



Soundscapes of Japan: Popular Music in Global Circulation

12-13 March 2026

Sala delle Trifore - San Sebastiano, Dorsoduro 1686, Venice

DAY 1 (12 MARCH)

9.00 **Welcome and introduction**

9.30 **Scott Aalgaard** (Wesleyan University), *Counter-Flows: Anti-Idols and the Critique of American Hegemony*

10.15 **Adrienne Renee Johnson** (Shirayuri University), *Dead Subculture to "Unique Japanese Culture": Rebranding Visual Kei through Overseas Recognition*

11.00 Coffee break

11.15 **Katō Ken** (Mejiro University), *Naming Popular Music: A Cultural and Semantic Genealogy of Music Labels in Japan from the Meiji Era to the Present*

12.00 **Moritz Sommet** (University of Fribourg), *Inventing Mood Kayō: Processes of Popular Music Genre Formation in 1950s to 1970s Japan*

13.00 Lunch break

14.15 **Nagata Mikito** (Waseda University), *How Heavy Metal Took Shape in Japan: Music Life, BURRN!, and Early Reception*

15.00 **Dariusz Brzostek** (Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń), *Japanese Jazz and Global Sound, or Global Jazz and Japanese Sound? How Technology Shaped Jazz Production in Japan and Circulated It Worldwide*

15.45 Coffee break

16.00 **Aleksandra Jaworowicz-Zimny** (Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń), *Idol Dance Cosplay in Poland: Between Cultural Mediation and the Construction of Self*

16.45 **Dorothy Finan** (University of Leeds), *Building Transnational VTuber Idols (and Their Fandoms) in Japan: A Case Study of Hololive*

DAY 2 (13 MARCH)

9.30 **Michael Furmanovsky** (Ryukoku University), *Katō Kazuhiko, Kitayama Osamu and the Kyoto-Based Reinvention of Japanese-Language Popular Music, 1965-75*

10.15 **Sayo Sakamoto** (University of Southern California), *Singing as Homecoming: Mikami Kan and Migrant Youth from Tōhoku*

11.00 Coffee break

11.15 **Anita Drexler** (Osaka University), *"Asian Pops" in Japan and their Contribution to the Transition from the New Music-Era to the Age of J-Pop*

12.00 **Lauri Kitsnik** (Ca' Foscari University of Venice), *The Trajectory and Traces of Nakajima Miyuki's Rouge: Transnational Palimpsests and Tactile Media of the Mid-1990s*

13.00 Lunch break

14.15 **Marié Abe** (University of California, Berkeley), *The Poetics of Mishearing: Listening for Affinities and Colonial Traces Across Japanese and Ethiopian Popular Music(s)*

15.00 **Ohwada Toshiyuki** (Keio University), *Robots and Chinoiserie: Afro Asian Futurism in Yellow Magic Orchestra*

15.45 Coffee break

16.00 **General discussion and concluding remarks**



The conference will be streamed on Zoom. Please register at:
<https://unive.zoom.us/join/register/hMu2zKhvTFObPS-5XwVHCg>