

# GPJ

**GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES  
ON JAPAN**

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**Nº 3**

**Japanese Popular  
Culture and Literature**

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the 1990s, the number of people in the UK who are employed in the public sector has increased from 10.5 million to 12.5 million, and the number of people in the public sector who are employed in health care has increased from 2.5 million to 3.5 million (Department of Health 2000).

There are a number of reasons for the increase in the number of people employed in the public sector. One of the main reasons is the increase in the number of people who are employed in the public sector who are employed in health care. This is due to the fact that the number of people who are employed in the public sector who are employed in health care has increased from 2.5 million to 3.5 million (Department of Health 2000).

Another reason for the increase in the number of people employed in the public sector is the increase in the number of people who are employed in the public sector who are employed in education. This is due to the fact that the number of people who are employed in the public sector who are employed in education has increased from 1.5 million to 2.5 million (Department of Health 2000).

A third reason for the increase in the number of people employed in the public sector is the increase in the number of people who are employed in the public sector who are employed in social care. This is due to the fact that the number of people who are employed in the public sector who are employed in social care has increased from 0.5 million to 1.5 million (Department of Health 2000).

There are a number of reasons for the increase in the number of people employed in the public sector who are employed in health care, education, and social care. One of the main reasons is the increase in the number of people who are employed in the public sector who are employed in health care, education, and social care. This is due to the fact that the number of people who are employed in the public sector who are employed in health care, education, and social care has increased from 2.5 million to 3.5 million, 1.5 million to 2.5 million, and 0.5 million to 1.5 million (Department of Health 2000).

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## Scope

“Global Perspectives on Japan” focuses on developing a global perspective on the study of Japan and Asia. The journal promotes innovative, interdisciplinary, inter-regional and transnational approaches to Japanese Studies.

The journal aims to be a venue for scholarship in E.M.E.A. region with a special focus on Turkey and neighboring regions. It especially encourages scholars from the Middle East, Balkans, Central Asia and the Mediterranean but also welcomes scholars from other parts of the world.

GPJ invites papers in the fields of history, humanities, and social sciences including topics of the past and the present. In addition to articles, the journal publishes occasional article size translations, book reviews, and surveys of current trends in Japanese and Asian Studies.

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## **Editor's Note**

**Erdal Küçükyalçın**

Dear Readers,

Dark days for humanity are lingering. Everyday we receive disheartening news from all corners of the world. We all try to restrict our daily social mobility and keep our distance from others, including our closest relatives and friends. Our aim is not only to protect ourselves but also to prevent harming others.

This is an unprecedented, unique phenomenon that shows how fragile and weak we humans are. In addition to quarantine measures, restrictions on travel and transportation, bans on trade, I believe it is time to start thinking about long-term repercussions of this pandemic. This is a huge blow on global economy and it is more than obvious that band-aid financial support policies will soon prove not be enough to recover from this global-scale crisis. Reconsidering the distribution of wealth among nations and within nations will hopefully be the main issue in the near future. The present economic model is simply not sustainable anymore. We need to make empathy, solidarity and ethics, the common denominator of all future systems we will build in the post-corona era. Will humanity take its lessons from this warning by mother-nature? We will live and see...

With these in mind, we are ready to share the third issue of Global Perspectives on Japan with you. We have collected a number of interesting articles under the title "Japanese Popular Culture and Literature".

The first article is "On the Question of Prince Abdulkerim Effendi's Becoming the Emperor of Turkestan with Japan's Support" by Prof. Merthan Dündar of Ankara University. In his article Prof. Dündar discusses how

the idea of "Greater Asianism" had played a role in shaping Japan's expansionist policies towards the Turkic world. Based on Japanese archives, Dündar underlines the Japanese support given to 1933 East Turkestan uprising and the scheme to create a puppet "emperor" and caliph in the person of Prince Abdülkerim Effendi, a grandson of Ottoman Sultan Abdülhamid II.

In the second article titled "Modernization in Japanese Fashion and the Influence of Fashion Magazines in 1930s Japan: Focusing on the Case of Fashion", Dr. Akiko Savas from Osaka University, focuses on the articles in Fashion, the first monthly fashion magazine in Japan, and delineates what modern Japanese fashion aspired to and the issues it had to address in its early stages. Dr. Savas' study includes an in-depth contextual analysis of Jun'ichirō Tanizaki's novel, *The Makioka Sisters*, and elaborates on the paradoxical effects of the new body image imposed on Japanese women by contemporary fashion magazines.

In this issue we decided to give place to the works of four young scholars. The purpose of this decision is to become a venue, as we promised, where the voices of the researchers can freely be heard by the academic community, and to give our readers an idea on the topics which the new generation is interested in. We collected these studies under the section title "Research Papers".

Hence, the third article by Aslı İdil Kaynar, from Boğaziçi University, MAAS program is "Tanizaki Jun'ichirō's Modern Girls: Reversing the Role of Moga in Japanese Literature". The study scans through selected literary works of Jun'ichirō Tanizaki, namely *The Tattooer* (1910), *Kirin* (1910), *Professor Rado* (1928) and *Naomi* (1925), for his understanding and portrayal of the Moga (Modern Girl) image. The paper then concentrates on evaluating the complex nature of Moga image by using a theoretical framework of positive objectification, narcissism and the male gaze.

The fourth article titled "The Role of the Emperor in Postwar Japan: An Analysis of Emperor Showa's Addresses at Parliament Openings", by Reyhan Silingar from Boğaziçi University MAAS program, starts her study with a critical question: "What precisely is the role of the emperor in a highly developed country with a liberal democracy?" Based on a discourse analysis of Emperor Showa's addresses at the opening ceremonies of the National Diet between 1947 and 1988, Silingar argues that her em-

pirical findings show the emperor's integrative power had contributed to the stabilization of the country.

The fifth article, "Kawaii Culture's Influence as Part of Japanese Popular Culture Trends in Turkey" by Ebru Duman from Boğaziçi University MAAS program, scrutinizes the impact of Kawaii culture on recent popular trends in Turkey. Starting with the popularity of the iconic figure Hello Kitty, Duman gives an account of the various conventions of manga, anime, cosplay fans held in the country and points to a steadily increasing interest from the younger generation towards cute content.

The sixth article by Merve Çay from Bilgi University, Cultural Studies program is titled "From Folk Tales to Anime: Disappearance of the Feminine Body in Japanese Culture". In her paper, Çay traces the narrative of disappearance of the woman and the metamorphosing of the body through a number of Japanese fairy tales like "Bush Warbler's Home", "Willow Wife", "Snow Bride", as well as the mahō shōjo genre of anime and cyberpunk examples such as "Ghost in the Shell", and raises some important questions on how female body and identity issues are handled within those stories.

Finally, this issue is hosting our first book review by Prof. Ali Volkan Erdemir of Erciyes University, an expert in translation from Japanese to his native language Turkish, who is well-known for his literary translations of the works of Kenzaburo Oe, Yukio Mishima and Haruki Murakami. Erdemir gives his views of Mishima's "Ai no Kawaki / Thirst for Love / Aşka Susamış" which he had translated in 2019.

I would like to express my gratitude to the authors of the third issue for their valuable contributions.

I would also like to thank our partner, the Japanese Studies Association (JAD) for their effort in making the application to the TIFO Grant, and to Toshiba International Foundation (TIFO), for their generous support, which made this publication possible.

The readers of these lines are most welcome to contribute to our future issues. With your kind assistance, GPJ will continue its healthy growth.

Warm greetings from a cold Istanbul...