ILO) in Geneva. She has advised the United Nations on migration and served on various Japanese government advisory boards. Dr Oishi completed her PhD in Sociology at Harvard University as a Fulbright Scholar and has received several honours, including the ISS-OUP Prize from Oxford University Press and University of Tokyo. Her recent research focuses on migration, entrepreneurship and Japanese diaspora. Her recent publications include 『流出する日本人—海外移住の光と影』(中公新書 2024), 『地方創生と外国人』(明石書店近刊), *Handbook on Asian Migration* (Edward Elgar, forthcoming).

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Lauren Richardson

Lauren Richardson is a Lecturer in the Department of International Relations at the Australian National University. From 2018-2020 she was Director of Studies and Lecturer in the Asia-Pacific College of Diplomacy at the ANU and from 2020-2022, Director of the ANU Japan Institute. Prior to that Dr Richardson taught Northeast Asian Relations at the University of Edinburgh. Her research focuses on the role of non-state actors in shaping diplomatic interactions in Northeast Asia, particularly Japan-Korea relations. Her publications have focused on the South Korean anti-nuclear movement; the role of Buddhists in Sino-Japanese rapprochement (with G A. Scott); Japan's evolving defence posture; and the ascension of "comfort women" in South Korean memory of Japanese imperialism (forthcoming). She is currently completing a book manuscript provisionally entitled *Reshaping Japan-Korea Relations: Transnational Advocacy Networks and the Politics of Redress*.



Tomohiko Satake

Tomohiko Satake is Associate Professor at the School of International Politics, Economics and Communication at Aoyama Gakuin University. He previously served as Senior Research Fellow at the National Institute for Defense Studies (NIDS) and as Deputy Director in the International Policy Division at Japan's Ministry of Defense. His research interests include Asia-Pacific security, Japanese foreign policy, and Japan-Australia strategic relations. Professor Satake received his BA and MA from Keio University and his PhD in International Relations from The Australian National University. His recent book, *Beyond the Tyranny of Distance: Japan-Australia Security Cooperation after the Cold War* (Keiso Publishers, 2022), examines evolving defence partnerships in the Indo-Pacific.



Masakazu Sugiyama

Masakazu Sugiyama is Director and Professor at the Research Center for Advanced Science and Technology (RCAST), The University of Tokyo. He holds BE, MS, and PhD degrees in Chemical Systems Engineering from the University of Tokyo. He began his academic career as a Research Associate in Chemical System Engineering and later joined the Department of Electronic Engineering, where he became an Associate Professor in 2005 and Full Professor in 2016. In 2017, he moved to RCAST. His research spans sustainable energy technologies and systems, with a focus on solar energy and environmental innovation.

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