



**UNIVERSITÉ  
DE GENÈVE**

**FACULTÉ DES LETTRES**

Département d'études est-asiatiques

**Claire-Akiko BRISSET**

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**AFFILIATION:** University of Geneva, Faculty of Humanities, 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 University, Department of Oriental studies, 2000
- M.A. in Japanese Studies, Paris Diderot University, Department of Oriental studies, 1996
- M.A. in Classical Studies, La Sorbonne University, 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 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. With Terada Torahiko (Tōkyō University), she also ensured the editorial and scientific coordination of Anne-Marie Christin (ed), *Paravents japonais. Par la brèche des nuages* (Citadelles et Mazenod, 2021). She is 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*, *Mumyōshō*, *Shuhanron*, *Kaidōki*, etc.), as well as contemporary Japanese scientific literature (Tsuji Nobuo, Mita Munetsuke, etc.). Her current book projects deal 1) with the history and anthropology of Japanese writing system, and 2) with the reception of Japanese cinema in France during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. She has also undertaken the complete translation into French of the *Kokon chomon-jū* by Tachibana no Narisue (1254).

**MAJOR FIELDS OF RESEARCH**

cryptography, anthropology of writing, visual culture, written culture (premodern period), film studies, reception studies

**CURRENT TOPICS**

- relationships between text and image in pre-modern and modern Japan
- history and anthropology of Japanese writing system
- semiology of visual culture
- discourses about painting and calligraphy in pre-modern Japan
- Japanese epics
- Japanese cinema and its reception in the West

**FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS**

- 2018: McClellan Visiting Fellow in Japanese Studies, Council on East Asia Studies, Yale University
- 2016: elected French Correspondent 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 (Tōkyō) Exchange Researcher
- 1997: Jean Schneider-Louis Forest Prize (Chancellerie des Universités de Paris)



**COURSES TAUGHT (2025-2026):**

- Methodology in Asian studies (undergraduate)
- Introduction du Japanese classical grammar (undergraduate)
- Introduction to the Japanese cinema (undergraduate)
- Seminar on Japanese classical texts (graduate)
- Seminar on film analysis (graduate)
- Intensive seminar on Japanese cinema (University of Tōkyō, July 2025)

**PUBLICATIONS (SELECTION):**

**- Books**

1. 2021: Anne-Marie Christin (ed), *Paravents japonais. Par la brèche des nuages*, co-edited with Terada Torahiko (Paris, Citadelles et Mazenod, 280 p., available also in English, Abbeville Press, and in Italian, Mondadori).
2. 2018: *Rébus d'ici et d'ailleurs : écriture, image, signe*, co-edited with Florence Dumora and Marianne Simon-Oikawa (Paris, Hémisphères / Nouvelles éditions Maisonneuve & Larose, 536 p.).
3. 2015: "Shuhanron Emaki" *Eiin to kenkyū: Bunkachōbon-Furansu toshokanbon to sono shūhen*, co-edited with Itō Nobuhiro and Masuo Shin.ichirō (Kyōto, Rinsen shoten, 424 p.).
4. 2014: *Des mérites comparés du saké et du riz illustré par un rouleau japonais du XVII<sup>e</sup> siècle*, co-edited with Estelle Leggeri-Bauer and Véronique Béranger (Paris, Diane de Selliers éditeur / Bibliothèque nationale de France, 248 p.).
5. 2011: *De l'épopée au Japon : narration épique et théâtralité dans le Dit des Heike*, co-edited with Arnaud Brotons and Daniel Struve (Paris, Riveneuve, 206 p.).
6. 2010: *Nihon no moji-bunka o saguru: nichifutsu no shiten kara*, co-edited with Pascal Griolet, Christophe Marquet and Marianne Simon-Oikawa (Tōkyō, Bensei shuppan, 448 p.).
7. 2009: *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 études japonaises, 548 p.).
8. 2009: *L'Université et la recherche en colère. Un mouvement social inédit*, C.-A. Brisset (ed) (Bellecombe-en-Bauges, Éditions du Croquant, 368 p.).
9. 2008: *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, Publication universitaires de Vincennes, 205 p.).
10. 2006: *Du pinceau à la typographie. Regards japonais sur l'écriture et le livre*, co-edited with Pascal Griolet, Christophe Marquet and Marianne Simon-Oikawa (Paris, École française, d'Extrême-Orient, 417 p.).

**- Papers and chapters (selection, since 2015)**

1. 2024: "Le Japon vu d'Europe : si lointain, si proche (XIII<sup>e</sup>-XIX<sup>e</sup> s.)", in *Comptes rendus des séances de l'Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres*, fasc. 2023-III (juillet-octobre), p. 1049-1084.
2. 2024: "Autour des paravents japonais : objet multifonctionnel, espace oblique et support pictural", in *Comptes rendus des séances de l'Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres*, fasc. 2022-I (janvier-mars), p. 37-78.
3. 2023: "Jeux graphiques et poésie lettriste vus du Japon (X<sup>e</sup>-XX<sup>e</sup> siècle)", in Marion Uhlig et al. (dir.), *Lettres à l'œuvre. Pratiques lettristes dans la poésie en français (de l'extrême contemporain au Moyen Âge)*, Paris, Classiques Garnier, p. 187-218.



- 2022: "Du bon usage de la cryptographie : allusions poétiques dans des laques du Japon classique et médiéval", in Flavia Carraro *et al.* (dir.), *Cryptographie. Codes, jeux d'arcane et arts de l'intime*, Nanterre, Société d'ethnologie, p. 135-154.
- 2020: "L'éventail", in Pierre Singaravélou et Sylvain Venayre (dir.), *Le Magasin du monde. La mondialisation par les objets du XVIII<sup>e</sup> siècle à nos jours*, Paris, Fayard, p. 86-89.
- 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.
- 2019: "Voix et texte : autour de l' 'épopée' au Japon", in Idelette Muzart-Fonseca dos Santos et Jean-René Valette (eds), *Poétiques de Paul Zumthor (1915-2015)*, Paris, Classiques Garnier, 2019, p. 167-180.
- 2017: "Homerosu kara mita chūsei Nihon no *Heike monogatari*", in Komine Kazuaki et Miyakoshi Naoto (eds), *Nihon bungaku no tenbō o hiraku*, vol. 4: Bungakushi no jikū, Tōkyō, Kasama shoin, p. 331-342.
- 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.
- 2015: "Introduction" (with Itō Nobuhiro), p. 1-2, "Bunkachō-zō 'Shuhanron emaki' no honkoku-shakubun-chūkai" (with Itō Nobuhiro), et "Tekusuto to shite no 'Shuhanron' : sono ekurichūru o megutte", in C.-A. Brisset, Itō Nobuhiro and Masuo Shin.ichirō (eds), "*Shuhanron Emaki*" *Eiin to kenkyū: Bunkachōbon-Furansu toshokanbon to sono shūhen*, Kyōto, Rinsen shoten, 2015, p. 22-68 et p. 70-92.

**- Translations (primary and secondary sources, selection)**

- 2023: Mita Munesuke, *L'Enfer du regard. Une sociologie du vivre jusqu'à consommation (Manazashi no jigoku. Tsukinaku ikiru koto no shakaigaku)*, translation with Yatabe Kazuhiko (Paris, CNRS éditions, 160 p.).
- 2019: Anonyme japonais du 13<sup>e</sup> s., *En longeant la mer de Kyōto à Kamakura (Kaidōki)*, translation with Jacqueline Pigeot, Daniel Struve, Terada Sumie and Michel Vieillard-Baron de Paris (Paris, Le Bruit du temps, 128 p., rééd. 2025).
- 2014: supervision of the complete French translation of the *Shuhanron* text from the manuscript kept in the Bunkachō collection, in Estelle Leggeri-Bauer, Véronique Béranger and C.-A. Brisset (eds), *Des mérites comparés du saké et du riz illustré par un rouleau japonais du XVII<sup>e</sup> siècle*, Paris, Diane de Selliers éditeur / Bibliothèque nationale de France, p. 87-111.
- 2011: Tsuji Nobuo, *Autoportrait de l'art japonais*, translation with Lionel Seelenbinder-Mérand (Strasbourg, Fleurs de parole, 140 p.), translation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> chapters of *Nihon bijutsu no mikata* (Iwanami shoten, 1992).
- 2010: Kamo no Chōmei, *Notes sans titre (Mumyōshō) – Propos sur les poètes et sur la poésie*, translation with Jacqueline Pigeot, Daniel Struve, Terada Sumie and Michel Vieillard-Baron (Paris, Le Bruit du temps, 222 p.).
- 2010: *La Vie du Buddha racontée et illustrée au Japon (Shaka no honji)*, translation and introduction with Pascal Griollet (Paris, Publications universitaires de France / Fondation Bodmer, 272 p.).

**CONFERENCES AND INVITED PAPERS (SELECTION, SINCE 2015):**

- November 2025 : "Cinema as a Transnational Phenomenon: The Case of the Reception of Japanese Cinema in France before 1945", *keynote lecture*, 8th EU-Japan Young Scholars Workshop on Transnational Japan, *Revisiting Transnational Relations between Japan and the West*, Tōkyō, Hōsei University



2. May 2025: "Voyages dans le Japon antique et médiéval : aspects matériels et symboliques", Paris, Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres
3. July 2025 : "Japanese cinema as a transnational phenomenon (1896-1945) ", intensive seminar, Tōkyō University
4. April 2024: "Text and image relationship in Japanese visual culture: the case of the *Heike nōkyō* (12<sup>th</sup> century)", international conference *Writing and Material Culture in East Asia*, Taipei, Taiwan National University
5. January 2024: "The body as a ritual medium: about the Miminashi Hōichi Story", The 8th Annual Hasekura International Japanese Studies Symposium *Embodied Discourse, Embodied Practice. The Body as Text, Medium, and Testimony in Japan*, Rome, La Sapienza University
6. October 2023: "Le Japon vu d'Europe : si lointain, si proche (XIII<sup>e</sup>-XIX<sup>e</sup> s.)", Paris, Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres
7. August 2023: "Espace oblique et collage : le cas du paravent japonais", International Association of Word and Image Studies Congress, Belo Horizonte (Brazil)
8. May 2023: "De Heian à Kyōto : institution impériale et création lettrée au Japon", Paris, Institut de France
9. February 2023: "The Oblique Space in Japanese Visual Culture: Folding Screens, Books and Fans", Berlin, Freie Universität
10. January 2023: "The reception of Japanese cinema in Europe: Toward a new history", Tōkyō, Gakushūin joshi University
11. November 2022: "Les débuts du cinéma au Japon : entre circulations transnationales et appropriation locale", École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne
12. May 2022: "'Néo-japonisme' et cinéma ?", international conference *Le "Néo-japonisme" 1945-1975*, Paris, Collège de France
13. January 2022: "Autour des paravents japonais : objet multifonctionnel, espace oblique et support décoratif", Paris, Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres
14. November 2021: "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
15. October 2021: "Jeux graphiques et poésie lettriste vus du Japon (X<sup>e</sup>-XX<sup>e</sup> s.)", international conference *Lettres à l'œuvre. Pratiques lettristes dans la poésie en français (de l'extrême contemporain au moyen âge)*, Switzerland, Fribourg University
16. October 2021: "Le Japon vu d'Europe : si lointain, si proche", international conference *La Fascination du Japon : collectionner à l'ère Meiji (1868-1912)*, Geneva, Ariana Museum
17. March 2021: "Par les chemins du bout du monde : les voyages dans le Japon d'autrefois", University of Geneva, keynote speech of the Festival Histoire & Cité
18. December 2019: "Reading as a Performance? Cryptography in Japanese Lacquerware Tradition", international conference *The Many Shapes of Meaning: Object and Performance in Asia*, Fukuoka, Kyūshū University
19. October 2019: "Textures du silence au cinéma", Geneva, Museum of Art and History
20. March 2019: "The calligraphic collections in China and Japan: some philological considerations", international workshop *The Tekagami-jō and the Tōdaiji-gire in Context*, New Haven, Yale University
21. February 2018: "A Poetics of Ambiguity: Japanese Cryptography at the Crossroads of Text and Image", Edwin McClellan Visiting Fellow in Japanese Studies Lecture, Council on East Asian Studies, New Haven, Yale University



22. October 2017: "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
23. October 2017: "Disputation bouddhique et parodie dans le Japon du XVI<sup>e</sup> siècle : à propos du *Rouleau sur les mérites comparés du saké et du riz (Shuhanron emaki)*", *Hōbōgin 2nd International Symposium: Rongi. Buddhist debates in Japan*, Paris, Collège de France and Fondation Hugot
24. August 2017: "The Miminashi Hōichi Story and the Question of Epic Performance", European Association of Japanese Studies, Lisbon
25. October 2016: "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*, Paris, Collège de France and Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres
26. April 2016: "Copy in Classical Japan: The Empowerment of the Sacred Texts", Association of Art Historians 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference, University of Edinburgh
27. March 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, Shintō, Christianity*, Heidelberg University
28. July 2015: "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*, London, School of Oriental and African Studies

**ORGANIZATION OF CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS (SINCE 2016):**

1. 2025: with Jean-Noël Robert, international conference, "Hieroglossia and Sino-Japanese dialectics", University of Geneva and Center of Japanese Studies (Collège de France)
2. 2025: co-organization, 2<sup>nd</sup> Swiss Asia Society Japan Conference, "Centers and Peripheries in Japan", with Zürich University and the Société Suisse-Asie, University of Geneva
3. 2022: co-organization, 1<sup>st</sup> Swiss Asia Society Japan Conference, "Borders, Thresholds, Barriers in Japan", with Zürich University and the Société Suisse-Asie, University of Geneva
4. 2021: co-organization, 9<sup>es</sup> Journées de la relève en études asiatiques et orientales, "Études asiatiques : objets et questionnements" [online], University of Geneva, Société Suisse-Asie, Société Suisse Moyen Orient et Civilisation Islamique
5. 2019: co-organization, workshop "Images absentes, images détruites : une approche comparatiste ?", University of Geneva
6. 2018: with Jean-Noël Robert, international conference "Meiji. Une refondation culturelle", Paris, Académie des inscriptions et belles-lettres
7. 2017: with Daniel Struve, international conference "Le *Dit des Heike* et autres récits guerriers – une épopée japonaise ?", University Paris Diderot
8. 2016: with Jean-Noël Robert, international conference "Colloque Bernard Frank vingt ans après. Nouveaux regards sur la civilisation japonaise", Paris, Collège de France and Académie des inscriptions et belles-lettres