

# DR. NATALIA DOAN

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## ACADEMIC POSTS

8/2024–Present. Assistant Professor of History at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

10/2023–6/2024. Japan Society for the Promotion of Science International Research Fellow,  
Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan.

10/2019–9/2023. Okinaga Junior Research Fellow in Japanese Studies at Wadham College and the  
Nissan Institute of Japanese Studies, University of Oxford, Oxford, England.

10/2019–9/2023. Governing Body Member and Trustee of Wadham College.

## EDUCATION

DPhil in Asian Studies, University of Oxford.

MSc in Modern Japanese Studies, with Distinction on dissertation, University of Oxford.

BA in English and a BA in Japanese with Departmental Honors, Vassar College.

## PEER-REVIEWED BOOKS & ARTICLES

\*Doan, N. (forthcoming) Introduction for special issue of the *Journal of American-East Asian Relations* (Brill).

Doan, N. and Sho Konishi, eds. (Jan 2024, Leiden University Press) [Black Transnationalism and Japan](#).

Doan, N. and Sho Konishi. (Jan 2024, Leiden University Press) “Black Transnationalism and Japan: Concepts and Contours.” In [Black Transnationalism and Japan](#), edited by Natalia Doan and Sho Konishi.

\*Doan, N. “[The 1860 Japanese Embassy and the Opening of American Civilisation: Samurai, Interracial Romance, and Southern Print Culture](#).” In *Reopening the Opening of Japan: New Approaches to Japan and the Wider World in the Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century*, edited by Lewis Bremner, Manimporok Dotulong, and Sho Konishi, 21–58. Leiden: Brill, 2023.

Doan, N. “[Samurai and Southern Belles: Interracial Romance, Southern Morality, and the 1860 Japanese Embassy](#).” *Journal of Social History* 55, no. 1 (2021): 149–179.

Doan, N. “[The 1860 Japanese Embassy and the Antebellum African American Press](#).” *The Historical Journal* 62, no. 4 (2019): 997–1020.

(\* designates invited publications)

## PEER-REVIEWED ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES & INTERVIEWS

1/2023. Interviewed for “Who Was Yasuke, Japan’s First Black Samurai?” *Smithsonian Magazine*.  
<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/who-was-yasuke-japans-first-black-samurai-180981416/>.

\*Doan, N. “[African America and Japan](#).” In *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Asian History*, ed. David Ludden, 2022.

\*Doan, N. “The 1860 Japanese Embassy.” Oxford African American Studies Center, ed. Henry Louis Gates, Jr., 2020.

(\* designates invited publications)

## AWARDS

6/2022. Shortlisted for the Royal Historical Society 2022 Alexander Prize for “[Samurai and Southern Belles: Interracial Romance, Southern Morality, and the 1860 Japanese Embassy](#).”

4/2017. Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Short-Term Fellowship at the Library Company of Philadelphia and the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

2015. Winner of the British Association for Japanese Studies Ivan Morris Memorial Prize for MSc dissertation entitled “Samurai and Southern Belles: American Representations of the 1860 Japanese Embassy to the United States.”

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Tennessee, Knoxville

(scheduled for Fall 2024) HIAS 393 – History of Modern Japan

(scheduled for Spring 2025) HIAS 490 – The Samurai: Fact, Fiction, Fantasy

University of Oxford

Gender, Sexuality, and Power in Japanese Popular Culture, 1600–2022.

Development and teaching of original graduate course for the MSc and MPhil in Modern Japanese Studies, Nissan Institute of Japanese Studies, University of Oxford.

“Analysing Historical and Contemporary Documents,” Research Methods graduate course.

Tutorial Organizer and Teaching Assistant for “Modern Japan, 1868–1972.” Undergraduate course, Faculty of History.

“Introduction to East Asian History and Culture: Modern Japanese History.” Teaching Assistant for undergraduate unit, Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, University of Oxford.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED TALKS

- 7/2023. "[\*Bakumatsu ni sekai o mawatta bushi: Nihon hatsu no shisetsudan to karera ga Amerikajin ni ataeta eikyō\*](#)" [The samurai who crossed the seas during the *bakumatsu* period: Japan's first embassy and their impact on the American people]. Presentation in Japanese for Teikyo University, Tokyo, Japan.
- 6/2023. "Reassessing Japan's Iwakura Mission (1871–73) and the United States: Origins and Outcomes." Panel chair and commentator. 2023 Conference of the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations. Arlington, Virginia.
- 6/2023. "The Antebellum African American Press and Transnational Solidarity with Samurai" in panel entitled "A Genealogy of Afro-Asian Intimacy: From the Antebellum Era to the Present Day." Berkshire Conference of Women, Genders and Sexualities, 2023.
- 6/2023. "New Perspectives on Race and Christianity in the United States and Japan." Panel chair and commentator. 5<sup>th</sup> Tanaka Symposium: Reconfiguring the Concept of Religion in Modern Japan. Pembroke College, University of Oxford.
- 6/2022. "Transnational Solidarity and Hope for the Future: African American Newspapers and the 1860 Japanese Embassy." Japanese Black Studies Association Annual Conference. Presentation in Japanese.
- 10/2021. "Antebellum African American Visions of Japanese Solidarity." [Black Transnationalism and Japan Conference](#). Digital conference co-convener and panelist. Nissan Institute of Japanese Studies, University of Oxford.
- 5/2019. "Samurai, Seduction, and Slander: 'Prince Tommy' and Representations of the 1860 Japanese Embassy to the United States." "Reopening the 'Opening' of Japan" Conference, Nissan Institute of Japanese Studies, University of Oxford.
- 3/2019. "Samurai and Southern Belles: The 1860 Japanese Embassy and the Commodification of 'Female Diplomacy.'" Association for Asian Studies Conference, Denver, Colorado.
- 1/2016. "American Representations of the 1860 Japanese Embassy." Institute of Historical Research, University of London.
- 10/2015. "Samurai and Southern Belles: Southern Representations of the 1860 Japanese Diplomatic Mission to the United States." Association for Asian Studies New York Conference on Asian Studies, Poughkeepsie, New York.

## CERTIFICATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

Japanese Language Proficiency Test N1 Certification. N1 is the highest level of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test.

Member of AHA, AAS, BAJS, MJHA, RHS, and SHAFR.