

Robert Stolz

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Employment Assistant Professor of History, University of Tennessee August 2006-present

Education

Ph.D.	History, University of Chicago	Chicago, IL	August 2006
M.A.	History, University of Chicago	Chicago, IL	2000
B.A.	History, St. John's University	Collegeville, MN	1992

Manuscript *Bad Water: A Cultural History of Industrial Pollution in Japan*

This project connects the social to the environmental through an investigation of Japan's experience with industrial pollution in the late-nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Using scientific, philosophical, literary, and historical texts, I examine what I call Japan's "environmental turn" in thought and politics after 1900. The pollution of the late nineteenth century threatened the newly-won political freedoms during the Popular Rights and Liberty Movement of the 1870-80s. The realization that the environment was a necessary category of social thought undermined the self-contained, autonomous individual of classic and Meiji Utilitarianism. After 1900, for many thinkers, the search for new forms of social organization started with an investigation of nature. I argue that it was the emergence of industrial pollution that led to the reconceptualizing of nature as an alienated material environment that, for the first time, could then become the basis of a politics. Differing conceptions of this alienated nature underwrote the intense political, social, and cultural struggles of modern Japanese history, from flood-control politics, eminent domain, political ecology, literary expression, to Taisho-era (1912-26) "vitalism" (*seimeishughi*), a way of thought close to Deep Ecology. By paying attention to this history, this project recaptures and links it to conceptualizations of post-war pollution and high-growth economics as a way to reorganize modern Japanese history.

Awards and Fellowships

- Professional Development Award, University of Tennessee, 2007-8
- Japan Teaching Fellow, University of Chicago, 2005
- Dissertation Writing Fellowship, Center for East Asian Studies, University of Chicago, 2003-4
- Fulbright (IIE) Graduate Research Fellowship (Japan), 2001-3
- Toyota Teaching Assistant Fellow, 2000-1
- FLAS (Title VI) Japanese Fellowship, 1999-2000, renewed 2000-1
- University of Chicago fellowship, 1999-2003
- Passed with Distinction Ph.D. Field Examinations, 2000
- Vincent Tegeder Award for Outstanding Senior Thesis (History), St. John's University, Collegeville, MN 1992

Publications

- "Remake Politics, Not Nature: Tanaka Shōzō's Philosophies of 'Poison' and 'Flow' and Japan's Environment" in the refereed e-journal *Japan Focus*, 23 January 2007.
- "Nature over Nation: Tanaka Shōzō's fundamental river law;" *Japan Forum* 18:3 (2006). 417-37.
- Translation, Tosaka Jun's "The Principle of Everydayness and Historical Time" in *From Japan's Modernity: A Reader*. Select Papers vol. 11; Center for East Asian Studies, University of Chicago, 2002. 155-65.

Conferences & Invited Talks	<p>“The ‘Space of Everydayness’ and the Materialist View of History,” invited talk, Washington and Southeast Japan Seminar. Georgetown University, 25 May 2008.</p> <p>“Ashio’s Hokkaido Legacy: Snow Brand Dairy,” invited talk, Modern Japanese Workshop: Locating the Environment in Japanese History. Amherst College, 26 April 2008.</p> <p>“Tosaka Jun’s ‘On Space’ (1931) and the Materialist View of History,” AAS panel 54 “Re-reading Marxist Philosopher and Cultural Critic Tosaka Jun” with Ken Kawashima, Fabian Schaefer, Takeshi Kimoto, and H. D. Harootunian (discussant). Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, 4 April 2008.</p> <p>“Nature over Nation: Tanaka Shōzō’s Fundamental River Law,” AAS panel 110 “Ecology and the Industrial State: The Beginnings of Environmentalism in Modern Japan” with Brett Walker, Gregory Golley, and Julia Adeney Thomas (discussant). Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, 2 April 2005.</p> <p>“Nature over Nation: Tanaka Shōzō’s Philosophy of <i>Doku</i> and <i>Nagare</i>,” talk given to Department of History, University of Tennessee, 1 February 2006.</p> <p>“Beyond Benevolence: Tanaka Shōzō’s Environmental Turn,” talk given to Departments of History and Asian Languages and Civilizations, Amherst College, 11 February 2005.</p> <p>“Some Thoughts on the Materialism of Tosaka Jun,” Harvard East Asian Studies Graduate Conference, Cambridge, MA, April 2001.</p>																				
Teaching Experience	<p>University of Tennessee selected courses</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td><i>Hist 562: Modernization Theory and its Discontents</i> (Graduate Seminar)</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><i>Spring 2007</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Hist 476: Remembering the Asia-Pacific War (1931-45)</i></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><i>Autumn 2007</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Hist 262: A History of the Present: The World since 1500</i></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><i>Spring 2007, 08</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Hist 476: Modern Japanese Culture and Politics</i></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Hist 476: Bakumatsu-Ishin (Asia’s First Revolution)</i></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><i>Autumn 2006</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Hist 392: History of Japan</i></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>University of Chicago, Japan Teaching Fellowship</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td><i>Asia’s First Revolution</i></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><i>Winter 2005</i></td> </tr> </table> <p>Designed a new undergraduate course on the Meiji Renovation (1868) that incorporates theories of revolution into Japanese history in a fundamental way. The course had a strong historiographical component by reading Japanese history alongside classic texts on revolution and empire including Marx, de Tocqueville, Barrington Moore Jr., and Theda Skocpol forcing continued questioning of the meaning and nature of history, identity, and social change.</p> <p>DePaul University, Lecturer</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td><i>The Rise of Modern China</i></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><i>Winter 2005</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>The Rise of Modern Japan: 1800-1945</i></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><i>Winter 2004</i></td> </tr> </table> <p>University of Chicago, Toyota Teaching Assistant Fellow</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td><i>Introduction to Japanese Civilization</i></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><i>Winter 2001</i></td> </tr> </table>	<i>Hist 562: Modernization Theory and its Discontents</i> (Graduate Seminar)	<i>Spring 2007</i>	<i>Hist 476: Remembering the Asia-Pacific War (1931-45)</i>	<i>Autumn 2007</i>	<i>Hist 262: A History of the Present: The World since 1500</i>	<i>Spring 2007, 08</i>	<i>Hist 476: Modern Japanese Culture and Politics</i>		<i>Hist 476: Bakumatsu-Ishin (Asia’s First Revolution)</i>	<i>Autumn 2006</i>	<i>Hist 392: History of Japan</i>		<i>Asia’s First Revolution</i>	<i>Winter 2005</i>	<i>The Rise of Modern China</i>	<i>Winter 2005</i>	<i>The Rise of Modern Japan: 1800-1945</i>	<i>Winter 2004</i>	<i>Introduction to Japanese Civilization</i>	<i>Winter 2001</i>
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Service and Outreach	<p>Began Theory Reading Group for Graduate Students and faculty, University of Tennessee, 2007-8</p> <p>East Asian Search Committee, 2007-8</p> <p>“Another look at atom bombs,” guest column, <i>Knoxville News-Sentinel</i>, 18 Nov 2007</p> <p>Judge, National History Day Regional Finals, 2008</p> <p>Website and Publicity Committee, University of Tennessee, 2007-8</p> <p>Organizer and Editor, <i>From Japan’s Modernity: A Reader</i>. Select Papers vol. 11. Center for East Asian Studies, University of Chicago, 2002.</p> <p>Workshop Coordinator, “Japan in the World, the World in Japan,” <i>University of Chicago, 2000-1</i>.</p>																				

- Dissertation** 'Yanakagaku': *Pollution and Social Protest in Modern Japan* (University of Chicago, 2006)
Committee: Tetsuo Najita and James Ketelaar (co-chairs), Prasenjit Duara
- Professional Memberships** Association for Asian Studies (AAS)
American Society for Environmental History (ASEH)
- References** Tetsuo Najita, Depts. of History and East Asian Languages and Civilizations, emeritus, University of Chicago
James Ketelaar Depts. of History and East Asian Languages and Civilizations, University of Chicago
Norma Field, Dept. of East Asian Languages and Civilizations, University of Chicago
Julia Thomas, Associate Professor, Dept. of History, University of Notre Dame
Brett Walker, Professor and Chair, Dept. of History and Philosophy, Montana State University