

Australia-Japan Research Centre  
ANU Japan Institute



Australian  
National  
University

# Japan Update 2024



4 September  
2024

## The Australia-Japan Research Centre

The Australia-Japan Research Centre (AJRC) is the centre of research, teaching and outreach on the Japanese economy in Australia. AJRC also conducts research to better understand the Australia-Japan relationship and both countries' strategic interests in the regional economy. AJRC was established in 1980 with support from governments and business communities in both Australian and Japan. Its research encompasses areas such as finance and macroeconomics.

## The ANU Japan Institute

The ANU Japan Institute is Australia's largest network of distinguished and emerging scholars with professional expertise on Japan. The Japan Institute researches and teaches in disciplines spanning art, economics, environment, health, history, international relations, language, law, linguistics, politics, regulation and Japanese Studies.

The Japan Update 2024 is supported by funding from the Japan Foundation, Sydney and The Research Institute of Economy, Trade and Industry (RIETI).



# JAPAN UPDATE 2024

Wednesday 4 September

Molonglo Theatre, ANU, Canberra

Australian Eastern Standard Time\*

**8.30-9am** *Tea and coffee*

**9-9.15am** **Welcome and introduction**

- Shiro Armstrong, Director, Australia-Japan Research Centre, ANU
- Janine O'Flynn, Director, Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU

**9.15-9.45am** **Economy keynote**

- Tomoko Hayashi, Director-General, Economic Research Bureau and Chief Economist, Cabinet Office, Government of Japan

**9.45-11am** **Economy panel**

- Tomoko Hayashi, Director-General, Economic Research Bureau and Chief Economist, Cabinet Office, Government of Japan
- Hiroshi Ohashi, Professor of Economics & Vice President, University of Tokyo
- Shujiro Urata, Chairman Emeritus, Research Institute of Economy, Trade & Industry
- Chair: Ippei Fujiwara, Professor of Economics, Keio University & ANU

**11-11.30am** *Morning Tea*

**11.30-12pm** **Foreign policy keynote**

Ryo Sahashi, As/Pr International Relations, Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia, University of Tokyo

**12-1.15pm** **Foreign policy and politics panel**

- Rumi Aoyama, Director, Waseda Institute of Contemporary Chinese Studies, Waseda University
- Alexander Bukh, Professor of International Relations, Waseda University
- Ryo Sahashi, As/Pr International Relations, Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia, University of Tokyo
- Chair: Lauren Richardson, Lecturer in International Relations, ANU

**1.15-2pm** *Lunch*

**2-2.30pm** **Energy security keynote**

- Yukari Takamura, Professor, Institute for Future Initiatives, University of Tokyo

**2.30-3.45pm** **Energy security and transition panel**

- Toshi Arimura, Director, Research Institute for Environment Economics & Management, Waseda University
- Melanie Brock, Non-Executive Director, Kawasaki Heavy Industries
- Yukari Takamura, Professor, Institute for Future Initiatives, University of Tokyo
- Rowan von Spreckelsen, Head of New Markets – APAC, Aurora Energy Research
- Chair: Llewelyn Hughes, Professor of Public Policy, ANU

**3.45-4pm** **Closing and thank you**

- Llewelyn Hughes, Professor of Public Policy, ANU
- Ippei Fujiwara, Professor of Economics, Keio University & ANU

# SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



## Rumi Aoyama

Rumi Aoyama is Professor at the Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies and Director of the Waseda Institute of Contemporary Chinese Studies at Waseda University. Professor Aoyama has held positions as Visiting Research Professor at the National University of Singapore and Visiting Scholar at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, The George Washington University and Stanford University. She has served on the boards of the Japan Association for Asian Studies and the Japan Association for Modern China Studies. Professor Aoyama received her PhD in Law from Keio University. Her research focuses on international relations, political science and Chinese foreign policy and politics.



## Toshi Arimura

Toshi Arimura is a Professor of Environmental Economics and a Director of the Research Institute for Environment Economics and Management at Waseda University. He is also a current visiting scholar to Paris School of Economics and Sciences Po. Dr Arimura holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Minnesota. His research primarily focuses on climate change, and he has published extensively in this field. Dr Arimura has served on various Japanese government committees and is recognised for his contributions with several awards, including the Outstanding Publication Award from the Society for Environmental Economics and Policy Studies. He also co-edited “Carbon Pricing in Japan,” which received the SEEPS commentary award in 2021.



## Shiro Armstrong

Shiro Armstrong is Professor of Economics at Crawford School of Public Policy at The Australian National University. He is Director of the Australia-Japan Research Centre, Editor of East Asia Forum and Director of the East Asian Bureau of Economic Research. He is also a Visiting Professor at Keio University, Research Associate at the Center on Japanese Economy and Business at the Columbia Business School, Visiting Lecturer at the University of Tokyo and Non-resident Fellow at the Research Institute of Economy, Trade and Industry, Japan.



## Melanie Brock

Melanie Brock AM is CEO of Melanie Brock Advisory and Chair Emeritus of the Australian & New Zealand Chamber of Commerce in Japan. Brock is an Advisory Board Member of the Australia-Japan Research Centre and sits on the Japan Australia Business Cooperation Committee board. She is a Non-Executive Director of Mitsubishi Estate, Sega Sammy Holdings, Asahi Group Holdings and Kawasaki Heavy Industries. Brock received her BA from the University of Western Australia and her MA from The University of Queensland.



# SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



## Alexander Bukh

Alexander Bukh is a Professor at Waseda University's Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies. He holds a PhD in International Relations from the London School of Economics. Dr Bukh has previously held positions at the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, London School of Economics, Tsukuba University, and Victoria University of Wellington. His research specialises in international relations of Northeast Asia, focusing on Japan-Korea and Japan-Russia relations. He has published extensively and has received several academic awards.



## Ippei Fujiwara

Ippei Fujiwara is Professor of Macroeconomics at Keio University and The Australian National University. He is also Research Fellow at the Centre for Economic Policy Research, Fellow at the Asian Bureau of Finance and Economic Research and Faculty Fellow at the Research Institute of Economy, Trade and Industry. Professor Fujiwara holds positions as Deputy Director at the Centre for Applied Macroeconomic Analysis, ANU; Advisory Board Member at the Macroeconomics, Growth and History Centre, University of Kent; and Research Associate at the Globalization and Monetary Policy Institute, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas. He completed his DPhil in Economics at the University of Oxford. Professor Fujiwara's research focuses on international finance, monetary economics and macroeconomics.



## Tomoko Hayashi

Tomoko Hayashi is Chief Economist and Director-General of the Economic Research Bureau in the Cabinet Office of the Government of Japan. She previously held positions as Vice President of the Economic and Social Research Institute; Director-General for Economic and Fiscal Affairs; Vice Chair of the OECD Economic Policy Committee; and Director-General for the Gender Equality Bureau. She is also former director of macroeconomic policy coordination between the Government and the Bank of Japan and currently serves on the board of the Japan Association of Business Cycle Studies. She is Visiting Lecturer at the Graduate School of Public Policy at the University of Tokyo. Hayashi received her BA from the University of Tokyo and her MSc in Economics from the London School of Economics.



## Llewelyn Hughes

Llewelyn Hughes is Professor at the Crawford School of Public Policy, The Australian National University, where he directs the Japan Institute. He is also a member of the Clean Energy Transition Advisory Committee, Australia Japan Business Co-operation Committee (AJBCC), Research Director and Board Member at the Australian Institute of International Affairs, and Australia Focal Point for the Energy Research Institute Network of the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia. Hughes was previously Assistant Professor at the Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University, and Research Fellow at the Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Business and Government, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. He received his PhD from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and holds a Masters' Degree from the Graduate School of Law and Politics at the University of Tokyo.

# SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



## Hiroshi Ohashi

Hiroshi Ohashi is Vice President of the University of Tokyo and Professor at its Graduate School of Economics. Professor Ohashi is Visiting Fellow at Crawford School of Public Policy at The Australian National University and has held positions as Assistant Professor at the Sauder School of Business at the University of British Columbia and Visiting Professor at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München. Professor Ohashi is Faculty Fellow and Program Director at the Research Institute of Economy, Trade & Industry, and served as Chief Researcher at the Competition Policy Research Center at the Japan Fair Trade Commission; and Head Research Officer at the National Institute of Science and Technology Policy at the Ministry of Education, Sports and Technology.



## Lauren Richardson

Lauren Richardson is a Lecturer in the Department of International Relations at the Australian National University. From 2018-2020 she was Director of Studies and Lecturer in the Asia-Pacific College of Diplomacy at the ANU and from 2020-2022, Director of the ANU Japan Institute. Prior to that Dr Richardson taught Northeast Asian Relations at the University of Edinburgh. Her research focuses on the role of non-state actors in shaping diplomatic interactions in Northeast Asia, particularly Japan-Korea relations. Her publications have focused on the South Korean anti-nuclear movement; the role of Buddhists in Sino-Japanese rapprochement (with G. A. Scott); Japan's evolving defence posture; and the ascension of "comfort women" in South Korean memory of Japanese imperialism (forthcoming). She is currently completing a book manuscript provisionally entitled Reshaping Japan-Korea Relations: Transnational Advocacy Networks and the Politics of Redress.



## Ryo Sahashi

Ryo Sahashi is an Associate Professor of International Relations at the Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia, University of Tokyo. He also works as Research Fellow at Japan Center for International Exchange and Visiting Fellow of 21st Century Policy Institute, Keidanren. Dr Sahashi received his Ph.D. from the Graduate School for Law and Politics at the University of Tokyo. His previous positions include Visiting Associate Professor, Walter H. Shorenstein Asia Pacific Research Center at Stanford University, Japan Scholar at the Wilson Center, Visiting Fellow at Georgetown University, Visiting Fellow at Seoul National University, and Faculty Fellow at the Research Institute of Economy, Trade, and Industry.



## Yukari Takamura

Yukari Takamura is a Professor at the Institute for Future Initiatives at the University of Tokyo. She specialises in international and environmental law, with a focus on climate change and energy policies. After earning a Master of Laws from Hitotsubashi University, Takamura held academic positions at Shizuoka, Ryukoku, and Nagoya Universities. She serves on multiple advisory boards, including the Japanese government's Central Environmental Council, where she is President, the Strategic Policy Committee of the Advisory Committee for Natural Resources and Energy, and the Asian Development Bank's Advisory Group on Climate Change. She was also Vice President of the Science Council of Japan (2020-2023) and received the Environmental Conservation Merit Award in 2018.

# SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



## Shujiro Urata

Shujiro Urata is Chairman Emeritus of the Research Institute of Economy, Trade and Industry (RIETI), Senior Research Fellow at the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), Specially Appointed Fellow at the Japanese Centre for Economic Research (JCER), and Distinguished Senior Fellow at the Institute of Developing Economies (IDE-JETRO). Urata received his BA in Economics from Keio University, and his MA and PhD in Economics from Stanford University. He was Research Associate at the Brookings Institution, Economist at the World Bank, Professor of International Economics, Graduate School Asia-Pacific Studies, Waseda University and is currently Professor Emeritus at Waseda University.



## Rowan von Spreckelsen


Rowan co-leads Aurora's Tokyo office, providing energy market economic forecasting for utilities, renewable developers, project finance banks and government. Prior to APAC, he worked extensively in energy markets in the US, Europe and Australia, covering global commodities, renewable energy, energy networks and hydrogen. He has advised on issues ranging from electricity market design to decarbonisation analysis, as well as lead valuations of solar, wind, storage and hydrogen projects. Aurora Energy Research has also been heavily involved in modelling across the full hydrogen supply chain, coupling granular electricity market modelling with electrolyser business model optimisations, specifically for wind/solar/hydrogen hybrids.

# Contact us

Australia- Japan Research Centre

E [ajrc@anu.edu.au](mailto:ajrc@anu.edu.au)

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