

William Puck Brecher

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Education

2005	Ph.D. in Japanese Cultural History, University of Southern California
1992	M.A. in Japanese Cultural Studies, University of Michigan
1988	B.A. in Modern Foreign Languages, Kenyon College

Teaching Experience

2016~present	Associate Professor of Japanese History, Department of History, Washington State University.
2015~2016	Associate Professor of Japanese Studies, Japanese Program Coordinator. Dual teaching appointment with Department of Foreign Languages and Cultures and Department of History, Washington State University.
2014~2015	Associate Professor of Japanese Studies, Japanese Program Coordinator, Department of Foreign Languages and Cultures, Washington State University.
2008~2014	Assistant Professor of Japanese Studies, Japanese Program Coordinator, Department of Foreign Languages and Cultures, Washington State University.
2006~2008	Lecturer of Japanese Studies, Washington University in St. Louis, Department of Asian and Near Eastern Languages and Literatures.
2006 (spring)	Lecturer of Japanese Studies, University of California at Irvine, Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures.
2005~2006	JSPS Postdoctoral Research Fellow, International Research Center for Japanese Studies (<i>Nichibunken</i>), Kyoto, Japan.
2002~2003	Assistant Lecturer in Japanese, University of Southern California, Japanese Language Program.
2002 (summer)	Project Coordinator for National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute (Modernity, Early Modernity and Post-Modernity in

Japan).

- 2000~2002 Teaching Assistant, USC, Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures.
- 1998~1999 Assistant Professor, Nagano University (Nagano, Japan), Department of General Education.
- 1994~1998 Full-time Lecturer, Nagano University (Nagano, Japan), Department of General Education.

Refereed Books

- 2021 *Japan's Private Spheres: Autonomy in Japanese History, 1600-1930*. Leiden; Boston, Brill.
- 2019 *Defamiliarizing Japan's Asia-Pacific War*. Co-edited with Michael W. Myers. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press.
- 2017 *Honored and Dishonored Guests: Westerners in Wartime Japan*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Asia Center.
- 2013 *The Aesthetics of Strangeness: Eccentricity and Madness in Early Modern Japan*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press.
- 2000 *An Investigation of Japan's Relationship to Nature and Environment*, Lewiston, N.Y.: The Edwin Mellen Press.

Refereed Book Chapters

- (Pending) "War Games: The Meiji Shrine Games (1924-43) as Civil Religion," in *Beyond the Five Rings: Religion and Sport in Japan*, eds. Zachary Smith, Stephen Covell, and Dennis Frost. Under review by University of Hawaii Press.
- 2016 "Warugaki de aru koto: Edo jidai no kodomotachi no hankô no rinri," in *Edo no naka no Nihon, Nihon no naka no Edo*, Peter Nosco, James E. Ketelaar, and Yasunori Kojima, eds. Tokyo: Kashiwa shobo. (This is a translation of my chapter, "Being a Brat," (2015 below).
- 2015 "Being a Brat: The Ethics of Child Disobedience in the Edo Period," in *Values, Identity, and Equality in 18th- and 19th-Century Japan*, Peter Nosco, James E. Ketelaar, and Yasunori Kojima, eds. Leiden, Boston, Tokyo: Brill, 80-109.
- 2014 "Precarity, *Kawaii*, and their Impact on Environmental Discourse in Japan," in *Visions of Precarity in Japanese Popular Culture and*

Literature, Roman Rosenbaum and Kristina Iwata Weickgenannt, eds. London, New York: Routledge, 43-63.

- 2013 “Post-Disaster Japan’s Environmental Transition,” in *Values in Sustainable Development*, ed. Jack Appleton. London, New York: Routledge, 172-81.

Refereed Articles

- 2018 “Contested Utopias: Civilization and Leisure in the Meiji Era,” *Asian Ethnology* 77:1&2 (2018): 31-53.
- 2017 “Eurasians and Racial Capital in a ‘Race War’,” *Asia Pacific Perspectives* 14:2 (Spring 2017): 4-19.
- 2016 “A Miscellany of Eccentricities: Spirituality and Obsession in *Hyakka kikōden*,” *Asian Ethnology* 75:2 (2016): 303-25.
- 2013 “Sustainability as Community: Healing in a Japanese Ecovillage,” *The Electronic Journal of Contemporary Japanese Studies* 13:3 (2013), 1-23.
- 2012 “Useless Losers: Marginality and Modernization in Early Meiji Japan,” *The European Legacy* 17:6 (2012): 803-17.
- 2010 “In Appreciation of Buffoonery, Egotism, and the Shōmon School: Koikawa Harumachi’s *Kachō kakurenbō*.” *Early Modern Japan: An Interdisciplinary Journal*, 18 (2010): 88-102.
- 2010 “Eccentricity as Ideology: Biographies of Meiji *Kijin*.” *Japanese Language and Literature*, 44:2 (October 2010): 213-37.
- 2010 “Kōetsumura: Of Rhythms and Reminiscence in Hon’ami Kōetsu’s Commune.” *Japan Review*, 22 (2010): 27-53.
- 2010 “Brewing Spirits, Brewing Songs: Saké, *Haikai*, and the Aestheticization of Suburban Space in Edo Period Itami.” *Japan Studies Review*, XIV (2010): 17-44.
- 2009 “Down and Out in Negishi: Reclusion and Struggle in an Edo Suburb,” *Journal of Japanese Studies* 35:1 (Winter 2009): 1-35.
- 2006 “*Bungei ni okeru ‘ki’: rekishi wo kaeru gendōryoku ka? Sore to mo senryakuteki junnō ka?*” (Aesthetic strangeness: The driving force of history or strategic adaptation?) *Nichibunken* 35 (2006): 27-34.

- 2005 “To Romp in Heaven: A Translation of the *Hōsa Kyōshaden*.” *Early Modern Japan: An Interdisciplinary Journal* 13 (Spring 2005): 11-27.
- 1999 “*Shizen to bunka no hikaku shakaigaku*” (The comparative sociology of nature and culture,) in *Chiiki to Bunka*, Yasui Koji, ed. Nagano, Japan: Kyōdō Press, 233-59.

Book Reviews

- 2019 Jacobina K. Arch. *Bringing Whales Ashore: Oceans and the Environment of Early Modern Japan* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2018). *Japan Studies Review*, 171-73.
- 2018 S.C.M. Paine. *The Japanese Empire: Grand Strategy from the Meiji Restoration to the Pacific War* (Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press, 2017). *Journal of American-East Asian Relations* 25: 323-25.
- 2017 Federico Marcon. *The Knowledge of Nature and the Nature of Knowledge in Early Modern Japan* (Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press, 2015). *American Historical Review*, 22:1: 164-66.
- 2016 Katsuya Hirano. *The Politics of Dialogic Imagination: Politics and Popular Culture in Early Modern Japan* (Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press, 2014). *Journal of Asian Studies*, 75:3: 842-44.
- 2008 Peipei Qiu, *Bashō and the Dao: The Zhuangzi and the Transformation of Haikai* (University of Hawaii Press, 2004). *Philosophy East and West*, 58:4 (October 2008): 607-10.
- 2007 Donald Keene, *Frog in the Well: Portraits of Japan by Watanabe Kazan, 1793-1841* (Columbia University Press, 2006). *Early Modern Japan: An Interdisciplinary Journal*, 15 (2007): 30-31.
- 2005 Lawrence E. Marceau, *Takebe Ayatari: A Bunjin Bohemian in Early Modern Japan* (University of Michigan, 2004). *Japanese Studies*, 25:2 (September 2005): 214-16.

Invited Presentations

- 5/8/2020 “On ‘Race Hate’ in a ‘Race War?’: The Case for Japanese Racial Ambivalence,” Japanese Cultural Association of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada (via Zoom).

- 6/18/2019 “Individuality in Meiji-Taisho Education,” Kyoto Asia Studies Group, Kyoto, Japan.
- 3/03/2019 “The Meiji Shrine Games (1924-43): At the Interstices of State, Religion, and Athletics,” *Beyond the Five Rings: Religion and Sport in Japan*. Symposium at Michigan State University.
- 1/19/2019 University of Victoria, Canada. “International Families in Wartime Japan.” Duer Symposium.
- 1/17/2019 “Education and Individuality (*kosei*) in Meiji Japan: Promises and Problems.” Jackson School of International Studies, University of Washington, Seattle.
- 7/17/2018 “Meiji jidai no rejaā to shite no kosei,” *Nihon ni okeru kosei no hatten to tenkai*, Research symposium, Rikkyo University, Tokyo, Japan.
- 2/07/2018 “Wartime Japan as a Divided, Ambivalent Entity.” Centre for Japanese Studies Lecture Series. University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada.
- 2/07/2018 Invited interview for the “Meiji at 150” Podcast Series, The Meiji at 150 Project. Broadcast URL: <https://meiji150.arts.ubc.ca/podcast/>. University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada.
- 7/04/2017 “The Biracial Experience in Wartime and Postwar Japan.” Konan Joshi University, Kobe, Japan.
- 4/14/2016 “Eurasians and Racial Capital in a ‘Race War.’” Invited talk for Multiracial Identities in Asia Conference, University of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA.
- 10/23/2014 “Rebellion as Ritual: Raising Defiant Children in Early Modern Japan.” Invited talk for: East Asian Studies Center Lecture Series, Ohio State University.
- 8/29/2013 “Boys Behaving Badly: Masculinity and Childhood Misconduct in Edo Japan.” Invited talk for: Symposium on Early Modern Japanese Values and Individuality, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, Canada.
- 3/9/2013 “Japan’s post-3.11 Grassroots Sustainability Movement: Ecovillages and Transition Towns.” Invited talk for: Forests, Waters, and Cities: Approaches to the Environment in Japan and Global Contexts Symposium, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA.

4/16/2010 “On De-disciplining Edo Japan: In Favor of Experiments in Interdisciplinarity,” Keynote address, Columbia Valley Undergraduate Asian Studies Research Symposium, WSU.

Conference Presentations (research papers)

- 10/05/2019 “More than Hammering Down Nails: Individuality Assessment in Meiji Japanese Schools,” Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs Annual Meeting, East Lansing, MI.
- 6/30/2019 “War Games: Athletics as National Defense in Imperial Japan,” Asian Studies Conference Japan Annual Conference, Saitama, Japan.
- 10/13/2018 “Education and Individuality in Meiji Japan: A Reassessment,” Japan Studies Association of Canada Annual Conference, Edmonton, Canada.
- 7/01/2018 “Leisure as Prescribed Individuality in the Meiji Era,” Asian Studies Conference Japan Annual Conference, Tokyo, Japan.
- 5/23/2018 “Wartime Japan’s Conflicted Engagement with the West: Problems of Administrative Jurisdiction,” Conference of Asian Studies in Israel, Jerusalem, Israel.
- 1/05/2018 “Racial Mixing in a Racial Regime: Japanese Nativism during and after the Pacific War,” American Historical Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC.
- 7/08/2017 “Neither Friend nor Foe: Being Multiracial in Wartime Japan,” Asian Studies Conference Japan Annual Conference, Tokyo, Japan.
- 4/01//2017 “‘Race Hate’ in a ‘Race War?’: The Case for Japanese Racial Ambivalence,” Society for Military History Annual Meeting, Jacksonville, FL.
- 1/05/2017 “Good People in Good Health: Vacationing as Moral Practice in Meiji Japan,” American Historical Association Annual Meeting, Denver, CO.
- 9/24/2016 “Contested Utopias: The Globalization of Pastoral Japan in the Meiji Era,” Western Conference of the Association for Asian Studies, Missoula, MT.
- 10/10/2015 “Uncontrollable Rage and Catered Picnics: Racial Landscapes in Wartime Japan,” Western Conference of the Association for Asian Studies, Salt Lake City, UT.

- 3/28/2015 "A Miscellany of Eccentricities: Secular Spirituality in *Hyakka kikôden*," Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.
- 10/04/2014 "Bad Learners: The Ethics of Childhood Disobedience in the Edo Period," New England Association for Asian Studies, Storrs, CT.
- 6/22/2014 "Itami: *Meisho*-making with Wine and Song," Asian Studies Conference Japan, Tokyo, Japan.
- 10/11/2013 "Retrospection and Wretchedness in Meiji Biography," Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association Annual Conference, Vancouver, WA.
- 3/22/2013 "Community as Sustainability: Energy Crisis and the Transition Town Movement in Japan," Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA.
- 6/15/2012 "Fear, Fantasy, and the Greening of Japanese Civil Society," Asian Studies on the Pacific Coast (ASPAC) Annual Conference, Spokane, WA.
- 3/18/2012 "Hail Our Nation's Useless Losers: Meiji Eccentrics Resurrected," Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Toronto, Canada.
- 10/07/2011 "The Rhetoric of *Kawaii* (Cute) and Environmental Activism in Japan," Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association Annual Conference, Scottsdale, AZ.
- 10/14/2010 "Recluse to Refugee: Failures in Early Meiji's Cultural Field," Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association Annual Conference, Albuquerque, NM.
- 6/19/2010 "On De-disciplining Edo Japan: More Imprudent Experiments in Interdisciplinarity," Asian Studies on the Pacific Coast (ASPAC) Annual Conference, Portland, OR.
- 12/28/09 "Loser Literature: Retro Writing and its Legacy in Early Meiji Japan," Modern Language Association Annual Convention, Philadelphia.
- 10/09/09 "Booze as Muse: Stirring Saké and *Haikai* in Early Modern Itami," Canadian Asian Studies Association (EAC, SAC) Conference, Vancouver, Canada.
- 3/28/2009 "Kôetsumura: The Ethics and Anachronisms of Kôetsu's Commune," Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Chicago.

- 1/26/2009 “Outsiders on the Outskirts: Negishi and Elsewhere as Suburban Aesthetic Space,” Japan Colloquium at the University of Washington, Seattle.
- 4/4/2008 “From Revelry to Irrelevance: The Loser’s Plight in 19th Century Japan,” Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Atlanta.
- 11/2007 “Rustic Dreams: The Invention of Suburban Tourism in Edo Japan,” Social Science History Association Annual Conference, Chicago.
- 10/2006 “At the Crossroads of Reclusion and Civil Society: The Aesthetics of Suburbia in Early Modern Japan,” Urban History Association Biennial Meeting, Tempe, AZ.
- 2/2006 “*Kôgai no inton e no akogare: edo jidai no kôgai ni okeru bigakuteki supeesu*,” (“A Longing for Suburban Retreat: Suburban Aesthetic Space in Early Modern Japan.”) Nichibunken Forum, Kyoto, Japan.
- 4/2005 “Along the Wayside: The Confucian Legacy in Writings on Eccentrics in Edo and Meiji Japan,” Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Chicago.
- 10/2004 “Oddballs by any Other Name: Comparing Eccentrism in *Hôsa kyôshaden* and *Kinsei kijinden*,” Canadian Asian Studies Association Annual Conference, Calgary, Canada.
- 8/2003 “Nature and Emotion in the Ki (畸) Aesthetic,” European Association of Japanese Studies Triennial Conference, Warsaw, Poland.
- 5/2003 “Reassessing the *kijin* as ‘Other’ in Bakumatsu Japan,” UCLA Graduate Student Symposium, UCLA.
- 9/2002 “On 1771 as a Watershed for Japanese Modernity,” Western Conference of the Association for Asian Studies, Provo, Utah.
- 3/2001 “The Production and Consumption of Mass Culture in Contemporary Japan,” Graduate Student Conference on Japanese Studies, Harvard University.

Other recent contributions to the profession

- 2020 Board of Directors for Asian Studies on the Pacific Coast (ASPAC).
- 2019 Manuscript reviewer for the peer-reviewed *Journal of Japanese Studies*.

- 2018 External Reviewer for tenure and promotion of Dr. Hanae Kramer, University of Hawaii at Manoa.
- 2018 Co-Chair and organizer of the Asian Studies on the Pacific Coast (ASPAC) Annual Conference, Washington State University, June 8-10.
- 2018 Grant Review Panel, Early Modern Japan Network.
- 2017 Manuscript reviewer for peer-reviewed journal *Asian Ethnology*.
- 2016 Monograph manuscript reviewer for Routledge.
- 2016 Contributed Foreword for Marvin Marcus, *Empire of Words: A Kindai Literary Miscellany*. Lewiston, NY: Edwin Mellen Press.
- 2014 Manuscript reviewer for peer-reviewed journal *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies*.
- 2014 Manuscript reviewer for peer-reviewed journal *Asian Ethnology*.

Courses taught since 2006

Undergraduate Courses:

History 469 Seminar in History
 History 105 Roots of Contemporary Issues
 The Two Koreas in the Modern World
 Problems in Modern Japanese Society
 Introduction the East Asian Cultures
 Modern Japanese History
 Japanese Civilization
 Environmental Consciousness in Modern Japanese Society
 The Classical Voice in Pre-modern Japanese Literature
 The Modern Voice in Japanese Literature
 The Floating World in Japanese Literature
 Issues in East Asian Ethics
 Masterpieces of Asian Literature
 Traditional Japanese Culture
 Modern Japanese Culture
 Modern Japanese Language (1st year and 2nd year)
 Classical Japanese (*bungo*) I and II

Graduate Courses:

Modern Japanese History

Outsiders and Oddballs in Early Modern Japan
 The Modern, Early Modern, and Postmodern in Japan
 Seminar in History (Asia Field Course)

Graduate students supervised

2017-2019	Brett Turner, MA in Modern Japanese History
2019-2021	Qianni Shen, MA in Modern Japanese History
2020-2022	Seth Wuersch, MA in Modern Japanese History

Graduate committees

2018-2020	Chancy Gatlin-Anderson, PhD in Anthropology
2019-2021	Adam LaPorte, MA in US Diplomatic History

Service at Washington State University (2008-2018)

2019-20	Chair, Undergraduate Recruitment, Awards, and Communications Committee, Department of History
2018-20	Faculty Senate Catalog Subcommittee
2017-20	Editorial Board for <i>The Palouse Review</i> literary journal
2016-20	WSU Anime Club Faculty Adviser
2017-19	Undergraduate Studies Committee, Department of History
2017-19	Awards Committee, Department of History
2017-18	Co-chair and co-organizer of the Asian Studies on the Pacific Coast (ASPAC) 2018 Conference (June 8-10, 2018)
2016-18	Asia Program Strategic Planning Committee
2008-16	Japanese Program Coordinator, Department of Foreign Languages and Cultures
2008-16	Scholarship Committee, Department of Foreign Languages and Cultures
2012-16	Strategic Planning Committee, College of Arts and Sciences
2015-16	Curriculum Committee, Department of Foreign Languages and Cultures
2013-14	Search Committee for Chair of Foreign Languages and Cultures Department
2012-14	Task Force, Department of Foreign Languages and Cultures

2011-12	Budget Reduction Task Force, College of Liberal Arts
2011-12	Advisory Committee, Department of Foreign Languages and Cultures
2011-12	Chair of Search Committee for Tenure-track position in Japanese, Department of Foreign Languages and Cultures
2009-12	Honors College Liaison (STAMP) Committee, Department of Foreign Languages and Cultures
2010-11	Search Committee for Tenure-track position in Chinese, Department of Foreign Languages and Cultures
2010-11	Assessment Committee, Department of Foreign Languages and Cultures
2009-210	Search Committee for Clinical Associate Professor position in Chinese, Department of Foreign Languages and Cultures
2008-10	Recruitment and Advertising Committee, Department of Foreign Languages and Cultures

Professional Affiliations

American Historical Association

Association for Asian Studies

Society for Military History

Honors, Grants, and Fellowships

2020	University of Michigan Asia Library Research Grant
2019	Hakuho Foundation International Research Fellowship, Kyoto University, Japan
2018	Invited Scholar Grant, Rikkyo University, Japan
2017	Nominee for the Richard G. Law Excellence Award for Undergraduate Teaching
2016	Buckley Faculty Excellence Fund Grant, WSU Honors College
2014	Japan Studies Library Travel Grant, Center for East Asian Studies, University of Chicago

2013	College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Travel Grant, Washington State University
2012	East Asia Library Travel Grant, Stanford University
2011	College of Liberal Arts Faculty Travel Grant, Washington State University
2011	New Faculty Seed Grant, Washington State University
2010-13	Co-Director, Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language Program Grant (U.S. Dept. of Education)
2010	Association for Asian Studies NEAC Japan Studies Travel Grant
2009	College of Liberal Arts Faculty Travel Grant, Washington State University
2005-06	Postdoctoral Fellowship, Japan Society for the Promotion of Science.
2004-05	USC Dissertation Fellowship
2003-04	ACE Fellowship
2003	Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship
2003	College Strategic Theme Summer Supplement Award in East Asian Studies
1999-2000	Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship