

Sophia University European Institute

2025



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Opening
Hours

Monday to Friday: 10:00 - 17:00 (Closed 11:30-12:30)
(Closed on weekends, National & University holidays)

From the Director

Atsushi Ichinose
Director, European Institute,
Professor, Department of Luso-Brazilian Studies,
Faculty of Foreign Studies,
Sophia University



Throughout my research career, the main subject of study has been Portugal. Almost 30 years ago, I was a young university student in Lisbon. In those days, people in Portugal used to say, "I'm off to Europe" when visiting France or Germany. The Portuguese themselves did not think that they were Europeans. These kinds of perceptions raise fundamental questions: "What is Europe?" or "From where to where is Europe?" We know that different definitions and conceptions of "Europe" exist even within the continent.

The European Institute of Sophia University is engaged in the research on "Europe" from diverse perspectives – literature, linguistics, art, society, history, philosophy, religion, politics, economy and other fields. Working in various languages, our members are active in studying "Europe" and its influences on Japan, while also sharing their insights with people in Japan, Europe and around the globe. Our activities include organizing lectures and symposia, publishing journals, and providing a library of academic resources. As members of "Sophia" (Greek for wisdom), our thirty or so fellows devote themselves to deepening their knowledge and understanding of this field. I invite all scholars and students interested in Europe to experience for themselves all that the Institute has to offer. To learn more, please do not hesitate to contact us for information and assistance.

About US

The European Institute, officially established on April 1 2007, grew out of the former Germanic Cultural Research Institute, merging with the Institute of Spanish Studies on July 1 2009, and has thus stretched its research scope to cover the society and culture of the whole European continent. Now reorganized into four study sections, "politics, economy and society", "art and culture", "language" and "history", the Institute is active in promoting research projects both on its own and jointly with other organizations.

■ Activities

Thirteen lectures, seminars and symposia inviting prominent scholars from around the world are held in FY 2024 including a joint Franco-Japanese symposium "Julien Gracq and the poesy of the 21th century", the lecture "Innovation and success of the literary and artistic cabaret 'Chat Noir'" and the Matthias Theodor Forkert lecture "Der Mensch lebt nicht vom Brot allein" (Mt 4,4) Der Beitrag der Kirchen und Religionsgemeinschaften zum kulturellen Leben in Deutschland (Man shall not live on bread alone, (Matthew 4:4) The Role of the Church in German Art and Culture)."



■ EU Information Centre (EUi)



The Institute also serves as the EU information Centre (EUi) at Sophia, providing a wide range of EU official periodicals and documents open to the local community. Participating in the “EU-Japan Friendship Week” every year, and sharing information on the website and Facebook of the Institute.

Institute Fellows

Director : Ichinose, Atsushi (Modern Lusophone history)

Deputy-Director : Matsubara, Noriko (Early modern Spanish art)

Adachi, Yuko (Russian political economy)

Adegawa, Nobuyoshi (Semantics and Pragmatics of Verbal Aspect in Modern Russian)

Akiyama, Shinichi (Russian syntax, corpus linguistics)

Asami, Shogo (German philosophy, bioethics)

Azuma, Fumihiko (EU Law, Italian law)

Desprez, Michael (History of theatre, especially in the Renaissance)

Doñas, Antonio (Hispanic literature, History of ideas)

Kawasaki, Takeshi (Politics in Germany and Europe)

Kawase, Tsuyoshi (International economic law)

Kimura, Goro Christoph (Sociolinguistics)

Kojima, Machiko (France’s Diplomacy, European security, Nuclear non-proliferation)

Komatsubara, Yuri (Modern German Literature, European Avant-garde Studies)

Lipsky, Angela (Applied linguistics)

Maki, Yoko (Sociology, gender)

Miwa, Reiko (Contemporary German drama and theatre)

Monfort, Brieuc (Economics)

Morita, Naoko (Europe History, U.S. History /Western History)

Nagai, Atsuko (French literature of the 20th century)

Nakai, Sanayuki (German literature)

Neves, Mauro Jr. (Comparative pop culture studies)

Nishimura, Kimiyo (Spanish linguistics)

Ogawa, Kimiyo (Romantic literature in England)

Okabe, Midori (EU studies, international migration studies)

Ota, Koji (German literature)

Ophüls-Kashima, Reinold (Contemporary German culture)

Peyron, Bruno (Autobiography in French literature)

Saaler, Sven (History of Japanese foreign relations)

Sakano, Masanori (Occidental history (early modern France))
Schelletter, Christopher (German literature)
Takahashi, Akeo (French Revolution, social history in modern France)
Takahashi, Ryosuke (Lexical semantics)
Uchimura, Shunta (History of early modern Spain)
Williams, John (Film production, European cinema)
Williams, Laurence (8th century British literature, travel writing)
Zemsauer, Christian (German literature)

Visiting Fellows

Araya, Takashi (Italian contemporary history)
Constantinescu, Cezar (Language politics)
Date, Kiyonobu (Politics and religion in France and Europe)
Duppel, Mechthild (Modern German literature)
Haga, Kazue (Innovation, entrepreneurship, evolutionary economics)
Hisano, Naoto (German literature)
Hitzer, Eckhard (Religious, philosophical and scientific foundations of sustainable society)
Kato, Shingo (Contemporary history of Spain)
Nagai, Nobuhito (Modern French history)
Niewalda, Katrin (German language education)
Niikawa, Sho (Comparative politics in Europe, coalition study)
Nishiwaki, Yasuhiro (South European politics)
Rövekamp, Frank (Economics, Comparative Studies on Germany and Japan)
Toyoda, Yui (Spanish Baroque art)
Wittig, Matthias (Japanology/Autobiography studies)
Yamadori, Kasumi (Johann Gottfried Herder and the transformation of rhetoric in modern Germany)
Yanagita, Nancy (German as a foreign language, autonomous learning, reflective learning, portfolio)
Yoshida, Motoko (International civil procedure, European culture)

Visiting Researchers

Daukšta, Chihiro (German poetry of the 20th century)
Habano, Tamiki (Friedrich Schlegel and German romantic Criticism)
Mitsui, Mai (Music and literature in the 19th century France)
Tsuchiya, Tomoko (EU studies)

Honorary Fellows

Andreae, Gabriele / Enomoto, Hisahiko / Hamm, Heinz Toni / Hollerich, Jean-Claude / Izumi, Kuniyoshi / Kimura, Naoji / Murata, Shinichi / Nagata, Sabine Maria / Nakai, Akio / Nakamura, Masaharu / Otaka, Yasujirou / Sato, Tomoyuki / Sugano, Karin / Wakabayashi, Yoshihiko / Yoshida, Tamotsu / Yoshimura, Kazuaki

Post Doctoral Fellow Kawasaki, Eri (Medieval philosophy, mysticism)

■ Library



The European Institute boasts a wide collection of materials related to European studies. Approximately 44,000 works of literature, documents, and audio/video software are classified and open for public use. Users can search by Sophia University OPAC, and find them either at the Institute or the library shelves, both on the Central Library 7F.

German Section

4,200 books mainly on German literature and linguistics, including the Ito and Uda Collections.

Swiss Section and Yonei Collection

7,300 books on Switzerland, mainly donated by the Swiss Consulate in Kobe and Pro Helvetia Foundation.

Austrian Section

4,700 books on literature and culture donated by the Austrian Embassy.

European Section

900 books, including introductory texts and latest information on European studies (The section was established upon opening of the European Institute in 2007).

Spanish Section

14,000 books on Spanish literature, history, linguistics, and art, donated by the former Spanish Embassy library.

Spanish Civil War Section

6,500 books and 20,000 clippings in digital format on Spanish Civil War, donated by the late Professor Juan J. L. Sopena.

Portuguese Section

2,400 books on Portugal, collected by the former Portuguese Institute.

Others

Valuable musical scores, books and software of Spanish music, and European cinema DVDs are stored in the Institute, while journals/magazines can be found either in the Institute or Central Library 3F.

■ Publications



“Sophia Journal of European Studies” (annual publication)

- Vol.1 European Languages and Asian Nations
- Vol.2 Austria -Past and Present
- Vol.3 Culture and Society in the Iberian Peninsula
- Vol.4 Rückblick und Gegenwart
—Betrachtungen über die deutsche Literatur der Moderne
- Vol.5 French Society and Christianity (Catholicism)
- Vol.6 Politics and Societies in the Mediterranean Region
- Vol.7 Europe towards the “East”
- Vol.8 Religions in Europe
- Vol.9 EU and European Nations Today
- Vol.10 Sexuality and the Private Sphere in Europe
- Vol.11 “Government and Society” in the History of Southwestern Europe
- Vol.12 Reviewing the European Refugee/Migration Crisis
- Vol.13 Europe in the face of disasters: Past and Present
- Vol.14 Europe and War
- Vol.15 Europe in the transforming World
- Vol.16 Domestic Political Trends Amid Expansion of Populist Forces

“Sophia European Studies Series”

- Vol.1 European integration: current situation and challenges
- Vol.2 Immigrants in European films
- Vol.3 Modernism in literature
- Vol.4 Japan-Austria interchanges: history and present
- Vol.5 The European cinema today
- Vol.6 The use of language in everyday life – European languages
- Vol.7 European Football and Japan
- Vol.8 La España de Felipe III
- Vol.9 Borders, Barriers and Boundaries in European Cinema
- Vol.10 Approach to the environmental and energy issues from the views of Germany and Switzerland
- Vol.11 Reconsiderer Picasso
- Vol.12 The Secular and the Religious in Europe
- Vol.13 Comparative and Contrastive Studies in Slavic Languages and Literatures—Japanese Contributions to the Sixteenth International Congress of Slavists—
- Vol.14 Record of the Symposium dedicated to Mikhail Bulgakov’s 130th Anniversary of the Birth
- Vol.15 German Administration of Chancellor Scholz -Institution, Policy and Political Process of ‘Traffic Light’ coalition Today-

