

Editor's Introduction

We are pleased to announce the publication of a new academic journal on Japanese philosophy, the *European Journal of Japanese Philosophy* (EJJP). As the official academic organ of the European Network of Japanese Philosophy (ENOJP), it aims to provide a multilingual platform for thinkers, critics, and scholars engaged in what is broadly construed as Japanese philosophy. To reflect the diversity of the European academic world and encourage participation from around the world, the Editorial Board welcomes contributions in English, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Romanian, Spanish, and Japanese.

As the parent association of the journal, the ENOJP has a short but already remarkable history. Until 2014, there were only small pockets of scholars working on Japanese philosophy in Europe, centered mainly at the University of Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona, INALCO in Paris, the University of Hildesheim in Germany, Tallinn University in Estonia, and University College Cork in Ireland. Existing divisions among European academics, generally defined by national and linguistic borders, as well as a prevalent consensus against including “philosophies” outside the confines of the Western intellectual tradition have prohibited these fringe activities from being acknowledged as anything more than a surprising but negligible anomaly.

Among the generation of younger scholars who had made a home on this periphery, the growing awareness of colleagues around Europe generated an interest in sharing research and seeking solutions to common problems. Our dissatisfaction at being shunted into a small corner of existing academic gatherings, where the reception was generally unconstructive and in some cases hostile, was compounded by the difficulty of publishing our work in mainstream journals. This was particularly the case with Japanese academics who are accustomed to greater liberty in the length of their submissions.

Given this situation, more and more young scholars working in the area of Japanese philosophy have made efforts to communicate their concerns

and dreams with each other. The desire for an academic base to discuss their research and make it available to a wider audience through publication led to the formal establishment of the ENOJP in November of 2014. The first of a series of annual, Europe-wide conferences on Japanese philosophy was held at the University of Pompeu Fabra in December of 2015, where the decision was taken to launch the academic journal dedicated to the field, which you now have in your hands.



As editors of the EJJP, we feel it our duty to lay out before readers and authors our motives for inaugurating this new academic journal in its present form. Simple as that sounds, it is not without its contradictions.

The first motive is the most idealistic: to publish in printed form a substantial body of solid academic work in the field of Japanese philosophy. We mean this in its full and literal sense. To publish involves more than collecting, reviewing, and editing the work of scholars in the field. The intended audience must have reasonable access to the results before they can be said to have been “published.” Simply put, if the means of production and distribution impose conditions that keep authors from their public, the journal shall have forfeited its guiding idealism.

The second motive, though not always applicable, is more practical in nature: to promote the academic careers of the contributors. The reality is that advancement in an academic career is determined in large part by published research. The obligations of a professional journal do not stop with maintaining its own standards. Respect for its authors also requires that it secure recognition within the academic establishment that measures suitability for promotion. The simplest way to achieve this is to associate with a respected publishing house or university department whose name will imply that acceptable standards are being met. The harder choice is to go it alone in the hopes that the contents of the journal and the reputation of the authors associated with it will be enough to merit recognition in the field. Our reasons for taking this route need some explaining.

Affiliation with an existing university department would require both a long-term commitment and the guaranteed employment of competent editors. Japanese philosophy is still too much in its infancy in Western academia, there are not enough specialists with permanent posts to war-

rant hope of anchoring a professional journal in a single department. This leaves us with the mainline publishing houses who have been taking on the responsibility for academic journals new and old over the past decade and more—which brings us to the next point.

The third motive is economic: to profit from the venture enough to cover the costs of production and distribution, but also enough to allow for delayed open access for those who cannot afford the journal on a regular basis. This may seem a rather naïve business model, but actually it is not as naïve as outsourcing the journal, in which case we would have to pay production costs, would have no share in profits from subscriptions, would be prohibited from offering it online for free, and would relinquish all digital rights and accompanying income. In addition, with pricing left to the discretion of publishers and given our limited audience, the journal is sure to be priced out of the range of ordinary scholars and students. And with that, we would have abandoned our founding ideal.

Finally, our aims for the journal are all subject to a technical motive: to satisfy the scrupulous demands of typesetting in multiple languages, to preserve an aesthetic appearance, and to allow for correction of errors and misprints before and after publication.

For all of these reasons, we have decided to produce the *European Journal of Japanese Philosophy* print-on-demand. Not only will this make it available around the world hours after completion at no printing cost to us, we will be able lower the price by about 500 percent of the going rate and still generate enough income to cover the various expenses involved in the editorial and typesetting process. By the second year, we plan to sign contracts for digital distribution that will allow us to pursue an open access policy and generate additional monies which will allow us to pay translators and proofreaders who are working gratis to get the journal off the ground.

We ask for your support and encourage you to contribute to this new venture both by contributing your work and making the journal known.

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