

AN UNPRECEDENTED YEAR

Our researchers and their well-being are our ultimate consideration as we try to respond to this pandemic. Many of our new Fellows have had to postpone their research. With travel restrictions and closures of labs and universities, researchers face challenges both commencing and completing projects. Fellows currently in Europe, Africa and Japan are having to come to terms with the new norms of digital research. It is in such times that we should continue to robustly support academic unity and scientific research. As there will be no postal mailing promoting our Fellowship programme this year, it can be downloaded directly from [our website](#).

Our online application form is open for applications for 2021-2022. The deadline of 15 September 2020 will now be extended to 15 February 2021. There will be no cut-off date in 2020. This means that the earliest start date that an applicant can apply to do research will be from September 2021 until December 2022.

This year's Alumni Regional Fellow meeting for the UK and Ireland planned for November 2020 will be postponed to April 2021.

Images: courtesy [istockphoto](#)

INTRODUCTION



HIGHLIGHTS OF LAST YEAR'S REGIONAL FELLOW MEETING IN KYOTO UNIVERSITY, KYOTO, JAPAN

The 2019 Regional Fellow meeting was organised in co-operation with the Center for African Area Studies at Kyoto University. Special thanks go to Prof. Masayoshi Shiget, Director of the Center who hosted the meeting and Dr. Fumitaka Wakamatsu, Research Administrator at the Center, whose invaluable help made the meeting a success.

With contributions from Prof. Takeshi Furuichi, from the Primate Research Institute and Dr. Noriko Itoh – one of the first recipients of our joint exchange programme with the Center, it was an educative afternoon.

Arranging a Fellow Meeting in Japan was well overdue. The last time being in 2009. It was marvellous to re-establish old contacts and form new ones. Some Fellows had brought along their partners and others their children – who knows, maybe they will become future Canon Fellows.

We see our Alumni meetings as an important part of our activities with the aim of creating an engaged and supportive network of former and current Alumni Fellows who come together to share experience and expertise. We work hard to maintain the network by holding annual reunions in cities around Europe, Japan and in the future, Africa. The full list of Alumni Fellows can be found [here](#) on our website.

Part of the custom signifying admission into the Alumni Association is that Fellows receive a certificate and lapel badge during the Fellow meeting.



CANON FELLOW TOBIAS BURGERS AND HIS RESEARCH ON THE USE AND IMPACT OF CYBER AND ROBOTIC TECHNOLOGY IN JAPAN

With the help of the Canon Foundation Fellowship, I spent 10 months during the 2018/2019 academic year, at the Global Research Institute (KGR), an independent research institute within Keio University, Tokyo, Japan.

During my stay at the institute, I worked independently on my research, focused on understanding how cyber and robotic (military) systems could be used to threaten Japan.

Partly due to their novelty, partly the absence of direct human operators, as well as other features that make cyber and robotic threats unique, these systems create new and unprecedented threat scenarios to Japan's national defense. My research aimed to understand how such systems could generate threats, what kind, where, and under which frameworks. Much of the research conducted focused on possible future events.

With the support of my supervisor and host, Prof. Tsuchiya, this resulted in an offer to become part of the Cyber Civilization Research Project (CCRC). The CCRC operates as a subdivision of KGR, with a focus on cyber issues.

Prof. David, J. Farber, co-director of the institute was also very helpful. He has become a mentor to me, and through his network, I have been able to contact critical academics and as well pursue and discuss new research methods and angles. In 2019, this resulted in our first joint survey on cyber escalations and decision making processes.

I am grateful for the opportunity provided by the Canon Foundation. It has enabled me to jumpstart my career as an academic scholar. It gave me an extensive period, with financial security and peace of mind, to think about my next research direction.

THIS YEAR'S CANON FOUNDATION IN EUROPE FELLOWS



DR. ALEXANDRE ALIÉ
FROM Sorbonne Université, Institut de la Mer de Villefranche sur mer, Villefranche-sur-mer, France
TO Kochi University, Kochi, Japan
HOST Prof. Kazuo Kawamura
RESEARCH FIELD Biosciences: Searching for master genes of regeneration: a comparative transcriptomic study in tunicates



MR. RAPHAËL CAHEN
FROM Vrije Universiteit Brussels, Belgium
TO Matsuyama University, Matsuyama, Japan
HOST Prof. Yasuhiro Endo
RESEARCH FIELD Law: Socio-cultural history of International Law and Japanese encounters (1815-1912)



DR. STEFANO CINTI
FROM University of Naples, Italy
TO Tokyo Institute of Technology, Japan
HOST Assoc. Prof. Shawn Mc Clynn
RESEARCH FIELD Chemistry: Paper-based electrochemical strip for the characterization of iron-rich saponite in hot-springs



MR. CHRISTIAN CLEMM
FROM Fraunhofer Institute for Reliability and Microintegration IZM, Berlin, Germany
TO National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST), Tsukuba, Japan
HOSTS Dr. Mitsutaka Matsumoto (AIST); Prof. Dr. Nozomu Mishima (Akita University)
RESEARCH FIELD Environmental Studies: Towards a Circular Economy – Strengthening the Reuse Market for Electrical and Electronic Equipment



DR. MATTHIAS DE GROOF
FROM University of Antwerp, Belgium
TO Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan
HOST Prof. Kazumichi Hashimoto
RESEARCH FIELD Art & Media: Dealing with the Past. A Comparative and Interdisciplinary Research on Remembering through Japanese Cinema



DR. LORENZO MARINUCCI
FROM University of Rome Tor Vergata, Italy
TO Kyoto University, Japan
HOST Prof. Mayuko Uehara
RESEARCH FIELD Philosophy: Nioi – Scent and Japanese Philosophy



DR. HIROAKI OHASHI
FROM Ritsumeikan University (Institute of Disaster Mitigation for Urban Cultural Heritage, KUMUGA Geographic Information, Kyoto, Japan to UNRISD, Géographie-cités (French National Research Center (CNRS), University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, University of Paris, and School of Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences (EHESS)), Paris, France
HOST Dr. Natacha Aveline
RESEARCH FIELD Urban and Regional Planning, Development and Policy.



DR. PATRICIA PITREZ
FROM University of Coimbra, Portugal
TO Niigata University, Japan
HOST Dr. Tohru Minamoto
RESEARCH FIELD Vascular Aging Research. Formulations to target senescent vascular cells



DR. DANIEL SAUTER
FROM Ulm University Medical Center, Germany
TO University of Tokyo, Japan
HOST Prof. Kei Sato
RESEARCH FIELD Medicine: Fighting fire with fire – do virus fossils in our genome protect us from infectious viral diseases?
See Fellow spotlight below



MS. RENEE SCHREURS
FROM Amsterdam University Medical Centers, The Netherlands
TO University of Tokyo, Japan
HOST Prof. Noboru Mizushima
RESEARCH FIELD Biosciences: Harnessing autophagy to enhance antiviral T-cell immunity in chronic HIV-1 infection



MR. TAKUMI SHIBAIKE
Co-sponsored Canon Fellow with the European University Institute
FROM University of Toronto, Canada
TO European University Institute, San Domenico di Fiesole, Italy
RESEARCH FIELD Political Science: Global governance and the role of NGOs in agenda setting



DR. TOMOKO SUZUKI
FROM Tohoku University, Sendai, Japan
TO University of Groningen, the Netherlands
HOST Prof. Dr. Karina Caputi
RESEARCH FIELD Astronomy: Galaxy Anatomy – Dissecting galaxies in the distant Universe



DR. TATYJANA SZAFONOVA
FROM Central European University, Budapest, Hungary
TO MINPAKU Museum, Osaka, Japan
HOST Prof. Kazunobu Ikeya
RESEARCH FIELD Anthropology: How Jade was Rediscovered in Contemporary Japan: Jomon Hunter-Gatherers and the Beauty of National Stone



MS. ELISE VOYAU
FROM Institut national des Langues et civilisations orientales, Paris, France
TO Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan
HOST Prof. Kazumichi Hashimoto
RESEARCH FIELD Art History: From the magazine to the exhibition, the turn of the 1970s in Japanese photographers' practice

FELLOWS IN THE JAPAN-AFRICA EXCHANGE PROGRAM WITH KYOTO UNIVERSITY



DR. ISAO MURAHASHI
FROM Kyoto University, Graduate School of Asian and African Area Studies, Kyoto, Japan
TO Makerere University, Uganda
HOST Dr. Eria Olowo Onyango
RESEARCH FIELD Anthropology: The Socio-economic Dynamics in Northern Uganda-South Sudan Borderland: The Borderland Economy in and around Palabek Refugee Settlement



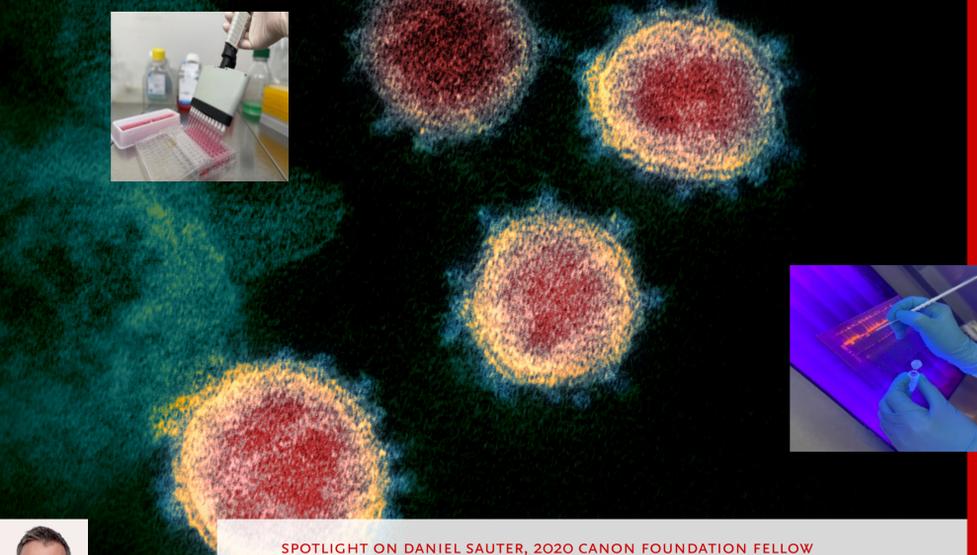
DR. PROGRESS HANZWIDA NYANGA
FROM The University of Zambia, Lusaka, Zambia
TO Kyoto University, Center for African Area Studies, Japan
HOST Prof. Shuichi Oyama
RESEARCH FIELD Economics: Political Economy of Commercialization of Wild Fruits in Zambia



DR. NOELIKANTO RAMAMONJISOA
FROM Kyoto University, Japan
TO University of Antananarivo, Madagascar
HOSTS Dr. Zo Rabemananjara and Dr. Rajoelison Gabrielle
RESEARCH FIELD Environmental Studies: Functional roles of diversified tadpole communities in Madagascar rainforest streams



MS. SOSINA WORKNEH
FROM Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia
TO Kyoto University, Center for African Area Studies, Japan
HOST Prof. Masayoshi Shigeta
RESEARCH FIELD Health Science: Associations between hygiene-related factors and household factors with allergy/atopy



SPOTLIGHT ON DANIEL SAUTER, 2020 CANON FOUNDATION FELLOW HOW THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS CHANGED MY WORK

From AIDS to COVID-19

At the end of 2019, when I applied for a Fellowship from the Canon Foundation in Europe, a previously unknown coronavirus unoriginally jumped from its animal host to a human individual. Back then, no one knew that this patient zero would transmit the virus further, causing one of the fastest spreading and most devastating pandemics in recent history. Notably, the novel coronavirus is just one of many viral pathogens that have their origins in animals and successfully crossed species barriers. Ebola, rabies, Zika, bird flu and even HIV/AIDS are all the result of transmission events from animals to humans.

Where exactly do all these viruses come from? Why do some animal viruses spread efficiently in humans whereas others don't? These are questions that I would like to answer with my research. Together with Associate Professor Kei Sato, my host at The University of Tokyo, I therefore applied for a collaborative Canon Foundation project that aims at elucidating the evolutionary origins of HIV/AIDS and other retroviruses. With the outbreak of the novel coronavirus, however, the research focus of our labs entirely changed. Luckily, our laboratories were not shut down and we were able to establish methods to investigate the new coronavirus. The combined efforts of virologists, immunologists and clinicians all over the world to fight COVID-19 is remarkable. The pace of discoveries is amazingly fast, and first clinical trials to find a vaccine or possible treatments started within only a few months.

Still, the exact animal origins of the virus and the risks for future zoonoses are largely obscure. Is it a bat coronavirus lurking in the wild? In collaboration with my host lab, we are currently investigating how the novel coronavirus adapts to its new human host. We are particularly interested to see whether mutations that emerge during the current outbreak may help the virus to spread even faster in the human population. We hope that our findings will help to further uncover the evolutionary origins of coronaviruses and their risk for human health.

Daniel Sauter and Kei Sato
May 2020

Main photo: Novel Coronavirus SARS-CoV2. Image license CC BY 2.0 courtesy NIAID on [Wikimedia](#)
Lab Images courtesy of Kerstin Regensburger, Medical Technical Assistant, Institute of Molecular Virology, Ulm University Medical Center, Germany

Application procedure for the Canon Foundation in Europe is available [here](#).

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

The Canon Foundation in Europe was founded in 1987 to enhance cultural and scientific understanding between Japan and Europe. This objective is achieved by providing Research Fellowships to postgraduate students and researchers. Over the years, we have extended our range of programmes.

Research Fellowships for Europeans and Japanese to do research in Japan and Europe respectively. Research can be carried out in all research fields for 3 months minimum to 1 year maximum. Applicants must already have at least their Master's degree within the last 10 years.

As mentioned earlier in this Bulletin, the 15 September 2020 deadline will be extended to 15 February 2021. There will be no cut-off date in 2020. This means that the earliest start date that an applicant can apply to do research will be from September 2021 until December 2022.

Co-sponsored Research Fellowships for Japanese nationals who want to carry out post-doctoral research at the European University Institute, Florence, Italy. The selected candidate will participate in the Max Weber programme. Applications can be made via our online application form or through the [European University Institute website](#).

Japan-Africa Exchange Program Fellowships for scholars from Kyoto University who want to do research in Africa related to African Studies, and for scholars within and beyond Kyoto University's partner institutes in Africa who want to do research in Kyoto. To apply, please contact the [Center for African Area Studies](#), Kyoto University.

[Please click here to register online for our application form](#)

STAY CONNECTED

P.O. Box 2262, 1180 EG Amstelveen, The Netherlands
Visiting address: Bovenkerkerweg 59, 1185 XB Amstelveen
Telephone +31 20 545 8934
foundation@canon-europe.com | www.canonfoundation.org



APPLICATION PROCEDURE

FELLOW SPOTLIGHT

REGIONAL FELLOW MEETING 2019

NEW FELLOWS