

Felix Spremberg

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Current position

04/2025 – 2028 Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Languages and Cultures,
Ghent University, Belgium

Former positions

06/2015 – 04/2025 Assistant Professor, Institute of Asian and Oriental Studies,
Department of Japanese Studies, Tübingen University, Germany

09/2021 – 02/2024 Adjunct Lecturer (online), Rikkyō University Tokyo, Japan

10/2014 – 10/2015 Adjunct Lecturer, Japan Center Ludwig Maximilian University Munich

Grants and fellowships

04/2025 – 04/2028 BOF Postdoctoral Fellowship, Department of Languages and Cultures,
Ghent University, Belgium (250 000 €)

07/2024 – 03/2025 Program for the Promotion of Junior Researchers, Tübingen University
(10 000 €)

09/2023 – 10/2023 Invited visiting researcher, Kyushu University, Japan

09/2023 Tübingen University *Global Encounters* grant for the workshop
Popular Cultures of Digitalization (2300 €)

07/2014 – 06/2015 Ph.D. scholarship Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES)

04/2013 – 04/2014 Ph.D. scholarship German Institute of Japanese Studies (DIJ), Tokyo

Education

2011 – 2017 Ph.D. in Japanese Studies at Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich,
dissertation (in German): *Social democracy in Japan. An analysis of
relevant actors*, magna cum laude (supervisor: Prof. Dr. Klaus Vollmer),
published 2020.

10/2008 – 12/2008 Internship at the German Embassy Tokyo, political department

2003 – 2010 M.A. (“Magister”) in Japanese Studies, Sociology and Law at Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, thesis (in German: *Agrarian fundamentalism and the role of the peasantry in Japanese fascism*).

Supervision experience

09/2024 – 02/2025 Master thesis Jasmin Hauer “Negotiating the Meaning of Robots in the Japanese Diet”, degree program: MA Politics and Society in East Asia, University of Tübingen (primary supervisor).

06/2024 – 12/2024 Master thesis Oliver Stingl “Japanese Political Parties and Their Perception of Energy Policy as a Security Issue”, degree program: MA Japanese Studies, University of Tübingen (secondary supervisor)

Administrative experience

08/2023 – Present Public relations and community outreach committee, Japanese Studies Department Tübingen

08/2023 – Present Curriculum development committee, Japanese Studies Department Tübingen

12/2020 – Present Evaluation and quality assurance officer, Japanese Studies Department Tübingen

01/2016 – Present Coordinator for the degree programs *Politics and Society in East Asia* (M.A), Japan-track, *International Business* (B.A., M.A.) and *International Economics* (B.A.), Japan-track

01/2016 – 12/2020 Coordination of a peer-mentoring program, Japanese Studies Department Tübingen

Languages	English	fluent
	Japanese	fluent (JLPT N1, test date: December 2019)
	German	native
	Dutch	basic

Software skills	MaxQDA
	TYPO3
	EvaSys
	ArcGIS StoryMaps

Research cooperation and active memberships

	Peer-reviewer for the following journals: <i>Vienna Journal of East Asian Studies</i> , <i>Information, Communication & Society</i> , <i>ASIEN – The German Journal on Contemporary Japan</i>
since 04/2020	Core member of the project <i>The Digital Transformation and the Changing Nature of Work in East Asia</i> , Bonn University, funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the Ministry of Culture and Science of North Rhine-Westphalia (MKW), German University Excellence Initiative
since 07/2023	American Association for Asian Studies (AAS)
since 01/2020	European Association for Japanese Studies (EAJS)
since 2020	Cooperation with Prof. Nishiyama Takahiro, Department of Management, Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, Hokuriku University, Kanazawa
since 2018	Cooperation with Dr. David Weiss, School of Interdisciplinary Science and Innovation, Kyūshū University, Fukuoka
since 09/2014	Scientific Contributor, Friedrich Ebert Foundation Tokyo and cooperation with FES representative Prof. Sven Saaler, Sophia University, Tokyo
since 2012	Cooperation with the German Institute for Japanese Studies (DIJ), esp. Dr. Carolin Fleischer-Heininger

Scientific publications

<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4760-746X>

Monograph and edited volumes:

4. (in progress) with Bareis, Jascha and Anya Heise-von der Lippe (eds.), *Towards Popular Techno-Futures - a Global Policy Perspective*, special issue *Digital Culture & Society* (12 peer-reviewed articles).
3. with Nishiyama, Takahiro (eds.), *Digital Transformation in East Asia – From Discourse to Praxis*, special issue *Vienna Journal of East Asian Studies* 15 (1) (6 peer-reviewed articles).
2. with Nishiyama, Takahiro (eds.), *Digitale Transformation und Wandel der Arbeitswelt: Deutsche und ostasiatische Perspektiven* [The Digital Transformation and the World of Labour]. Gossenberg: Ostasien-Verlag, 2022 (7 articles).
1. *Sozialdemokratie in Japan. Eine Analyse relevanter Akteure* [Social Democracy in Japan. An Analysis of Relevant Actors]. Berlin: LIT (= *Bunka - Wenhua Tuebingen East Asian Studies*, Vol. 28), 2020.

Peer-reviewed articles:

6. (in progress) with Carolin Fleischer-Heininger “The Role of Black Men in Murakami Ryū’s Fiction” (working title)
5. (under review) “Values for a New Order: The Olympics and Paralympics in Japan’s New Moral Education Textbooks”
4. (forthcoming) “Democratization in Postwar Japan and the Rise and Fall of Social Democracy.” Invited article for peer-reviewed journal *Moving the Social: Journal of Social History and the History of Social Movements*, 2025.
3. “From ‘Productivity Revolution’ to ‘Digital Garden Cities’ – Recent Shifts in the Dominant Political Discourse on Digitalisation in Japan.” In: *Vienna Journal of East Asian Studies* 15 (1), 2024, pp. 60-88.
2. “‘Go for it, Future Self-Defense Officer!’ Shaping Japanese Children’s Attitudes toward the Military Through Government PR Manga.” In: *The Electronic Journal of Contemporary Japanese Studies* 23 (1), 2023 (<https://www.japanesestudies.org.uk/ejcs/vol23/iss1/spremberg.html>).
1. “The Asia-Pacific War in Japan’s New Moral Education Textbooks.” In: *The Asia-Pacific Journal: Japan Focus* 19 (18) 2, pp. 1–15, 2021 (<https://apjif.org/2021/18/Spremberg.html>).

Articles in other academic journals and books:

3. „Die Positionen japanischer Parteien zur Digitalisierung“ [Japanese Party Positions on Digitalization]. In: Nishiyama and Spremberg (eds.) 2022, pp. 45–73.
2. with Nishiyama Takahiro „Einleitung: Digitalisierung in interdisziplinärer Analytik“ [Introduction: Digitalization and Interdisciplinary Analytics]. In: Nishiyama and Spremberg (eds.) 2022, pp. VII-XVII.
1. „Abkehr vom Pazifismus. Japans sicherheitspolitische Kehrtwende“ [Renouncing Pacifism. Japan’s About-face on Security Policy]. In: *INDES*, 2019/2, pp. 88–98.

Miscellanea:

4. “How Japan’s Left is Repeating its Unfortunate History“. In: *International Politics and Society*, November 2020 (<https://www.ips-journal.eu/topics/democracy/how-japans-left-is-repeating-its-unfortunate-history-4819/>).
3. „Rechtsruck in Japan? Am Rundfunksender NHK zeigen sich die Konflikte der japanischen Gesellschaft“ [Shift to the Right in Japan? Public Broadcaster NHK Mirroring Conflicts in Japanese Society]. In: *ipg-journal*, August 2014 (<http://www.ipg-journal.de/kommentar/artikel/rechtsruck-in-japan-533/>).
2. „Die Illusion politischer Stabilität: Japan nach der Oberhauswahl“ [The Illusion of Political Stability: Japan After the Upper House Election]. In: *WeltTrends*, Vol. 93, November/December 2013, pp. 21–27.
1. (with Julian Plenefisch) „Nach den Wahlen: Rechtsruck in Japan“ [After the Elections: Shift to the Right]. In: *WeltTrends*, Bd. 89, March/April 2013, pp. 26–30 (<https://publishup.uni-potsdam.de/opus4->

ubp/frontdoor/deliver/index/docId/6339/file/WT89_Weltblick_Plenefisch_Spremberg.pdf).

Book review:

1. McCormack, Noah Y. 2013, Japan's Outcaste Abolition. The Struggle for National Inclusion and the Making of the Modern State. London: Routledge. In: *Dhau – Jahrbuch für außereuropäische Geschichte* [Dhau – Yearbook of extra-European History], Vol. 1, 2016, pp. 214–217.

Presentations

11-27-2024 “Just Shift Your Mood! The Olympics and Paralympics in Japanese Moral Education Textbooks”, Ghent University (invited presentation).

10-9-2024 “Between Techno-Orientalism and Digital Toyotism – Digitalization in Japan”, Conference “Perspektiven menschengerechter Arbeit: gestern, heute und morgen” [Perspectives of Humane Work: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow], Friedrich Ebert Foundation, Berlin.

7-25-2024 “Lost in Exhaustion – Stress and Daily Lives in Japan”, Lecture Series “Stress and Daily Life of the Middle Classes in Germany, China, India, and Japan”, Tübingen University.

4-12-2024 “Digitalization as a ‘Retro-Tech’ in Japanese Government-Produced Manga and Anime”, International Workshop “Popular Cultures of Digitalization”, Tübingen University.

9-12-2023 “The Strategic Use of Popular Culture in Japanese Elite’s Discourses”, ISI Lecture Series, School of Interdisciplinary Science and Innovation (ISI), Kyushu University (invited presentation).

4-26-2023 “Democratization in Postwar Japan and the Rise and Fall of Social Democracy”, International Conference “Workers and the ‘Golden Age of Social Democracy’, 1945-1975”. Institute for Social Movements, University of Bochum (invited presentation).

9-12-2022 “Digital Garden Cities as the Future of Rural Japan? Recent Changes in the LDP’s Discourse on Digitalization”, International Workshop “Digital Transformation in East Asia: Impacts on Economy and Society III ‘Digitalization in Transformation’”, University of Bonn.

11-19-2022 “From Society 5.0” to “Digital Garden Cities”: Recent Changes in Japan’s Digitalization Policy”, VSJF Annual Conference, University of Zurich (online).

9-27-2022: “Society 5.0 and the Japanese Political Discourse on Digitalization”, ISI Lecture Series, School of Interdisciplinary Science and Innovation (ISI), Kyushu University (online) (invited presentation).

8-25-2022: „Die Digitalisierung der Arbeit im politischen Diskurs Japans“ [The Digitalization of Work in the Japanese Political Discourse], 18th German-speaking Japanese Studies Conference, University of Düsseldorf (online).

3-18-2022: “The Evolution of the Japanese Political Discourse on Digitalization”, International Workshop “Digital Transformation in East Asia. Impacts on Economy and Society II. From Discourse to Praxis”, University of Bonn, University of Tübingen (online).

9-25-2021: “The Digital Transformation of Work in the Political Discourse in Japan”, International Workshop “East Asia in the Digital Age – Digital Transformation in Technological, Economic and Social Perspective”, University of Bonn, University of Tübingen (online).

11-6-2020: “The LDP’s Discourse on the ‘Society 5.0’ from a Critical Perspective”, International Workshop “East Asia and the Digital Transformation Impacts on Economy and Society”, University of Bonn (online).

6-24-2020: „Positionen japanischer Parteien zur Digitalisierung“ [Japanese Party Positions on Digitalization], lecture series „Digitale Transformation und Wandel der Arbeitswelt – Deutsche und ostasiatische Perspektiven, University of Bonn (online).

3-8-2019: 「日本の新しい道徳教科書の批判的言説分析」 [Japans New Moral Education Textbooks – a Critical Discourse Analysis], Joint Conference Rikkyō University and University of Tübingen: „Nationale Kulturen – Nationalkulturen,“ Rikkyō University, Tokyo.

11-24-2018: “Understanding the Constitutional Democratic Party: Its Characteristics, Ideology and Social Structure”, VSJF Annual Conference, Japanese-German Centre (JDZB), Berlin.

6-25-2013: “Social Democratic Actors in the DPJ”, EJARN Conference “Towards Stronger and Deeper Relations between Japan and the EU”, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS), Paris (invited presentation).

2-20-2013: “Social Democracy in Japan – What’s Left?”, DIJ Social Science Study Group, German Institute for Japanese Studies (DIJ), Tokyo.

Conference and panel (co-)organization

4-12-2024: “Popular Cultures of Digitalization”, International Workshop, University of Tübingen, conference organization and panel moderation.

9-25-2021: “The Digital Transformation of Work in the Political Discourse in Japan”, International Workshop “East Asia in the Digital Age – Digital Transformation in Technological, Economic and Social Perspective”, University of Bonn, University of Tübingen (online), conference co-organization and panel moderation.

Teaching experience

Rikkyō University (online):

Seminar “Japanese Studies Program K: Japanese Politics, Economy and Society” (fall semesters 2021-2022, 2022-2023, 2023-2024) (in English)

Tübingen University:

Introductory seminar on “Japanese Politics, Society and Economy”, every semester since winter 2015/16

Seminar on “Qualitative Analysis of Japanese Moral Education Textbooks” winter 2025 (in English)

Seminar on “The Asia-Pacific War in Japanese Popular Culture” summer 2024 (in English)

Lecture Series “Stress and Daily Life of the Middle Classes in Germany, China, India, and Japan” (with Theobald, Ulrich and Amiya Divyaraj) summer 2024 (in English)

Seminar on “Political Leadership in Japan and the Changing Role of the Prime Minister, 1885-2023”, winter 2023/24, (digital humanities seminar) (in English)

Seminar on “Geography of Power – Mapping Japanese Politics”, summer 2023 (digital humanities seminar) (in English)

Seminar “Analyzing Conservative Discourses on Technology: Digitalization and Robotics as Retro-tech”, winter 2022/23 (in English)

Seminar “Japan’s Digitalization Strategy ‘Society 5.0’”, winter 2021/22 (in English)

Seminar “Textbooks and Moral Education in Japan III”, winter 2020/21

Seminar “Textbooks and Moral Education in Japan II”, winter 2019/20

Seminar “Textbooks and Moral Education in Japan I”, winter 2018/2019

Seminar “Politics and Language: The ‘Nihon sugoi’ Discourse II”, winter 2017/18

Seminar “Politics and Language: The ‘Nihon sugoi’ Discourse I”, summer 2017

Seminar “Japanese Party Programs”, winter 2016/17

Munich University:

Seminar “‘Divided Politics’ – Political Cleavages in a ‘Harmonious’ Society”, summer 2015

Seminar “Key Texts of the Japanese Left”, winter 2014/15

February 22, 2025