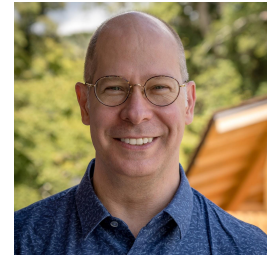


Matthew Stavros, Ph.D.

Curriculum Vitae

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Professional Bio

Matthew Stavros is a historian of early Japan at the University of Sydney and a translator of Classical Japanese literature. He is the author of *Kyoto: An Urban History of Japan's Premodern Capital* (University of Hawai'i Press, 2014) and the translator of *Hōjōki: A Buddhist Reflection on Solitude, Imperfection and Transcendence* (Tuttle, 2024) and *The Tale of Princess Kaguya* (Tuttle, 2026). His research focuses primarily on the material culture of premodern Japan and eastern Asia, with particular interest in cities, buildings, and religious monuments. He trained in architectural and urban history at Kyoto University and read history at Princeton University where he earned a Ph.D. He teaches modern and classical Japanese language, Japanese history and historiography, and more broadly on the histories and cultures of East and Southeast Asia.

Primary Employment

The University of Sydney	2005-present
Senior Lecturer in Japanese / Asian Studies	
Kyoto Consortium for Japanese Studies	2019-2020
Director	
Princeton University	2003-2004
Preceptor in History	
Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs	1996-98
Consular Affairs Officer	

Extraordinary Appointments

Japanese Ministry of Culture & the Ministry of Tourism	2019-2020
History author and consultant	
University of Heidelberg, Institute for East Asian Art History	2016
Guest Professor	
Kyushu University, Master's Program in Humanities	Winter 2015
Visiting Associate Professor (Intensive course)	
Kyoto University, Graduate School of Human/Environ. Studies	2012-2013
Visiting Associate Professor	
University of Tokyo, Historiographical Institute	2008-09
Japan Foundation Professional Fellow (Professor)	

Education & Training

Princeton University, MA, Ph.D. in East Asian Studies	Conferred 2005
Major field in Early Japanese Urban History	
Minor fields in Early Modern Japan and 17th century Europe (Cities)	

Kyoto University, Fulbright Graduate Research Fellow Graduate School of Engineering (Architecture)	2002-2003
Kyoto University, Japanese MEXT Graduate Fellow Graduate School of Engineering (Architecture)	1998-2000
Hiroshima University, Japanese MEXT Undergraduate Scholar Faculty of Education	1994-1995
Michigan State University, BA Interdisciplinary Studies	Conferred 1996

Books

The Tale of Princess Kaguya: A critical translation of Taketori monogatari. Forthcoming from Tuttle in 2026.

地獄草紙 詞書 全文翻刻・解説、現代日本語訳、英訳 [A complete transcription and translation of *Jigokuzōshi*, the *Hell Scrolls* in the collections of the Nara National Museum and the Tokyo National Museum, including a fragment from the Nara Scroll in the collection of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.] Vicus Lusorum, 2025
www.mstavros.com/scrolls/hell-scrolls

Hōjōki: A Buddhist Poem on Solitude, Imperfection and Transcendence (parallel translation and academic study). Tuttle Books, 2024. [Access](#)

* French edition published in 2025 from [Armand Colin](#).

餓鬼草紙 絵詞 全文翻刻・現代語訳 [A complete transliteration and translation of *Gakizōshi*, *The Hungry Ghost scroll*.] Vicus Lusorum, 2022.
<https://www.mstavros.com/scrolls/hungry-ghosts>

The Symbolism of Asia: An Illustrated, Introductory Guide. Vicus Lusorum, 2019.

Kyoto: An Urban History of Japan's Premodern Capital. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2014. www.kyotohistory.com

* Mandarin edition forthcoming from Shanghai People's Press (上海人民出版社).

Introduction to Asian Cultures. A co-authored textbook. Sydney: Pearson Publishing, 2012. 2nd edition, 2013.

Peer-Reviewed Articles & Chapters

'Monuments of Hindu-Buddhist Kingship in Medieval Japan,' in *Japanese Culture and Society De-Isolated: Essays on Global Japan, Prehistory to the Present*. Routledge, 2026.

'The Premodern Capital', in the *New Cambridge History of Japan*. Under contract for publication in 2026.

Reference articles in *Oxford Art Online (Grove Art Online)*, 2024. Entries for: Kyōto; Kinkakuji; Ginkakuji, etc. <https://doi.org/10.1093/gao/9781884446054.article.T048434>

'Kitayama: Beyond the Golden Pavilion.' In *TAASA Review: The Journal of the Asian Arts Society of Australia*, 32/3 (Sep. 2023): 4-6.

'Rifts in the Fabric of Buddhist Space-Time: A Hungry Ghost Scroll in the Kyoto National Museum.' *TAASA Review: The Journal of the Asian Arts Society of Australia*, 31/4 (Dec. 2022): 7-9.

'Fractions of the Divine in Japanese History.' *TAASA Review: The Journal of the Asian Arts Society of Australia*, 30/3 (Sep. 2021): 4-6.

- ‘The Shōkokuji Pagoda: Building the Infrastructure of Buddhist Kingship in Medieval Japan’, co-authored with Tomishima Yoshiyuki. *Japanese Journal of Religious Studies*, 45/1 (2018): 127-146.
- ‘Monuments and Mandalas in Medieval Kyoto: Reading Buddhist Kingship in the Urban Plan of Ashikaga Yoshimitsu.’ *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies*, 77.1 (Dec. 2017): 321-361.
- ‘Capital Crises in Kyoto: Historical and Literary Reflections’, co-authored with Takahashi Yasuo, in Itō Takeshi, et al. eds. *Kiki to toshi 危機と都市*. Tokyo: Sayusha, 2017.
- ‘Imperial Progress to the Muromachi Palace, 1381: A study and annotated translation of Sakayuku hana’, co-authored with Kurioka Norika. *Japan Review*, 28 (2015): 3-46.
- ‘Military Revolution in Early Modern Japan.’ *Japanese Studies*, 33.2 (Dec. 2013): 1-19.
- ‘中世京都の京外政治拠点’ [Exurban Political Centers in Medieval Kyoto]. 『人環フォーラム』. *Journal of the Graduate School of Human and Environmental Studies*, 33 (Sep. 2013): 48-53.
- ‘Cities and Urban Culture in Asia, Pre-history to 1200’, in *Cultural Sociology of East and Southeast Asia*, vol. 3. Sage Reference, 2012. [Link](#)
- ‘中世京都の中の平安京’ [Finding Heian-kyō in Medieval Kyoto]. In Ishikawa Hideshi, et al. eds. 『交響する古代』 [Harmonizing the Ancient]. Tokyo: Tōkyō-dō shuppan, 2011.
- ‘The Sanjō bōmon Temple-Palace Complex: The First Locus of Ashikaga Authority in Medieval Kyoto.’ *Japan Review*, 22 (July 2010): 3-29.
- ‘Locational Pedigree and Warrior Status in Medieval Kyoto: The residences of Ashikaga Yoshimitsu.’ *Japanese Studies*, 29.1 (May 2009): 3-18.
- ‘Vers une nouvelle ville’, coauthored with Takahashi Yasuo. In Nicolas Fiévé, ed. *Atlas Historique de Kyoto*. Paris: UNESCO, 2008.
- ‘Les monastères fortifiés et les “Temples-Agglomérations” au Moyen Âge: Tōji, Tenryūji, Yamashina Honganji et Honkokuji’, co-authored with Takahashi Yasuo. In Nicolas Fiévé ed. *Atlas Historique de Kyoto*. Paris: UNESCO, 2008.
- ‘Building Warrior Legitimacy in Medieval Kyoto.’ *East Asian History*, 31 (June 2006): 1-28.
- ‘Space, Place, and Limits on Warrior Authority in Medieval Japan.’ In *Proceedings of the 2006 International Conference on East Asian Architectural Culture*, Dec. 2006.
- ‘“Capitals” in Medieval East Asia’, coauthored with Takahashi Yasuo. In *Proceedings of the 2006 International Conference on East Asian Architectural Culture*, Dec. 2006.
- ‘Castles in Kyoto at the Close of the Age of Warring States’, coauthored with Takahashi Yasuo. In *Japanese Capitals in Historical Perspective: Power, Memory and Place in Kyoto, Edo and Tokyo*. Curzon Press, 2003.

Creative Works (a selection)

- Three historical maps for the *New Cambridge History of Japan*. Under contract for publication in 2026.
- Historical map of Kyoto in Janet R. Goodwin’s *Dodging and Confronting Stigma*. (Hawai‘i, 2025).
- ‘All about Shoshazan Engyō-ji Temple.’ [Access](#).
- Seventeen photographs in *Oxford Art Online (Grove Art Online)*.
- Six historical maps of Kyoto in Mark Teeuwen, *Kyoto’s Gion Festival: A Social History* (Bloomsbury Academic, 2023).

‘The Ground Plan of the Rokujō’in Palace’, in Edith Sarra, *Unreal Houses: Character, Gender, and Genealogy in the Tale of Genji* (Harvard University Press, 2020).

Five maps in Barak Kushner, *Men to Devils, Devils to Men: Japanese War Crimes and Chinese Justice* (Harvard University Press, 2015).

Three maps in William Deal and Brian Ruppert, *A Cultural History of Japanese Buddhism* (Wiley Blackwell, 2015).

Seven maps and diagrams in Matthew McKelway, *Capitalscapes: Folding Screens and Political Imagination in Late Medieval Kyoto* (University of Hawai‘i Press, 2006).

Principal Grants, Fellowships and Honours

Excellence in Teaching Leadership inaugural award winner, University of Sydney, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, 2023.

Excellence in Teaching Award Nominee, University of Sydney, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, 2017.

University of Sydney, Faculty of Arts Research Support Scheme, 2017 (\$7,030): ‘From Angkor to Kyoto: The Influence of Southeast Asia on the Material Culture of Premodern Japan.’

Educational Innovation Grant (Large), University of Sydney, 2014. (\$35,000)

Australian Academy of the Humanities publishing grant (2013) for *Kyoto: An Urban History of Japan’s Premodern Capital*. (\$3,000)

Visiting Professorial Grant in Residence, Kyoto University, 2012-13 (\$46,000)

Japan Foundation Professional Fellowship, University of Tokyo, 2008-09 (\$52,000)

Japan Foundation Major Conference Grant (History field), 2007 (\$12,000)

University of Sydney, Faculty of Arts Research Support Scheme, 2007 (\$3,800)

J. William Fulbright-IIE Dissertation Research Fellowship, 2002-03

J. William Fulbright-Hays Dissertation Research Fellowship, 2002-03 (declined)

Japan Foundation Dissertation Research Fellowship, 2002-03 (declined)

Princeton University, East Asian Studies Prize Fellowship, 2000-03

Mildred W. and Alfred T. Carton, Class of 1905 Fellowship, Princeton University, 2000-01

Japanese Ministry of Education (Monbushō), Graduate Research Fellowship, Kyoto University, 1998-00

Japanese National Proficiency Test, Level 1 proficiency. Chicago, December 1997.

Japanese Ministry of Education (Monbushō), Undergraduate Japanese Studies Scholarship, Hiroshima University, 1994-95.

Public Writings

‘Beyond China and India: Ancient town planning in Asia’, *Language and Culture: The School of Languages and Cultures Magazine*. Issue 42, 2018.

Forward of Akihito Seki and Thomas Daniell, *House and Gardens of Kyoto*. Tuttle, 2017 (second edition).

Review of William Wayne Farris, *Japan to 1600: A Social and Economic History*. In *Asian Studies Review* 35 (September 2011).

‘A Dis-Integrated Urban Landscape: Making Cities Medieval.’ In『日本古代学』[Ancient Studies of Japan] 3 (March 2011).

‘欧米学者による初の京都の都市史を書く’ [The First Urban History of Kyoto by a Western Scholar]. In Japan Foundation, ed., *Wochi Kochi* [をちこち] (2009).

Review of Ellen Van Goethem, *Nagaoka: Japan's Forgotten Capital*. *Japanese Studies*, 29.1 (May 2009).

Review of Burton Watson trans., *The Tales of the Heike*. *Japanese Studies* (Sep. 2007).

Review of Mikael Adolphson, *Teeth and Claws of the Buddha*. *Asian Studies Review* (Dec. 2007).

Review of Mary Elizabeth Berry, *The Culture of Civil War in Kyoto*. 建築史学 [Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians of Japan] (March 1999).

Invited Lectures, Conferences, & Master Classes

‘Hellscape and Promises of Salvation in Medieval Japanese Visual Culture’, panel convener for the Japanese Studies Association of Australia, biennial meeting, 2023. With Satomi Yamamoto and Mirium Chusid.

** Presentation title: ‘Entangled Universes: Humans and Hungry Ghosts in Medieval Narrative Scrolls’.

‘The Origins of the Temple of the Golden Pavilion: The Kitayama Temple-Palace Complex in 14th-century Kyoto’, at the Asian Art Society of Australia, March 2023.

‘New Idioms of Urban Order in Medieval Kyoto.’ Invited lecture for conference on ‘Mapping Medieval Japan’, at the University of Southern California, Feb. 2022.

‘A Mysterious Alignment.’ Invited lecture at Heidelberg University, Institute for East Asian Art History, Sep. 2018

‘Mandalisation of Urban Space in Medieval Kyoto.’ Invited lecture at the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Art, Norwich England, June 2018.

‘The Spatial Strategy of Ashikaga Yoshimitsu.’ Inaugural address at Kyoto Prefectural Archives (Rekisaikan) grand opening symposium, March 2017.

Invited lectures in 2016:

- Heidelberg University, April, June, July
- University of Oslo, August
- University of Cambridge, October
- Princeton University, November
- Harvard University, November

Panel organiser and presenter for AAS-in-Asia Conference, Kyoto, 2016.

Invited three-lecture series at Hanazono University, Kyoto, November 2015.

‘Kitayama as Alternate Capital?’ Invited lecture at Kyoto University, Graduate School of Human and Environmental Studies, October 2012.

‘Reading Medieval Documents on Court Ritual.’ Master-class convener, Meiji University, Department of Ancient Studies, November 2011.

‘The Resilience of Classical Urban Ideas in Early Modern Cities.’ Conference on Classical East Asian History. Meiji University, November 2010.

‘Medieval Kyoto as an Urban Mandala: adapting the notion of sacred geography to Japan's premodern capital.’ Oriental Society of Australia, July 2010.

‘What was ‘Medieval’ about Medieval Japanese Cities?’ Conference on Early East Asian Culture. Meiji University, February 2010.

‘Rakuchū-rakugai Screens as Historical Sources.’ Hōsei University guest lecture, May 2009.

- ‘The Evolution of Elite Architecture in Premodern Japan.’ Invited lecture at Meiji Gakuin University, April 2009.
- ‘Limits on Warrior Authority in Medieval Kyoto.’ Biennial Japanese history workshop held at the University of Sydney, December 2007.
- ‘Spatial-Structural History as Method.’ Biennial meeting of the Japanese Studies Association of Australia. Canberra, July 2007.
- ‘Space, Place, and Limits on Warrior Authority in Medieval Kyoto.’ The 2006 International Conference on East Asian Architectural Culture. Kyoto, Dec. 2006.
- ‘The Urban Landscape as Text: Prospects and Pitfalls.’ Symposium on Socio-spatial Structures and Typology of Traditional Cities. Cambridge University, July 2003.
- ‘The Origins of Japanese Early Modern Fortified Architecture: The Result of a Military Revolution.’ Society for Architectural Historians, annual meeting, Richmond VA, June 2002.
- ‘Castles in Kyoto and the Making of the Early Modern City.’ Philadelphia Museum of Art, Sep. 2000.

Administration & Service

- Chair of Pedagogy, School of Languages and Cultures, 2017, 2020-2023.
- Academic Advisor in Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, 2020-present.
- Japanese Ministry of Education (MEXT) scholarship committee, 2014-2015, 2020-present.
- Jet Programme selection committee member, 2020-present.
- Director of Asian Studies, 2017-2019.
- Postgraduate research representative, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, 2012-2015.
- Coordinator of premodern core curriculum in Asian Studies, 2009-present.
- First Year Coordinators Committee, 2015-present
- Chair of Indian Subcontinental Studies (acting), 2014-2015.
- Chair of Buddhist Studies (acting), 2014-2015.
- Honours coordinator, Japanese Studies Department, 2006-2014.
- Arts on Track advisor, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, 2009-2013.
- Postgraduate Coursework Committee, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, 2011-2012.
- East Asia Experts’ Group, Office of the Deputy Vice Chancellor, 2007-08.
- International advisory board member, Japan Review, 2015-2018.
- History area editor, Japanese Studies, 2011-2015.
- Guest editor of New Voices, Japan Foundation, Sydney. Vol. 29, issue 1, May 2009.

References

- Peter Morgan, Professor of European Studies, University of Sydney
(peter.morgan@sydney.edu.au)
- David L. Howell, Professor of Japanese History, Harvard University
(dhowell@fas.harvard.edu).
- Adrian Vickers, Professor of Southeast Asian Studies, University of Sydney
(adrian.vickers@sydney.edu.au)

Melanie Trede, Professor of Art Histories, University of Heidelberg
(melanie.trede@zo.uni-heidelberg.de)

Yukio Lippit, Associate Professor of the Humanities and Art History, Harvard University
(lippit@fas.harvard.edu).

Shin'ichirō Takahashi, Associate Professor, Historiographical Institute, University of Tokyo
(shinichi@hi.u-tokyo.ac.jp).

Outstanding Student Production

Visit for links: www.mstavros.com/teaching

Translation and analysis of 'The Hungry Ghost Scroll', by Bianca Bigay

Translation and analysis of 'The Hungry Ghost Scroll', by Kelly Zhang

Translation and analysis of 'One Hundred Demons on Parade', by Joumana Shead

Material Culture: A critical view on ancient tombs and imperial mythology, by Tim Chen