



Join us for Bento Box! A UH Mānoa Center for Japanese Studies in-person special seminar



Adam Manfredi has a PhD in Japanese and Comparative Literature from Washington University in St. Louis, an MFA in Creative Writing from San Francisco State University, and a BA from the University of California Berkeley. This fall, he will join the Department of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures at the University of North Texas as an Assistant Professor of Japanese. His research focuses on narrative theory, popular culture, protest narratives, and contemporary Japanese literature. Particularly, he is interested in how popular narratives shape and are shaped by collective imaginings of postwar Japanese history. This research has been supported by a Japanese Ministry of Education Scholarship and a Fulbright Scholarship and has recently appeared in the U.S.-Japan Women's Journal.

Dr. Adam Manfredi

Ph.D., Japanese and Comparative Literature
Washington University, St. Louis, MO

David Wallace is a second-year MA/PhD student in the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures at the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign. Originally from Hanson, Kentucky, he received a bachelor's degree in history and Japanese from Murray State University. His research interests lie in the social and environmental history of contemporary Japan with an emphasis on protest movements in the "post-postwar" period, and the environmental impacts of Japan's globalizing seafood culture.



David Wallace, Ph.D. Candidate

Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures
University of Illinois Urbana Champaign

Murakami Haruki and Japan's 1968

Japan's 1968 began in the mid-1960s as localized protests at a handful of universities but grew into a nationwide leftist student movement by the decade's end. As the protests spread to campuses across Japan, mass media increasingly focused on incidents of violence, and public opinion turned against the students. By late 1970, the student movement was over. This end saw several high-profile acts of politically motivated violence carried out by radical leftist groups in the early 1970s. A teleology of failure dominates collective memory of the student movement, through which all events of the movement are read through and as leading to this violent end. *Narrative and Meaning-Making: Stories of Japan's 1968* examines fictional accounts of the late 1960s Japanese student movement. It argues that many writers who participated in campus protests went on to use fiction to investigate, challenge, or overturn the dominant narrative of the protests as a failure. These works also interrogate the linear narrative of progress that has undergirded much of postwar Japanese society. This talk draws from the project's third chapter and examines how Murakami Haruki writes about the student protest movement in his early novels.

Decades of Resistance: Method and Motivation in the Struggle Against New Tokyo International Airport (1964-Present)

This project examines the Sanrizuka Struggle, which saw farming families unite with leftist student groups to protest against the construction of New Tokyo International Airport (now Narita Airport) from the mid-1960s to the 1980s and beyond. It explores the social, economic, environmental, and political factors that contributed to the outbreak of unprecedented levels of violence during the struggle, and works to fit the protests into a larger chronology of environmental and social movements within Japan and worldwide. The Sanrizuka Struggle represents something groundbreaking in the realm of Japanese counterculture: a concerted effort by disparate factions to resist the LDP government's policy of "progress at any cost." The movement was complex and multifaceted, inspired not just by NIMBYist local concerns but national issues of land rights, pollution, and sprawling urban development.