

Letter from the Editor-in-Chief

Exiting editor:

Dear readers of *Innovative Research in Japanese Studies*,

It is my pleasure to present you with the second volume of our journal. This unique project would not have been possible without the support of our external reviewers and of our managing staff, in particular our language editor Mrs. Nikki Littman and the managing editor of this volume, Mrs. Rotem Ayalon.

This volume offers two interesting articles by graduate students that embody in our opinion particular promise. The first by Patrick Hein analyses critically Prime Minister Abe Shinzo narrative on "healthy nationalism". The second by Yulia (Jules) Shein-Kushnir, examines the ways in which Keitai culture has impacted notions and practices of couplehood.

In addition, this volume includes the talk presented by manga script writer and cultural critic Otsuka Eiji, during the most recent graduate students methodological workshop of IAJS, which took place at the Hebrew University in May 2015. The talk analyzes the impact of Eisenstein montage theory on Japanese aesthetics from the 1920s until today. Understanding the impact of foreign influences such as Eisenstein montage theory on Japanese aesthetics is one way to de-exotify Japanese culture, and free it from its image of a Galapagocized culture.

Finally, as I am stepping down from my chair as the editor-in-chief of our journal, I wish the entering editor-in-chief, Dr. Helena Grinshpun, a rewarding journey in her efforts to further develop this wonderful project.

Michal Daliot-Bul

Editor in Chief

Entering editor:

Dear readers,

I am honored to take the place of Dr. Michal (Miki) Daliot-Bul as the Editor-in-chief of the graduate students' journal Innovative Research in Japanese Studies. The Journal has proved the aspirations behind its conception a big success – it created an accessible platform for graduate students to endeavor in academic writing and provided them with thoughtful feedback and attentive guidance. The visible result has been two highly inspiring and thought-provoking collections of papers on an impressively wide range of topics by contributors from Israel and abroad. The less visible - but not less important - outcome has been the raising of academic confidence among graduate students, the strengthening of ties between young researchers and established scholars involved in the reviewing process, and the exposure of Japanese Studies in Israel to the academic world.

As the entering editor, I am now facing a challenge of taking over this ambitious project and moving forward with the inspiring "baggage" of experiences and insights gathered by the Journal's wonderful team. As part of this new leap forward, we have decided to introduce some changes to the character of the Journal, namely, to enable authors to publish their works in Hebrew as well as in English. We believe that this will open a new window of opportunities to a wider audience of Israeli graduate students and ensure proper representation of excellent papers in Japanese studies that are written in Hebrew.

We truly hope that this fascinating project will continue to draw interest from young researchers and stir ideas and motivations among the academic community in the field of Japanese studies.

Helena Grinshpun