

Yoshiko Okuyama's Résumé (May 2025)

Current and Past Positions

Japanese Studies Program Coordinator	2024 – Present
Visiting Scholar, East Asian Program , Cornell University	2023 – Present
Affiliated Scholar (kyakuin-kyōryoku kenkyūin), Institute of Ars Vivendi Ritsumeikan University Graduate School, Japan	2022 – Present
Professor, Department of Languages, College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), 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 (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>