

Call for Papers

Japan on the Jesuit Stage

The members of a joint Austrian-Japanese project on the enduring and transforming memory of the Jesuit Japan mission (16th–17th c.), as depicted on the early-modern European theatrical stage, invite proposals for papers and panels to be presented at a conference in Vienna (Alte Burse, Sonnenfelsgasse 19, A-1010 Wien), from 28–29 June 2018.

With the support of the *Austrian Science Fund* (FWF) and the *Japan Society for the Promotion of Science* (JSPS), this project has focused especially on the images of Japan found in Latin-language theatrical performances given at Jesuit schools in the German-speaking world. Several previously-unstudied plays are being edited and analysed conceptually.

Project website: <http://neolatin.lbg.ac.at/japan/japan-jesuit-stage>

The purpose of the conference is to expand this research to encompass the pan-European circulation and production of ‘knowledge’ about Japan through the Jesuit theatre. We especially encourage proposals dealing with early modern theatrical depictions of Japan in a variety of geographic and institutional contexts. In addition to case studies of relevant plays and performances, contributions may address broader questions such as:

- In which regions were Japanese topics depicted more or less often, and which Japanese figures were popular where?
- How are Japan and the Japanese people, Christian and non-Christian, presented in terms of contemporaneous discourses of civilisation, enlightenment, virtue, etc?
- How might stories of Japanese Christians have functioned, both in intended and unintended ways, as models of conduct, for various kinds of viewers?
- What institutional or political purposes did Japan plays serve for the Jesuits?
- What thematic, stylistic, or other peculiarities did Japan plays exhibit, and what work did these features do?
- How was Japan presented in theatrical performances outside the Jesuit order?
- How and why did particular features of Japan plays influence Neo-Latin or vernacular plays on other subjects?

Please send abstracts (max. 200 words) along with name and affiliation.

Deadline: 31 January 2018

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Papers will be given in English.