

Japanese Studies in Spain: A Growing Academic Field

Blai GUARNÉ* and IWASA Takuro**

Although Japanese studies in Spain started somewhat late, its development over the last thirty years within Spanish universities has been remarkable. Eight universities currently offer study programs in East Asian studies, including Japanese studies, and a similar number are carrying out research projects. Japanese studies has expanded from the humanities to the social sciences, and also within research groups, centers, and universities. However, the issue of institutional support and funding poses challenges in the long term. This article addresses the research and teaching of Japanese studies in Spain and provides an overview of a growing academic field.

Keywords: Japanese studies, Spain, East Asian studies, Japanese language, Japanese culture

Introduction

Ten years have passed since a full bachelor's degree in East Asian studies was first offered in Spain. This was the first time a major in Japanese studies was offered in a Spanish university, on the same level as other European universities. Such a ten-year anniversary constitutes the perfect occasion to review the situation of Japanese studies in Spain.

* Blai Guarné is Associate Professor and Coordinator of the East Asian Studies Program at Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona.

** Iwasa Takuro is Associate Professor at Osaka University of Economics and has been Visiting Researcher at Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona for the 2019–2020 academic year.

An issue that needs to be pointed out before we enter into a detailed consideration of this topic is the scope of Japanese studies in Spanish universities. These studies have traditionally been addressed through the disciplines of humanities such as history, art history, language, literature, philosophy, and thought. More recently, the range has expanded to include disciplines from the social sciences, such as politics, international relations and law, international trade, economics, and business. The Japanese language and linguistics, along with Japanese-to-Spanish literary translation, also occupy an important place, although their specific consideration is beyond the scope of this article.¹

In order to offer the most complete overview possible of Japanese studies in Spain, we will focus on the activities carried out by public universities—the country’s leading academic institutions—within the broad research and teaching field of East Asian studies. In the first section we present the academic activity of eight universities in which Japanese studies covers a wide range of scholarly interests, following the chronological order of the foundation of their scientific centers, research groups, and study programs on Japanese and East Asian studies. In the second section we consider the dissemination of Japanese studies in what constitutes a dynamic academic environment in which several universities and institutions are involved across the country. Finally, in the third section we look at the challenges and opportunities that Japanese studies face in the Spanish academic system, an issue that leads us to the article’s conclusion.

Ultimately, our goal is to provide an initial systematic overview of Japanese studies in Spain, both in education and in research, through the consideration of a knowledge field which, while still young in its implementation and development, must be contemplated in a global academic context.

1. Academic Institutionalization: From Japanology to Japanese Studies

Despite the fact that the West’s earliest knowledge on Japan was written in Spanish by Christian missionaries in the sixteenth century, the study of Japan in Spain remained

1 In this regard, we only consider the teaching of Japanese on study programs from university degrees in philology, modern languages, and translation and interpreting as a secondary topic. In the last section of the article, we address the teaching of Japanese in university language centers and official language schools. Although we cannot enter into an exhaustive consideration of this topic, we believe this section offers a suitably complete overview.

undeveloped at the academic level for a long time. The expansion of the Spanish empire in the Americas and the dependence of the South Pacific colonies on the American continent contributed to Spain historically focusing its intellectual endeavors on regions other than East Asia.

The commercial and military interests of modern Western powers led to the progressive development of oriental studies in the main European universities, while East Asia was fated to occupy a marginalized academic position in Spain. The initial curiosity of the European enlightenment for Chinese philosophy, aesthetics, and law laid the foundations of Sinology, gradually becoming associated with language and linguistic studies. This interest later gave rise to the development of Japanese studies, which were closely tied with the Western imperialist project in the nineteenth century. In the second half of the twentieth century, the emergence of area studies on the campuses of the main universities in the United States brought a new kind of specialized knowledge of Japan which, with the end of the Cold War geopolitical order and the emergence of the phenomenon of cultural and economic globalization, has been the subject of a thorough epistemological critique.

Until relatively recently, Spain was not involved in these academic developments because of the late arrival of intellectual modernity, and also because of the country's scholarly isolation, enforced by the dictatorship that ruled for a large part of the last century. Japanese studies was therefore overlooked in Spanish universities, overshadowed by a long tradition of Western scholarship, and, as a result of this, Spain lagged far behind other countries in the academic study of Japan.

However, in the last decades of the twentieth century, a generation of scholars emerged whose works transitioned from the field of Japanology to that of Japanese studies. For the most part, they were missionaries from different Catholic orders who travelled to Japan in the 1950s and 1960s and found that the process of secularization led them to teach Spanish language and culture in leading Japanese universities. Among them, there were notable precursors, like José Luis Álvarez Taladriz (a specialist in the missionary history of sixteenth- and seventeenth-century Japan), and a prominent group of scholars comprising Antonio Cabezas (Christian missionary history in Japan, Japanese literature and translation), Federico Lanzaco Salafranca (Japanese language, thought, and aesthetics), Fernando Rodríguez-Izquierdo (classical Japanese literature, haiku poetry, and translation), José María Ruiz (comparative Japanese and Western literatures), Ángel Ferrer Casals (Japanese philosophy and classical translation), Jesús González Vallés (Japanese philosophy, religion, and

classical translation), and Fernando García Gutiérrez (Japanese art, history, and philosophy).² On returning to Spain they faced a lack of institutional support and had to take up secondary university positions or continue their work outside of the academic world. Their pioneering work was way ahead of Spanish academia at the time, and the universities failed to recognize the value of the knowledge they were able to contribute. As a result, their generation was unable to use its skills and expertise to develop study programs for Japanese language and culture, further delaying the academic institutionalization of Japanese studies in Spain.

The institutionalization would be driven by a younger generation of scholars whose careers began to take shape in the 1980s thanks to the scholarship programs offered by the Japanese Ministry of Education and the Japan Foundation, without whose support Japanese studies in Spain would be far less developed.³ The introduction of the Japanese language as an operative subject in philology, modern languages, and translation studies at the end of the 1980s and throughout the 1990s, and the efforts of this new generation of researchers trained in Japanese studies abroad, meant a fundamental step towards institutionalizing Japanese studies in Spanish universities.

These efforts came to fruition when, in 2003, the Spanish Ministry of Education and Science agreed to change the official name of the field relating to research and teaching on Japan from “Language and Culture of the Far East”—with its strong orientalist tone—to “East Asian Studies.” This change enabled universities in the 2003–2004 academic year to offer the first programs in East Asian studies as two-year, second-cycle degrees, undertaken face-to-face in the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB) and the Autonomous University of Madrid (UAM), which included a specialization in Japanese studies. So, for the first time, Japanese studies became institutionalized in Spanish universities, although still only within two-year programs. These initial academic degrees were brought into line with those of other

2 For more on these authors, see Elena Barlés Báguena, “Luces y sombras en la historiografía del arte japonés en España” [Light and Shadow in the Historiography of Japanese Art in Spain], in Elena Barlés Báguena, ed., *Monográfico “Las colecciones de arte extremo oriental en España,” Artígrama. Revista del Departamento de Historia del Arte de la Universidad de Zaragoza* no. 18, 2003, pp. 23–82.

3 For more on this subject, see Alfonso Falero, “A History of Japanese Studies in Spain: An Introduction.” Paper presented at the European Association of Japanese Resource Specialists Annual Conference, Universidad de Salamanca, September 2004, <https://gredos.usal.es/handle/10366/122014> (accessed April 3, 2020).

European universities in the 2009–2010 academic year, with the so-called “Bologna Process”—i.e., the process of adapting university degrees to the European Higher Education Area (EHEA)—which presented an opportunity to transform these two-year programs into full four-year university degrees in East Asian studies. This change significantly increased the content related to Japan, with a wide range of compulsory and optional subjects from the humanities (anthropology, literature, thought, philosophy, art, history, cultural studies) and the social sciences (sociology, politics, international relations, geography, economics, international trade, business). But, above all, it increased the teaching of the Japanese language with a well-defined syllabus that would enable students to learn Japanese to at least level B1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) and even level B2, if students undertook a study placement in a Japanese university.

In parallel to this, an interest in Japan had begun to develop in postgraduate and doctoral programs, mainly in modern languages and literature, translation and interpreting, and art history and philosophy. New master’s programs emerged that focused specifically on East Asian studies with a major in Japanese studies, thereby definitively placing Spanish universities on the same level as their European counterparts in this field of knowledge.

The adaptation of university degrees to the EHEA served as a catalyst for the preconditions needed (critical mass, teaching excellence, social interest) to respond to the growing demands of students, official institutions, and the professional world for more advanced training in East Asian studies at Spanish universities. And this needed to include a substantial offering of Japanese studies in line with international education standards. But these study programs would not have been possible without the activities undertaken over many years by several research groups and centers, which would become the backbone of Japanese studies in Spanish universities, as we outline below.

Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB) / Autonomous University of Barcelona

Japanese studies at UAB encompasses language and linguistics, literature and translation, society and culture, and popular culture and media studies. Created in 1988, the Centre of Japanese Studies was Spain’s first university center dedicated to Japanese studies. It set a course for the academic recognition of this field of study, which was consolidated the following decade when it was integrated into the Centre of International and Intercultural Studies (CEII). The mounting relevance of East Asia

in the global context led researchers at CEII to increasingly focus their attention on this region. In 2013, in recognition of their work, the CEII changed its name to the East Asian Studies & Research Centre (CERAO), as it is known today, and East Asian area studies was included in the name of the Department of Translation and Interpreting & East Asian Studies (DTIEAO), making UAB the first Spanish university to have a department in this field.

The teaching of Japanese at UAB had also begun at the end of the 1980s, at the Faculty of Translation and Interpreting (FTI), and this has continued uninterrupted ever since: first, in the second-cycle degree in East Asian studies since 2003, and now, as a Bachelor's Degree in East Asian Studies (four years) since 2009. UAB thereby became the first Spanish university to offer a bachelor's degree focused exclusively on East Asia, with a full major in Japanese studies in which the Japanese language is taught from beginner level as a compulsory subject for the forty students taking the Japanese track. Key to its development has been the contribution of Japanese teachers like Shiraishi Minoru 白石実 and Suzuki Shigeko 鈴木重子, who were later joined by Mercè Altimir Losada (literary translation and gender studies), Fukuda Makiko 福田牧子 (sociolinguistics and family language policy), Hanawa Takatoshi 塙隆敏 (language), Carme Mangirón Hevia (translation and popular culture), Jordi Mas López (literary translation and haiku poetry in Catalan), Albert Nolla Cabellos (literary translation), Alba Serra Vilella (literary translation and interculturality), and Umemoto Tomoko 梅本明子 (language). In addition, the FTI offers a Bachelor's Degree in Translation and Interpreting that teaches Japanese to intermediate level. As a result of these developments there are now more than two hundred students studying Japanese at the FTI every year, making UAB the top university for Japanese in terms of student numbers in the Spanish university system.

At postgraduate level, Japanese studies at UAB began in 2007 with a master's program on contemporary East Asia, which has given rise to the Official Master's Degree in Global East Asian Studies (one year) in 2020. This is an innovative master's program developed by the research group GREGAL: Japan-Korea-Catalonia/Spain Cultural Circulation, whose epistemological framework combines the approaches of area studies and global studies. Furthermore, since the mid-1990s it has been possible to undertake a PhD in Japanese studies in the PhD Program in Translation and Intercultural Studies. Related to these study programs, UAB has an international exchange program that includes more than twenty-five Japanese universities, to which it regularly sends students for six month or one-year placements. In this way, UAB

became the first university in Spain to offer a bachelor's, master's, and PhD in Japanese studies, a model later adopted by other prominent Spanish universities. This academic activity has been made possible thanks to the research undertaken in the CERAO and the DTIEAO through eight competitive R&D projects from the Spanish Ministry of Innovation and Science, five regional research projects, various projects awarded by the Japan Foundation, and one competitive research project from the European Research Council (ERC).

Research in Japanese studies is undertaken by the research group GREGAL, which has made UAB a leader in the field of Japanese popular culture and media studies. Led by Blai Guarné, GREGAL looks at the circulation, reception, and reconfiguration of the cultural, linguistic, and representational flows which, with Japan and South Korea as the main players, affect and transform Spain's social reality through globalizing processes on a worldwide scale. Its scientific activity is focused on three main lines of investigation: (1) (re)production, reception, and consumption of the Japanese and South Korean cultural and creative industries in Spain; (2) the uses of popular culture for strategic purposes in Japanese and South Korean cultural diplomacy programs, soft-power strategies, and nation-branding actions in Spain; and (3) language and mobility in relation to human flows and the dissemination of the Japanese and Korean languages in Spain.⁴ The group has a strong interuniversity focus, with the participation of researchers from UAB like Fukuda Makiko, Eduardo González de la Fuente, Tomás Grau, Alba Serra Vilella, Umemoto Tomoko, and from other universities such as Angélica Cabrera Torrecilla (National Autonomous University of Mexico), Antonio Loriguillo-López (Jaume I University in Castellón),

4 Among the members' publications: Fukuda Makiko "Language Use in the Context of Double Minority: The Case of Japanese-Catalan/Spanish Families in Catalonia," *International Journal of Multilingualism* vol. 14, no. 4, 2017, pp. 401–418; Blai Guarné, ed., *Antropología de Japón: identidad, discurso y representación* [Anthropology of Japan: Identity, Discourse, and Representation], Barcelona: Edicions Bellaterra, 2017; Blai Guarné, Paul Hansen, *Escaping Japan: Reflections on Estrangement and Exile in the Twenty-First Century*, Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge, 2018; Blai Guarné, Antonio Loriguillo-López, eds., Special Issue "The Impact of Japanese and South Korean Audiovisual Production in Spain," *L'Atalante* no. 29, 2020; Marcos P. Centeno Martín, Norimasa Morita, eds., *Japan Beyond Its Borders: Transnational Approaches to Film and Media*, Tokyo: Seibunsha, 2020; Marcos P. Centeno Martín, Michael Raine, eds., Special Issue "Developments in Japanese Documentary Film," *Arts* 8 (3), 2019; Guillermo Martínez-Taberner, *El Japón Meiji y las colonias asiáticas del imperio español* [Meiji Japan and the Asian Colonies of the Spanish Empire], Barcelona: Edicions Bellaterra, 2017.

Guillermo Martínez-Taberner (Pompeu Fabra University, UPF), Mario Malo Sanz (University of Zaragoza, UNIZAR), and Marcos P. Centeno Martín (Birkbeck, University of London), who is specialist in Japanese cinema and the documentary works by Hani Susumu.

Related to GREGAL, and also in the DTIEAO, the InterAsia research group focuses on analyzing intercultural processes developed in relation to East Asia, with China as the central foci, and in particular investigates the consequences of the meetings and exchanges both within the region and between East Asia and the rest of the world.

Finally, of particular importance is the research project led by the ICREA⁵ research professor Rebekah Clements, under the title “Aftermath of the East Asian War of 1592–1598.” This is a five-and-a-half-year research project funded by a European Research Council Starting Grant (Horizon2020), which seeks to understand the legacy of Toyotomi Hideyoshi’s invasion of Korea. As a cultural historian specializing in the Tokugawa period, Clements is the principal investigator of a research team of PhD students and postdoctoral researchers who analyze the environmental, technological, and social impact of Hideyoshi’s invasions of Korea in sixteenth-century East Asia. Deserving of special mention in this ongoing research project is the development of an open-access resource in the form of a multilingual research tool for scholars of sixteenth- to seventeenth-century East Asian history: “The Database of Research on the Imjin War.”⁶ It brings together bibliographic information on modern books, articles, and dissertations relating to Hideyoshi’s invasions. As of May 2020, the database contains over four hundred entries in nine languages, primarily English, Korean, Japanese, and Chinese (romanization is provided for Asian titles and author names).

On an editorial level, since 2013 UAB has published in Spanish the book series “Japanese Studies Library” through the CERAO at the Edicions Bellaterra. Under the direction of Blai Guarné, eleven volumes have been published that cover different areas of Japanese studies, such as premodern and modern history (Gustavo Pita Céspedes, Guillermo Martínez-Taberner), popular culture (Artur Lozano-Méndez), feminism and gender studies (Montserrat Crespín Perales), political movements

5 ICREA (Catalan Institution for Research and Advanced Studies), is a scientific foundation supported by the regional government of Catalonia.

6 <https://aftermath.uab.cat/database-search/>

(Ferran de Vargas), and literature (Pau Pitarch Fernández).⁷ Along with these original works by Spanish and Latin American scholars, also published in the series are Spanish translations of internationally renowned works (e.g., works by Sugimoto Yoshio and Joy Hendry), and it has received the support of the Japan Foundation grant programs for its contribution to the development and consolidation of Japanese studies in the Spanish-speaking academic community.

Over the years, UAB has also organized several conferences, like the 5th National Conference of the Association for Japanese Studies in Spain (AEJE), titled “Towards the 21st Century: A Multidisciplinary and Multicultural Focus on the Progress of Knowledge” in 1998; the 6th and 7th National Conferences of the AEJE, “Japan: Art, Culture, and Water” in 2000 and 2002; and the 5th FEIAP Conference (Spanish Asia-Pacific Research Forum) in 2016. In 2022 it will organize the JAWS Conference (Japan Anthropology Workshop), which has not been held in Spain since the mid-1990s. Finally, it is worth noting that UAB is part of the Sakura Network (Japan Foundation Nihongo Network), that its Library of Humanities houses the personal library of Harumi Befu, and that, since 1994, UAB has served as an exam center for the Japanese-Language Proficiency Test (JLPT).

Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (UAM) / Autonomous University of Madrid

Japanese studies at UAM cover language and linguistics, literature and translation, economics and society, thought and history, and art history. Japanese studies began in the 1980s when the language was first taught at faculty level. During the 1990s, Japanese language and literature were taught on different degree programs as optional subjects at the Faculty of Philosophy and Arts, especially within the course “Second Language and Its Literature.” The systematic teaching of Japanese began in 2003, on the two-year, second-cycle degree in East Asian studies.

Since 2009, UAM has offered a full major in Japanese studies within its Bachelor’s Degree in African and Asian Studies (four years). Japanese is offered from beginner level as a compulsory subject for the thirty-five students that choose the Japanese track. In relation to this bachelor’s degree, UAM has an international exchange program that includes ten Japanese universities. At postgraduate level the Official Master’s Degree in East Asian Studies (one year) started in 2020, and, since 2014, a PhD Program in Human Sciences offers a research line in Asian studies, with

7 <https://cerao.uab.cat/publicaciones/biblioteca-de-estudios-japoneses/?lang=es>

the possibility to write a dissertation on Japanese studies.

Research in Japanese studies is conducted at the Centre for East Asian Studies (CEAO, established 1992), which has made UAM a leading institution in the research and teaching of East Asian studies in Spain. The CEO's main goal is to promote research on the East Asian region in fields such as sociology, culture, art, history, economics, and politics, and for this a sound command of East Asian languages is necessary. Since its creation, the Japanese studies section has been organized by the language and literature specialist Takagi Kayoko 高木香世子. In its early years of operation, it benefited from the teaching of the aforementioned Japanologist Federico Lanzaco Salafranca, along with visiting lecturers and scholars like Ana María Goy-Yamamoto, a specialist in contemporary Japanese economics and society, who joined the CEO with a Japan Foundation grant and today is in charge of the Japanese studies section.⁸ Equally fundamental in its first years was the teaching of Japanese history given by Kondo Yoshiyuki 近藤仁之 from UAM's Faculty of Economics, as well as the teaching of language by Kimura Chieko 木村千枝子, art by Amaury A. García Rodríguez—the current director of the Centre for Asian and African Studies of the College of Mexico—and culture by Tanaka Michiko 田中道子, from the same institution.⁹

Since 2000, the CEO has incorporated new generations of scholars with strong research backgrounds in different academic areas of Japanese studies from Europe, the United States, and Japan, such as language expert Suzuki Yuko 鈴木裕子, linguistics

8 Among their publications: Takagi Kayoko, Takamori Emi, *Manual de lengua japonesa*, Madrid: UAM Ediciones, 3rd Edition, 2019; Ana María Goy-Yamamoto, Susa Mari, "Legislación Antimonopolio" [Antitrust Legislation], in Francisco Barberán, et al., eds., *Introducción al derecho japonés actual* [Introduction to Current Japanese Law], Cizur Menor: Aranzadi, 2013, pp. 675–693.

9 Among their publications: Amaury A. García Rodríguez, *El control de la estampa erótica japonesa shunga* [The Control of the Japanese Erotic Shunga Print], Mexico D.F.: COLMEX, CEAA, 2011; Amaury A. García Rodríguez, ed., *Cultura popular y grabado en Japón: siglos XVII a XIX* [Popular Culture and Printmaking in Japan: 17th to 19th Centuries], Mexico D.F.: COLMEX, CEAA, 2005; Michiko Tanaka, *Cultura popular y estado en Japón 1600–1868. Organizaciones de jóvenes en el autogobierno aldeano* [Popular Culture and State in Japan 1600–1868: Youth Organizations in Village Self-government], Mexico D.F.: COLMEX, CEAA, 1987; and Michiko Tanaka et al., *Historia mínima de Japón* [Minimal History of Japan], Mexico D.F.: COLMEX, CEAA, 2011.

expert Takamori Emi 高森絵美, intellectual history specialist David Mervart,¹⁰ art history specialist Daniel Sastre de la Vega,¹¹ literature and translation expert Tani Rumi 谷ルミ,¹² and language lecturer Eddy Y. L. Chang. The CEO has also led six competitive R&D projects from the Spanish Ministry of Innovation and Science, has obtained different projects from the Japan Foundation, and its researchers participate in projects with other universities like the EU-funded research program “East Asian Uses of the Past: Tracing Braided Chronotypes” (2016–2019) in collaboration with Heidelberg University, the University of Zurich, and the London School of Economics.

Also noteworthy is the CEO’s work organizing exhibitions of Japanese art, such as the *ukiyo-e* exhibition of a previously unknown Madrilénian collection titled *Fantasy on Stage: Kunisada and the Utagawa School*, curated by Daniel Sastre de la Vega with Olga García (Royal Fine Arts Academy of San Fernando, Madrid, 2014), and *Yōkai, Iconography of the Fantastical: The Night Parade of One Hundred Demons as the Source of Supernatural Imagery in Japan*, also curated by Sastre de la Vega with Yumoto Kōichi 湯本豪一 in the same venue in 2018.

At the editorial level, since 2017 the CEO has published in Spanish the book series “Japan Collection” through UAM’s university press, led by Takagi Kayoko. There are already four published titles within the collection encompassing linguistics (Takagaki Toshihiro 高垣敏博, Takamori Emi), thought (Kiyozawa Manshi 清沢満之, Bernat Martí Oroval), and history (Gonzalo San Emeterio Cabañes).¹³ Likewise, the CEO has organized several conferences, like the 13th National and 4th International Conference of the AEJE under the title “Perspectives of the Bilateral Relations between Spain and Japan,” in 2018; and the forthcoming 2nd International Conference of the Spanish Association for East Asian Studies (AEEAO) around the

10 Among his publications: “Meiji Japan’s China Solution to Tokugawa Japan’s China Problem,” *Japan Forum* vol. 27, no. 4, 2015, pp. 544–558; and “*Analects* for Schoolgirls and Underemployed Warriors: Testing a Cultural History of Confucianism in Japan,” *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies* vol. 78, no. 1, 2018, pp. 181–199.

11 Daniel Sastre de la Vega is the author of *Arte y nación. El discurso de la Historia del Arte en el Japón Meiji* [Art and Nation: The Discourse of Art History in Meiji Japan], Barcelona: Edicions Bellaterra, 2019.

12 Tani Rumi and Carlos Rubio have translated *Historia de los hermanos Soga* [The Tale of the Soga Brothers], Madrid: Trotta, 2012; and *Heike monogatari* [The Tale of the Heike], Gijón: Satori, 2019.

13 <https://libros.uam.es/?press=uam&page=catalog&op=series&path%5B%5D=japon>

theme “East Asian Studies in the Age of Connectivity,” in 2021. Finally, it should be mentioned that since 2006, the CEAO has also organized the JLPT and, in view of this exam, organizes day conferences on Japanese language and culture with talks and other artistic activities open to the general public.

Universidad de Valladolid (UVa) / University of Valladolid

Japanese studies at UVa are focused on literature and translation, international relations, and international trade and business. In line with this, the interest in Japan is present in the business-focused Official Master in International Relations and Asian Studies (two years) in the Faculty of Commerce and includes beginner-level Japanese-language teaching. Likewise, Japanese is also taught at beginner level in the Language Center on the Valladolid and Soria campuses.

We should also mention East Asian art, taught in the Faculty of Philosophy and Arts by Blanca García Vega in the 1970s, which addressed issues relating to India, China, and Japan. In fact, the City of Valladolid houses the biggest oriental art collection in Spain, in the Oriental Museum housed within the Real Colegio Seminario de los Padres Agustinos. Founded in 1874, the museum has eighteen rooms of Chinese, Filipino, and Japanese art from Augustine missions in East Asia, which notably include Japanese sculptures, lacquerware, *ukiyo-e* engravings, ceramics, chinaware, armor, and clothing.¹⁴ In 1993, the aforementioned José María Ruiz founded the Institute of Japanese Studies which, in 2000, came to form part of the Centre for Asian Studies (CEA), headed by Luis Óscar Ramos Alonso.¹⁵ Although the CEA focuses on the South Asian region, mainly India, it also addresses East Asia and Japan through courses, lectures, and cultural exhibitions, with a strong informative focus.

Significantly, since 2006, the research group called The Reception of Japanese Imaginary in English and French Travel Literature in the Nineteenth to the Twenty-First Century focuses on mythical-symbolic studies of the Japanese imaginary and its reception in modern European travel literature. Led by Pilar Garcés García and Lourdes Terrón Barbosa, its main aim is to analyze Japan's influence on nineteenth to

14 Similarly, the nearby city of Ávila has an Oriental Museum established in 1964 that brings together pieces from Japan, Vietnam, the Philippines, and China, in this case from the Dominican missions in East Asia.

15 Luis Óscar Ramos Alonso is the author, with José María Ruiz Ruiz, of *Economía y empresa japonesa: su presencia en España* [Japanese Economy and Business: Its Presence in Spain], Valladolid: Universidad de Valladolid, 1996.

twenty-first-century English and French travel writers.¹⁶ The group has conducted three competitive R&D projects from the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation, which notably include the development of the international database hosted by the group's website under the title "Social and Institutional Relations: The Image of Japan in the Accounts of Travellers and the Work of Well-Known Authors of English, French, and Hispanic Literature from the End of the Nineteenth Century to the First Decades of the Twentieth Century."¹⁷

Over the years, the involvement of UVa in the development of Japanese studies in Spain has led it to organize several AEJE conferences, specifically its 3rd and 4th National Conferences, "Japan: A Comparative Focus" in 1996 and 1997, and its 10th National and 1st International Conference titled "Japan-Europe, Itineraries, Travel and Contacts" in 2011.

Universidad Complutense de Madrid (UCM) / Complutense University of Madrid
Japanese studies at the Complutense University of Madrid (UCM) are focused on modern history, politics, and international relations, and art history and collecting. In terms of teaching, in the 1970s, the UCM was a pioneer institution in art history studies in East Asia, a practice initiated by Jean Roger Rivi re, with his interest in the aesthetics and philosophy of India and East Asia. Carmen Garc a-Ormaechea Quero was also a major influence in the 1980s, and her work was continued by Pilar Caba as and Eva Fern ndez del Campo with the foundation of the Asia Research Group (GIA) in 1994. The GIA aims to develop knowledge of Asian art in Spain, promote the study of Asia in Spanish universities, and support the work of Spanish researchers in this field.

Led by Pilar Caba as, the GIA is involved in research, teaching, organizing workshops and lectures, and curating art exhibitions. Among its researchers focused on Japanese art are Matilde Arias, Aitana Merino, Nieves Moreno, Irene M. Mu oz, Ana Trujillo, Marcos A. Sala Ivars, an expert in traditional Japanese arms, and

16 Pilar Garc s Garc a, Lourdes Terr n Barbosa, eds., *Itinerarios, Viajes y Contactos Jap n-Europa* [Itineraries, Travel, and Contacts: Japan-Europe], Bern: Peter Lang, 2013; and *Cat logo literario y bio-bibliogr fico de escritores viajeros europeos a Jap n. Siglo XIX* [Literary and Bio-bibliographic Catalogue of European Travel Writers to Japan: The Nineteenth Century], Soria: Universidad de Valladolid, 2014.

17 <https://www.watatsumi.org/catalogo.php?seccion=consultas>

Takizawa Osami 滝澤修身.¹⁸ The GIA has undertaken various initiatives to bring to the public eye the collections and pieces of Asian art hidden away in Spanish museums and private collections through the curation of exhibitions like *Hanga: Images of the Floating World* (National Museum of Decorative Arts, Madrid, 1999), and *Orienting the Gaze: Asian Art in Public Madrilenian Collections* (Conde Duque Cultural Centre, Madrid, 2009), organized along with the research group Japan and Spain: Relations through Art (University of Zaragoza; UNIZAR). Likewise, the GIA has analyzed Asia's decisive influence in contemporary Spanish art in the exhibition titled *The Asia Principle: China, Japan and India & Contemporary Art in Spain (1957–2017)*, in the Fundación Juan March (Madrid, 2018), also with their colleagues at UNIZAR. Of particular interest is the virtual exhibition on the institution's website that discusses the influence of Asian art on Spanish art in the second half of the twentieth century in Spain.¹⁹

In UCM, the GIA collaborates with the Europe-Asia Interactions Study Group (GEINTEA). Created in 2015 under the direction of Florentino Rodao, GEINTEA focuses its research on contemporary history and international relations in East Asia from an essentially cross-disciplinary perspective. Its research combines a global approach with a specific focus on countries like Japan, China, Korea, and the Philippines. One of its main lines of investigation is the study of relations between Spain and Japan during World War II and the immediate postwar period.²⁰ Moreover, GEINTEA's strong support in fostering high quality research has led it to organize an annual seminar titled "PhDs on Asian Themes," for students and teachers nationwide together with guest scholars from foreign universities. GEINTEA also actively promotes networking among researchers of East Asian studies in Spain through the SPASIA (Network of Spanish Speaking Researchers Focused on the Study of the Asia-

18 Among their publications: Pilar Cabañas, Ana Trujillo, eds., *La creación artística como puente entre Oriente y Occidente* [Artistic Creation as a Bridge between East and West], Madrid: UCM, 2012; Pilar Cabañas, Ana Trujillo, eds., Monográficos "Colecciones asiáticas en España" [Monographs: "Asian Collections in Spain"], *Revista de Museología* no. 65 & 66, 2016; Takizawa Osami, *La historia de los jesuitas en Japón* [The History of the Jesuits in Japan], Alcalá de Henares: Instituto de Estudios Latinoamericanos, 2010.

19 <https://www.march.es/artes/asia-y-el-arte-contemporaneo-en-espana/>

20 Florentino Rodao, *Franco y el imperio japonés. Imágenes y propaganda en tiempos de guerra* [Franco and the Japanese Empire: Images and Propaganda in Times of War], Madrid: Plaza & Janés, 2002; Florentino Rodao, *La soledad del país vulnerable. Japón desde 1945* [The Loneliness of a Vulnerable Country: Japan Since 1945], Barcelona: Planeta, 2019.

Pacific Region) mailing list, coordinated by Antonio Blat (University of Valencia).

On an editorial level, UCM publishes in Spanish the open access journal *Mirai. Estudios Japoneses*, which serves as the official journal of the AEJE and looks to publish for an international audience within an Ibero-American context. Its aim is to bring visibility to the foci and perspectives developed from Japanese studies in Spanish-speaking academia and to add them to the long tradition the English-speaking world has in this field. The directors of the journal are Pilar Cabañas (UCM) and Pilar Garcés García (UVa), and its secretary is Kawamura Yayoi 川村やよい (University of Oviedo). Likewise, UCM has organized two AEJE conferences, such as its 2nd National Conference (1995) and its 12th National and 3rd International Conference, under the title “Japan: Tourism as a Path to Knowledge and Development” (2016). Finally, we should mention that, although UCM does not offer degree or postgraduate study programs specifically on East Asia or Japanese studies, its university language center gives Japanese courses up to intermediate level, and, since 2016, it has served as an official examination venue for the JLPT.

Universidad de Salamanca (USAL) / University of Salamanca

Japanese studies in USAL focus on Japanese philosophy, thought and intellectual history, society and culture, language and linguistics, and literature and translation. Founded in 1999 by Alfonso Falero Folgado, the Japanese studies section of USAL's Faculty of Philology has given rise to intense academic activity, which is reflected in their bachelor's degree, minor, master's, and doctoral programs.

Since 2015, USAL has offered a full curriculum in Japanese language and Japanese studies: a Bachelor's Degree in East Asian Studies (four years) in the Faculty of Philology, a minor and a major in Japanese studies, and Japanese as a second language as part of the Degree in Translation and Interpreting, in the Faculty of Translation and Documentation. Likewise, since 2009, a master's in Japanese studies has been offered separately and since 2013 as part of the Official Master's Degree in East Asian Studies in the Faculty of Social Sciences.

In relation to these undergraduate and postgraduate study programs, USAL has an international exchange program that includes twenty-five Japanese universities. Doctoral dissertations can also be undertaken in Japanese studies in the Translation and Intercultural Mediation Program at the Faculty of Social Sciences, as well as in the research line on East Asian studies at the Faculty of Philology.

Its teaching activities have made USAL a leading center in Japanese studies in

Spain. Its corresponding scientific component can be found in the activities of the Humanism Eurasia Research Group (HUME). The goal of HUME is to overcome the dichotomies inherited from twentieth-century Orientalism, developing a new global research approach focused on a Eurasian entity that transcends the differences between Eastern and European intellectual traditions. Led by Alfonso Falero Folgoso, the group has five areas of research: (1) translation of classic literature; (2) transversal sociology; (3) Eurasian history and texts; (4) arts of East Asia; and (5) contemporary literature of East Asia.²¹ HUME is currently developing a competitive R&D project funded by the regional government of Castilla y León, under the title “Transverse Anthropology of Knowledge: Castilla-León and East Asia.” Likewise, since 2018, HUME has organized a yearly international workshop that constitutes a dynamic forum for scientific exchange between specialists in Japanese studies from different universities.

Moreover, the City of Salamanca is also home to the Japanese Hispanic Cultural Center (CCHJ). The center promotes knowledge sharing and cooperation between Japan and Spain, from academic and cultural exchanges, to economic relations. It lies at the intersection between teaching, research, and dissemination, and strongly emphasizes involving the general public and local community. Founded in 1999, the CCHJ arose as a joint project of USAL, the Japanese Embassy in Madrid, the Japan Foundation, and the Japanese business world in Spain, with the aim of promoting an interest in and the study of Japan at different levels. Its activities include the organization of lectures and cultural and artistic events like “Japan Cultural Week,” which is open to the general public, and the promotion of Japanese culture through a range of Japanese-language courses for students and professionals. Its language section is headed by Katō Sayaka 加藤さやか, former president of the Association of Japanese Language Teachers in Spain (APJE).

21 Among the members’ publications: Alfonso Falero, 「上田賢治の神道論—その1、神話学へのアプローチ—」 [Ueda Kenji’s View on Shinto, 1: An Approach to His Theory on Myth], 『神道宗教』 no. 240, October 2015, pp. 94–98; Alfonso Falero, “The Meaning of Japanese Philosophy: A Spanish Perspective,” in Ching-yueg Cheung, et al., eds., *Globalizing Japanese Philosophy as an Academic Discipline*. Göttingen: V&R Unipress, 2017, pp. 51–80; Masako Kubo 久保賢子, “Valores y creencias en el turismo japonés: *power spot* como búsqueda de experiencias espirituales” [Values and Beliefs in Japanese Tourism: Power Spot as a Search for Spiritual Experiences], *Revista Nuevas Tendencias en Antropología* no. 9, 2018, pp. 1–14.

Universidad de Zaragoza (UNIZAR) / University of Zaragoza

Japanese studies at UNIZAR focus on art history and collecting, comparative law and socio-legal studies, politics and international relations, society and culture, and language and translation. The teaching of Japanese art at UNIZAR began in the 1970s, pioneered by Federico Torralba Soriano, who introduced oriental art into the former Bachelor's Degree in Geography and History, and in the following decade helped to create the optional subject of East Asian Art within the art history major. With the launch of a new Bachelor's Degree in History of Art this subject became compulsory, and was taught by Elena Barlés Báguena, who was able to increase its importance in the wider field of art history. Concurrently, in the early part of the first decade of the twenty-first century, the Museum of Zaragoza came to house the Federico Torralba Oriental Art Collection, with its substantial collection of Japanese lacquerware and prints, together with the document archive and scientific library of its founder.²² This work constituted the seed for the growing presence of Japanese art studies at UNIZAR, developed by Barlés Báguena—who later went on to head the History of Art Department—and with the collaboration of David Almazán Tomás, making UNIZAR a leading research center for Japanese art studies.

The presence of Japan in UNIZAR's syllabuses is varied. The Modern Language University Centre teaches Japanese to intermediate level and, although UNIZAR does not have specific bachelor's degrees focusing on East Asia, it does offer different content on East Asian art in the Bachelor's Degree in History of Art, in its Official Master's Degree in Advanced Studies in History of Art (one year), and in its PhD Program in the History of Art that includes a research line in East Asian art and its presence in the West. UNIZAR also has its own university-specific master's course in Japanese studies focused on law, society, and culture. This began as a postgraduate course in 2016 and currently offers a blended learning course (one year, online and face-to-face). This is Spain's only specific master's program in Japanese studies and has been promoted by two research groups from UNIZAR: the research group Japan and Spain: Relations through Art, and the Japan Research Group.

Since 2004 the research group Japan and Spain: Relations through Art, led by Barlés Báguena, has addressed the study of the reception, influence, and

22 For more on this, see the Torralba-Fortún Foundation, an institution sited in Zaragoza and dependent on the regional government of Aragón. <http://www.patrimonioculturaldearagon.es/fundacion-torralba-fortun>

dissemination of Japanese art in Spain.²³ It stands out for its marked interuniversity focus, bringing together researchers from UNIZAR (David Almazán Tomás) and other institutions such as UCM (Pilar Cabañas), UVa (Pilar Garcés García, Lourdes Terrón Barbosa), Open University of Catalonia (UOC; Muriel Gómez Pradas), University of Oviedo (Kawamura Yayoi), and Comillas Pontifical University in Madrid (Ana Trujillo). Since 2005, the group has carried out five competitive R&D projects from the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation, focused on the inventory and cataloguing of Japanese arts in Spanish museums, on the public and private collections of Japanese art in Spain, and on the Japanese influence on Spanish culture and art. It has also undertaken academic projects financed by the Japan Foundation and MEXT (Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology).

This scientific activity has positioned the research group as a leader in the field of Japanese art in Spain, with an exceptional output reflected in the organization of several international workshops, lectures, and art exhibitions, notably including: *Cherry Trees, Lilies, Chrysanthemums and Pines: The Beauty of the Seasons in Japanese Art* (Joaquín Roncal Centre of the Caja de Ahorros de la Inmaculada, Zaragoza, 2008); *The Fascination for the Art of the Land of the Rising Sun: The Meeting between Japan and the West in the Meiji Era (1868–1912)* (Museum of Zaragoza, 2012–2013); *Nanban Lacquer: Traces of Japan in Spain, curated by Kawamura Yayoi for the 4th centenary of the Keichō Embassy* (National Museum of Decorative Arts, Madrid, 2013); *Japanese Art and Japanism* (Museum of Fine Arts of Bilbao, 2014); *Noh Kabuki: Scenes from Japan* (Paranymph of the UNIZAR, 2014–2015); *Hiroshige (1797–1858) and His Time* (Museum of Zaragoza, 2015–2016); *Nanban Lacquer: Shine of Japan in Navarra* (Museum of Navarra, 2015–2016); and *Ex Orient: Western Books that Illuminated Knowledge about East Asia in the Modern Age* (Paranymph of the

23 Among the members's publications: Elena Barlés Báguena, ed., "Las colecciones de arte extremo oriental en España" [Monograph: "The Collections of Far Eastern Art in Spain"], *Artígrama. Revista del Departamento de Historia del Arte de la Universidad de Zaragoza* no. 18, 2003; Elena Barlés Báguena, David Almazán, eds., *Japón y el mundo actual* [Japan and the Current World], Zaragoza: Pressas de la Universidad de Zaragoza, 2011; David Almazán, ed., *Japón y el agua: estudios de patrimonio y humanidades* [Japan and Water: Heritage and Humanities Studies], Zaragoza: Pressas de la Universidad de Zaragoza, 2019; David Almazán, Elena Barlés Báguena, *Estampas Japonesas. Historia del grabado japonés y de su presencia en España* [Japanese Prints: History of Japanese Engraving and Its Presence in Spain], Zaragoza: Caja de Ahorros de la Inmaculada, Fundación Torralba, 2007.

UNIZAR, 2018).

The fundamental importance of this research group to Japanese studies in Spain has been made clear in its organization of several AEJE conferences, such as the 8th National Conference, “The Japanese Woman: Reality and Myth” in 2005; the 9th National Conference, “Japan and the Current World” in 2008; the 3rd FEIAP (Spanish Asia-Pacific Research Forum) Conference in 2010; and, together with the Japan Research Group, the organization of the 14th National and 5th International AEJE Conference, “Japan’s Protagonism and Impact in the International Sphere (1964–2020)” in 2020.

Also in UNIZAR, since 2012, the Japan Research Group has analyzed Japanese contemporary reality and, especially Japan’s links with Europe and Spain. With a comparative approach, the group focuses on the analysis of historical-political and socio-legal relations, as well as on the international relations between Japan and Spain. Led by Carmen Tirado Robles, the Japan Research Group has undertaken six competitive R&D projects awarded by the regional government of Aragón and the Spanish Ministry of Innovation and Science.²⁴ The group also has a remarkable interuniversity focus, with the presence of specialists from different institutions, such as Fernando Delage Carretero (Loyola University Andalusia), Juan Luis López-Aranguren (UNIZAR & International University of Japan), Luis M^a Pedriza Bermejillo (Dokkyo University), Jesús Pérez García (UVa), Ramón Vilarroig Moya (Jaume I University in Castellón), and Salvador Rodríguez Artacho (UNED).

Of particular interest is its project on Japanese-Spanish comparative legal studies, coordinated by Francisco Barberán and developed with Kuroda Kiyohiko 黒田清彦 and Okabe Fuminobu 岡部史信, in collaboration with the Association of Hispanic Law Studies of Japan 日本スペイン法研究会, which has led to the publication of

24 Carmen Tirado Robles, ed., *Japón y Occidente. Estudios comparados* [Japan and the West: Comparative Studies], Zaragoza: Prensas de la Universidad de Zaragoza, 2015; Carmen Tirado Robles, Francisco Barberán, eds., *Derecho y relaciones internacionales en Japón desde el Tratado de Amistad, Comercio y Navegación de 1868* [Law and International Relations in Japan since the Treaty of Friendship, Commerce, and Navigation of 1868], Zaragoza: Prensas de la Universidad de Zaragoza, 2019.

specialized works on Spanish and Japanese laws.²⁵ Additionally, since its foundation, the research group has organized international conferences such as “Japan and the Individual: Multidisciplinary and Comparative Analysis” (2014), “Japan and Water” (2016), and the aforementioned 14th National and 5th International AEJE Conference. Finally, since 1999, the members of both the Japan Research Group and the research group Japan and Spain: Relations through Art have organized at UNIZAR several annual academic meetings featuring renowned experts in Japanese studies.

On an editorial level, UNIZAR publishes in Spanish through its university press (Prensas de la Universidad de Zaragoza), under the direction of Elena Barlés Báguena, the book series “The Federico Torralba Collection of East Asian Studies.” The collection already includes nine volumes on topics like cultural relations between Japan, Spain, and Ibero-America, Japan-Spain comparative studies, law and international relations, art and cultural heritage, and Japanese religion and spirituality.

Universidad de Granada (UGR) / University of Granada

Japanese studies at UGR focus mainly on language and linguistics, literature and translation, and, specifically language teaching. At UGR, research is closely linked to the teaching of Japanese as a Foreign Language (JFL), which began with the Degree in Philology in 2011. Due to its success, the Japanese language and literature courses were incorporated as a minor into the former Bachelor’s Degree in Modern Languages and Their Literatures, which, in turn, gave rise to its presence in other philology degree programs, as well as in the Bachelor’s Degree in Comparative Literature.

Additionally, in 2014, UGR launched the Official Master’s in East Asian Studies, which has a major in Japanese studies and a clear interuniversity focus, notably including guest lecturers from UAB, UAM and USAL. Related to these undergraduate and postgraduate study programs, UGR also has an international exchange program that includes seven Japanese universities (with five more being added).

Scientific activities in Japanese studies are conducted through research groups

25 Francisco Barberán, ed., *Código civil japonés* [Japanese Civil Code], Cizur Menor, Thomson Aranzadi, 2006; Francisco Barberán, *Diccionario jurídico japonés-español/español-japonés* [Japanese-Spanish/Spanish-Japanese Legal Dictionary], Cizur Menor, Thomson Aranzadi, 2008; Francisco Barberán, Kuroda Kiyohiko, Okabe Fuminobu, eds., *Introducción al derecho japonés actual* [Introduction to Current Japanese Law], Cizur Menor, Thomson Aranzadi, 2013.

focused on the foreign language learning and teaching processes by the members of the Japanese-language staff of the Department of General Linguistics and Literary Theory in the Faculty of Philosophy and Arts, especially Nobuo Ignacio López-Sako, Ito-Morales Kyoko 伊藤モラレス杏子, and María Teresa Rodríguez Navarro.²⁶ In this regard, it is worth noting their participation in different competitive R&D projects from the Spanish Ministry of Innovation and Science in the framework of the Foreign Language Teaching Research Group.

National research initiatives promoted by UGR have made a major contribution to the development of Japanese studies in Spain. The Spanish Asia-Pacific Research Forum (FEIAP), for instance, served as a space for academic exchange and discussion for researchers and scholars in East Asian and Pacific studies. Founded in 2006 at UGR, the FEIAP held five national conferences (2006, 2008, 2010, 2014, 2016), and then, after its transformation into the current AEEAO, organized one international conference on “Creating New Synergies: Beyond Our Borders” (Malaga, 2018), and it is currently preparing for its upcoming meeting in Madrid (2021).

Finally, since 2014, UGR has organized the summer edition of the JLPT at the Modern Language Centre, which offers language courses up to advanced level. Furthermore, language teachers actively organize several lectures open to the general public, such as the annual Asian Studies Seminar.

Universidad de Sevilla (US) / University of Seville

The US currently has no research center or research group dedicated to Japanese studies or East Asian studies, but deserves inclusion here as, since 2011, it has offered a Bachelor's Degree in East Asian Studies (four years), jointly with the University of Malaga. Majors in Japanese studies and in Chinese studies are given in Seville, while

26 Among their publications: Nobuo Ignacio López-Sako, “*Ba o yomu* 場を読む o la importancia de ‘leer la situación’ en la comunicación en lengua japonesa: un reto para el aprendiz de japonés” [*Ba o yomu* or the Importance of ‘Reading the Situation’ in Japanese Language Communication: A Challenge for the Learner of the Japanese Language], in Javier Martín Ríos, ed., *Estudios lingüísticos y culturales sobre China*, Granada: Comares, 2019, pp. 41–51; Nobuo Ignacio López-Sako, Ito-Morales Kyoko, “Propuesta de aprendizaje de los proverbios y la cultura japoneses a través del juego de cartas *iroha karuta*” [Proposal to Learn Japanese Proverbs and Culture through the *iroha karuta* Card Game], in Immaculada Aznar Díaz, et al., eds., *Investigación e innovación educativa: tendencias y retos*, Madrid: Dykinson, 2020, pp. 355–365; María Teresa Rodríguez Navarro, Allison Beeby, “Millán-Astray’s Translation of Nitobe’s *Bushido: The Soul of Japan*,” *Meta: Journal des traducteurs / Meta: Translators’ Journal* vol. 54, no. 2, 2009, pp. 218–232.

Malaga has a major in Korean studies.

Although it does not have a research group focused on Japanese studies, the presence of Japan in the University of Seville dates back to the 1990s: Fernando García Gutiérrez taught optional subjects on East Asian art at the Faculty of Geography and History,²⁷ and Fernando Rodríguez-Izquierdo on Japanese literature and poetry in the Department of Spanish Language, Linguistics and Theory of Literature in the Faculty of Philosophy and Arts. Rodríguez-Izquierdo received his PhD at the University of Seville in 1972 with a dissertation on haiku that is considered the first doctoral dissertation in Japanese studies to be defended in Spain.²⁸ Thirty years later, in the same university he supervised the PhD dissertation of Elena Gallego Andrada (Sophia University). Gallego Andrada is a recognized translator of Japanese literary works, along with the fondly remembered Montse Watkins, who founded in Japan the pioneer publishing house Luna Books, specializing in the publication of direct Spanish translations of Japanese literature. At the University of Seville, we should also remember the pioneering work of Nagakawa Reiji 永川玲二, a writer, scholar, and translator of authors such as James Joyce and Federico García Lorca. After teaching English literature at the University of Tokyo, Nagakawa created in the late 1980s the Japanese section in the Language Institute of the University of Seville, where today Japanese is taught at intermediate level thanks to the teaching efforts of Kiuchi Miyako 木内都 and Okita Ayami 沖田綾美.

Today, noteworthy in terms of research is the work of Rafael Abad de los Santos, who is also part of the HUME (USAL), as well as the poetic inquiry into haiku undertaken by Vicente Haya.²⁹ From the University of Seville, Abad de los Santos organized, together with Anjhara Gómez Aragón and Okita Ayami, the 11th National and 2nd International AEJE Conference, under the title “Japan and the West: Cultural Heritage as a Meeting Point” (Seville, 2014).³⁰

27 Fernando García Gutiérrez, *El arte de Japón: lo sagrado, lo caballeresco y otros temas* [The Art of Japan: The Sacred, the Chivalrous, and Other Themes], Sevilla: Guadalquivir, 2008.

28 Published as Fernando Rodríguez Izquierdo, *El haiku japonés. Historia y traducción* [Japanese Haiku: History and Translation], Madrid: Hiperión, 1993. Three years later, in 1996, he received the Noma Literary Translation Prize (Kodansha International).

29 Rafael Abad de los Santos, trans. and ed., *Estampas del Gran Japón* [Prints of Great Japan], Sevilla: Universidad de Sevilla, Metropolisiana Ediciones, 2016; Vicente Haya, *Awake. Iniciación al haiku japonés* [Aware: Introduction to Japanese Haiku], Barcelona: Kairós, 2018.

30 Anjhara Gómez Aragón, ed., *Japón y Occidente: el patrimonio cultural como punto de encuentro* [Japan and the West: Cultural Heritage as a Meeting Point], Sevilla: Aconcagua Libros, 2016.

2. A Growing Academic Field: The Dissemination of Japanese Studies

Besides the institutions considered above, and continuing this review of Japanese studies in Spanish universities, we might mention that at the University of Barcelona (UB), Kobayashi Keiko 小林恵子 played an important role in the teaching of Japanese in the School of Modern Languages. Also at UB, the Faculty of Economics and Business offers its own university-specific Master's in Culture and Business in East Asia (one year), with a notable focus on Japan, under the direction of the specialist in applied economics Àngels Pelegrín Solé. At the Open University of Catalonia (UOC), Lluç López Vidal researches on Japanese foreign policy, and the specialist in Japanese art Muriel Gómez Pradas—who is also a member of the research group Japan and Spain: Relations through Art at UNIZAR—conducts research on the *mingei undō* 民芸運動 folk craft movement.³¹

Moreover, Japanese is also taught at the language center of another university in Barcelona, Pompeu Fabra University (UPF), and it is offered as an optional subject in the Bachelor's Degree in Global Studies in its Faculty of Humanities. There, a range of East Asia-focused content forms part of the Global Studies Program, the Bachelor's Degree in Humanities, and the Official Master's Degree in Asia-Pacific Studies in a Global Context, giving rise to several doctoral dissertations in humanities. In addition, as an optional subject, Japanese is taught as part of the International Business and Marketing Degree in the School of International Studies by Imoto Akiko 井本晶子. Although UPF's interest is mainly focused on China and the Southeast Pacific, in the Faculty of Humanities, Raquel Bouso, an expert on Japanese philosophy, organized the First International Conference of the European Network of Japanese Philosophy, has conducted research on Japanese thought in modern times, and has promoted the *European Journal of Japanese Philosophy* since its creation in 2016.³²

Likewise, in universities throughout Spain, researchers are addressing a number

31 Muriel Gómez Pradas, "El movimiento *Mingei* en las colecciones del Museu Etnològic de Barcelona" [The *Mingei* Movement in the Collections of the Ethnological Museum of Barcelona], *Artígrama* no. 26, 2012, pp. 871–877.

32 Raquel Bouso, James W. Heisig, eds., *Frontiers of Japanese Philosophy 6: Cross-Currents and Confluences*, Nagoya: Nanzan Institute for Religion & Culture, 2009; and *La filosofía japonesa en sus textos* [Spanish version of *Japanese Philosophy: A Sourcebook*, by James W. Heisig, Thomas P. Kasulis, and John C. Maraldo], Barcelona: Herder, 2016.

of different themes and subject areas related to Japan. Although it is not possible to mention all their names here, many of them form part of the AEJE, and regularly present their research at its conferences. Among them are specialists in cinema such as Antonio Santos Aparicio³³ (University of Cantabria), Irene González-López³⁴ (Kingston University, London), José Montaña (Rikkyo University), and Lorenzo J. Torres Hortelano³⁵ (King Juan Carlos University in Madrid); popular culture, Raúl Fortes Guerrero (University of Valencia), Manuel Hernández-Pérez³⁶ (University of Hull), Francisco Javier López Rodríguez (US), Antonio Míguez Santa Cruz (University of Córdoba), and José Andrés Santiago Iglesias (University of Vigo); international relations, María Francisca Casado Claro³⁷ (European University of Madrid), Just Castillo (UAB); history, Antonio Blat (University of Valencia), Jonathan López-Vera³⁸ (UPF), Manuel de Moya Martínez (University of Córdoba), Andrés Pérez Riobó (Doshisha University) and Gonzalo San Emeterio Cabañes (UAM);³⁹ architecture, Pedro Luis Gallego Fernández⁴⁰ (UVa), Félix Ruiz de la Puerta⁴¹ (Madrid School of Architecture), and Javier Vives Rego⁴² (AEJE); literature and translation, Iván Díaz Sancho (University of Kyoto), José Pazó Espinosa (UAM), Pau Pitarch

33 Antonio Santos Aparicio, *Kenji Mizoguchi*. Madrid: Cátedra, 1993; Antonio Santos Aparicio, *Yasujiro Ozu: elogio del silencio* [Yasujiro Ozu: Eulogy of Silence], Madrid: Cátedra, 2005.

34 Irene González-López, Michael Smith, eds., *Tanaka Kinuyo: Nation, Stardom and Female Subjectivity*, Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2018.

35 Lorenzo J. Torres Hortelano, ed, *Dialectics of the Goddess in Japanese Audiovisual Culture*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2018.

36 Manuel Hernández-Pérez, *Manga, anime y videojuegos. Narrativa cross-media japonesa* [Manga, Anime and Videogames: Japanese Cross-media Narrative], Zaragoza: Prensas de la Universidad de Zaragoza, 2017.

37 María Francisca Casado Claro, *Fukushima. Crónica de un desastre anunciado* [Fukushima: The Chronicle of a Disaster Foretold], Zaragoza: Prensas de la Universidad de Zaragoza, 2019.

38 Jonathan López-Vera, *A History of Samurai: Legendary Warriors of Japan*, Tokyo: Tuttle, 2020.

39 Andrés Pérez Riobó, Gonzalo San Emeterio Cabañes, *Japón en su historia: de los primeros pobladores hasta la era Reiwa* [Japan in Its History: From the First Settlers to the Reiwa Era], Gijón: Satori, 2020.

40 Pedro Luis Gallego Fernández, Pilar Garcés García, eds., *Arquitectura contemporánea de Japón. Nuevos territorios* [Contemporary Architecture of Japan: New Territories], Valladolid: Universidad de Valladolid, 2015.

41 Félix Ruiz de la Puerta, *Arquitecturas de la memoria* [Architectures of Memory], Madrid: Akal, 2009.

42 Javier Vives Rego, *Arquitectura tradicional de Japón* [Traditional Architecture of Japan] and *Arquitectura moderna de Japón* [Modern Architecture of Japan], Gijón: Satori, 2019.

Fernández (Waseda University), Carlos Rubio⁴³ (UCM), and Jordi Serrano-Muñoz (Waseda University); and art, José Blanco Perales (University of Oviedo), Carolina Plou Anadón (UNIZAR), Javier Villalba (UCM), and Ricard Bru Turull (UAB). As an art expert and curator, Bru Turull has curated major exhibitions like *Japonism: The Fascination for Japanese Art* (CaixaForum Barcelona-Madrid, 2013–2014), *Japanese Prints in the Museo del Prado* (The Prado Museum, Madrid, 2013), and *Secret Images: Picasso and the Japanese Erotic Print* (Picasso Museum Barcelona, 2009–2010).

As we pointed out at the beginning of this essay, it would require a specific article to address the situation of Japanese-language teaching and research in Spanish universities. We should, however, briefly mention that as well as the aforementioned universities, Japanese is also taught in, among others, the University of the Basque Country, which has a Japanese-language readership in its Faculty of Arts; and at the University of Valencia, where Japanese is offered as an optional subject in the Degree in Modern Languages and Their Literatures, and in the Minor in Languages and Literatures of East Asia, taught in the Faculty of Philology, Translation and Communication. In this same faculty, Japanese classes are given to different levels in the university language center, and mention should be made of Amparo Montaner Montava's promotion of Japanese-language study.⁴⁴

The University of Alicante gives Japanese classes in the Asian-Pacific Relations Office and the Center for Oriental Asian Studies. The Japanese section is overseen by Itakura Norika 板倉法香, the current president of the APJE, and Benito Elías García Valero teaches literary theory and comparative literature with an emphasis on Japan in the Faculty of Philosophy and Arts. In the Canary Islands, an interest in Japan can be seen in the different initiatives of the University of La Laguna, located on the island of Tenerife, as well as on the neighbouring island of Gran Canaria, where the Japanese Consulate is based. In Gran Canaria, in the School of Architecture at the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Jin Javier Taira Alonso teaches architecture

43 Carlos Rubio, *Claves y textos de la literatura japonesa* [Keys and Texts of Japanese Literature]. Madrid: Cátedra, 2007. He also directs the book series “Masters of Japanese Literature” in Satori publishing house.

44 See, for example, María Amparo Montaner Montava, *Caracterización lingüística de la lengua japonesa para hablantes de español* [Linguistic Characterization of Japanese Language for Spanish Speakers], *LynX* no. 21, 2012; and “Los Estudios Japoneses en España. Situación y perspectivas desde la lingüística” [Japanese Studies in Spain: Situation and Perspectives from Linguistics], in María Amparo Montaner Montava, María Querol Bataller, eds., “Lenguas de Asia Oriental: estudios lingüísticos y discursivos,” *LynX* no. 18, 2010, pp. 9–41.

and urbanism with an emphasis on Japan, and the Faculty of Translation and Interpreting has offered beginner classes in Japanese, taught by Saitō Chikako 齋藤 周子. This faculty has also served as an exam center for the JLPT since 2019 with the support of the Japan Foundation in Madrid together with the Japanese School of Las Palmas.

Separate mention should be made of the university language centers that teach Japanese as a subject additional to study programs. There are in fact many universities in Spain that teach Japanese in their language centers to different levels: for example, the Language Centre of the University of Malaga; the Language Service of the University of Murcia; the Foreign Language Centre of the University of Alcalá; the Language Centre of the University of León; and the Modern Language Centre of the University of Santiago de Compostela, which has organized the JLPT since 2012, and whose Japanese area head, Takahashi Minako 高橋水無子, was until recently the president of the APJE and also promoted the Galician Society of Nippon Studies; the Modern Language Centre of the UOC; and the University Centre for Distance Language Learning of the National Distance Education University (UNED), whose head, Sugiyama Chihiro 杉山千尋, is the current vice-president of the APJE.

Likewise, Japanese is taught in three of the four polytechnic universities that exist in Spain, namely, at the Polytechnic University of Catalonia (UPC) through the long-standing student association known as the Circle for Oriental Studies; in the Language Centre of the Polytechnic University of Valencia; and in the Language Service of the Polytechnic University of Cartagena. Finally, there are many Official School of Language (EOI) centers that offer Japanese classes throughout Spain, as official language schools funded and managed by the regional education authorities of their respective regional governments.

Furthermore, different public and cultural diplomacy institutions organize seminars, lectures, and Japanese courses for the general public, and collaborate with universities to promote academic activities on Japan. In particular, from the Japanese government side, there is the Japan Foundation in Madrid, established in 2009 with the aim of promoting Japanese studies in Spain and language and cultural exchange between Japan and Spain; the Cultural Section of the Japanese Embassy in Madrid, the cultural area of the Consulate-General of Japan in Barcelona, and the Japanese Consulate in Las Palmas (Canary Islands). The Spanish government established Casa Asia, a public consortium founded in Barcelona in 2001, consisting of the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the European Union, the regional government of

Catalonia, and the Barcelona and Madrid city councils. Casa Asia aims to foster the presence of Spanish companies in Asia, and to analyze Asian current affairs through public activities that increase knowledge about the Asian reality in Spain and relations with the region. Rafael Bueno, director of Politics & Society and Education at Casa Asia, deserves a special mention for his continued promotion of East Asian studies in Spain. We should also mention private foundations and think tanks like the Elcano Royal Institute, an institution founded in 2001 that focuses on international and strategic studies conducted from a Spanish, European, and global perspective. The institute balances public and private interests with the goal of promoting knowledge of the current international situation and of Spain's foreign relations, providing a focal point for debate, and the generation of ideas that may prove useful in political decision-making processes. Similarly, the CIDOB (Barcelona Centre for International Affairs) is an independent civil society institution that seeks to analyze global issues affecting political, social, and governance dynamics at both the international and local level, with a view to influencing decision-making processes and providing alternative solutions. Founded in 1973, the CIDOB has a section dedicated to Asia-Pacific research led by Oriol Farrés, who co-coordinates the *CIDOB International Yearbook*. Related to CIDOB, the Barcelona Institute of International Studies (IBEI) is an interuniversity institute created in 2004 as part of a joint effort from all five public universities in the Barcelona metropolitan area (UB, UAB, UPC, UPE, UOC) to promote postgraduate training and research in politics and international relations, in order to advance the understanding of global challenges to governance in the contemporary world. It offers different master's programs in the fields of international relations, security, development, and public policy, in which Japan has a prominent role.

Finally, it should be pointed out that many of the aforementioned groups, research centers, and universities are members of international associations and networks that specialize in Japanese studies: for example, REDIAO (Ibero-American Research Network in East Asian Studies), EAJS (European Association for Japanese Studies), EAAS (European Alliance for Asian Studies), EastAsiaNet (European Research School Network of Contemporary East Asian Studies), and IIAS (International Institute for Asian Studies). We should also highlight the important scientific efforts to bring structure to Japanese studies in Spain, carried out in collaboration with Spanish universities, by national associations such as APJE, which organizes a nationwide symposium every two years and several annual workshops, the

AEJE, which has organized fourteen national and international conferences,⁴⁵ and the AEEAO, which has already organized two international conferences.

3. Future Perspectives: Challenges, Unknowns, and Opportunities

Despite getting a late start, Japanese studies in Spain has made impressive progress. Today, eight universities offer study programs that include majors and electives in Japanese studies, and a similar number of universities undertake competitive research projects. The traditional areas of humanities were the first to incorporate Japanese studies into their programs in Spain. However, social sciences are following suit in a process in which scholars have broadened their analytical and methodological frameworks.

Japanese studies in Spain appears to have a solid future if we consider the critical mass and academic excellence of both scholars and students, who, on different levels, are looking to develop their professional careers in this field. Nonetheless, we cannot enjoy the same optimism with respect to institutional support and funding. In the first aspect (critical mass and academic excellence) over the last ten years an increasing number of the younger generation are interested in learning Japanese, largely thanks to the influence that Japanese popular culture and cultural industries have in Spain. It is no coincidence that the largest manga fair in Europe has been held in Barcelona since 1995, and that 152,000 visitors came to the 2019 fair. There are other major events such as the Japan Weekend in Madrid and the Videogames and Asian Culture Festival in Seville, which also have a strong following. Although the official figures for students of Japanese often appears to be low—due to how they are broken down into different categories—it should be noted that, according to data of the Japan Foundation in 2018, some 1,740 students were studying Japanese in Spanish universities.⁴⁶ It is also important to note that the JLPT has taken place in Spain since it was first offered by the UAB in 1994, ten years after its international launch by the Japan

45 The AEJE was created in 1992 as an outcome of the Institute of Japanology founded by Mariló Rodríguez del Alisal (EOI Madrid).

46 The Japan Foundation, 『国際交流基金—海外の日本語教育の現状 2018 年度日本語教育機関調査より』 [Survey Report on Japanese Language Education Abroad 2018] <https://www.jpf.go.jp/j/project/japanese/survey/result/dl/survey2018/spreadsheet.pdf> (accessed April 3, 2020). Drawing on this report, Japanese-language students number 12,000 in France, 7,700 in the UK, 7,000 in Germany, 5,600 in Italy, and 190 in Portugal.

Foundation and the Japan Educational Exchanges and Services of the Japanese Government. Since then, more and more venues for the JLPT have been added in Spain, in close collaboration with the largest universities.⁴⁷ Proof of this growing interest is the progressive increase in the number of students sitting this exam each year (from 821 in 2010 to 1,412 in 2019).⁴⁸

This is particularly interesting when it comes to considering—and here we address our second issue (institutional support and funding)—the challenges envisaged in the near future for Japanese studies in a context in which the economic situation of Spanish public universities is stifled by a lack of government investment. This problematic situation makes them highly receptive to models of academic collaboration, which can enable their institutions to maintain and develop specific study programs. In the case of East Asian studies, collaboration between universities and foreign cultural diplomacy agencies, has, in recent years, provided an injection of resources for Chinese- and Korean-language and -culture teaching. With an organizational structure that facilitates multiple centers and language classrooms, their effective incorporation into Spain's major universities has meant that the Confucius Institute now has eight centers in Spanish campuses and the King Sejong Institute three venues. By comparison, the one and only office of the Japan Foundation in Madrid, despite its inferior infrastructure, deserves special recognition for its continuing presence and remarkable work, not just in Spain, but also in Portugal. Without entering into the consideration of the implications regarding the geopolitics of knowledge that these collaborative models bring up, it is important not to overlook their influence on the development of new study programs, teaching positions, and mobility grants, which will fuel the development of the professional careers of university students and researchers alike.

Spanish researchers in Japanese studies recognize the importance of the support received from the Japan Foundation through grant programs for the development of academic workshops, conferences, exhibitions, publications, and research and language-learning placements in Japanese institutions. These programs of the Japan Foundation—like the MEXT Scholarship Program in the case of young

47 UAB (since 1994), UAM (since 2006), University of Santiago de Compostela (since 2012), UGR (since 2014), UCM (since 2016), University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (since 2019), Saint Thomas School of Villanueva [Colegio Santo Tomás de Villanueva (Agustinos-Valencia)] in Valencia (since 2019).

48 Statistical data presented in 2020 by the office of the Japan Foundation in Madrid.

researchers—have historically been key to the development of Japanese studies in Spanish universities, along with the vital contributions of the likes of the Staff Expansion Grant Program, and the programs for Japanese Study Projects and Intellectual Exchange Conferences. However, among university teachers, there is a sense that each year there are fewer places assigned to Spain in the MEXT Scholarship Program, while it continues to serve as the doorway to undertaking long-term academic studies in Japan, and the beginning, therefore, of a future scholarly career. To this reduction in funds for research and study is added the absence in Spain of private foundations that promote Japanese studies, unlike in other countries in Europe. Furthermore, the definition of research priorities in the official calls for regional, national, and European R&D projects have little connection with the work areas found within Japanese studies.

Conclusion

All of the above raises considerable unknowns regarding the long-term development of Japanese studies in Spain. This is particularly challenging in an increasingly globalized world in which the boundaries of traditional academic fields become blurred, and new social, economic, and political unknowns emerge.

In the last ten years, two major events have been held, co-organized by the Spanish and Japanese governments: the Spain-Japan Dual Year (2013–2014) to mark the 400th anniversary of the arrival in Spain of the Keichō Embassy, and the 150th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Spain (2018). But the effective involvement of both governments in the long-term support of academic activity still has some way to go in the forthcoming years.

During the last three decades, the field of Japanese studies in Spain has evolved thanks to the efforts and enthusiasm of its researchers. Correspondingly, a great sense of scholarly collaboration has been developed among them, which has also reached their Japanese colleagues. We can say, as a conclusion, that the dedication of both has contributed to shape Japanese studies in Spain as an academic discipline open to the world, something that, ultimately, fuels their willingness to continue growing with new intellectual synergies that go beyond the walls of their universities.

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スペインの日本研究——進化する学術分野へ

ブライ・グアルネー*

岩佐托朗**

スペインにおける日本研究は幾分遅れて開始されたものの、各大学における過去 30 年間の発展には著しいものが見られる。現在、八つの大学が日本研究を含む東アジア研究の枠組みにおいて研究プログラムを提供し、また同じく研究プロジェクトを行っている。日本研究は、研究グループ・研究センター・大学内において、人文科学から社会科学へと分野を拡張してきた。しかし、長期的な視点に立てば、各研究機関への支援・資金不足の課題があり、困難が待ち受けている。本論は、スペインの日本研究に関する研究と教育に焦点を当て、進化する学術分野の全体像を提示する。

キーワード：日本研究、スペイン、東アジア研究、日本語、日本文化

* バルセロナ自治大学准教授

** 大阪経済大学准教授