



Università  
Ca' Foscari  
Venezia

Dipartimento di Studi sull'Asia  
e sull'Africa Mediterranea



# Divergent Orientalism. Re-Imagining Japan in Continental Europe, 1900s–1940s

**April 28-29, 2025**

Aula Magna Silvio Trentin (First Floor)

Ca' Dolfin, Dorsoduro 3859/A - Venice

## DAY 1 (APR. 28)

13.00 **Welcome**

14.00 **Greetings and Introduction**

14.20 **Toshio Miyake** (Ca' Foscari University of Venice)

*Critical Reflections on Occidentalism, Orientalism, and Self-Orientalism*

15.10 **Rotem Kowner** (The University of Haifa)

*Orientalism vs. Military prowess: The Evolving Racial Image of the Japanese in Europe, 1900s–1940s*

16.00 Coffee Break

16.30 **Matteo Cestari** (University of Turin)

*Orientalism and the Formation of Modern Social Identities. A Perspective from Social Theory*

17.20 **Oleg Benesch** (University of York)

*Warriors beyond Space and Time: The Samurai as a Global Icon*

18.10 **First Plenary Discussion**

## DAY 2 (APR. 29)

9.00 **Introduction to the 2nd Session**

9.10 **Frank Jacob** (Nord University)

*Between Admiration and Fear: Western Perceptions of Japan during the Russo-Japanese War*

10.00 **Florentino Rodao** (Complutense University of Madrid)

*Japan, Morocco and the Spanish Orientalism*

10.50 Coffee Break

11.20 **Rafal Pankowski** (Collegium Civitas)

*Japan as an inspiration for Polish nationalism in the first half of the 20th century*

12.10 **Alexandra-Marina Gheorghe** (University of Bucharest)

*Imagining Japan and the Japanese in Romania between 1900 and 1940*

13.00 Lunch Break

14.30 **Mária Ildikó Farkas** (Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary)

*Ideas of cultural, spiritual, and political connections: Perceptions of Japan in the interwar period in Hungary*

15.20 **Sarah Panzer** (Missouri State University)

*Against the West: Occidentalism as a Useful Concept in Analyzing the German-Japanese Alliance*

16.10 **Nicola Bassoni** (Ca' Foscari University of Venice)

*Yamatology: Japan in Italian Imagination*

17.00 Coffee Break

17.30 **Second Plenary Discussion and Concluding Remarks**

The conference will be streamed on Zoom. If you would like to participate, please send an email to [divergentorientalism2025@gmail.com](mailto:divergentorientalism2025@gmail.com)