



JSPS STOCKHOLM

Newsletter

English Edition

2021. JUN.

Vol. **42**



JSPS Stockholm Office
20 years

Establishment of Kyushu
University Stockholm
Liaison Office



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Twenty Year Anniversary of the Establishment of the JSPS Stockholm Office

The Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) Stockholm Office was established in May 2001. This means that this year is the 20th anniversary of the opening of this office. Therefore, it might be proper to write a congratulatory remark for the 20th anniversary. We are now aware, however, that the pandemic caused by the new coronavirus forced the Japanese Government to extend the state of emergency in Tokyo and Osaka, and there are still thousands of newly infected people in Sweden every day. I feel, therefore, that it may be inappropriate to say congratulatory words here. Thus, I would like to write just a short essay as a prologue for the newsletter of the 20th anniversary year by briefly looking back on the past since the years around 2001.

JSPS established overseas liaison offices for the purpose of strengthening relations with foreign countries in the international academic exchange and collaboration. Reading the history of JSPS briefly I learned that the Nairobi Office seems to be the first overseas office, opened in 1965. Thereafter, the Cairo Office, the Bangkok Office, the Washington Office, the Bonn Office and the London Office were opened in 1984, 1989, 1990, 1992 and 1994, respectively. The Stockholm Office was opened in the same year as the Strasbourg Office, 2001. In this year, I was working as a professor at Osaka University Medical School in Japan. So, I do not exactly know the circumstances of how the Stockholm Office was opened in 2001. However, I have the following memories of the impressive strengthening of the Japanese government's scientific research support system in those days.

In 1995, the Science and Technology Basic Law was enacted by the Japanese Diet with the aim of making Japan a "science and technology creation nation". Based on this law the first phase of the Science and Technology Basic Plan was implemented by the Japanese Government in 1996-2000. In 2001, the second phase of the Basic Plan was launched with the investment target amount of 24 trillion yen (about 220 billion US\$). The Stockholm Office happened to be established in the same year. This might be an accidental coincidence, or just represent a part of the Japanese Government's efforts to strengthen Japanese science and technology.

Thus, the direct purpose of establishing this office would be to promote academic exchanges with continental European countries, especially with the Nordic countries, which are not covered by the Bonn Office and the Strasbourg Office. In the first issue of the Japanese version of this newsletter, published on May 7, 2004, it was stated that "in the five Nordic countries (Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Norway and Iceland) and the three Baltic states (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania), we are conducting a wide range of activities to promote academic exchange and cooperation. ----- ". Thus, staff of the Stockholm Office – successively assigned Directors, Deputy Directors, International Program Associates dispatched from Japanese universities, as well as local staff – have devoted themselves to cooperation with researchers in the Nordic and Baltic countries by organizing various academic events such as colloquia, seminars and symposia. Also, we have provided information about researcher and student exchange programs between Japan and Nordic/Baltic countries, and helped to implement these programs. In Sweden in particular, we collaborated with the Royal Academy of Sciences (KVA) and the Royal Academy of Engineering (IVA) to hold seminars by inviting outstanding researchers from Japan, or co-sponsored

many academic events with Swedish universities such as Karolinska Medical University. In addition, we supported the establishment of JSPS Alumni Club in Sweden in 2005. This was followed by the establishment of Alumni Club in Finland in 2009, in Denmark in 2015, and in Norway in 2019. We also worked to expand the network of Japanese researchers and those who are interested in Japan in the Nordic/Baltic countries. These activities have been reported continuously in our newsletter that has been published in Japanese since 2004 (the English version has been published since 2008). Including the current issue, the Japanese version attained 68 issues and the English version 42 issues this year. If you are interested in those reports, please visit our website (<https://www.jsps-sto.com/publication/english-newsletter-archive>).

As mentioned above, one of the activities of this office is to introduce outstanding researchers in Japan to the Swedish researcher community and to strengthen academic collaboration between them. Actually, we organized a number of seminars, colloquia and symposia by inviting Japanese researchers in the hope that it will provide an opportunity to promote collaboration with Swedish researchers. We now know that some of the invited speakers in the past were awarded the Nobel prize. For example, Dr. Shinya Yamanaka, who was awarded the 2012 Physiology or Medicine Prize, had been invited to Sweden at least three times long before winning the prize. Also, Dr. Isamu Akasaki, who was awarded the Prize for physics in 2014, was invited to the Science Forum held at KVA in June, 2005, and also to another meeting co-sponsored by IVA and JSPS in May, 2014. Dr. Tasuku Honjo, who was awarded the Physiology or Medicine Prize in 2018, gave a lecture at the Nobel Forum of Karolinska Medical University in October, 2014. In addition, Dr. Akira Yoshino, who was awarded the Prize for chemistry in 2019, was invited to the Japan-Sweden Science, Technology and Innovation Symposium in March, 2013. So, I feel very happy to remember that these Nobel laureates were invited to give their lectures in Stockholm far before they were awarded.

What I learned on those occasions was that Swedish researchers who proposed to invite such lecturers had a very discerning eye for excellent and creative researchers. Finally, we are happy and proud to have held such seminars by inviting Nobel laureates. At the same time, I would like to emphasize that those are only a small part of the large number of colloquia, seminars and symposia that the Stockholm Office has worked hard to organize and finally successfully implemented. After the twenty year anniversary I hope that the Stockholm Office further continues and extends these missions successfully.

Tadaharu Tsumoto, Director, JSPS Stockholm Office





KYUSHU UNIVERSITY ITO CAMPUS, one of the largest university campuses in Japan, has been designed incorporating various ideas. Not only is it equipped with the latest facilities suitable for forming a world-class research and education base, it also considers coexistence with the natural environment and the impact on the region, developing the relationship between the campus and the community.

Kyushu University opens Liaison Office in Stockholm

Kyushu University (KU) has just launched its new international liaison office in Stockholm, striving to foster further collaboration with partner institutions in Sweden and European countries and to strengthen the University's presence at the European and international level.



Tatsuro Ishibashi
President
Kyushu University

Message from Kyushu University

Sweden is one of the most important partner countries for our university. We, so far, have had a variety of research collaborations and student exchanges with many partner universities in Sweden. Kyushu University is also a member of MIRAI 2.0, which is a collaboration between 19 Swedish and Japanese universities, aiming to contribute to long-term research collaboration and to promote Sweden and Japan as nations of world-leading large-scale research infrastructure.

Tackling to achieve SDGs, our university is promoting the initiatives from various aspects such as energy related research and design related studies. Kyushu University has completed its campus relocation in 2018 to Ito campus. At this campus, a variety of initiatives, like the world's top level hydrogen energy research to realize a low-carbon and clean-energy-oriented society, are being developed, as a demonstration experiment campus to create new value.

Through our Stockholm Liaison Office, we strongly hope to become a bridge for research and student exchanges between our university and universities in Sweden and Europe.



The building where KU office promotes the activities in Stockholm.



Stockholm Liaison Office
Coordinator Yuta Matsuo



<https://www.facebook.com/KUstockholm>



Webinar Reports

2021.01.29 Japan Alumni and Researcher Assembly

Organizers: Tokai University European Center, the Embassy of Japan in Denmark, JSPS Alumni Club in Denmark (ACD), JSPS Stockholm Office

The Japan Alumni and Researcher Assembly (JARA) is held once a year and aims to promote networking and communication between Danish and Japanese researchers, professionals and students. This year, the event was hosted by Tokai University European Center as part of their 50th anniversary webinar series "Quality of Life". The theme was "Quality of Life and Gender Issues: Breaking down barriers and the importance of international collaboration", on which four engaging presentations were given.



Prof. Yuki Tsuji
Yuki Tsuji is a Professor of Political Sociology at the School of Political Science and Economics, Tokai University

"Gender and Politics in Japan"

"Gender Focus as integrated part of Quality of Life"

Ms. Catherine Lefebvre
Project Leader at the National Centre for Contemporary, Experimental Music and Sound Art (SNYK), former Director of the Karen Blixen Museum, member of Tokai Alumni Association Denmark



Dr. Gitte Marianne Hansen
Gitte Marianne Hansen is a Senior Lecturer in Japanese Studies at Newcastle University

"Writing Women in Contemporary Japan - the case of Haruki Murakami"

"Why Study Gender in Denmark - Local Knowledge in a Globalized World"

Prof. Peter Edelberg
Peter Edelberg is an Associate Professor at the SAXO Institute, University of Copenhagen



2021.02.18 All Alumni Meeting

Organizers: JSPS Alumni Club in Finland (ACF), JSPS Stockholm Office, Academy of Finland, Hokkaido University Europe Office in Helsinki

The annual All Alumni Meeting this time offered insights into the workings of the human eye through presentations by Professor Shigeki Nakauchi from Toyohashi University of Technology, and Professor Markku Hauta-Kasari from University of Eastern Finland. The webinar ended with a pleasant surprise for Professor Markku, as he was elected an honorary member of ACF for his early contributions to the club.



Prof. Jyrki Saarinen,
Chair of ACF, moderator



Prof. Shigeki Nakauchi



Prof. Markku Hauta-Kasari receiving
honorary
membership of ACF

All Alumni Meeting 2021 Open Webinar

What can eyes tell about us?

February 18, 2021 (THU)
9:30-10:45 (Finland) / 16:30-17:45 (Japan)
Online(Zoom)



Shigeki Nakauchi

Professor, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Vice President (International Affairs and Strategy), Toyohashi University of Technology

"Window to the mind: pupillometry as a tool to understand human cognition"



Markku Hauta-Kasari

Professor, Head of the School of Computing, University of Eastern Finland

"Spectral eye fundus imaging using spectrally tunable light sources"

2021.03.12 JSPS SAC Seminar: Virtual museums

Organizers: JSPS Alumni Club in Sweden (SAC), JSPS Stockholm Office, Department of Art History, Uppsala University

JSPS SAC Activity Seminar FY2020

March 12 2021 at 10.00 – 12.00 CET / 18.00 – 20.00 JST

Via Zoom at <https://uu-se.zoom.us/j/64326545646>

Opening remarks

10.00–10.05 – Director of JSPS Stockholm Office Dr. Tadaharu Tsumoto

10.05–10.10 – Professor Leif Kirsebom

10.10–10.15 – Associate Professor Johan Eriksson

Presentations

10.15–10.40 – Professor Shigekazu Sakai, Waseda University: Full Spectrum Digital Images for Wider Color Representation

10.40–11.05 – Professor Akihiko Takano, University of Tokyo/National Institute of Informatics: "Cultural Japan" as a platform for creating your own Self-Museum

11.05–11.30 – Associate Professor Masaki Hayashi, Uppsala University: Web Browser-based 3DCG Virtual Museum Platform

11.30–11.55 – Associate Professor Johan Eriksson/Associate Professor Per Widén, Uppsala University: The Virtual Museum as Art Historical method

Final remarks

11.55–12.00 – Associate Professor Johan Eriksson

This webinar was initiated by SAC board member Johan Eriksson from the Department of Art History at Uppsala University. Presentations looked at the field of virtual museums and offered fascinating demonstrations of how digital platforms can be used to experience and study art.

Virtual museums

Digital Visualizations of Art and Architecture in Sweden and Japan

Organizers: JSPS Stockholm Office & Department of Art History, Uppsala University

Contact: johan.eriksson@konstvet.uu.se



Prof. Shigekazu Sakai,
(Waseda University)



Prof. Akihiko Takano
(University of Tokyo/ National
Institute of Informatics)



Assoc. Prof. Johan
Eriksson, organizer
(Uppsala University)



Assoc. Prof. Per Widén
(Uppsala University)



Assoc. Prof. Masaki
Hayashi (Uppsala University)



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UNIVERSITY

2021.03.25-26 JSPS SAC Seminar On Gas/Kinetic Dynamics and Life Science

Organizers: JSPS Alumni Club in Sweden (SAC), JSPS Stockholm Office, Chalmers University, University of Gothenburg

This two-day webinar looked into ongoing research in gas and plasma dynamics and their application in radiation therapy and nuclear fission/fusion in Sweden and Japan. Twelve speakers from Chalmers University and Kyoto University participated. Organizer was Mohammad Asadzadeh from Mathematical Sciences at Chalmers University and board member of SAC.

Prof. Shigeru Takata
(Kyoto University)

Prof. Mohammad
Asadzadeh, organizer
(Chalmers University)

Prof. Imre Pázsit,
co-organizer
(Chalmers University)



JSPS/SAC SEMINAR, MARCH 25-26, 2021: ON GAS KINETIC/DYNAMICS AND LIFE SCIENCE

Zoom link: <https://chalmers.zoom.us/j/67249934656>
Password: 925923

Program

MARCH 25, 9:00-13:00 (Sweden)/17:00-21:00 (Japan)

Opening remarks

9:00-9:05 Director of JSPS Stockholm Office Dr. Tadaharu Tsumoto

9:05-9:10 Professor Bernd Weinberg

Presentations

Session 1: 9:10-10:30 (Chair: Professor Imre Pázsit)

K1: 9:10-10:00 Professor Shigeru TAKATA: Plenary speaker

(Kyoto Univ., Graduate School of Engineering, Dept. of Aeronautics and Astronautics)

Some attempts on the steady-state modeling of dense gas with phase change

C1: 10:00-10:30 Professor Tamas FOLP

(Chalmers, Dept. of Physics, Subatomic, High Energy and Plasma Physics)

Kinetic modeling of ionization electrons in cooling plasmas

10:30-10:45: Pause

Session 2: 10:45-11:45 (Chair: Professor Kazuo Aoki)

K2: 10:45-11:15 Associate Professor Takuro TSUBOI

(Kyoto Univ., Dept. of Advanced Mathematical Sciences)

Viscosity of mixtures of a rarefied gas & a dense medium induced by an abrupt source of self-irradiation

K3: 11:15-11:45 Assistant Professor Masanori HATTORI

(Kyoto Univ., Graduate School of Engineering, Dept. of Aeronautics and Astronautics)

Some attempts on the steady-state modeling of dense gas with phase change

11:45-12:00: Pause

Session 3: 12:00-13:00 (Chair: Professor David Cohen)

C2: 12:00-12:30 Associate Professor Philip GEELE

(Chalmers, Mathematical Sciences)

Thermodynamic effects in diffusive gas transport

C3: 12:30-13:00 Professor Lars BEILIN

(Chalmers, Mathematical Sciences)

An adaptive time-variant method in non-invasive monitoring of hyperthermia



MARCH 26, 9:00-10:00 (Sweden)/17:00-18:00 (Japan)

Session 4: 9:00-10:00 (Chair: Professor Shigeru Takata)

K4: 9:00-9:30 Post-Doc Kai KOIKE

(Kyoto Univ., Graduate School of Engineering, Faculty of Engineering)

Large-scale simulation of a plasma jet in a 1D vacuum chamber

K5: 9:30-10:00 Associate Professor Hiroki TANAKA

(Kyoto Univ., Institute for Integrated Radiation and Nuclear Science)

Present status of acceleration-based neutron source for heavy neutron capture therapy

in Kyoto University

10:00-10:15: Break

(due to the Sweden-Japan Academic Network meeting at that time)

The meeting is open to the public, but one has to register by 25 March. The program

is available under

<https://www.jsps-stn.com/event/qsat2021/>

where one can register, and also find the link to the meeting.

10:15-10:30: Lunch

10:30-11:00: Session 5: 11:00-12:00 (Chair: Professor Mohammad Asadzadeh)

C4: 11:00-11:30 PhD student Barbara Maria SCHNITZER

(Chalmers, Mathematical Sciences)

Pin pin forces in space: mathematical modeling of aging, cellular rejuvenation and healthy lifespan

C5: 11:30-12:00 Associate Professor Tobias GEBÄCK

(Chalmers, Mathematical Sciences)

Multi-scale modeling of HPLC chromatography columns - homogenization and lattice Boltzmann simulations

C6: 12:00-12:30 Professor Torbjörn LUNDH

(Chalmers, Mathematical Sciences)

Relating between the shape of a wound and its healing time

C7: 12:30-13:00 Professor Anders LOGG

(Chalmers, Mathematical Sciences)

Digital Twin Cities

Final remarks & Closing

14:00-14:05 Professor Mohammad Asadzadeh

2021.03.26 9th Sweden Japan Academic Network

Organizers: The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences (KVA), The Embassy of Japan in Sweden, JSPS Alumni Club in Sweden (SAC), JSPS Stockholm Office, Kyushu University Stockholm Liaison Office

The Sweden-Japan Academic Network is organized yearly together with KVA and the Embassy of Japan in Sweden. This time, it featured lectures related to organic electronics by two distinguished researchers in the field; Chihaya Adachi from Kyushu University and Olle Inganäs from Linköping University.

The event also served as an occasion to memorialise the launch of the Kyushu University Stockholm Liaison Office.



SJAN Webinar

The 9th Sweden-Japan Academic Network Open Webinar

A commemorative event for the foundation of Kyushu University Stockholm Liaison Office

Friday March 26, 2021
10:30-12:00 (Sweden) / 18:30-20:00 (Japan)
Online(Zoom)



Prof. Chihaya Adachi
Distinguished Professor of
Department of Applied Chemistry,
Kyushu University

**"High-performance blue OLED
elaborated by sophisticated molecular
excitonic system"**



Prof. Olle Inganäs
Emeritus Professor of Biomolecular
and Organic Electronics, IFM,
Linköping University

Photo: Magnus Bergström

**"Biomolecular inspiration in organic
technologies for energy conversion and
storage"**

2021.04.15 JSPS ACN Virtual Social Event

Organizer: JSPS Alumni Club in Norway (ACN)

In the absence of physical meetings, the JSPS Alumni Club in Norway tried a new approach with an online social event for its members on a virtual platform. The format was very appreciated and looks promising for other future events.

15:00	→ 15:10	Plenary: Welcome
15:10	→ 15:40	Group activity: Meet-up I
15:40	→ 15:45	Plenary: change of groups
15:45	→ 16:15	Group activity: Meet-up II
16:15	→ 16:25	Plenary: Closing

JSPS Alumni club
in Norway

2021 JSPS ACN virtual social event

Marie Saitou

Principal Investigator (Tenure-track),
Centre of Integrative Genetics (CIGENE), Faculty of Biosciences,
Norwegian University of Life Sciences



Academic background

2020.11 - Principal Investigator (Tenure-Track), Centre for Integrative Genetics,
Norwegian University of Life Sciences,

2020.2 - 2020.10 Postdoctoral Scholar, Section of Genetic Medicine,
The University of Chicago

2017.4 - 2020.1 Postdoctoral Scholar, Department of Biological Sciences,
University at Buffalo

2017.3 Ph.D. Biological Anthropology, Graduate School of Science,
The University of Tokyo

2012.3 B.S. Biological Anthropology, Faculty of Science. The University of Tokyo

(c) Lise Marie Bauge Fjellsbø

We asked Marie Saitou, a principal investigator at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences, to share her experience of research in Norway.

What are you currently researching in Norway?

My research area is evolutionary biology. My research goal is to understand how various species have evolved by using genomic information. I am interested in identifying adaptive genetic variants by combining statistics and experiments, and understanding how these genetic variants contributed to evolution.

How did you get interested in your research subject?

I have been interested in both art and science. When I was selecting my major as an undergraduate student, I was wondering whether to choose art or science. Evolutionary biology looked appealing since I could study nature itself and the possible story behind the history of nature by scientific methods, so I decided to study evolution.

Why did you choose your current institution to conduct your research?

I applied for tenure-track positions around the world. CIGENE gave me the first offer. I accepted it mainly because I had very similar research interests to them, but also because of the high research competitiveness, their powerful supporting system for researchers, and also because the city seemed livable in many aspects.



(c) Lise Marie Bauge Fjellsbø

What has been the most challenging in your research so far?

My big and immediate goal is to pass the tenure evaluation in five years. In order to achieve the goal, I need to secure external funding to cover the research cost and my salary, supervise graduate students and publish high-quality papers, and lead and organize courses.



Entrance to Dr. Saitous Office

Compared to Japan, what is your impression of the research environment in Norway?



(c) Lise Marie Bauge Fjellsbø

This is my personal experience, but I was impressed by the rich and organized system to support research. Various experts are in charge of administration, laboratory, and server management. Our URA (university research administrator) organizes the agenda for the faculty meetings in advance to keep the meetings short. Besides that, once I arrived, a senior adviser from the external funding office (who had worked for the JSPS-equivalent organization in Norway) came to me, explained the European research funding system, and later edited my application.

Do you have any advice for young scientists who dream of going to Norway to do research?

Norway is a small country, so not all research fields are competitive. However, Norway is leading some research areas with affluent funding such as sustainability-related fields, geology, ocean science, and fisheries-related fields in addition to genome biology at CIGENE. If you find an attractive research group, you will be able to gain fruitful research experience. Norway also has a good societal system and safety, and we can use English anywhere. There are not many Japanese people here, but there are surprisingly many researchers who have visited or studied in Japan. We are looking forward to seeing you.



Oslo city

Kristiina Jokinen

Senior Researcher, AI Research Center AIST Tokyo Waterfront, Japan
Adjunct Professor, University of Helsinki, Finland



Academic background

Kristiina Jokinen is Senior Researcher at AI Research Center, AIST Tokyo Waterfront, and Adjunct Professor at University of Helsinki. Before joining AIRC, she was Professor and Project Manager at University of Helsinki and at University of Tartu. She received her PhD from UMIST, Manchester, and was awarded a JSPS Fellowship to research at NAIST Japan. She was Invited Researcher at ATR Research Labs in Kyoto and Visiting Professor at Doshisha University in Kyoto in 2009-2010. She was Nokia Foundation Fellow in Stanford in 2006, and she is Life Member of Clare Hall at University of Cambridge.

We interviewed Kristiina Jokinen who works a senior researcher at the Artificial Intelligence Research Center (AIRC) of the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST) in Tokyo Waterfront.

What kind of research are you currently engaged in?

My research area is Human-Robot Interaction, and in particular, I work on Social Robotics to model natural social interaction between humans and robots. The goal of my research is to enable communication between humans and robots in applications and services where language-based interaction is useful and feasible. Educational or coaching systems where the robot provides help and instructions, assists the user in everyday tasks, and just provides interesting information to the user are examples of such social robot applications. Social interaction includes spoken language and also multimodal aspects like hand gesturing, head nodding, body posture, and

gaze. These modalities convey important information in interactions, the so-called social signals that guide the participants on issues like emotions and affective state of the dialogue partner, where the partners focus their attention to, and also help in the coordination and collaboration of interaction. Moreover, issues related to knowledge are important: how to represent it and how to acquire it. Dialogue modelling can be done manually by scripting suitable scenarios, but a lot of current research focuses on AI-based techniques such as neural modelling and big data which are also the main areas in the AI Research Center at AIST.



How did you get interested in Social Robotics and Human-Robot Interaction?

My background is in natural language processing and dialogue modelling, and issues related to human-human and human-computer interaction always fascinated me. As research in robotics advanced, autonomous humanoid robots started to move out from research labs and appear in the real world as robust working robots. I had an opportunity to work on the Nao humanoid robot and build an application that allows the user to talk to a robot and look for Wikipedia information. The WikiTalk application was then followed by the MoroTalk application that could read online news, and the SamiTalk application to experiment with robots in language revitalisation. The research area is vast and interdisciplinary, and covers research from technical aspects to language processing, from social acceptance to useful applications.

How did you end up in Japan and at your current institution?

I did my PostDoc at Nara Institute of Science and Technology, thanks to the JSPS Postdoc Fellowship. After that I was two years as Invited Researcher at the ATR Telecommunication Labs in Kyoto, and even after returning back to Europe I had good collaboration with colleagues I met during my Fellowship time, and visited Japan for shorter and longer periods on conferences and invitations. Of course, Japan is one of the leading countries in robotics and AI research, with an open-minded and creative attitude towards social robots in general. When I learnt about openings at AI Research Center at AIST, I did not hesitate to send in my application, and so here I am.

How do you experience the research environment in Japan compared to Finland?

Japanese work environment is much more guided by various procedures, which for a foreigner may not always be so clear and straightforward to understand. Also, various forms and regular reporting may make decisions seem slow and strict, and of course hierarchy is much more interwoven even in the language itself. On the other hand, it can also provide a good feeling to know that if a procedure is started, it can also be successfully finished, any issues will be clarified and sorted out quickly, and there is certain responsibility towards colleagues. Japanese colleagues are very polite, helpful, and cooperative, they avoid open confrontation and are very flexible, and they do have a great sense of humour! Also, I think that living in a country where one minute shaking of the earth can destroy your whole life gives people kindness and sense of the life's fragility.

How do you experience the lifestyle in Japan?

Well, I think I've already lived too long in Japan as I find it very natural! I also think that Finnish and Japanese life has many similarities, starting from taking your shoes off inside your home, to the importance of nature and the four seasons, and a certain reservedness and quietness in the character.




What do you do during your time off and where do you recommend travelling in Japan?

I practice Aikido, jog around Odaiba and the nearby canal and seaside paths, and read Japanese literature (from Man'yōshū to Doraemon). I also like travelling and visiting old temples, castles, and historical places, and before COVID-19 I had extensively travelled all around the four main islands and smaller islands as well, so now, when travelling is not recommended, it is actually not so bad. I'm biased towards Nara since it is the first place I learnt to know in Japan, but I can also recommend Tohoku area as well as Shikoku, and, of course, the Odaiba area where we live is pretty amazing like a seaside resort with hi-tech companies, robot trains, and the future Olympic venues!

Do you have any advice for researchers who dream of going to Japan?

Japan is a country of contradictions: old-new, fast-slow, rich-modest, disciplined-indulgent. Keep your dream going, and when you actually reach your goal, be open-minded, Japan will surprise you.



Terms of Award

-  Maintenance and Research support allowance
-  Overseas travel insurance
-  Round-trip air ticket

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JSPS

JAPAN SOCIETY FOR THE PROMOTION OF SCIENCE
STOCKHOLM OFFICE
Japan's largest research funding agency
<https://www.jsps-sto.com/fellowships/>

Postdoctoral Fellowships for Research in Japan FY2022 [Open Recruitment]

Duration

Short-term: 1 to 12 months
Standard: 12 to 24 months

Fields of research

All fields of the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences

Application deadline

Short-term: Oct 1, 2021 / Jan 14, 2022 /
June 3, 2022

Standard: Sep 3, 2021 / May 6, 2022

Read More

Short-term: <https://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-oubei-s/applguidelines.html>

Standard: <https://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-ippan/applguidelines.html>

Invitational Fellowships for Research in Japan FY2022

The Invitational Fellowships provide an opportunity for mid-career to professor level researchers to visit Japan for discussions, lectures and research collaboration.

Duration of fellowship

Short-term: 14 to 60 days
Long-term: 2 to 10 months

Fields of research

All fields of the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences

Application deadline

Short-term: Sep 3, 2021 / May 6, 2022
Long-term: Sep 3, 2021

Read More

<https://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-inv/application.html>

