

CURRICULUM VITAE

Dylan J. Plung

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RESEARCH U.S.-Japan Relations; Modern Japanese History; World War II; Postwar Japanese Society; Military History; International Relations; Diplomatic History; and Digital History

EDUCATION	University of Washington PhD in History, funded through Spring 2031	09/2025– Present
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- Fields Supervisors and Topics:
 - o Mark Metzler (Chair): Modern Japan
 - o James Lin: China and Taiwan in the 20th Century
 - o Saadia Pekkanen: International Relations / International Security
 - o Eric Johnson: Digital History Theory and Practice

MA in International Studies (Japan) (3.84 GPA, Honors) | Seattle, WA 09/2017–
 - Thesis: “Passive Resistance: Evacuation in World War II Japan” 06/2019
 - Graduate Advisors: Mark Metzler, Kenneth Pyle

Stanford's Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Studies 09/2019–
Diploma in Japanese | Yokohama, Japan 09/2020

Whitman College	09/2008–
BA in Asian Studies/Japanese (3.57 GPA, Distinction) Walla Walla, WA	05/2011

- Thesis: "Reconstructing the 'Other' in Meiji Japan: The Ambiguous Case of Basil Hall Chamberlain"
- Undergraduate Advisors: Akira Takemoto, Jonathan Walters

Kansai Gaidai University 01/2010–
Study Abroad, Asian Studies Program (A Grade, Merit) | Osaka, Japan 05/2010

Columbia Basin College	09/2006–
Running Start Program, Japan Studies (3.94 GPA, Distinction) Pasco, WA	06/2008

PROFESSIONAL	Simpson Center for the Humanities	09/2026–
EXPERIENCE	Founder and Lead, <i>Asia Across Disciplines</i> Graduate Research Cluster	06/2027

Jackson School of International Studies	06/2026–
Research Assistant to Professor Mark Metzler	09/2026

University of Washington 09/2025—
Reader and Grader 03/2026

- *Origins of Modern Japan* (Mark Metzler) Autumn 2025
- *Japan Since the Early 20th Century* (Mark Metzler) Winter 2026

The National Bureau of Asian Research (NBR)	01/2024–
Senior Project Manager	09/2025

- Collaborated with advisory committees, scholars, experts, and research teams to manage all stages and day-to-day operations of NBR's fellowships, programs, and professional development courses.
- With long-term funding secured from the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission, the Henry Luce Foundation, and the Carnegie Corporation of NY, established several resident and non-resident fellowships for advanced Chinese and Japanese study including the Japan Studies Research Fellowship, the Ellings-Korduba Research Fellowship, the

PROFESSIONAL
EXPERIENCE
CONTINUED

Bridge to Asia Fellowship Program, and the Chinese Language Fellowship Program.

- As project lead for NBR's Next Generation/Fellowship team, oversaw fundraising, grant writing, and budget management (securing more than \$3 million in funding for developmental programs).
- Managed the Slade Gorton Policy Center and Gorton Leaders Program, providing professional development for hundreds of program alumni.
- Provided publication and editorial support for commentaries, special reports, and major peer-reviewed and edited volumes such as *Asia Policy* and *Strategic Asia*.
- Managed the research, design, and publication of major volumes, including an energy storage report, policy workshops in D.C., and Jakarta launch events.

NBR Project Manager

- Supported similar breadth of responsibility as Senior Project Manager but with less management authority. 05/2021–12/2023

NBR Editorial Assistant and Research Intern

- Reviewed draft material, drafted material for publication, coordinated revisions with contributors, and assisted in research management. 11/2019–06/2020

University of Washington, Jackson School of International Studies

Teaching Assistant, Reader/Grader

- *Emergence of Postwar Japan* (Kenneth Pyle) Spring 2018
- *Modern History of Japan* (Mark Metzler) Winter 2019

University of Washington East Asia Center

Communications Assistant

09/2017–05/2018

Self-Employed

Private Academic Tutor: English, Japanese, and ESL

06/2014–08/2017

Kennewick, WA School District

Community Education Instructor: Japanese and History

09/2011–05/2015

POLICY
COMMENTARIES

1. Interview, "Documenting China's Borderlands – Episode 10: The Gravity of the Center: China's Civilizational Aspirations in the Borderlands," with *The National Bureau of Asian Research (NBR)*. Interviewer: Nadège Rolland, <https://strategicspace.nbr.org/documenting-chinas-borderlands-episode-10-the-gravity-of-the-center-chinas-civilizational-aspirations-in-the-borderlands>. 08/20/2026
2. Interview, "Sengo chitsujo to Nihon: Rekishi kiban wo tsukutta Tōkyō Saiban kara 80-nen, Bei shikisha no shiten" [Japan and the postwar order: 80 years since the Tokyo Trial laid the foundation—A U.S. expert's perspective] in *Asahi Shimbun* (Tokyo) "Yomitoku sekai no anpo kiki" [Decoding Global Security Crises] series. Interviewer: Yoshihiro Makino, https://digital.asahi.com/articles/ASV4Z346CV4ZUHB100FM.html?iref=pc_rensai_long_1535_article. 05/03/2026

03/16/2026

POLICY
COMMENTARIES
CONTINUED

3. Interview, “Chūgoku-hatsu no Okinawa ‘nise no rekishi’ jōhō, Bei shikisha ‘Nichi-Bei Dōmei no jakutaika ga nerai ka’” [China’s false Okinawa history — U.S. experts suspect bid to weaken US-Japan alliance] in *Asahi Shimbun* (Tokyo), “Yomitoku sekai no anpo kiki” [Decoding Global Security Crises] series. Interviewer: Yoshihiro Makino, <https://www.asahi.com/articles/ASV3F10B9V3FUHBI009M.html>.
4. “Invoking History: Xi Jinping’s Challenge to Okinawan Sovereignty and the U.S.-Japan Alliance,” *Diplomat*, December 24, 2025, <https://thediplomat.com/2025/12/invoking-history-xi-jinpings-challenge-to-okinawan-sovereignty-and-the-us-japan-alliance>. 12/24/2025
5. “Japan’s WWII Anniversary Strategy and China’s Memory Politics,” *Diplomat*, June 28, 2025, <https://thediplomat.com/2025/06/japans-wwii-anniversary-strategy-and-chinas-memory-politics>. 06/28/2025
6. “Japan’s Technology Paradox: The Challenge of Chinese Disinformation” with K. Thibaut, Atlantic Council Digital Forensics Research Lab, March 25, 2025, <https://dfirlab.org/2025/03/25/japan-tech-chinese-disinformation>. 03/25/2025

SCHOLARLY
PUBLICATIONS

1. “A Reassessment of the U.S. Strategic Bombing Survey in Japan,” *International History Review (IHR)*. Peer Reviewed. Forthcoming
2. “On Wartime Record Destruction and the Allied Occupation of Japan,” *International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS) Newsletter*, University of Leiden. Forthcoming
3. *One Hundred Million Hearts: Firsthand Accounts of Japan’s World War II Home Front*, complete book-length manuscript. Finalized for submission
4. “The Impact of Urban Evacuation in Japan during WWII,” *Asia-Pacific Journal: Japan Focus* 19, Issue 19, No. 1 (2021). Peer reviewed. 10/2021
5. “The ‘Unrelated’ Spirits of Aoyama Cemetery: A 21st Century Reckoning with the Foreign Employees of the Meiji Period,” *Asia-Pacific Journal: Japan Focus* 19, Issue 8, No. 1 (2021). Peer reviewed. 04/2021
6. “The Japanese Village at Dugway Proving Ground: An Unexamined Context to the Firebombing of Japan,” *Asia-Pacific Journal: Japan Focus* 16, Issue 8, No. 3 (2018). Peer reviewed. 04/2018

PRESENTATIONS

1. “Sorting the Occupation: Censorship, Declassification, and Provenance in Postwar Japanese Archives,” *How It’s Organized is the Text* Conference, Seattle, WA. 06/2026
 2. “A Cartography of Wartime Record Destruction in Postwar Japan, 1945,” Association for Asian Studies (AAS) Annual Conference, March 2026, Vancouver, BC. 03/2026
 3. “Social Statecraft and the Arc of Japanese Internationalism: The Influence of Postwar Popular Sentiment, 1945 to Reiwa,” 31st Annual Japan Studies Association Conference, January 2025, Honolulu, HI. 01/2025
- Also, chair of conference panel: “Improvising Identity Through Planning in Japan.”

PRESENTATIONS CONTINUED	4. “A Civilian Perspective on the Formation and Foundations of Japan’s WWII History and Postwar Identity,” Western Conference for the Association of Asian Studies (WCAAS), October 2024, Weber State University, UT.	10/2024
	5. “Toward Unrest on the Japanese Homefront: A Previously Unexamined Contributor to the Surrender and Design of Postwar Japan,” Asian Studies Conference Japan (ASCJ), July 2023, Sophia University, Tokyo.	07/2023
	6. “Tokyo and the Impacts of Evacuation in World War II Japan,” Asian Historical Economics Conference, September 2020, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand. Invited paper (postponed due to Covid-19).	09/2020
	7. “Daguei jikkenjō no Nihon Mura,” Inter-University Center Graduate Conference, June 2020, online.	06/2020
	8. “Passive Resistance: Evacuation in WWII Japan,” 22nd Annual Harvard East Asia Society Conference (HEAS), Feb. 2019, Harvard University, MA. Subsequently presented at Asian Languages and Lit. Graduate Colloquium, May 2019, University of Washington, WA.	02/2019
	9. “The Japanese Village at Dugway Proving Ground: An Unexamined Context to the Firebombing of Japan,” Western Conference for the Association of Asian Studies (WCAAS), October 2018, Soka University of America, CA.	10/2018
	10. “A Japanese Place in Utah History: The Development of Napalm in WWII,” Annual Colloquium on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, December 2017, University of Washington, WA.	12/2017
	11. “Reconstructing the ‘Other’ in Meiji Japan: The Ambiguous Case of Basil Hall Chamberlain,” Whitman Undergraduate Conference, April 2011, Whitman College, WA.	04/2011
AWARDS	Thomas M. Power Prize in History First prize award of \$1,000 for outstanding achievement in historical research.	05/2026
	Kasai-Buerge Scholarship in Japan Studies An award of \$1,500 for academic merit in Japan studies.	05/2026
	UW Japan Studies Academic Merit Award An award of \$6,000 for extraordinary achievement in Japan Studies.	03/2026
	UW Japan Studies Travel and Research Grant Funding of \$500 to present at AAS in Vancouver, B.C.	03/2026
	UW Graduate School Presentation Award Funding of \$750 to present at AAS in Vancouver, B.C.	03/2026
	UW Graduate School Top Scholar Award Three quarters of tuition provided to top student prospects by the UW Graduate School in partnership with the Department of History.	09/2025– 06/2026
	UW History Departmental Fellowship A nine-month stipend of \$30,000 to allow focus on coursework and research in the first year of doctoral training.	09/2025– 06/2026
	Blakemore Professional Tutorial Award Professional Tutorial for specialized study on the language of mass media in WWII Japan, Inter-University Center (IUC), Yokohama	06/2019– 09/2020
	National Blakemore-Freeman Fellowship in Advanced Japanese Studies Fully funded academic year award for intensive Japanese language studies, Inter-University Center (IUC), Yokohama	09/2019– 06/2020

AWARDS CONTINUED	Graduate Book Prize for Outstanding Achievement in International Studies	
	UW Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies	06/2019
	UW Japan Studies Program Travel and Research Grant	
	Presentation at Harvard East Asia Society Conference (HEAS)	02/2019
	UW Japan Studies Program Travel and Research Grant	
	Original research at U.S. National Archives in College Park, MD	10/2018
	Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship	09/2018–
	U.S. Department of Education: Full academic year for Japanese studies	05/2019
	Kitto Scholarship for Academic Merit in Japan Studies	
	UW Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies	09/2018
	UW Japan Studies Program Travel and Research Grant	
	Presentation at the Western Conference for the Association of Asian Studies	06/2018
	Ivy Hovey Fitch Endowed Scholarship in International Studies	
	UW Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies	05/2018
LANGUAGE	Ayako Betty Murakami Scholarship in Japan Studies	
	UW Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies	05/2018
	Japan Studies Graduate Scholarship	09/2017–
	UW Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies, Japan Studies	05/2018
	Academic Merit Scholarship	
	Kansai Gaidai University, Osaka, Japan	06/2010
	Residency Award: Tekisuijuku Japanese Language House	09/2009–
	Whitman College, Walla Walla, WA	05/2010
PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS	English (Native) and Japanese (Advanced-Low)	
	Association for Asian Studies (AAS), Member; American Historical Association (AHA),	
	Member; Japan Studies Association (JSA), Member; Modern Japan History Association	
	(MJHA), Member; National Association of Fellowship Advisors (NAFA), Member; National	
	History Day (NHD), Washington State, Judge; Society for Historians of American Foreign	
	Relations (SHAFR), Member; World Affairs Council, Seattle, Member; and Young	
	Professionals International Network, Seattle (YPIN), Former Board Member.	