

Curriculum Vitae

Nicole Marion Mueller

Senior Research Fellow

German Institute for Japanese Studies
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Research Interests

I am a Japanese Studies scholar with a focus on Science & Technology Studies, Translation Studies, and Digital Humanities. My main research interests include Japanese imaginaries and Sci-Fi narratives of immersive technologies, the connections between fiction and sociocultural context, as well as innovative methodological approaches.

Employment & Academic Positions

10/2023 – 09/2028	<i>Max Weber Foundation, Germany</i> German Institute for Japanese Studies (DIJ), Tōkyō Senior Research Fellow
06/2025 – 08/2025	<i>Keio University Tokyo (International Center)</i> Teaching Assignment: Japanese Sci-Fi
11/2024	<i>Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg</i> Institute for Japanese Studies Teaching Assignment: Digital Humanities Block Seminar
04/2023 – 07/2023	<i>Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg</i> Institute for Japanese Studies Teaching Assignment: JLPT N2 Preparation Course
05/2021 – 09/2021	<i>Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg</i> Institute for Japanese Studies Research Assistant

12/2018 *Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg*
Institute for Japanese Studies
Teaching Assignment (Interpreter):
Graduate Class on Japanese Economic History

05/2018 *Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes, Bonn*
German-Japanese DD Program Selection Committee

10/2016 – 03/2017 *Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg*
Institute for Japanese Studies
Teaching Assignment: Undergrad Class Japanese Literature

10/2013 – 12/2013 *Leipzig University*
Teaching Assignment: Undergrad Class German Linguistics

Education

10/2016 – 03/2023 *Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg*
Interdisciplinary Japanese Studies Ph.D. Program
Doctoral Dissertation: 'Japan's Reception of Thomas Mann'
Summa cum laude; published w/ J.B. Metzler in 2024

09/2014 – 08/2016 *Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg/Keiō University Tōkyō*
(Double Degree Program)
Master of Arts Intercultural Japanese Studies
Master of Arts Japanese Language Education

10/2013 – 08/2014 *Leipzig University*
Master of Arts German Literature Studies

10/2010 – 07/2013 *Leipzig University*
Bachelor of Arts German Language and Arts Education

Grants & Fellowships

10/2025 *The Yanai Initiative (UCLA & Waseda University)*
Grant (10,000 USD) for research cooperation w/ E. Michielsen (HK University), T. Suzuki (Waseda University), Ran Wei (Tohoku University), & Alex Paquet. Project title: 'Working Japan: Labor and Technology in Japanese Popular Culture and Media'

01/2024	<i>DWIH (German Centre for Research & Innovation) Tokyo</i> Financial Support (8000 €) for international workshop 'Imagined Futures in Japan & Beyond' (10/2024)
11/2023	<i>Tōshiba International Foundation (TIFO)</i> Publication Grant for Doctoral Dissertation
04/2017 – 03/2018	<i>12-month DAAD Research Grant</i> Guest Researcher at Keiō University Tōkyō
03/2012 – 08/2016	<i>German Academic Scholarship Foundation (Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes)</i> Scholarship

Academic Awards

09/2019	<i>Deutsche Thomas Mann-Gesellschaft</i> Thomas Mann Award (Special Award) for best MA thesis
06/2009	<i>Literarische Gesellschaft Karlsruhe</i> Scheffel Award, best graduation essay on German Literature

Professional Memberships and Functions

EAJS	Member of the European Association for Japanese Studies
VSJF	Member of Vereinigung für sozialwissenschaftliche Japanforschung
JGG	Member of Japanische Gesellschaft für Germanistik
TMG	Member of Deutsche Thomas Mann-Gesellschaft Lübeck e. V.
DIJ	Elected representative of the academic staff since 2025
DWIH	DIJ Representative on the Advisory Board of the German Centre for Research and Innovation Tokyo (DWIH) since 2023

Language Skills

German	Native Speaker
Japanese	JLPT N1 in 2016 (corresponds with CEFR C1)
English	C1
Latin	Latinum
French	A2

Monograph

- 2024 *Japanische Thomas Mann-Übersetzung zwischen Kulturheteronomie und Emanzipation – Tonio Kröger-Retranslations im digitalen Topic Modeling*. In: Digitale Literaturwissenschaft (Eds. Weitin, Thomas/Gius, Evelyn). J. B. Metzler. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-662-69569-2> (open access)

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- 2026 Imagineering the Future. A Mixed-Method Mapping of Japan's Corporate Imaginaries of Metaverse Sustainability. In Mueller, N. (Ed.): *Japanese Studies Special Issue 'Japanese Technofutures'*, forthcoming summer 2026
- 2017 Deutsch-japanische Leitmotivstrukturen in digitalisierten Übersetzungskorpora. Praxeologische Notizen zu Motivsemantik und Metaphorik, basierend auf Topic Modeling. In *Textpraxis* 14.

Book Chapters & Editor-Reviewed Articles

- 2026 Modeling Emerging Futures – Epistemic Core Values within Digitally Augmented MMR. In Fickers, A./Kümmerle, H. (Eds.): *Epistemic Virtues and Vices: Data, Infrastructures, and Episteme between Collaboration and Exploitation*, forthcoming 2026
- 2026 The Futuristic Imagination Sprawl – Charting Concepts vs. Social Realities. Introductory Article, in Mueller, N. (Ed.): *Japanese Studies Special Issue 'Japanese Technofutures'*, forthcoming summer 2026
- 2025 Die Rolle der Übersetzungsdrehschreibe Verlag für japanischen Übersetzungspluralismus – am Beispiel der Thomas Mann-Übersetzung. In Fleischer-Heiniger, Carolin/Schumacher-Shoji, Kevin (Eds.): »Schwarze Löcher im Gewebe der Sprachen«. *Kulturelles Übersetzen*. Iudicium, 110–138.
- 2024 German-Japanese Retranslations in the 20th and 21st Century – between Scholarly und Literary Translation, between Heteronomy and Autonomy towards the West. In Meade, Ruselle/Shih, Claire/Kim, Kyung Hye (Eds.): *Routledge Handbook of East Asian Translation*. Routledge, 257–272.

- 2024 Thomas Mann bei Mishima Yukio, Kita Morio und Tsuji Kunio: Verehrungspathos und Emanzipation als Kontextvoraussetzungen einer produktiven kulturüberschreitenden Rezeption. In Jaspers, Anke/Mattern, Nicole (Eds.): *Thomas Mann produktiv rezipiert*. Inter/Media Series. Wilhelm Fink, 107–130.
- 2024 *Nijū-seiki Nihon ni okeru Tonio Kurēgā juyō* [Thomas Mann's Reception in 20th Century Japan]. In: Murata, Minori (Ed.): *Keiō Gijuku Daigaku Nihongo-Nihonbunka kyōiku sentā kiyō ronshū*. *Keiō Gijuku Daigaku Shuppankai* [editor-reviewed bulletin article in Japanese]
https://koara.lib.keio.ac.jp/xoonips/modules/xoonips/detail.php?koara_id=AN00189695-20240300-0133

Editions

- 2026 Special Issue 'Japanese Technofutures – Imaginaries, Narratives, Social Realities', in *Japanese Studies* (Routledge), forthcoming summer 2026

Popular Writing

- 2025 ‚#MWSLieblingsorte: Im Grenzbereich zwischen Realität und virtuellem Cyberspace.‘ Blog article in [*gab_log*] *Geisteswissenschaft als Beruf*.
<https://gab.hypotheses.org/23209>
- 2025 ‚Kollektiver Kulturschock.‘ Article on Japanese Thomas Mann translations in Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (FAZ), published August 12, 2025
<https://www.faz.net/aktuell/feuilleton/buecher/literatur/darum-ist-thomas-mann-in-japan-so-beliebt-110631977.html>
- 2025 ‚Die Erfindung der Zukunft.‘ Article and interview by Felix Lill. In *Weltweit vor Ort. Künstliche Intelligenz in den Geisteswissenschaften*, 34–39
- 2025 ‚Extended Reality in Japan – Zukunftsvisionen zwischen Cyberspace und Realität.‘ Blog article in *Themenportal der Max Weber-Stiftung*
- 2024 ‚readme.txt: Japanische Thomas Mann-Übersetzung zwischen Kulturheteronomie und Emanzipation.‘ Blog article in [*gab_log*] *Geisteswissenschaft als Beruf*.
<https://gab.hypotheses.org/14539>

Events Organized

- 2026 International Workshop 'Working Japan', at DIJ Tokyo, with Yanai Initiative, June 2, 11 participants
- 2026 International Workshop 'Digital Capitalism & Varieties of Science', at DIJ Tokyo, with RWTH Aachen (KHK Cultures of Research), March 12–13, 15 participants
- 2026 Workshop 'Kulturvermittlung 2.0', at DIJ Tokyo, with Keiō University Tokyo, February 6, 15 participants
- 2025 Workshop 'East Asian Futures', at DIJ Tokyo, with Ruhr-University Bochum, November 13, 15 participants
- 2024 International Workshop 'Imagined Futures in Japan & Beyond', at DIJ Tokyo, with DWIH Tokyo, 27 participants

Invited Presentations

- 2025 'Japan's Translation Culture between Innovation and Subordination. Retraced through 15 Retranslations of Thomas Mann's Tonio Kröger.' Conference *Thinking Between Languages* (MWS Stiftungskonferenz). Max Weber Stiftung. Paris, May
- 2025 'Japanese Metaverse Imaginaries.' Workshop *Friendship With AI*. Swissnex Japan. Swiss Pavilion, Expo Osaka, May
- 2025 'Metaverse Futures in Japan & Germany.' *Mittagsmagazin*. German Pavilion. Expo Osaka, May
- 2025 'Modeling Emerging Futures. Japanese Tech Imaginaries through Digital Corpora Analysis.' Oberseminar Digital Methods and Data in the Humanities @ Chair of Humanities Data Science and Methodology (HDSM). HDSM TU Darmstadt, February [online]
- 2025 'Humanizing (E)AI in XR? A Symbiotic Future for User Interfaces & Data Gathering.' *The Future of Artificial Intelligence*. Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University/KHK RWTH Aachen University, Tokyo, January

Conference Presentations

- 2026 ',Working the Metaverse. Labor Imaginaries & Japanese Sci-Fi.' JPP Workshop *Working Japan*. DIJ Tokyo, June

- 2025 ‚Imagineering the Future – Mapping Japan’s Corporate Imaginaries of Metaverse Sustainability.’ NZASIA International Conference *Comprehending the Past, Confronting the Future*. Auckland University, December
- 2025 Panel Organizer: ‘Reimagining the Past, Envisioning the Future: Technology, Globalization, and Societal Challenges in Japan and Asia’, with Celia Spoden & Dolf Neuhaus. NZASIA International Conference *Comprehending the Past, Confronting the Future*. Auckland University, December
- 2025 ‘Imagineering the Future – Mapping Japan’s Corporate Imaginaries of Metaverse Sustainability.’ Workshop *East Asian Futures*. DIJ Tokyo, November
- 2025 ‚Agentic AI im Metaverse – Beziehungen zur Künstlichen Intelligenz, antizipiert im japanischen Onlinediskurs.’ 19. Deutschsprachiger Japanologentag. Goethe Universität Frankfurt, August
- 2024 ‘Smart, Sustainable, Profitable? Imaginaries of sustainability in Japanese tech corporations’ metaverse initiatives.’ VSJF Annual Conference 2024. Berlin, November
- 2024 ‘Japan’s ‘New Extended Reality Era’ through the Lens of Future Imaginaries.’ *Imagined Futures in Japan and Beyond*. DIJ Tokyo, October
- 2024 ‚Japanische Thomas Mann-Rezeption zwischen Kulturheteronomie und Emanzipation – 100 Jahre japanische Tonio Kröger-Retranslation im Spiegel eines digitalen Topic Modeling.’ Spring Conference of the JGG [Japanese Association for German Studies]. Tokyo, June
- 2024 ‘Epistemic Potentials and Pitfalls of Scalability.’ *Exploring Epistemic Virtues and Vices: Data, Infrastructures, and Episteme between Collaboration and Exploitation*. Luxembourg University, March
- 2022 ‘Artificial Intelligence and the Literary Scholar – Epistemic potentials of NLP-based retranslation analysis.’ *Artificial Intelligence and the Human – Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Science and Fiction*. JDZB Berlin, May

Professional Service

Manuscript Reviews	<i>Contemporary Japan</i>
Proposal Review	Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)