

## Yoshiko Okuyama's Résumé (May 2025)

### Current and Past Positions

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| Japanese Studies Program Coordinator  | 2024 – Present |
| Visiting Scholar, <a href="#">East Asian Program</a> , Cornell University   | 2023 – Present |
| Affiliated Scholar ( <a href="#">kyakuin-kyōryoku kenkyūin</a> ), Institute of Ars Vivendi<br>Ritsumeikan University Graduate School, Japan | 2022 – Present |
| Professor, Department of Languages, College of Arts and Sciences (CAS),<br>University of Hawaii at Hilo (UH-Hilo)                           | 2016 – Present |
| Research Fellow at Kokugakuin University, Graduate School of Letters  | 2017           |
| Visiting Professor, Japanese Folklore, Nanzan University, Nagoya, Japan   | 2014           |
| Associate Professor, Department of Languages, CAS, UH-Hilo  | 2010 – 2016    |
| Tenure Track Assistant Professor, University of Hawaii at Hilo  | 2006 – 2010    |
| Non-Tenure Track Assistant Professor, CAS, UH-Hilo  | 2002 – 2006    |
| Full-time Instructor of Japanese Studies, CAS, UH-Hilo  | 2000 – 2002    |

### Education

|  |                               |                             |               |
|--|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Certificate  | Google AI Essentials          | University of Hawaii System | February 2025 |
| Certificate  | Brand Storytelling/Marketing  | Cornell University          | January 2024  |
| Ph.D.  | Applied Linguistics           | University of Arizona       | August 2000   |
| [Dissertation: <i>Computer-Assisted Japanese Vocabulary Learning: The Choice of Script in CALL</i> ] |                               |                             |               |
| M.A.   | TESL (Teaching English)       | University of Arizona       | May 1994      |
| B.A.   | English & American Literature | Toyo University, Japan      | March 1985    |

### Honors & Awards

|   |      |
|---|------|
| AI Explorer Badge Award   | 2024 |
| Nominated for Taniguchi Excellence and Innovation Award, UH-Hilo        | 2011 |
| Frances Davis Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, UH System | 2002 |

### Grants & Fellowships (more recent ones only)

|   |      |
|---|------|
| Northeast Asia Council (NEAC)/Association for Asian Studies (AAS) Grant 2020-2022<br>(awarded for spring 2020 research; extended until summer 2022 due to the pandemic) |      |
| College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Research and Teaching Small Grants   | 2019 |
| National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Summer Institute Scholarship  | 2018 |
| Research Relations Grant, UH-Hilo   | 2018 |
| Research Fellowship (Long-Term Grant), the Japan Foundation   | 2016 |
| Seed Money Grant, UH-Hilo   | 2015 |
| Spring 2014 Teaching Fellowship, Nanzan University, Nagoya, Japan   | 2013 |
| Publication Assistance Grant, Hawai'i Council for the Humanities (HCH)  | 2013 |
| Research Grant, Hawai'i Council for the Humanities (HCH)  | 2011 |
| Diversity & Equity Initiative Fund, UH-Hilo   | 2010 |

### Books

- Okuyama, Y., Kay-Jones, C., & Larsen, N. (forthcoming). *Manga on the Mind: What Japanese Comics Can Tell Us About Mental Health*. Springer Nature.
- Okuyama, Y. (August 2022). *Tōjisha Manga: Japan's Graphic Memoirs of Brain and Mental Health*. London, UK: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Okuyama, Y. (May 2020). *Reframing Disability in Manga*. The University of Hawaii Press.
- Okuyama, Y. (April 2015). *Japanese Mythology in Film: A Semiotic Approach to Reading Japanese Film and Anime*. Lanham, ML: Lexington Books.

### Journal Articles, Encyclopedia & Book Chapters (past ten years only)

- Okuyama, Y. (2024). "Japanese Religion in Film" Chapter for a book edited by John Lyden.
- Okuyama, Y. & Kai-Jones, Chris. (2024). "Analyzing Mutsuo's Debut Manga: A Patient Perspective

- on Mental Illness and Recovery.” (submitted to *Journal of Literary & Cultural Disability Studies*)
- Okuyama, Y. & Kurikawa, Osamu. (2024). “Love’s in Sight: Japan’s Graphic Narrative of Blindness.” Vol.19, Issues 3 & 4 (2024), *The Review of Disability Studies*.
- Okuyama, Y. (2023). “[Tōjisha manga: Japan’s graphic memoirs of mental disability.](#)” *The Polyphony*.
- Okuyama, Y. (2021). “[Raising Awareness of Cassandra Syndrome through Manga: Nonami Tsuna’s My Husband, Akira, Has Asperger’s Syndrome.](#)” *U.S.-Japan Women’s Journal* 60 (Fall 2021): 84-111.
- Okuyama, Y. (2017). “[Semiotics of Otherness in Japanese Mythology.](#)” *Disability Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 37, No.1, Winter.
- Okuyama, Y. (2015). “[Christian Martyrdom in Japanese Contexts: The Amakusa-Shimabara Revolt and Christian Martyrs.](#)” *The International Journal of Religion and Spirituality in Society*, 5(3), 33-41.
- Okuyama, Y. (2015). “[Deaf Adolescents’ Textisms.](#)” In Z. Yan (Ed.). *Encyclopedia of Mobile Phone Behavior*, Chapter 112, 1419-1430. Hershey, PA: IGI Global.
- Okuyama, Y. (2014). “Japanese Deaf Adolescents’ Textisms: A Case Study of the Under-Represented Population.” *International Journal of Cyber Behavior, Psychology, and Learning*, 4(2), 20-32.
- Okuyama, Y. (2013). “Semiotics of Japan’s Mountain Ascetics.” *The American Journal of Semiotics*, 29(1/4), 17-38.
- Okuyama, Y. (2013). “A Case Study of U.S. Deaf Teens’ Text Messaging.” *New Media & Society*, 15 (8), 1224-1240.
- Okuyama, Y. (2013). “Shinto and Buddhist Metaphors in *Departures*.” *The Journal of Religion and Film*, 17(1) April, Article 39.
- Okuyama, Y. & Iwai, M. (2011). “Use of Text-Messaging by Deaf Adolescents in Japan.” *Sign Language Studies*, 11(3), 375-407.
- Okuyama, Y. (2012). “Cell Phone as Metaphor: Japanese Deaf and Hearing High School Students’ Concepts of Mobile Communication.” In Timothy Iles (Ed.). *Researching 21st Century Japan: New Directions and Approaches for the Electronic Age*. Lanham, ML: Lexington Books.

#### Invited Talks, Interviews, Podcasts & Public Writings (recent ones only)

- “Kami and Spirituality in Japan” for AJET CONNECT Magazine Japan #134 2025
- “Japanese Creation Myths” and Glossary, *Greeking Out* Book by National Geographic 2025
- “A Journey from a Young Caregiver Experience to a Tōjisha Manga Translation Project.” 2024  
(An invited talk.) The Japanese Association of Graphic Medicine, November 26, 2024.
- “Kappa: A Japanese Mythological Creature” for [Monstrum](#), Public Broadcasting Service 2024
- “Manga Authors’ Experiences of Mental Disability” Doshisha University, July 21 2023
- “Japan’s Graphic Memoirs on Depression and OCD” University at Buffalo, April 14 2023
- “Tōjisha Manga: Japan’s Graphic Memoirs of Mental and Brain Health” Cornell, Mar. 9 2023
- “Narratives of Blindness and TGNC in Manga” Georgia Institute of Technology, Feb. 2 2023
- “Reframing Disability in Manga” Disability Studies, New Books Network, October 24 2022  
Podcast (<https://newbooksnetwork.com/reframing-disability-in-manga>)
- Interviews for National Public Radio and for CNN (February 10 & March 21) 2022  
<https://www.cnn.com/2022/03/31/world/japanese-killing-stone-spirit-scn/index.html> (CNN)
- “Reframing Disability: Manga’s Portrayals of Deaf Characters” Cornell University, Ithaca NY 2021  
(<https://einaudi.cornell.edu/discover/news/reframing-disability-0>)
- “Reframing Disability in Manga” (interview) July 3 2020  
Asian Ethnology Podcast (<https://asianethnology.org/page/podcastokuyama>)
- Interview for CNN’s article “Why summer is spooky season in Japan.” August 5, 2021  
<https://edition.cnn.com/travel/article/japan-summer-spooky-season-cmd/index.html>
- Interview for National Public Radio’s “A Black Samurai Fighting Giant Mechas?” May 7, 2021  
<https://www.npr.org/2021/05/07/994413410/a-black-samurai-fighting-giant-mechas-yasuke-asks-why-not>
- Interview for National Geographic’s article about the waving lucky cat. May 3, 2021.  
<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/travel/article/the-fascinating-history-behind-the-popular-waving-lucky-cat>