

Ra Mason
School of Politics, Philosophy and Area Studies
Area Studies
Centre for Japanese Studies
Politics & International Relations
Type of address: Postal address.
1.11 Arts and Humanities Building
Email: Ra.Mason@uea.ac.uk
Phone: 3935



Employment

2016	Sasakawa Lecturer in International Relations and Japanese Foreign Policy
2015-2016	Associate Professor of International Public Policy (Tohoku University)
2014-2015	JSPS Postdoctoral Fellow (University of the Ryukyus)
2013-2014	Lecturer and Course Leader in Asia Pacific Studies (UCLan)
2012-2013	Teaching Fellow in Japanese Studies (University of Leeds)
2009-2012	Toshiba Anniversary Scholarship PhD (University of Sheffield/Tohoku University)
2007-2009	MEXT Scholarship MA (Sophia University, Japan)
2006-2007	Sales Administrator (David & Charles)
2002-2005	Coordinator for International Relations (Itoman City Office, Okinawa)

Research monograph (under contract)

Okinawa: Keystone of the Pacific (Agenda Publishing, Flashpoints series)

Research publications

Post-Brexit U.K.–Japan Security Co-operation: Towards a Renewed Special Relationship?

Mason, R., 23 May 2025, *New Perspectives on Peacetime Anglo–Japanese Military Relations: Old Friends, New Partners*. French, T. (ed.). 1st ed. Routledge, p. 162-180 19 p. (University of Sheffield Routledge Japanese Studies Series).

Okinawa: Great Power Competition and the Keystone of the Pacific

Mason, R., 2025, Agenda Publishing. 192 p. (Flashpoints)

Shuri Castle: Okinawa as a Site of Vulnerability and Resilience

Mason, R., 2025, *Handbook of Disaster Studies in Japan*. Amsterdam University Press, p. 549-564

Simmering Storm in the East China Sea: Shifting dynamics in the great power rivalries of East Asia

Mason, R. & Park, S., 1 Sept 2024, In: *Journal of Asian Security and International Affairs*. 11, 3, p. 320-344 25 p.

安倍政権の対北朝鮮政策: 「国難」言説の政治学

Maslow, S. & Mason, R., Mar 2024, In: *Bulletin of Sendai Shirayuri Women's College*. 28, p. 1-25 25 p.

Djibouti: Increasing Chinese Influence Amid Multilateral Military Competition

Mason, R., Feb 2023, *The Handbook of African Intelligence Cultures*. Shaffer, R. (ed.). Rowman & Littlefield Publishers

Layered Security on Okinawa: Reconciling International, National, and Subnational Narratives

Mason, R., 6 Jan 2023, *Japan's Security Policy*. Nakatsuji, K. (ed.). Abingdon: Routledge, p. 117-139 23 p. (Politics in Asia).

Djiboutian sovereignty: Worlding global security networks

Mason, R. & Cobbett, E., 1 Nov 2021, In: *International Affairs*. 97, 6, p. 1767-1784 18 p.

A State of Crisis: North Korea and the Transformation of the Japanese State

Mason, R., Nov 2021, *Crisis Narratives, Institutional Change, and the Transformation of the Japanese State*. Maslow, S. & Wirth, C. (eds.). SUNY Press

Okinawa Narratives: Delineating rhetoric, policy and agency

Mason, R., Aug 2019, In: *Japanese Studies*. 39, 2, p. 191-212 22 p.

Studying Japan's Security through the Case Study of Okinawa

Mason, R., Jul 2019, *Japan in the World The World in Japan: A Methodological Approach*. Holca, I. & Tamas, C. S. (eds.). Editura Pro Universitaria, p. 41-58 18 p.

Djibouti and beyond: Japan's first post-war overseas base and the recalibration of risk in securing enhanced military capabilities

Mason, R., Oct 2018, In: *Asian Security*. 14, 3, p. 339-357 19 p.

Nationalism in Okinawa: Futenma and the future of base politics

Mason, R., 29 Feb 2016, In: *International Review of Ryukyuan and Okinawan Studies*. 5, p. 15-44

Regional Risk and Security in Japan: Whither the everyday

Hook, G. D., Mason, R. & O'Shea, P., 15 May 2015, Routledge. 256 p. (Sheffield Centre for Japanese Studies/Routledge Series)

Risk State: Japan's Foreign Policy in an Age of Uncertainty

Maslow, S., Mason, R. & O'Shea, P., 28 Feb 2015, Routledge. 202 p. (Rethinking Asia and International Relations)

Japan's Relations with North Korea and the Recalibration of Risk

Mason, R., 28 Apr 2014, Routledge. 196 p. (Sheffield Centre for Japanese Studies/Routledge Series)

Building a maritime "Great Wall" to contain China? Explaining Japan's recalibration of risk with the militarization of Okinawa

Key-Young, S. & Mason, R., Jul 2013, In: *Asian Perspective*. 37, 3, p. 437-461 25 p.

Review articles

Base Towns: Local contestation of the U.S. Military in Korea and Japan, by Claudia Junghyun Kim

Mason, R., 7 Jul 2025, In: *Social Science Japan Journal*. 28, 2, jyaf024.

Sankyu Japan: Twittering thanks to Japan

Mason, R., 14 Jun 2023, In: *Japan Society Review*.

Japan's aging peace: pacifism and militarism in the twenty-first century by Tom Phuong Le: (Columbia University Press, 2021, 368 pp, £28:00)

Mason, R., Apr 2023, In: *Asian Studies Review*. 47, 2, p. 416-418 3 p.

Making Meaningful Lives: Tales from an Aging Japan by Iza Kavedžija

Mason, R., Dec 2022, In: *Japan Review*. 37, p. 201-202 2 p.

沖縄平和論のアジェンダ: 怒りを力にする視座と方法

Mason, R., 2022, In: *Social Science Japan Journal*. 25, 1, p. 153-156 4 p.

Prizes and indicators of esteem

Sir Peter Parker Award for Spoken Business Japanese
Mason, Ra (Recipient), 22 Feb 2002

UEA Media Star
Mason, Ra (Recipient), 31 Dec 2019

Research funding awards

R208737_1: UEA-Tohoku International Interdisciplinary Research Conference on Ageing: Issues and Responses in the UK and Japan
Mason, R.
Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation (The): £2,000.00
1/06/21 → 13/12/21

Editorial roles

Policy Studies (Journal)
Ra Mason (Peer reviewer)
May 2024

Policy Studies (Journal)
Ra Mason (Editor)
2023 → 2024

Japan Forum (Journal)
Ra Mason (Editor)
2020 → 2023

Projects

International workshop examining the atomisation of Japanese socio-political milieu through art
Mason, R. & Tomizawa-Kay, E.
Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation (The)
1/06/17 → 25/08/17

Layered Security on Okinawa: Recapitulating International Relations Theory (IRT)
Mason, R.
1/09/23 → 30/09/25

Political and Social Dynamics of Crisis and Innovation in Japan, Asia and the World
Maslow, S., Mason, R., O'Shea, P. & Wirth, C.
Tohoku University
1/01/18 → 31/03/18

UEA-Tohoku International Interdisciplinary Research Conference on Ageing: Issues and Responses in the UK and Japan
Mason, R.
Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation (The)
1/06/21 → 13/12/21

External roles

European Association of Japanese Studies (External organisation)
Ra Mason (Member)
19 Aug 2023

Meio University

Ra Mason (Visiting researcher)

1 Feb 2023 → 30 Jun 2023

Centre for Japanese Studies (Organisational unit)

Ra Mason (Member)

2022 → 2025

Senior Advisor for School Special Advisors Team (Event)

Ra Mason (Chair)

Sept 2021 → Aug 2022

HUM Research Ethics Committee Chair (Event)

Ra Mason (Chair)

Jul 2020 → Nov 2023

Student Appeals and Complaints Committee Deputy Chair (Event)

Ra Mason (Member)

Sept 2019 → Nov 2023

Chief Plagiarism Officer (Event)

Ra Mason (Member)

2018 → 2023

External examiner for University of Sheffield (SEAS)

Ra Mason (Examiner)

2018 → 2023

European Association of Japanese Studies (External organisation)

Ra Mason (Member)

2014

British Association for Japanese Studies (External organisation)

Ra Mason (Member)

2012

Scholarly activities and further outputs**Populism and New Political Divisions in Japan after the Election**

Ra Mason (Speaker)

30 Jul 2025

ISA Forum of Sociology

Ra Mason (Speaker)

10 Jul 2025

Security Transitions and Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific

Ra Mason (Speaker)

23 Jun 2025

UK-Japan 21st Century Group

Ra Mason (Speaker)

15 Mar 2025

Okinawa: Great Power Competition and the Keystone of the Pacific

Ra Mason (Speaker)

6 Mar 2025

Politics on Wednesdays (POW!) Seminar Series

Ra Mason (Speaker)

29 Jan 2025 → 11 Jun 2025

Wilton Park UK-Japan Partnership Roundtable

Ra Mason (Speaker)

11 Dec 2024 → 13 Dec 2024

Okinawa

Ra Mason (Speaker)

30 Oct 2024

Re-examining Japan's Cold War (co-convened international conference hosted at UEA with Ritsumeikan University)

Ra Mason (Speaker)

13 Aug 2024 → 14 Aug 2024

Recalibrating Europe's role in the Indo-Pacific in an era of uncertainty: What can the EU do?

Soul Park (Speaker) & Ra Mason (Speaker)

27 Jun 2024

Guest lecture for L-Interface Japan

Ra Mason (Speaker)

21 Feb 2024

(EUI Policy Paper) Decentring the First Island Chain: Okinawa requires a recapitulation of security

Ra Mason (Presenter)

Nov 2023

Okinawa Diaspora Research Center seminar

Ra Mason (Speaker)

26 Oct 2023

Nichibunken Islands research group (日文研共同研究会)

Ra Mason (Speaker)

29 Sept 2023

EJARN Conference

Ra Mason (Speaker)

14 Sept 2023 → 16 Sept 2023

EAJS Conference

Ra Mason (Speaker)

17 Aug 2023 → 20 Aug 2023

Jochi (Sophia) University International Relations Seminar Series

Ra Mason (Speaker)

2 Jun 2023

Annual UEA-Ritsumeikan Anglo-Japanese Forum

Ra Mason (Speaker)

10 May 2023

**Ritsumeikan University International Collaborative Research Promotion Program (国際共同研究促進プログラム) Project:
Re-interpreting Japan's Cold War Security Policy**
Ra Mason (Presenter)
2023 → 2025

The East Angle podcast
Ra Mason (Presenter)
2023

University of Oxford Nissan Institute Seminar: Simmering Storm in the East China Sea
Ra Mason (Speaker)
28 Oct 2022

12th Kobe University Brussels European Centre Symposium
Ra Mason (Speaker)
18 Oct 2022

Daiwa Anglo-Japanese Foundation Talk: US Military Bases on Okinawa
Ra Mason (Speaker)
11 Oct 2022

EIAS-UEA Panel Discussion
Ra Mason (Speaker)
7 Sept 2022

Post-COVID Asia-EU Relations
Ra Mason (Speaker)
22 Jun 2022

EJARN Conference 2022
Ra Mason (Speaker)
15 Jun 2022 → 18 Jun 2022

16th annual conference of the Nordic Association for the Study of Contemporary Japanese Society
Ra Mason (Speaker)
12 May 2022 → 13 May 2022

Comprehensive School Special Engagement Talk (Global North vs. Global South: A view from Japan)
Ra Mason (Speaker)
5 May 2022

International Interdisciplinary Workshop on Ageing in Japan and the UK
Ra Mason (Speaker)
9 Sept 2021

The PPL Cup
Ra Mason (Presenter)
22 Feb 2019

Suffolk One/Channel Talent
Ra Mason (Speaker)
2019 → 2023

Developing institutional relations within Japan, including research and exchange programmes with Tohoku University and Ritsumeikan University.

Ra Mason (UEA Lead)

2017 → ...

External examining (PhD), peer-reviewing

Ra Mason (Contributor)

2017 → ...

Regular international conference presentation and participation; panel convening; think tank/forum participation; peer reviewing for multiple high-impact academic journals; outreach and engagement visits to schools.

Ra Mason (Contributor)

2016 → ...

Press/Media

1000 days since Russia's invasion of Ukraine

Ra Mason

20/11/24

1 Media contribution

Alternative Scenarios: Negative Scenario 1

Ra Mason

26/06/19

1 Media contribution

Alternative Scenarios: Negative Scenario II

Ra Mason

2/09/19

1 Media contribution

ANALYSIS - Olympics Postponement Big Setback for Japan's Abe, May Play Out Differently for His Career (Mar 2020)

Ra Mason

26/03/20

2 items of Media coverage

ANALYSIS - Upon Winning Japanese Prime Minister's Seat, Suga May Struggle to Step Out of Abe's Shadow (Sept 2020)

Ra Mason

1/09/20 → 16/09/20

4 items of Media coverage

BBC Norfolk - Dr Ra Mason (PPL) mentioned (Apr 2022)

Ra Mason

19/04/22

1 item of Media coverage

BBC Norfolk - Prof Ra Mason (PPL) mentioned (Apr 2022)

Ra Mason

11/03/22

1 item of Media coverage

BBC Norfolk - Prof Ra Mason (PPL) mentioned (Jan 2022)

Ra Mason

28/01/22

1 item of Media coverage

BBC Radio Norfolk - Prof Ra Mason (PPL) mentioned (Feb 2022)

Ra Mason

23/02/22

1 item of Media coverage

Cause To Fear A Remilitarized Japan (May 2022)

Ra Mason

11/05/22

2 items of Media coverage

COVID-19 Crisis Hurting Abe's Image, But Will Hardly Have Far-Reaching Consequences (May 2020)

Ra Mason

22/05/20

2 items of Media coverage

Dr Ra Mason (PPL) interviewed about Victory over Japan Day (Aug 2020)

Ra Mason

15/08/20

1 item of Media coverage

G7 Summit in Hiroshima

Ra Mason

19/05/23

1 Media contribution

Halt to Aegis Ashore Deployment Signals Tokyo's Intention to Cut Reliance on Washington - Analysts (Jun 2020)

Ra Mason

6/06/20 → 16/06/20

5 items of Media coverage

Inside Story

Ra Mason

25/09/18

1 Media contribution

Interview with Miyakojima Mayor

Ra Mason

14/04/23

1 Media contribution

Japan and South Korea's Latest Row Could Have Deeper Consequences

Ra Mason

18/01/17

1 Media contribution

Japan candidates haven't shared vision on fundamental restructuring

Ra Mason

27/10/24

1 Media contribution

Japan utnytter: Trump-apning

Ra Mason

20/03/17

1 Media contribution

Japan: the new Russian enemy?

Ra Mason

13/06/23

1 Media contribution

Japan's capricious response to coronavirus could dent its international reputation

Ra Mason

24/04/20

1 Media contribution

Japan's capricious response to coronavirus could dent its international reputation (Apr 2020)

Ra Mason

24/04/20 → 29/04/20

4 items of Media coverage

Japan's change in military outlook marks the end of a 'Peace State'

Ra Mason

22/12/16

1 Media contribution

Japan-Russia relations

Ra Mason

27/05/23

1 Media contribution

Kim Jong-un sends North Korean troops to fight in Ukraine – here's what this means for the war

Ra Mason

22/10/24

1 Media contribution

North Korea Knows it Can't Afford to Go to War

Ra Mason

11/08/17

1 Media contribution

Russian 'backlash', energy issues holding back Japan's Kishida from Ukraine trip: analysts

Ra Mason

3/03/23

1 item of Media coverage

Russia-North Korea cooperation

Ra Mason

21/07/25

1 Media contribution

Situation in Ukraine

Ra Mason

2/06/25

1 Media contribution

Situation in Ukraine, Israel and Syria

Ra Mason

3/12/24

1 Media contribution

SkyNews Interview

Ra Mason

30/04/19

1 Media contribution

Television Interview

Ra Mason

22/11/16

1 Media contribution

The Chagos Islands and the Triumph of Great Power Politics over Human Rights

Ra Mason

26/10/24

1 Media contribution

US-Japan relations: why two new leaders need a fresh approach to the alliance in the Asia-Pacific (Mar 2021)

Ra Mason

11/03/21 → 14/03/21

5 items of Media coverage

Voice of Islam Radio (July 2022)

Ra Mason

26/07/22

1 item of Media coverage

Why a row over military bases on Okinawa spells trouble for US-Japan relations

Ra Mason

10/03/17

1 Media contribution

With Less Than 2 Years Left in Office, Abe Nowhere Near Inking Peace Treaty With Russia (Jan 2020)

Ra Mason

22/01/20

2 items of Media coverage

World Talks: Revision of Japan's ('Pacifist') Constitution

Ra Mason

3/05/23

1 Media contribution