

**ERIK W. ESSELSTROM**  
 Professor  
 Department of History, University of Vermont  
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## EDUCATION

**Ph. D.** 2004, History, University of California-Santa Barbara  
**M.A.** 1996, Asian Studies, University of Oregon, with Honors  
**B.A.** 1994, History, San José State University, Summa Cum Laude

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Professor**, University of Vermont, Department of History, 2019 – present

**Associate Professor**, University of Vermont, Department of History, 2010-2019  
 - **Visiting Associate Professor**, Hitotsubashi University (Japan), spring-summer 2012

**Assistant Professor**, University of Vermont, Department of History, 2005 - 2010

**Lecturer**, University of Vermont, Department of History, 2004-2005

**Teaching Associate**, University of California- Santa Barbara, Department of History, summer 2004

**Lecturer**, Santa Barbara City College, Department of History, summer 2003

**Assistant English Teacher**, JET Program: Kawagoe City, Saitama Prefecture, Japan, 1996-98

## PUBLICATIONS

### Books

*Kurofune Redux: Black Ships of Postwar Japan* (manuscript in progress)

*That Distant Country Next Door: Popular Japanese Perceptions of Mao's China*. University of Hawai'i Press, 2019 (paperback edition 2021).

*Crossing Empire's Edge: Foreign Ministry Police and Japanese Expansionism in Northeast Asia*. University of Hawai'i Press, 2009.

### Journal Articles

"Diplomatic Heavyweights: Sumō Wrestlers and Japan-China Relations in the Early 1970s" *The International Journal of the History of Sport* 42:6 (September 2025): 569-588.

"Red Guards and Salarymen: The Chinese Cultural Revolution and Comic Satire in 1960s Japan" *The Journal of Asian Studies* 74:4 (November 2015): 953-976.

"From Wartime Friend to Cold War Fiend: The Abduction of Kaji Wataru and U.S.-Japan Relations at Occupation's End" *The Journal of Cold War Studies* 17:3 (Summer 2015): 159-183.

"戦前期中国の日本領事館警察をめぐる国際紛争 *Senzenki Chūgoku no Nihon ryōjikan keisatsu wo meguru kokusai funsō*" 人文学報 *Jinbun gakuhō* 106 (April 2015): 81-95.

"The 1960 'Anpo' Struggle in *The People's Daily* 人民日報: Shaping Popular Chinese Perceptions of Japan during the Cold War" *The Asia-Pacific Journal*, Vol 10, Issue 51, No. 1 (December 2012).

"The Life and Memory of Hasegawa Teru: Contextualizing Human Rights, Trans/Nationalism and the Antiwar Movement in Modern Japan" *Radical History Review* 101 (2008): 145-59.

"Japanese Police and Korean Resistance in Prewar China: The Problem of Legal Legitimacy and Local Collaboration" *Intelligence and National Security* 21:3 (2006): 342-63.

"Rethinking the Colonial Conquest of Manchuria: The Japanese Consular Police in Jiandao, 1909-1937" *Modern Asian Studies* 39:1 (2005): 39-78.

### **Book Chapters and Translations**

"Joshua Fogel's Contribution to the Field of Sino-Japanese Studies." In Joan Judge, Joachim Kurtz, Ori Sela, Hugh Shapiro and Dan Shao, Eds., *The Sinosphere and Beyond: Essays in Honor of Joshua Fogel*. Berlin: De Gruyter, 2024, 1-6.

"Wartime Roots of Postwar Pacifism: Japanese Anti-War Activism in Occupied China." In Helen Hardacre, Timothy George, Keigo Komamura, Franziska Seraphim, Eds., *Japanese Constitutional Revision and Civic Activism*. Lanham, Boulder, New York and London: Lexington Books, 2021, 263-278.

"Humanitarian Hero or Communist Stooge? The Ambivalent Japanese Reception of Li Dequan in 1954." In Barak Kushner and Sherzod Muminov, eds., *The Dismantling of Japan's Empire in East Asia: Deimperialization, Postwar Legitimation, and Imperial Afterlife*. London and New York: Routledge, 2017, 220-235.

"The 1960 'Anpo' Struggle in *The People's Daily* 人民日報: Shaping Popular Chinese Perceptions of Japan during the Cold War" in Alan Baumler, Ed. *Japan, China and Pan-Asianism* (The Asia-Pacific Journal - Course Reader, No. 9, November 2013): 218-236.

"Issues in the History of Manzhouguo: Contemporary and Succeeding Perspectives." Translation of Higuchi Hidemi 樋口秀美, "満州国史の争点 : 同時代と後世の視角," in *Toward a History Beyond Borders: Contentious Issues in Sino-Japanese Relations*, edited by Liu Jie 劉傑, Mitani Hiroshi 三谷博, and Yang Daqing 楊大慶, and Andrew Gordon (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Asia Center, 2012). Originally published in 国境を越える歴史認識: 日中対話の試み (Tokyo daigaku shuppankai, 2006).

"The Consular System of Japan during the Late Nineteenth Century." In Jörg Ulbert and Lukian Prijac, Eds. *Consuls et services consulaires au XIXème siècle - Consulship in the 19th Century - Die Welt der Konsulate im 19. Jahrhundert* (Hamburg: DOBU-Verlag, 2010): 476-484.

"Cultural Export in East Asia" and "Japanese in China" in Peter Stearns, Ed., *Encyclopedia of the Modern World* (Oxford University Press, 2008).

### **Reviews**

*The Japanese Discovery of Chinese Fiction: The Water Margin and the Making of a National Canon* by William Hedberg (Columbia University Press, 2020), in *Journal of Japanese Studies* 47:1 (Winter 2021): 180-184.

*Japan's Imperial Underworlds: Intimate Encounters at the Borders of Empire* by David Ambaras (Cambridge University Press, 2018) and *Lost Histories: Recovering the Lives of Japan's Colonial Peoples* by Kirsten Ziomek (Harvard University Asia Center, 2019) in *Monumenta Nipponica* 75:1 (2020), 168-172.

*One Hundred Million Philosophers: Science of Thought and the Culture of Democracy in Postwar Japan* by Adam Bronson (University of Hawai'i Press, 2016) in *Global Intellectual History* 3:3 (2018): 384-386.

*The Decade of the Great War: Japan and the Wider World in the 1910s* edited by Tosh Minohara, Tze-ki Hon, and Evan Dawley (Leiden; Boston: Brill, 2014) in *Pacific Affairs* 89:4 (December 2016): 911-913.

*Making Tea, Making Japan: Cultural Nationalism in Practice* by Kristin Surak (Stanford University Press, 2012), in *Histoire sociale / Social History* XLVI, no. 92 (November 2013): 596-598

*Brokers of Empire: Japanese Settler Colonialism in Korea, 1876-1945* by Jun Uchida (Harvard University Asia Center, 2011), in *Reviews in History* (2013) <http://www.history.ac.uk/reviews/review/1431>

*Absolute Erotic, Absolute Grotesque: The Living, the Dead, and the Undead in Japanese Imperialism*, by Mark Driscoll (Duke University Press, 2010) in *American Historical Review* 116:2 (April 2011): 423-424.

*Sino-Japanese Relations: Interaction, Logic, and Transformation*, by Ming Wan (Stanford University Press, 2006) in *China Review International* 41:1(Spring 2008): 153-156.

“Emperor Hirohito and Japan's Decision to Go to War with the United States: Reexamined” *Diplomatic History* 31:1 (January 2007) by Noriko Kawamura in *H-Diplo Article Commentaries* (January 2007).

近代日中関係史再考(Reconsidering the History of Modern Sino-Japanese Relations) edited by Tanaka Akira 田中明 (Tokyo: nihon keizai hyōronsha, 2002) in *Sino-Japanese Studies*, 15 (April 2003): 174-5.

*Japan's Imperial Diplomacy: Consuls, Treaty Ports, and War in China, 1895-1937*, by Barbara J. Brooks (University of Hawai'i Press, 2000) in *Sino-Japanese Studies*, 13:2 (April 2001): 76-9.

#### **CONFERENCE PAPERS AND INVITED LECTURES:**

“China and the West: Historical Lessons for the Present” Invited Lecture, Education and Enrichment for Everyone (EEE) Spring 2024 Lecture Series, February 2024.

“Kurofune Redux: U.S. Nuclear Submarines as ‘Black Ships’ in 1960s Japan” New England Conference of the Association for Asian Studies (NEAAS), Wellesley College, October 2023.

“An American Witness to War and Revolution in Guangzhou: The Diaries of Henry C. Brownell” New York Conference on Asian Studies (NYCAS), Syracuse University, October 2022.

“Wrestling with the Past: Sumō and the Restoration of Japan-China Relations in the 1970s” New England Conference of the Association for Asian Studies (NEAAS), Harvard University, December 2021.

Invited Session Chair, “Questions in the History of China and Korea” New England Conference of the Association for Asian Studies (NEAAS), University of Vermont, October 2020.

“Popular Japanese Views on the Normalization of Japan-China Relations in 1972” Invited Lecture at The Australian National University, Canberra, AUS, April 2020. (Postponed due to Covid-19)

Invited session discussant for “U.S.-China Maritime Disputes in the South China Sea” at the Peace and War Summit, Norwich University, Northfield, VT, April 2020 (Postponed due to Covid-19)

Panel session chair/discussant for *Russia on my mind: Imperial Japan and the Soviet Union* at the Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Denver, CO, March 2019.

*Dohyō Diplomacy: Sumō and Japan-China Relations in 1973*, New England branch meeting of the Association for Asian Studies (NEAAS), Brandeis University, October 2018.

*Technology and Social Change in Pre-Modern East Asian Civilization*, Vermont Humanities Council 44th Annual Fall Conference (“The Double-Edged Sword of Technology”), November 2017.

*Laughing at the Bomb: Comic Japanese Responses to Chinese Nuclear Weapons Testing in the 1960s*, New York Conference on Asian Studies (NYCAS), Utica College, September 2016.

*Li Dequan’s 1954 Visit to Japan and the Social Politics of Early Cold War Era China-Japan Relations*, Invited paper for an international symposium entitled “Breakdown of Japanese Empire”; Funded by the European Research Council and hosted by Cambridge University, United Kingdom, September 2014.

*Visions of Mao’s Red Guards in Popular Japanese Comic Magazines*, “Visualizing Asia in the Modern World” A Conference on Image-Driven Scholarship, Sponsored by MIT Visualizing Cultures and the Yale University Center for East Asian Studies, New Haven, CT, May 2013.

*Mao’s Red Guards in Tokyo: Popular Japanese Representations of China’s Cultural Revolution Era*, Invited lecture at the Rohatyn Center for Global Affairs, Middlebury College, April 2013.

*The ‘Rise’ of China: A Historian’s Perspective*, Odyssey Lecture Series, Harbour Ridge Country Club and Resort, West Palm Beach, FL, March 2013.

Panel discussant for *Technologies of Japanese Empire: Aesthetics, Planning and Ideology* at the Asian Studies Conference Japan, Rikkyo University, Tokyo, June 2012.

*Kaji Wataru and East Asian Democracy at the Intersection of Chinese Victory and Japanese Defeat*, Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies (AAS), Honolulu, April 2011. Also served as organizer and chair of the panel session, “Interrogating Ideology and National Identity in Colonial, Wartime, and Postwar East Asia.”

*Samurai Imaginaries: Japanese Warriors in Popular Memory*, Public lecture delivered in conjunction with ‘Shadow of the Samurai’ exhibit, Robert H. Fleming Museum, University of Vermont, October 2010.

*The United States and Kaji Wataru in Wartime China and Occupied Japan*. Invited Lecture for the Program on U.S.-Japan Relations, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University, December 2009.

*Kaji Wataru and the Meanings of Japanese Support for Wartime Chinese Resistance*, Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies (AAS), Chicago, March 2009. Also served as organizer of the panel session, “The Impact of China Experience on the Construction of Modern Japanese Identity.”

*Crossing Empire’s Edge: Foreign Ministry Police and Japanese Expansionism in Northeast Asia*, Invited lecture for the “New Currents in Studies on the Japanese Empire” colloquium series, Center for East Asian Studies, Stanford University, May 2008.

*Wartime Pacifism and Political Crime: The Case of Hasegawa Teruko, 1912-1947*, New England Association for Asian Studies Conference, University of New Hampshire, October 2007. Also served as the organizer/chair of the panel session, “The Politics of Crime, Police, and Power in Imperial Japan.”

*Foreign Ministry Thought Police and Ideological Security during the Manchurian Crisis*, Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies (AAS), Boston, March 2007. Also served as organizer of the panel session, “The Manchurian Crisis at 75 – New Interpretations.”

*Japanese Consular Police and Transnational Thought Crime on the Edge of Empire*, Invited paper for a workshop entitled, “Crime, Law and Order in the Japanese Empire, 1895-1945,” hosted by the Netherlands Institute for War Documentation (Nederlands Instituut voor Oologsdocumentatie), Amsterdam, September 2006.

*When the Gaimushō Had Guns: Japan's Foreign Ministry Police in Northeast Asia, 1880-1945*, Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies (AAS), San Francisco, April 2006.

*Police, Empire, and Transnational Thought Crime in 1920s Shanghai*, New York Conference on Asian Studies (NYCAS), State University of New York at New Paltz, September 2005.

*Shisō Gaikō : 'Thought Diplomacy' and the Japanese Consular Police in Occupied China, 1937-1942*, New England Conference of the Association for Asian Studies, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH, November 2004.

*Japanese Colonial Police and Korean 'Collaborators' in Manchuria: The Case of the Manshū Hominkai, 1920-1924*, Harvard Graduate Student Conference on International History: Empires and Imperial Control in Comparative Historical Perspective, Cambridge, March 2004.

*The Myth of Army Unilateralism: The Consular Police in Manchukuo, 1930-1937*, Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies (AAS), San Diego, March 2004. Also served as organizer of panel session, "The Ambiguous Borders of Colonial Authority: Japanese Consular Police in Northeast Asia."

*Japanese Political Intelligence and Korean Resistance in Shanghai, 1919-1932*, Western Conference of the Association of Asian Studies (WCAAS) Conference, Phoenix, October 2003. Also organized and chaired panel session, "Politics, Nation, and Locality in Modern Northeast Asia."

*Japanese Police, Korean Radicals, and the Space of Resistance in Northeast Asia: The Manchurian People's Protection Society, 1920-1924*, American Historical Association Pacific Coast Branch (AHA-PCB) Conference; Honolulu, August 2003. Also chaired panel session, "The Politics of Identity, Resistance, and Empire in Asia and Asian America."

日本植民地支配と領事館警察についての一考察 (A Consideration of Japanese Colonial Rule and the Consular Police), Invited research presentation at the Institute for Research in Humanities, Kyoto University, July 2002.

*The Japanese Consular Police in the Northeast Asian Empire*, 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Asian Studies Conference Japan (ASCJ); Sophia University, Tokyo, June 2002.

*The 'Invisible Hand' of Russo-Japanese Relations: Kawakami Toshitsune, 1861-1935*, ASPAC (Asian Studies on the Pacific Coast) Conference, University of Oregon, June 2000; Esterline Prize Winner.

*Bureaucracy and Idealism in the Empire: Japan's Foreign Ministry Police*, ASPAC Conference, San Diego State University, June 1999.

#### **AWARDS AND HONORS:**

UVM Humanities Center Travel Grant 2025 (for use in April 2026)

UVM Peter Seybolt Faculty Fund in Asian Studies Research Awards, 2017, 2021, 2024, 2025

UVM Humanities Center Summer Research Award, Summer 2019

UVM College of Arts and Sciences, Small Grant Research Award, Spring 2017

Japan Foundation Japanese Studies Research Fellowship (short-term), Summer 2015

Faculty Research Support Award, UVM College of Arts and Sciences, 2010

Conference Travel Award from the Lattie F. Coor Endowment, UVM College of Arts and Sciences, 2010  
Association for Asian Studies (AAS) Northeast Asia Council (NEAC) Japanese Studies Grant, 2009

Nathan and Jeanette Miller Center for Historical Studies Twentieth-Century Japan Research Award from the University of Maryland at College Park, Spring 2008

UVM College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Fund for Faculty Development Award 2007

Nomination for Kroepsch-Maurice Award for Teaching Excellence at UVM 2007

Association for Asian Studies (AAS) Northeast Asia Council (NEAC) Japanese Studies Grant, 2006

Harvard Postdoctoral Fellowship in Japanese Studies at the Reischauer Institute, 2005 (declined)

UCSB Graduate Division Dissertation Fellowship, summer 2004

UC Regents Dissertation Fellowship, History Department, UCSB, 2003-2004

UC Pacific Rim Research Program Mini-Grant, 2003

Fulbright Graduate Research Fellowship, Waseda University (Tokyo), 2001-2002

Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship, 2001-2002 (Declined)

FLAS (Foreign Language and Area Studies) Graduate Student Fellowships, UCSB Department of East Asian Languages and Cultural Studies, 1998-1999, 1999-2000

#### **UNIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY SERVICE ACTIVITIES:**

UVM College of Arts and Sciences Academic Planning and Budget Committee (APBC), Spring 2024

Search Committee Chair (Global Environmental History), Department of History, Fall 2023

History Department Graduate Studies Committee, 2022-23

Elected Member, Faculty Standards Committee, College of Arts and Sciences, Spring 2021, Fall 2021-Spring 2022.

Faculty Advisor, *History Review* undergraduate journal, 2020-2022

History Department, Director of Undergraduate Studies, Fall 2017 – Spring 2020

Elected Member, UVM College of Arts and Sciences Academic Studies Committee, 2018-2021

History Department Faculty Senator, Fall 2013 – Spring 2016

Director, Asian Studies Program, UVM College of Arts and Sciences, Fall 2009-Spring 2016, Spring 2022- Spring 2024

Chair, Department of Asian Languages and Literatures Chairperson Review Committee, Fall 2011

Member of University Scholarship Committee, Fall 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 (Fulbright evaluations)

Chair, College of Arts and Sciences Honors Committee 2007-2009; College Honors Committee Member and Individually Designed Major/Minor (IDM) Advisor, 2006-2007

Search Committee Member, Tenure-Track Assistant Professor in Japanese Language and Literature, Department of Asian Languages and Literatures, 2007-08

UVM History Department, Undergraduate Studies Committee, Co-Undergraduate Advisor, Transfer Affairs Coordinator, 2006-present

Faculty Presenter, Governor's Institute for Asian Studies, UVM Asian Studies Outreach Program

Seminar Leader, National Consortium for Teaching about Asia (NCTA) Seminar Program, Seminar on East Asia, Spring 2005-2009, Spring 2014, Spring 2016

#### **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE:**

Book manuscript reviewer for University of Hawaii Press (2012), University of British Columbia Press (2011, 2015), Hong Kong University Press (2015, 2016), Cornell University Press (2017), Oxford University Press (2025)

Article manuscript reviewer for *War in History* (2025), *Contemporary Japan* (2024), *Journal of the History of Ideas* (2023) *Acta Koreana* (2021) *U.S.-Japan Women's Journal* (2016) *The Journal of Asian Studies* (2014), *War & Society* (2013) *Modern Asian Studies* (2011), *Intelligence and National Security* (2011, 2014), *Sino-Japanese Studies* (2010), *Southeast Review of Asian Studies* (2009), and *Modern China* (2008)

Grant proposal reviewer for National Endowment for the Humanities, Summer Stipend Program (2014)

Conference Organizer and Program Chair, New England branch Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, November 2010

#### **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:**

Association for Asian Studies (AAS)  
American Historical Association (AHA)