

Yu Sasaki

CONTACT INFORMATION

Graduate School of Economics *and*
Faculty of Economics
University of Tokyo
7-3-1 Hongo, Bunkyo-ku
Tokyo, 113-0033 Japan

Phone: +81-701-533-0853
E-mail (research): yusasaki253@gmail.com
E-mail (admin): yusasaki@e.u-tokyo.ac.jp
Website: yusasaki.squarespace.com
ORCID: 0000-0002-4069-5105

RESEARCH INTERESTS Historical Political Economy; political development and cultural change; ethnicity, nations, nationalism

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

APRIL 2023– Assistant Professor, Graduate School of Economics & Faculty of Economics, **University of Tokyo**, Tokyo, Japan

4/2020–3/2023 Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law & School of International Studies, **Kanazawa University**, Ishikawa, Japan

4/2018–3/2020 Assistant Professor, Waseda Institute for Advanced Study, **Waseda University**, Tokyo, Japan

10/2017– 3/2018 Postdoctoral Researcher, Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia, **University of Tokyo**, Tokyo, Japan

OTHER AFFILIATIONS

Research Associate, Institute of Economic Research, **Hitotsubashi University**, Tokyo, Japan
Adjunct Researcher, Waseda Institute for Advanced Study, **Waseda University**, Tokyo, Japan
Affiliate, [Forum on Political Economy](#), **University of Washington**, Seattle

EDUCATION

University of Washington, Seattle, WA
Ph.D., Political Science, August 2017

- Dissertation: *Precocious Enough to Rationalize Culture? Explaining the Success and Failure of Nation-building in Europe, 1400–2000.*
Committee: Anthony Gill (chair), Victor Menaldo, Steven Pfaff (Sociology), Edgar Kiser (Sociology)
- Fields: Comparative Politics, Political Economy, Political Methodology (comprehensive exams passed, with distinction, March 2013)
- Certificate in Political Methodology, 2014

M.A., Political Science, June 2012
Georgetown University, Washington, DC
M.A., Global, International, and Comparative History, May 2009
American University, Washington, DC
B.A., International Studies, August 2002

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed

3. [“The Royal Consultants: The Intendants of France and the Bureaucratic Transition in Pre-modern Europe.”](#) *Journal of Historical Political Economy* 2(1), 2021: 259–82. doi: 10.1561/115.00000008
Open Access
[WIAS Discussion Paper No. 2020–002](#), June 2020.
2. [“Content with Failure? Cultural Consolidation and the Absence of Nationalist Mobilization in the Case of the Occitans in France,”](#) *Social Science History* 43(2), Summer 2019: 213–41. doi: 10.1017/ssh.2019.6
Lead article

1. “Publishing Nations: Technology Acquisition and Language Standardization for European Ethnic Groups,” *Journal of Economic History* 77(4), December 2017: 1007–47. doi: 10.1017/S0022050717000821
[Best Doctoral Students Paper Award, Nationalism Section](#), ASN (Association for the Study of Nationalities) World Convention, 2017
[Best Graduate Paper Award](#), Department of Political Science, University of Washington, 2015

Book Reviews

3. Dudley, Leonard. 2017. *The Singularity of Western Innovation: The Language Nexus*. [EH.Net](#), May 2018.
2. Lange, Matthew. 2012. *Educations in Ethnic Violence*. [Comparative Political Studies](#), 2012, (45)11: 1435–1439.
1. Dancygier, Rafaela M. 2010. *Immigration and Conflict in Europe*. [Comparative Political Studies](#), 2012, (45)2: 267–271.

WORKING PAPERS

“Postal Growth: How the State-Sponsored Post Affected Growth in France, 1500–1850” (March 2024, *Under Review*)

“Weak States and Hard Censorship” (May 2023)

“Printed Drug: Banned Books and Political Change in Eighteenth-Century France” (March 2021)

“Ethnic Autonomy” (APSA Preprint v3, December 2020, doi: 10.33774/apsa-2019-25rz9-v3.)

Frank L. Wilson Best ASPA Paper Award, the French Politics Group, the 115th Annual APSA (American Political Science Association) Meeting (Section: Comparative Politics), Washington, DC, 2019.

“Language Underpinnings on Europe’s Rise” (March 2019)

DATASETS

Diffusion of illegal books in France, 1650–1789 (in progress)

Attributes of postal networks and city growth in France, 1500–1850

Prosopographical attributes of 430 *intendants* (king’s representatives in provinces) in France, 1640–1789

Attributes of 171 historical ethnic groups in Europe, 1400–2000

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

AY2022–23

Frank L. Wilson Best ASPA Paper Award, given by the French Politics Group, for “Ethnic Autonomy,” presented at the 115th Annual APSA (American Political Science Association) Meeting (Section: Comparative Politics), Washington, DC, 2019.

AY2020–21

Grant-in-Aid for Early-Career Scientists (20K13413, PI: Yu Sasaki), “[The Consolidation of State Authority in Historical Perspective](#),” Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (2020–24; extended to AY2024–25) (JPY4,160,000 ≈ \$41,600)

Grants for Special Research Projects, “Tokutei Kadai,” for Early-Career Researchers, Waseda University (JPY200,000 ≈ \$2,000) (ineligible to use due to restrictions for full-time faculty)

AY2019–20

Institute of Economic Research, Joint Usage and Research Center Programs (IERPK1917, PI: Yu Sasaki), “[Information Revolution and Political Revolution: An Empirical Investigation of Forbidden Books as a Determinant of the French Revolution](#),” Hitotsubashi University (JPY830,000 ≈ \$8,300)

- AY2018–19 Grant-in-Aid for Research Activity Start-Up (18H05666/19K20870, PI: Yu Sasaki), [“A Bottom-Up Approach to State-Building in Historical Perspective,”](#) Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (2018–20) (JPY2,990,000 ≈ \$29,000)
Selected for a model research proposal by Waseda University, 2019–21.
- Grants for Special Research Projects, “Tokutei Kadai,” for Newly-hired Faculty, Waseda University (JPY295,000 ≈ \$2,950)
- Postdoctoral Researcher (ranked Assistant Professor), Waseda Institute for Advanced Study, Waseda University, Tokyo, 2018–21 (resigned in March 2020 to begin a tenure-track position at Kanazawa University)
- AY2016–17 [Best Doctoral Students Paper Award, Nationalism Section,](#) Association for the Study of Nationalities (ASN)
- AY2014–15 [Best Graduate Paper Award,](#) Department of Political Science, University of Washington
- AY2013–14 [Joff Hanauer Fellowship for Excellence in Western Civilization,](#) University of Washington
- [Ione E. Curtis Graduate Research Grant,](#) Department of Political Science, University of Washington (\$2,000)
- Graduate Student Travel Grant Awards, Graduate School Fund for Excellence and Innovation, University of Washington (\$300)
- [Graduate Student Research Presentation and Training Grant,](#) Center for Statistics & Social Sciences, University of Washington (\$1,000)
- INVITED TALKS
- 2024 (SCHEDULED) GRIPS (National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies), Applied Microeconomics Seminar, Tokyo, Japan, January 24.
- 2023 University of Washington, Severyns-Ravenholt Seminar in Comparative Politics, Department of Political Science, Seattle, WA, May 19.
- 2022 University of Tokyo, Center for International Research on the Japanese Economy, [Research Meeting on Economic History,](#) Tokyo, Japan, October 26.
- 2020 Hitotsubashi University, Institute of Economic Research, [Joint Usage Online Seminar,](#) Tokyo, Japan, October 2.
- Kwansei Gakuin University, Economics, Nishinomiya, Japan, January 17.
- 2019 Keio University, [Keio Applied Economics Workshop,](#) Tokyo, Japan, October 11.
- Waseda University, Waseda Institute of Political Economy (WINPEC), Tokyo, Japan, July 24.
- 2018 Kobe University, [Kobe Development Economics and Economic History Seminar/Rokko Forum on Economics,](#) Kobe, Japan, February 9.
- 2017 Hitotsubashi University, Institute of Economic Research, [Economic Development/Economic History Workshop,](#) Tokyo, Japan, December 22.
- Waseda University, [Global Asia Studies Workshop,](#) Tokyo, Japan, November 20.

2016 New York University–Abu Dhabi, Division of Social Science, Abu Dhabi, UAE, November 13.

2014 European Union Studies Institute in Tokyo (EUSI), Keio University, Tokyo, Japan, July 7.

CONFERENCE
PRESENTATIONS

2024 (SCHEDULED)

“Domine salvum fac regem: The Early Demise of Divine Right and The Rise of Legitimacy by Royal Authority.”
120th Annual APSA (American Political Science Association) Meeting (Section: Politics and History), Philadelphia, PA, September 5–8.

“Weak States and Hard Censorship.”

81st Annual MPSA (Midwest Political Science Association) Meeting (Section: Comparative Political Economy), Chicago, IL, April 4–7.

“Weak States and Hard Censorship.”

ASREC (Association for the Study of Religion, Economics, and Culture), Orange, CA, March 1–2.

2023

“Weak States and Hard Censorship.”

JSQPS (Japan Society for Quantitative Political Science) Summer Workshop, Fukuoka, Japan, June 24–25.

“Weak States and Hard Censorship.”

26th Japan Association for Comparative Politics Annual Meeting, Yamanashi, Japan, June 17–18.

“Postal Growth: How the State-Sponsored Post Affected Growth in France, 1500–1850.”

80th Annual MPSA Meeting (Section: International Relations), Chicago, IL, April 13–16.

“Postal Growth: How the State-Sponsored Post Affected Growth in France, 1500–1850”

HPE (Historical Political Economy) Horizons 2023, University of Chicago, IL, April 12.

2022

“Weak States and Hard Censorship.”

ASREC, Orange, CA (attended virtually), April 22–23.

“Weak States and Strong Censorship: How State Capacity Affects Censorship Strategy.”

79th Annual MPSA Meeting (Section: Comparative Political Economy), Chicago, IL (attended virtually), April 7–10.

2021

“Printed Drug: Banned Books and Political Change in Eighteenth-Century France”

47th Annual Meeting of the SSHA (Social Science History Association) (Section: Macrohistorical Dynamics: Concrete Circuits of Ideational Power, Print and Digital), Philadelphia, PA (attended virtually), November 11–14.

“Royal Consultants: Personnel Modernization and Bureaucratic Transition in Pre-modern Europe.”

78th Annual MPSA Meeting (Section: Comparative Politics), virtual, April 16–19.

“Printed Drug: Banned Books and Political Change in Eighteenth-Century France”

78th Annual MPSA Meeting (Section: Comparative Political Economy), virtual, April 16–19.

2020

“Do Books Cause Revolutions? An Empirical Test of Darnton’s *The Forbidden Best-Sellers of Pre-Revolutionary France*.”

ASREC 24h (Section: Australiasia), virtual, November 20.

- [Presentation available on YouTube.](#)

[“Do Books Cause Revolutions? An Empirical Test of Darnton’s *The Forbidden Best-Sellers of Pre-Revolutionary France*.”](#)

46th Annual Meeting of the SSHA (Section: Macrohistorical Dynamics: Contentions and State Formation), Washington, DC, November 19–22. CANCELED DUE TO COVID-19 OUTBREAK

[“Royal Consultants: Personnel Modernization and Bureaucratic Transition in Pre-modern Europe.”](#)

78th Annual MPSA Meeting (Section: Comparative Politics: Institutions), Chicago, IL, April 16–19. CANCELED DUE TO COVID-19 OUTBREAK

[“Do Books Cause Revolutions? An Empirical Test of Darnton’s Forbidden Books in Pre-Revolutionary France.”](#)

19th Annual ASREC conference, Orange, CA, March 27–28. CANCELED DUE TO COVID-19 OUTBREAK

[“Royal Consultants: Personnel Modernization and Bureaucratic Transition in Pre-modern Europe.”](#)

JSQPS Winter Workshop, Tokyo, Japan, January 4.

2019

[“Ethnic Autonomy.”](#)

Understanding State Capacity conference, University of Manchester, Manchester, United Kingdom, November 28–29.

[“Ethnic Autonomy.”](#)

115th Annual APSA Meeting (Section: Comparative Politics), Washington, DC, August 29–September 1.

[“Ethnic Autonomy.”](#)

JSQPS Summer Workshop, Tokyo, Japan, July 6.

[“Language Underpinnings on Europe’s Rise.”](#)

77th Annual MPSA Meeting (Section: Comparative Political Economy), Chicago, IL, April 4–7.

[“Ethnic Autonomy.”](#)

121st Tokyo Conference on Economics of Institutions and Organizations (Section: Comparative Institutional Analysis), Tokyo, Japan, March 19.

2018

[“Language Underpinnings on Europe’s Rise.”](#)

114th Annual APSA Meeting (Section: Political Economy), Boston, MA, August 30–September 2.

[“Language Underpinnings on Europe’s Rise.”](#)

120th Tokyo Conference on Economics of Institutions and Organizations (Section: Comparative Institutional Analysis), Tokyo, Japan, August 22–23.

[“Language Underpinnings on Europe’s Rise.”](#)

18th World Economic History Congress (Session: The Economics of Nationalism in Historical Perspective), Boston, MA, July 29–August 3.

[“Ethnic Autonomy.”](#)

Centre for Competitive Advantage in the Global Economy (CAGE) and Institute for Advanced Studies (IAS) Summer School, University of Warwick, Coventry, United Kingdom, June 26–28.

2017

[“Publishing Nations: Technology Acquisition and Language Standardization for European Ethnic Groups.”](#)

22nd Annual ASN (Association for the Study of Nationalities) World Convention, New York, NY, May 4–6.

[Best Doctoral Students Paper Award, Nationalism Section](#)

2016

[“Ethnic Autonomy.”](#)

21st Annual ASN World Convention, New York, NY, April 14–16.

2014	<p>“State Is <i>Not</i> What Makes Nation: Testing the Historical Legacy of State-building on Nation-building Onset for Contemporary European Ethnic Groups, 1400–2000.” Severyns-Ravenholt Seminar in Comparative Politics, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, October 24.</p> <p>“Is the State Necessary for Nations? Assessing a Causal Mechanism of the State’s Role in Enabling National Projects.” (Poster) 110th Annual APSA Meeting (Section: Comparative Politics), Washington, DC, August 28–31.</p> <p>“A Mixed-methods Case Selection Strategy for the Historical Origins of Contemporary European Ethnic Groups.” 17th Japan Association for Comparative Politics Annual Meeting, Tokyo, Japan, June 28–29.</p> <p>“How to Count Ethnicity: Toward a New Measurement of Historical Origins of Contemporary European Ethnic Groups.” 19th Annual ASN World Convention, New York, NY, April 24–26.</p>
2013	<p>“Beyond Interests or Identity: A Theory of National Identity and Individual Attitudes toward Immigrants.” (Poster) Religion, Identity, and Politics Conference, Weiser Center for Europe and Eurasia, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, May 10–11.</p> <p>“Is the State Necessary for Nations? A Comparative Analysis of the State’s Role.” 18th Annual ASN World Convention, New York, NY, April 18–20.</p>
2012	<p>Discussant on Ziblatt, “Conservative Political Parties and the Birth of Modern Democracy in Europe, 1848–1950.” Severyns-Ravenholt Seminar in Comparative Politics, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, November 16.</p> <p>Discussant on Ansell and Samuels, <i>Inequality and Democracy</i>. Cambridge University Press manuscript seminar, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, October 1–2.</p> <p>“European Antipathy toward Muslim Immigrants: Theory and Evidence.” First Annual IRES (Institute for the Study of Religion, Economics, and Society) Graduate Student Workshop, Chapman University, Orange, CA, June 1–2.</p> <p>“Nationalism and European Animosity toward Muslim Immigrants: Explaining Variation.” 17th Annual ASN World Convention, New York, NY, April 19–20.</p>
REVIEWER	<p><i>American Political Science Review, Comparative Political Studies, Japanese Journal of Comparative Politics, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, Journal of Economic History, Journal of Politics, Review of Economics and Statistics, Social Science History</i></p>
TEACHING EXPERIENCE	<p>University of Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan Historical Political Economy (Graduate, Fall 2023 syllabus; Fall 2024) Economic History II (Undergraduate, Spring 2024)</p> <p>Kanazawa University, Ishikawa, Japan Freshman Seminar (Undergraduate, Spring 2021) Introduction to Political Science (Undergraduate, Spring 2020; Spring 2022) (in Japanese) Introduction to Comparative Politics (Undergraduate, Fall 2020; Spring 2021; Spring 2022) Introduction to Political Economy (Undergraduate, Fall 2022) Political Economy in a Global Era (Undergraduate, Spring 2021; Spring 2022) Research Seminar in Comparative Politics (Juniors & Seniors, Spring 2021–present)</p>

Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan

Pol X 231L Seminar in Comparative Politics: Comparative Political Economy of Property Rights (Undergraduate, Spring 2019)

University of Washington, Seattle, WA

September 2010—August 2017

Lecturer:

Pol S 204 Introduction to Comparative Politics (Undergraduate, Summer 2016)

Pol S 270 Introduction to Political Economy (Undergraduate, Summer 2015, Summer 2017)

Teaching Assistant:

Pol S 203 Introduction to International Relations

Pol S 204 Introduction to Comparative Politics (× 9)

Pol S 249 Introduction to Labor Studies

Pol S 270 Introduction to Political Economy (× 2)

Pol S 307 Religion and World Politics (× 2)

Pol S 321 American Foreign Policy

Pol S 325 The Arab-Israeli Conflict

Pol S 328 International Organizations (grader)

Pol S 407 International Conflict (× 2)

**PROFESSIONAL
EXPERIENCE**

Sageman Consulting LLC, Rockville, MD

June 2009—June 2010

Research Analyst for Marc Sageman, M.D., Ph.D.

Japan Science and Technology Agency, Tokyo, Japan

Research Institute of Science and Technology for Society

February 2005—December 2007

Research Fellow

National Institute for Defense Studies, Tokyo, Japan

Japan Defense Agency (now Ministry of Defense)

April 2004—January 2005

Research Assistant

LANGUAGES

HUMAN

Japanese (native), French (*il y a longtemps*)

MACHINE

R, QGIS

ACADEMIC

ASSOCIATIONS

American Political Science Association

Economic History Association

Economic History Society

Midwest Political Science Association

REFERENCES

Available upon request