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Embassy of Switzerland in Japan
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International conference co-organized by Sophia University Institute of Comparative Culture,
The University of Osaka, University of Geneva Geography Department, University of Turin
Department of Humanities

Japan, tourist world tours and globetrotters – from the Meiji period (1868-1912) to 1970

Sophia University, Tokyo, 26-28 June 2026



Aoki, Tsunesaburō (1885-86). *Sekai ryokō bankoku meisho zue – Illustrated guidebook for travellers round the world*, Covers of volumes 1 and 6. Kobe University Library, <https://da.lib.kobe-u.ac.jp/da/sc/0100407099/>

PROGRAMME

June 26, 2026

17-17.30: Registration

17.30: Welcome remarks (MURAI Noriko, Sophia University, Member of the research group “Making the World - The first round the world tourist tours (1869-1914)”)

17.40-18.30: Welcome reception offered by the Embassy of Switzerland in Japan

18.30-19.30 PM: Keynote speech 1 (Sonia FAVI, University of Turin, Member of the research group “Making the World - The first round the world tourist tours (1869-1914)”), *Picturing tourist world tours in Japan – guidebooks, maps and sugoroku, 1880s-1930s*.

June 27, 2026

9-10.30: SESSION 1 – Moderator: MURAI Noriko (Sophia University)

Jason Gordon BUTTERS (Columbia University), *Anxious to Impress: The impact of globetrotters on (inter)nationalist thought and praxis in imperial Japan, 1880s-1920s*.

William FAVRE (University of Geneva), *Inverting the gaze: the SS Cleveland cruises around the world in the Japanese press*.

Andreas EICHLETER (Heidelberg University), *Foreign Residents in Japan and their Impression of the Visiting Globetrotter*.

10.30-11: Break

11-12.30 SESSION 2 – Moderator: MURAI Noriko (Sophia University)

Laura SAYSANAVONGPHET (University of Geneva), *Japan as the Highlight of the World Tour: Tourist Practices, Encounters, and Imaginaries in Early Globetrotting (1869–1914)*.

Jean-François STASZAK (University of Geneva), *Globetrotting in Japan (1909-1913)*.

KŌ En (Komazawa University), *Japan’s Imperial Showcase on the World Tour: Manchuria, Round-the-World Cruises, and Global Representation in the 1920s (Colonial Manchuria in world tours)*

12.30-14: Lunch

14-15.30: SESSION 3 – Moderator: Hannah HOLTZMAN (Sophia University)

Vanessa SCHWARTZ (University of Southern California), *Hiro: Fashion Photographer as Globetrotter*.

Claire-Akiko BRISSET (University of Geneva), *Japanese globetrotters and avant-garde cinema in the 1920s*.

Kevin RIORDAN (Temple University), *Calendar Confusion in Meiji Japan: Jules Verne, Thomas Cook, and Kume Kunitake*

15.30-16: Break

16-17.30: SESSION 4 – Moderator: Sonia FAVI (University of Turin)

Andrew ELLIOTT (Doshisha Women's College), *Guiding the Globetrotter in Imperial Japan*.

Bettina ZORN (Weltmuseum Wien), *Heinrich von Siebold as tourist guide for the Austrian-Hungarian nobility at the end of the 19th century*.

HU Kouzi (University of Tokyo), *Bodily Practices and Affective Encounters: The Japanese Inn Experience in Globetrotters' Accounts, 1860–1920*.

17.30-18: Break

18-19: Keynote speech 2 (HASHIMOTO Yorimitsu, The University of Osaka, Member of the research group “Making the World - The first round the world tourist tours (1869-1914)”). *Globetrotting as Duty: From Imperial Education to Postwar Ethical Critique, Japan's Transforming Rites of Elite Travel, 1910s–1960s*

June 28, 2026

9.30-11: SESSION 5 – Moderator: MURAI Noriko (Sophia University)

WAKABAYASHI Haruko (Rutgers University), *From Oyatoi to a Globe-TroPer: Edward Warren Clark's World Tours in the Midst of the Sino-Japanese War of 1894-1895*.

Véronique BRINDEAU (Sophia University), *A traveling salesman turned art collector: a French globetrotter in Japan, Georges Labit (1862–1899)*.

Laurence WILLIAMS (Sophia University), *Elite Globetrotters and the Critique of Mass Tourism: Rudyard Kipling and Aldous Huxley in Japan*.

11-11.30: Break

11.30-13: SESSION 6 – Moderator: Jean-François STASZAK (University of Geneva)

Karolina WATROBA (University of Edinburgh), *Touring the World via Japan: Three German 'Weltreisen' of 1929*.

Philip DECKER (Princeton University), *“The New Asia”’: Colin Ross’ 1939 journey to Japan and the Japanese Empire, and what he told Adolf Hitler about it*

António Eduardo HAWTHORNE BARRENTO (University of Lisbon), *Not as in the books: Ferreira de Castro's Around the World and his observations of Japan in 1939.*

13-14.30: Lunch

14.30-16: SESSION 7 – Moderator: KONO Shion (Sophia University)

Érika WICKY (University Grenoble Alpes), *Scents of Japan: Olfactory accounts of world travelers (1870-1912).*

Maria EMANOVSKAYA (independent researcher), *Russian Globetrotting and Japan: a Story of Construction of Alterity through Food*

DONG Zi'ang (Hokkaido University), *Landscapes in Exile: Postwar Japan in Chiang Yee's The Silent Traveller.*

16-16.30: Break

16.30-17.30: SESSION 8 – Moderator: HASHIMOTO Yorimitsu (The University of Osaka)

YAJIMA Masumi (Tohoku University), *Japan for the Global Traveler: Ponting's Stereographs and the Rise of Armchair Tourism.*

Raphaël PIERONI (Institute for Research in Art and Design – HEAD Geneva and University of Geneva) and William FAVRE (University of Geneva), *Around the World in One Day in Japan. Tobu World Square (1993) and Small Worlds Miniature Museum (2020).*

17.30: Closing remarks

Organizers: Sonia FAVI (University of Turin); HASHIMOTO Yorimitsu (The University of Osaka); MURAI Noriko (Sophia University); Jean-François STASZAK (University of Geneva).