

Claire-Akiko BRISSET

Full Professor in Japanese Cultural History

Email: claire-akiko.brisset@unige.ch

Affiliation: University of Geneva, Faculty of Humanities

Department: Department of Oriental studies

Education:

- Accreditation to supervise research in Japanese Cultural History, Paris Diderot University, Department of Oriental studies, 2011
- Ph.D. in Japanese Studies, Paris Diderot U., Department of Oriental studies, 2000
- M.A. in Japanese Studies, Paris Diderot U., Department of Oriental studies, 1996
- M.A. in Classical Studies, La Sorbonne U., Department of Literature, 1990

Bio sketch

Claire-Akiko Brisset is Full Professor in Japanese Cultural History at the University of Geneva, and received her Ph.D. in Japanese Studies in 2000 from Paris Diderot University. She is the author of *À la croisée du texte et de l'image : paysages cryptiques et poèmes cachés (ashide) dans le Japon classique et médiéval* (Collège de France, 2009). This pathbreaking book examines Japanese cryptographic expression from classical to medieval period. For the very first time in a European language, this study aims at establishing hermeneutic and intersemiotic patterns through an extensive overview of the pictorial and calligraphic corpus. She is also co-editor of numerous books dealing with Japanese epic, writing history and culture, visual culture, and co-translator of major Japanese classical texts (*Shaka no honji*, *Mumyôshô*, *Shuhanron*, *Kaidôki*, etc.), as well as contemporary Japanese scientific literature (Tsuji Nobuo, etc.). Her current book projects deals 1) with the history and anthropology of Japanese writing system, and 2) with Japanese cinema.

Major fields: cryptography, anthropology of writing, visual culture, written culture (premodern period), film studies

Current topics

- relationships between text and image in pre-modern and modern Japan (especially cryptography and illustration process)
- history and anthropology of Japanese writing system
- semiology of visual culture
- discourses about painting and calligraphy in pre-modern Japan
- Japanese epics
- Japanese cinema

Fellowships and Awards

- 2018: McClellan Visiting Fellow in Japanese Studies, Council on East Asia Studies, Yale University
- 2016: elected as French Correspondant of the Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres
- 2010: Jean Reynaud Prize (Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres)
- 2010: Shibusawa-Claudé Prize
- 2008: Waseda University (Tôkyô) Exchange Researcher
- 1997: Jean Schneider-Louis Forest Prize (Chancellerie des Universités de Paris)

Publications (selection)

- Books

1. Anne-Marie Christin (ed), *Paravents japonais. Par la brèche des nuages* (Japanese screens. Through the gap in the clouds), co-edited with Terada Torahiko (Paris, Citadelles et Mazenod, 2021, 280 p., available also in English, Abbeville Press, and Italian, Mondadori)

2. *Rébus d'ici et d'ailleurs : écriture, image, signe* (Rebuses from here and elsewhere: writing, image, sign), co-edited with F. Dumora and M. Simon-Oikawa (Paris, Hémisphères / Nouvelles éditions Maisonneuve & Larose, 2018, 536 p.)
3. *"Shuhanron Emaki" Eiin to kenkyû : bunkachôbon-furansu toshokanbon to sono shûhen* (The *Shuhanron emaki*: facsimile and study. On the Bunkachô and the Bibliothèque nationale de France manuscripts and other versions), co-edited with Itô N. and Masuo S. (Kyôto, Rinsen shoten, 424 p.)
4. *Des mérites comparés du saké et du riz illustré par un rouleau japonais du XVIIe siècle* (edition of the manuscript of *Shuhanron emaki*, ms Japonais 5343 kept in the Bibliothèque nationale de France), co-edited with E. Leggeri-Bauer and V. Béranger (Paris, Diane de Selliers éditeur / Bibliothèque nationale de France, 2014)
5. *De l'épopée au Japon : narration épique et théâtralité dans le Dit des Heike*, co-edited with Arnaud Brotons and Daniel Struve (Paris, Riveneuve, 2011)
6. *Nihon no moji-bunka o saguru: nichifutsu no shiten kara*, co-edited with Pascal Griolet, Christophe Marquet and Marianne Simon-Oikawa (Tôkyô, Bensei shuppan, 2010)
7. *À la croisée du texte et de l'image : paysages cryptiques et poèmes cachés (ashide) dans le Japon classique et médiéval* (Paris, Collège de France, coll. Bibliothèque de l'Institut des Hautes Etudes Japonaises, 2009)
8. *L'Université et la recherche en colère. Un mouvement social inédit*, C.-A. Brisset (ed) (Bellecombe-en-Bauges, Éditions du Croquant, 2009)
9. *Du bon usage des images : autour des codes visuels en Chine et au Japon*, C.-A. Brisset (ed), *Extrême-Orient Extrême-Occident* issue n° 30 (Paris, PUV, 2008)
10. *Du pinceau à la typographie. Regards japonais sur l'écriture et le livre*, co-edited with Pascal Griolet, Christophe Marquet and Marianne Simon-Oikawa (EFEO, 2006)

- Papers and chapters (since 2015)

1. 2020: « L'éventail », in P. Singaravélou et S. Venayre (dir.), *Le magasin du monde. La mondialisation par les objets du XVIII^e siècle à nos jours*, Paris, Fayard, p. 86-89
2. 2020: « Photographie (*shashin*) et vérité : le tournant de Meiji », in *Comptes rendus des séances de l'Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres*, fasc. 2018-II (avril-juin), p. 771-782
3. 2019: « Voix et texte : autour de l'"épopée" au Japon », in I. Muzart-Fonseca dos Santos et J.-R. Valette (eds), *Poétiques de Paul Zumthor (1915-2015)*, Paris, Classiques Garnier, 2019, p. 167-180
4. 2017: « Homerosu kara mita chûsei nihon no Heike monogatari », in Komine Kazuaki et Miyakoshi Naoto (eds), *Nihon bungaku no tenbô o hiraku*, vol. 4 : *Bungakushi no jikû*, Tôkyô, Kasama shoin, p. 331-342
5. 2016: « Autour de la première image du Buddha : image pérégrine, image répliquée », in *Comptes rendus des séances de l'Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres*, fasc. 2016-III (juillet-octobre), p. 1365-1379
6. 2015: « Introduction » (with Itô Nobuhiro), p. 1-2, « Bunkachô-zô "Shuhanron emaki" no honkoku-shakubun-chûkai » (with Itô Nobuhiro), et « Tekusuto to shite no "Shuhanron" : sono ekurichûru o megutte », in C.-A. Brisset, Itô Nobuhiro and Masuo Shin.ichirô (eds), *"Shuhanron Emaki" Eiin to kenkyû: bunkachôbon-furansu toshokanbon to sono shûhen*, Kyôto, Rinsen shoten, 2015, p. 22-68 et p. 70-92

- Translations

1. Anonyme japonais du 13^e s., *En longeant la mer de Kyôto à Kamakura (Kaidôki)*, translation with Jacqueline Pigeot, Daniel Struve, Sumie Terada et Michel Vieillard-Baron de Paris (Paris, Le Bruit du temps, 2019, 128 p.)
2. supervision of the complete French translation of the *Shuhanron* text from the manuscript kept in the Bunkachô collection, in E. Leggeri-Bauer, V. Béranger and C.-A. Brisset (eds), *Des mérites comparés du saké et du riz illustré par un rouleau japonais du XVIIe siècle*, Paris, Diane de Selliers éditeur / Bibliothèque nationale de France, p. 87-111
3. Tsuji Nobuo, *Autoportrait de l'art japonais*, translation with L. Seelenbinder-Mérand (Strasbourg, Fleurs de parole, 2011), translation of the 3rd and 5th chapters of *Nihon bijutsu no mikata* (Iwanami shoten, 1992)

4. Kamo no Chômei, *Notes sans titre (Mumyôshô) – Propos sur les poètes et sur la poésie*, translation with J. Pigeot, D. Struve, S. Terada and M. Vieillard-Baron (Paris, Le Bruit du temps, 2010)
5. *La Vie du Buddha racontée et illustrée au Japon (Shaka no honji)*, translation and introduction with P. Griolet (Paris, PUF / Fondation Bodmer, 2010)

Courses taught (2021-2022)

- Methodology in Asian studies (undergraduate)
- Introduction du Japanese classical grammar (undergraduate)
- Seminar on Japanese classical texts (graduate)
- Seminar on film analysis (graduate)

Conferences and invited papers (selected list, since 2015)

- “Autour des paravents japonais : objet multifonctionnel, espace oblique et support décoratif”, Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres (January 2022)
- “Hieroglossia and Sacred cryptography at the Japanese Imperial Court of the 12th Century”, international conference *Engaging Translation: Questions of Language and Power*, Arizona State University, Tempe (November 2021)
- “Jeux graphiques et poésie lettriste vus du Japon (Xe–XXe s.)”, international conference *Lettres à l’œuvre. Pratiques lettristes dans la poésie en français (de l’extrême contemporain au moyen âge)*, Fribourg University (October 2021)
- “Le Japon vu d’Europe : si lointain, si proche”, conference *La Fascination du Japon : collectionner à l’ère Meiji (1868-1912)*, Musée Ariana, Genève (October 2021)
- “Reading as a Performance? Cryptography in Japanese Lacquerware Tradition”, international conference *The Many Shapes of Meaning: Object and Performance in Asia*, Kyûshû University (December 2019)
- “Textures du silence au cinéma”, workshop *Silences*, Museum of Art and History, Geneva
- “The calligraphic collections in China and Japan: some philological considerations”, international workshop *The Tekagami-jô and the Tôdaiji-gire in Context*, Yale University (2019)
- Edwin McClellan Visiting Fellow in Japanese Studies Lecture: “A Poetics of Ambiguity: Japanese Cryptography at the Crossroads of Text and Image”, Council on East Asian Studies, Yale University (February 2018)
- “Le récit (*monogatari*) à l’intérieur des récits guerriers japonais”, international conference *The Tale of the Heike and other warrior tales: a Japanese epic?*, Paris Diderot University (2017)
- “Disputation bouddhique et parodie dans le Japon du XVI^e siècle : à propos du *Rouleau sur les mérites comparés du saké et du riz (Shuhanron emaki)*”, international conference *Hobogirin 2nd International Symposium: Rongi. Buddhist debates in Japan*, Collège de France and Fondation Hugot (2017)
- “The Miminashi Hôichi Story and the Question of the Epic Performance”, EAJS, Lisbon (August 2017)
- “Autour de la première image du Bouddha : image pérégrine, image répliquée”, international conference *Colloque Bernard Frank vingt ans après. Nouveaux regards sur la civilisation japonaise*, Collège de France and Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres (October 2016)
- “Copy in Classical Japan: The Empowerment of the Sacred Texts”, Association of Art Historians 42nd Annual Conference, U. of Edinburgh (April 2016)
- “About the Eye-Opening Ceremony: Between the Medium and the Icon in Japan”, International Conference *The Materiality of the Sacred in Medieval Japan and Europe: Buddhism, Shinto, Christianity*, Heidelberg University (March 2016)
- “The *Shuhanron Emaki (The Illustrated Scroll of the Sake and Rice Debate)* from an Interdisciplinary Perspective: A Case Study”, International Conference *Shifting Perspectives on Media and Materials in Early Modern Japan*, School of Oriental and African Studies, Londres (July 2015)