

Japan Studies Association of Canada (JSAC)

Annual Conference – October 16-19, 2014
Designing Japan: Innovation in a post-growth society

Ted Rogers School of Management
Ryerson University
Toronto, Ontario, CANADA

Deadline for submissions: June 27, 2014

[Ryerson University](#), in downtown Toronto, is hosting the JSAC Conference for the first time. Ryerson, which we may call “Rye Dai” (ライ大), is a “distinctly urban university with a focus on innovation and entrepreneurship” and a “mission to serve societal need and a long-standing commitment to engaging its community”¹. JSAC is Canada’s sole scholarly Japan studies organization.

Japan scholars can apply a broad range of perspectives to better understand how that country designs its society, products and services as it adapts to a post-growth environment. Insights on what is working, or not, in Japan are of great interest to Canada and other countries which may soon find themselves facing a similar demographic and economic predicament.

The Conference theme, outlined in more detail below, will attract interesting and substantial contributions, in the forms of individual papers or panels. The best relevant papers will be assessed, edited and combined in a scholarly monograph.

Besides theme-related work, we of course welcome papers from a broad range of disciplines -- the humanities, arts and social sciences – but linked by a focus on Japan.

Preliminary schedule: The Conference starts Thursday October 16 with a graduate student consortium and a public lecture in the evening. From Friday October 17 to Sunday morning October 19 there will be a mix of panels, speakers and plenary sessions. Saturday evening will be the JSAC Annual Conference dinner. Accommodation information is provided below.

Further details, including the names of speakers and other activities will be announced as they are confirmed.

¹ Ryerson University. About Ryerson. Available <http://www.ryerson.ca/about/>.

Submissions: Please send abstracts and/or papers electronically (Word or Adobe) to jsac2014@ryerson.ca by June 20. If you have questions/inquiries please send them to the same address.

Support: The Japan Foundation, Ryerson University and the Ted Rogers School of Management have generously provided financial support for the meeting. There will be subsidies available for participant support. This will be confirmed individually before the Conference. Priority will be given to invited speakers, graduate students presenting papers and regular faculty members whose contributions address the Conference theme. The Conference registration fee will be \$150 for regular participants and \$100 for students.

Travel and Accommodations: The Conference sessions will be held at the [Ted Rogers School of Management](#) (TRSM), at Ryerson. TRSM is at Yonge and Dundas, on the Yonge (Line 1) subway line in the heart of Toronto. It is walking distance from the Bus Terminal and three subway stops from Union Station.

There is a surfeit of hotel accommodation in the city core. Online reservation services (e.g. Hotline) can of course identify good deals. Examples of hotels that are close to TRSM are listed below, with current prices, based on current inquiries.

Eaton Chelsea Hotel (Formally Delta Chelsea)
Yonge & Gerrard (10 min walk to TRSM) \$165-\$200/night.
<http://chelsea.eatonhotels.com/index.html>

Marriott Downtown Eaton Centre Hotel
Beside TRSM (5 min walk). Attached to Eaton Centre. About \$210/night
<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/yyzec-toronto-marriott-downtown-eaton-centre-hotel/>

Sheraton Centre Hotel
South of the Eaton Centre (10-15 min walk) \$220/night
<http://www.sheratontoronto.com/>

Holiday Inn Toronto Downtown Centre
Carlton & Yonge. Near old Maple Leaf Gardens, now Ryerson Mattamy Centre (15 min walk) \$170/night
<http://www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/us/en/toronto/yyzct/hoteldetail>

Bond Place Hotel
East of Yonge Street (5-10 min walk) Interesting neighbourhood. \$150/night
<http://www.bondplace.ca/>

THEME - DESIGNING JAPAN: INNOVATION IN A POST-GROWTH SOCIETY

Japan is often characterized as a country in decline. This is because its population is shrinking and its economy, until recently, has been growing slowly, if at all. These trends give rise to an aging population and a relatively fixed pool of economic resources. These real challenges notwithstanding, those familiar with Japan know that the country overall continues to be a very livable, vital and innovative society.

Japan is not in decline; rather it is post-growth. Japanese – individually, socially, culturally and politically – continue to innovate in a broad range of activities, including business, culture and public policy.

So what is post-growth Japan like? The economic and demographic situations have been extensively explored, though their relevance outside of Japan has only recently been acknowledged. Less is known about the more general implications and influences of post-growth society on how Japanese think, live and organize themselves locally, regionally and nationally. Scholars in humanities and social science disciplines may raise different questions about how Japan continues to innovate. Examples include:

1. What factors are historically associated with Japanese innovation?
2. Do Japan's recent cultural products reflect post-growth society?
3. How do firms compete in post-growth markets?
4. Can policy makers find win-win solutions in a post-growth economy?
5. How can policy address a large elderly population?
6. What are the international interests of a post-growth nation?
7. What are the principles of post-growth urban and regional planning?
8. Is Japan moving towards sustainability?
9. How do education systems adopt to changing demographics?
10. Do countries need a national "project"?