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USC Dornsife *East Asian Studies Center*

December 8, 2025



Fall 2025 Event Wrap

EASC had another vibrant semester in Fall 2025! We began the year by welcoming our new EAAS MA cohort at our annual **Orientation and Welcome Luncheon**. Our undergraduate and graduate communities also enjoyed reconnecting at this semester's **Undergrad Connect** and **Grad Student Connect**, which brought together new and continuing students for an afternoon of conversation, networking, and community building. EASC was also able to support student research through the **Student Journal of Asian Studies @ USC Symposium** for the 2025 issue and the Cinema and Media Studies Graduate Student Conference on **First Forum: Speed**.

EASC Guest Speaker Series returned in full force with nine events, offering a wide range of talks that explored emerging scholarship across the humanities and social sciences. This semester's lectures featured discussions on Asia's demographic transitions and their geopolitical impact, the craft of bilingual authorship and self-translation, China's domestic politics and the Belt and Road Initiative, and the evolving aesthetics of contemporary Chinese science fiction. We also hosted lectures on martial arts as a philosophical lens for understanding the modern world, new

methodological approaches to early modern Chinese drama, and the juridical construction of truth in late imperial China. The roster of events also included a demonstration on Chinese Kunqu Opera, which offered attendees a rare opportunity to engage directly with a classical performance tradition and a discussion on AI and filmmaking.

Through the **Landscape and Sustainability Studies Initiative** (LSSI), EASC continued to support experiential programming by arranging for students from 14 classes to visit The Huntington and attend hands-on garden workshops this fall. These activities offered students a chance to explore environmental humanities topics in practice and deepen their understanding of East Asian landscapes and sustainability.

Thank you to everyone who attended our events, partnered with us, and contributed to another packed semester at EASC. We look forward to welcoming you back next spring for more lectures, discussions, and opportunities to engage with Asia across disciplines and communities!



M.A. in East Asian Area Studies

Deadline: Friday, January 2, 2026

The application for the **East Asian Area Studies MA Program** is open! Apply now to be a part of our Fall 2026 Cohort! The East Asian Area Studies (EAAS) Master of Arts is an interdisciplinary program designed to provide advanced academic training on East Asia. Candidates are able to design a program of study based on individual scholarly and professional goals concentrating on one country (China, Japan or Korea) or developing region-wide expertise. EASC is able to offer funding through the Cressant Foundation for Premodern Japan Studies and the USC Graduate Teaching Assistant Fellowships. For more information on the how to apply, degree requirements and funding opportunities for the East Asian Area Studies MA Program, please visit our [website](#). See our [graduate student webpage for student features](#) and below for previous thesis topics.

Japanese Studies

Aesthetics of Hollywood Japonism

Cultural Hierarchy in Contemporary Japanese-Taiwanese Film Women in Medieval Sōtō Zen

Japanese Territorial and Defense Policies



Chinese Studies

Imperial Women and Banquets in the Tang Dynasty

Gender and Identity in Sinophone Rap

Sonic Diaspora in Overseas Chinese Radio Stations

Queerness and Fandom in Chinese Musicals

Chinese Political Commentary in Social Media

Korean Studies

Buddhist Literature and Gender in Korea

South Korea's Ecofeminist Approach To Community

History of the Foreign Community During the Kwangju Uprising

Korean Everyday Objects in the Realm of Art in the US

Opportunities

Faculty Positions in Global Japanese Studies at Tohoku University

Deadline: January 31, 2026

The [Center for Integrated Japanese Studies at Tohoku University](#) invites applications for four faculty positions (assistant, associate, or full professor, tenure-track or tenured) beginning in October 2026. Part of a new humanities and social sciences initiative, the Center fosters innovative, interdisciplinary, interregional, and collaborative research in global Japanese Studies.

Scholars from any field within the humanities or social sciences focusing on Japan are encouraged to apply. Preference will be given to candidates in the social sciences, those using computational methods, and those whose research aligns with the Center's interdisciplinary mission. [Learn more here](#) ►



Events Around USC & LA

[Nikkei Uncovered V: a poetry reading](#)

Tues, Dec 9 | 6:30PM-8:00PM | Japanese American National Museum | [RSVP](#)

[SCREENING: No Other Choice](#)

Tues, Dec 9 | 7:00PM | Cinematic Arts | [RSVP](#)

[New Books on Japan: "Rethinking Japan's Modernity: Stories and Translations"](#)

Wed, Dec 10 | 5:00PM-6:30PM | MJHA | [RSVP](#)

[Mapping the Archives of Pacific Islander Eco-Poetry](#)

Wed, Dec 10 | 6:00PM-7:00PM | The Huntington | [RSVP](#)

[Central Japan Legacy | Castles, Samurai & Travel Adventures](#)

Wed, Dec 10 | 6:30PM-8:00PM | Japan House LA | [RSVP](#)

[Kimono in Hollywood](#)

Wed, Dec 10 | 7:00PM-8:30PM | Japan Foundation LA | [RSVP](#)

[Ayoung Kim and Kang Seung Lee in Conversation](#)

Fri, Dec 12 | 6:00PM-7:30PM | MJHA | [RSVP](#)

[Japanese Fermentation | Craft Your Own Soy Sauce](#)

Fri, Dec 12 | 10:30AM-12:30PM | Japan House LA | [RSVP](#)

["Cruising J-Town" Finale and Curator Tour](#)

Sun, Dec 14 | 12:00PM-5:00PM | Japanese American National Museum

[Pacific Rim 18: TasteMaking LA | Design around food, connecting people across cultures](#)

Mon, Dec 15 | 4:00PM-6:00PM | Japan House LA



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