

# Alice Y. Tseng

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## Education

**Harvard University** PhD, History of Art and Architecture  
Dissertation: "Art in Place: The Display of Japan at the Imperial Museums, 1872-1909"  
(Advisors: Eugene Wang, Cherie Wendelken)

**University of Tokyo** Visiting Researcher, Department of Architecture (Sponsor: Suzuki Hiroyuki)

**Harvard University** MA, History of Art and Architecture

**Columbia University** BA, Architecture / *magna cum laude, phi beta kappa*

## Employment

2020-present **Boston University** Professor, History of Art and Architecture

2010-20 **Boston University** Associate Professor, History of Art and Architecture

2004-10 **Boston University** Assistant Professor, History of Art and Architecture

Department Chair, 2016-2021  
Department Director of Architectural Studies, Spring 2016  
Department Associate Chair, 2011-12, 2013-14  
Department Director of Graduate Studies, 2009-10, 2010-11

## Selected fellowships, grants, and distinctions

July 2021 Kenneth B. Pyle Prize for the Best Article in the *Journal of Japanese Studies* (for the article "Imperial Portraiture and Popular Print Media in Early Twentieth-Century Japan")

Dec 2016 Special Invitation Professor, International Master's Program in Japanese Humanities (IMAP), Kyushu University (supported by Progress 100 World Premier International Researcher Invitation Program)

2016 Graduate Student History of Art & Architecture Association (GSHAAA) Faculty Award

Fall 2015 Jeffrey Henderson Senior Research Fellowship, Boston University Center for the Humanities

2013-14 Rafik B. Hariri Institute for Computing and Computational Science and Engineering Fellowship (for the project Mapping the City in the Digital Humanities: First Stop Kyoto)

2012-13 ACLS (American Council of Learned Societies) Fellowship

2012 Research Travel Grant, Northeast Asia Council of the Association for Asian Studies

2011 Metropolitan Center for Far Eastern Art Studies Individual Grant

2010 Graduate Student Art History Association (GSAHA) Faculty Award

2006-07 J. Paul Getty Postdoctoral Research Fellowship

2006 Society of Architectural Historians Founder's Award (for the article "Styling Japan: The Case of Josiah Conder and the Museum at Ueno, Tokyo")

2003-04 Harvard University Graduate Society Dissertation Completion Fellowship

2002-03 Ittleson Fellowship, Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts, National Gallery

2000-02 Fulbright Grant (for doctoral dissertation research in Japan; affiliation with University of Tokyo)

## Publications

### Books

2018 **Modern Kyoto: Building for Ceremony and Commemoration, 1868-1940**  
Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press.  
reviewed in *Journal of Urban History, The Historian, Pacific Affairs, Journal of Asian Humanities at Kyushu University, History, Japanese Studies, The Art Bulletin*

2016 **Kyoto Visual Culture in the Early Edo and Meiji Periods: The Arts of Reinvention**  
 (co-edited with Morgan Pitelka) London: Routledge.  
 reviewed in *Journal of Japanese Studies*, *caareviews*, *Journal of Asian Studies*

2008 **The Imperial Museums of Meiji Japan: Architecture and the Art of the Nation**  
 Seattle: University of Washington Press.  
 Reviewed in *Journal of Asian Studies*, *Journal of Japanese Studies*, *caareviews*, *Monumental Nipponica*, *Museum Anthropology Review*, *Journal of the History of Collections*

#### Refereed articles and chapters

*In progress* "The Imperial Family as Paradigm for Marriage and the Modern Home." In *An Emotional Revolution: Loves and Loyalties in Imperial Japan*, edited by Miriam Wattles, Mark Jones, and Robert Tierney.

*Submitted* "Heisei High Architecture as Soft Power." In *Japan in the Heisei Era (1989-2019): Multidisciplinary Perspectives*, edited by Noriko Murai, Jeff Kingston, and Tina Burrett. Under contract with Routledge for publication in 2021.

2020 "Imperial Portraiture and Popular Print Media in Early Twentieth-Century Japan." *Journal of Japanese Studies* (summer 2020): 305-344. (winner of JJS Kenneth B. Pyle Prize)

2016 Pitelka, Morgan and Alice Y. Tseng. "Introduction." In *Kyoto Visual Culture in the Early Edo and Meiji Periods: The Arts of Reinvention*, edited by Morgan Pitelka and Alice Y. Tseng, 1-15. London: Routledge.

2016 "Urban Parks and Imperial Memory: The Formation of Kyoto Imperial Garden and Okazaki Park as Sites of Cultural Revival." In *Kyoto Visual Culture in the Early Edo and Meiji Periods: The Arts of Reinvention*, 91-116. London: Routledge.

2012 "In Defense of Kenchiku: Itō Chūta's Theorization of Architecture as a Fine Art in the Meiji Period." *The Review of Japanese Culture and Society* 24 (2012): 155-167.

2012 "The Retirement of Kyoto as Imperial Capital." *The Court Historian – The International Journal of Court Studies* 17.2 (December 2012): 209-223.

2009 "Josiah Conder and Early English-Language Historiography of Japanese Architecture." In *Kenchikushikō*, edited by the Committee for the Publication in Honor of Professor Hiroyuki Suzuki, 371-378. Tokyo: Chuo Koron Bijutsu Shuppan.

2009 "Domon Ken's Murōji." In "Pictures and Things: Bridging Visual and Material Culture in Japan." Special issue, *Impressions* (March 2009): 114-18.

2008 "Kuroda Seiki's Morning Toilette on Exhibition in Modern Kyoto." *The Art Bulletin* (September 2008): 417-40.

2004 "Styling Japan: The Case of Josiah Conder and the Museum at Ueno, Tokyo." *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* (December 2004): 472-97. (winner of SAH Founder's Award)

#### Invited articles and chapters

2021 "A Visual Revolution: The Emperor in Popular *Nishiki-e*." In *Fanning the Flames: Propaganda in Modern Japan*, edited by Kaoru Ueda, 64-79. Stanford, Calif.: Hoover Institution Press.

2017 "Of Emperor and Empire: Architectural Constructions of Imperial Japan." In *Nineteenth-Century Architecture*. Vol. 2 of *The Companions to the History of Architecture*, edited by Martin Bressani and Christina Contandriopoulos, 629-643. Chichester, West Sussex: John Wiley & Sons.

2015 "Refracted Copies of the Imperial City and the Great Audience Hall in East Asia." In *Architecture RePerformed: The Politics of Reconstruction*, edited by Tino Mager, 97-115. Farnham, Surrey: Ashgate.

2010 "Kuroda Seiki no 'Chosho' to Daiyonkai Naikoku Kangyo Hakurankai" (Kuroda Seiki's 'Chosho' and the Fourth National Industrial Exhibition). *Cross Sections* (published by the Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto) (2010): 74-79.

### Book reviews and review essays

Submitted Review of *Earthquake Children: Building Resilience from Ruins of Tokyo*, by Janet Borland for *Journal of Social History*

Submitted Review of *Lost Histories: Recovering the Lives of Japan's Colonial Peoples*, by Kirsten Ziomek for *American Historical Review*

2021 Review of *Japan's Castles: Citadels of Modernity in War and Peace*, by Oleg Benesch and Ran Zwigenberg for *Journal of Japanese Studies*, (winter 2021): 167-172.

2018 "From Modern to Contemporary: Cataloging Recent Histories of Architecture and Urbanism in Asia." Review of *Kiyonori Kikutake: Between Land and Sea*, ed. Ken Oshima; *A Japanese Constellation: Toyo Ito, Kazuyo Sejima, SANAA, Ryue Nishizawa, Sou Fujimoto, Akihisa Hirata, Junya Ishigami*, eds. Pedro Gadanho and Phoebe Springstubb; *Megacities Asia*, eds. Al Miner and Laura Weinstein. *Journal of Urban History* 44, no. 6 (November 2018): 1258-1264.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0096144218794599>.

2016 Review of *Painting Circles: Tsuchida Bakusen and Nihonga Collectives in Early Twentieth Century Japan*, by John D. Szostak. *Journal of Japanese Studies* (Winter 2016): 152-156.

2012 Review of *In Pursuit of Universalism: Yorozu Tetsugorō and Japanese Modern Art*, by Alicia Volk. *International Journal of Asian Studies* 9, no. 1 (January 2012): 136-139.

2011 Review of *International Architecture in Interwar Japan: Constructing Kokusai Kenchiku*, by Ken Tadashi Oshima. *caareviews* (7 January 2011), <http://www.caareviews.org/reviews/1572>.

2009 Review of *What's the Use of Art?: Asian Visual and Material Culture in Context*, edited by Jan Mrazek and Morgan Pitelka. *Ars Orientalis* 36 (2006) [published in 2009]: 248-56.

2006 Review of *Common Ground: The Japanese American National Museum and the Culture of Collaborations*, edited by Akemi Kikumura-Yano, Lane Ryo Hirabayashi, and James A. Hirabayashi. *CRM: The Journal of Heritage Stewardship* 3, no. 2 (summer 2006): 177-78.

### Digital publications and projects

2020 **Interview:** "Rethinking Kyoto Tourism." Interview by Alice Tseng with Jennifer Prough, BUCSA Forum 2020 series. Video, 5 April 2020. <http://www.bu.edu/asian/2020/04/16/rethinking-kyoto-tourism-with-dr-jennifer-prough/>.

2016-18 **Online exhibit:** "Tracing the Japanese Pavilion at the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago." *Asia at the World's Fairs*. <https://www.asiaworldsfairs.org/architecture>. (exhibition that presents the prehistory, presence, and impact of the Japanese pavilion at the 1893 Chicago fair)

2018 **Interview:** "Episode 51—Foundations of modern architecture." Interview by Tristan Grunow with Alice Tseng, *The Meiji at 150 Podcast*. Podcast audio, 14 August 2018.  
<https://meijiat150.arts.ubc.ca/podcast/>.

2013-present **Digital humanities project:** "Mapping Kyoto." (ongoing project, to take the form of an online guide and database, that maps references in literature, film, art, and fashion to specific urban spaces and architecture of Kyoto; funded by the Rafik B. Hariri Institute for Computing and Computational Science and Engineering, Boston University)

### Other

2020 "Going for Gold." *ArchitectureBoston* (January-March 2020).  
<https://www.architects.org/stories/going-for-gold>

2016 "Wolf-Dieter Dube, 2002-03." In *A Generous Vision II: Samuel H. Kress Professors, 1995-2016*, edited by Therese O'Malley, 44-47. Washington, D.C.: Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts (CASVA).

2014 "Japan: Modernization." In *Architecture—The Whole Story*, edited by Denna Jones, 342-345. London: Thames & Hudson.

2008 "Architecture: East Asia." In *Encyclopedia of the Modern World*, edited by Peter Stearns, 203-204. Vol. 1. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

2008 "Architecture: Domestic Architecture in East Asia." In *Encyclopedia of the Modern World*, edited by Peter Stearns, 204-205. Vol. 1. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

## Curatorial work

2018-19 Consultant for the exhibit “Royal Celebrations in Japan: Prints and Postcards.” Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, February-July 2019.

2016-18 Curator of the online exhibit “Tracing the Japanese Pavilion at the 1893 World’s Columbian Exposition in Chicago.” *Asia at the World’s Fairs*. <https://www.asiaworldsfairs.org/architecture>.

## Invited lectures and presentations

April 2021 “Building Ancient Memory in Modern Kyoto.” Seattle Art Museum

February 2021 “Rethinking Encounter and Exchange through Japanese Pavilion Designs.” IMAP and IDOC in Japanese Humanities, Kyushu University

October 2020 “A Modern History of Kyoto: From Imperial City to World City to World Heritage City.” College of Architecture, Texas Tech University

January 2020 “Emperor Taishō, Mass Media Monarch: Portraits and Popular Imagery in Twentieth-Century Japan.” History of Art & Architecture Lecture Series, Boston University

November 2019 “*Staging the Emperor in Modern Kyoto: Enthronements, Exhibitions, and More.*” Burke Center for Japanese Art, Columbia University

October 2019 “*The Making of Okazaki Park: Herding History, Art, and Animals in Modern Kyoto.*” Asian Studies Program, Bridgewater State University

October 2019 “*Modern Kyoto.*” Williamson Gallery, Scripps College

May 2019 “*Modern Kyoto as Research Subject.*” Department of Design and Architecture, Kyoto Institute of Technology

April 2019 “*Kyoto, A Modern Imperial City.*” East Asian Archaeology Forum, Boston University

April 2019 “*Visual Representations of Modern Kyoto.*” Wellesley College.

March 2019 “*Visual Representations of Modern Kyoto.*” Hood Museum, Dartmouth College.

September 2017 “A Park for Many Reasons: Herding History, Art, and Animals in Modern Kyoto.” GSHAAA Guest Scholar Lecture Series, Boston University

December 2016 “Kyoto in Transition: An Imperial City Redefined in Meiji and Taishō Periods.” Kyushu University (Japan)

November 2014 “And the Bride Wore White: Japanese Crown Prince Yoshihito’s Modern Wedding as National Spectacle.” ASIABU Tea talk, Boston University

April 2014 “Creating National Art, Constructing National Art Museums in Modern Japan.” 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Harvey Buchanan Lecture, Case Western Reserve University/Cleveland Museum of Art

February 2011 “The Japanese Museum: How Japanese? How Global?” Ellison Lecture, Wheaton College

February 2011 “Caught between a World City and a World Heritage City: Lessons from the Kyoto Station Building Competition.” University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

December 2010 “The Invention of the Jidai Matsuri in Modern Kyoto.” ASIABU Tea talk, Boston University

April 2010 “Old Capital, Modern Century: Evidence of Age and Time in Kyoto Architecture.” UMass Boston

November 2009 “On Exhibition in Modern Kyoto.” National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto

May 2008 “A Meditation on Interpretative Methods for Architectural History, or How to Talk About Buildings You Haven’t Seen.” Art History Guest Scholar Lecture Series, Boston University

April 2008 “Cultural Modernization and Revitalization: Modern Kyoto as Case Study.” Harvard Project for Asian and International Relations (HPAIR) conference

November 2007 Gallery talk for the exhibition “Chikanobu: Modernity and Nostalgia in Japanese Prints.” Boston University Art Gallery

March 2007 “An Analysis of Kuroda Seiki’s Morning Toilette at the Fourth National Industrial Exhibition.” New England East Asian Art History Seminar, Harvard University

November 2006 “The Imperial Museums of Meiji Japan.” Humanities Center, Stanford University

November 2006 “1895: Kyoto and the Navigation of Japanese Art History.” Center for Japanese Studies, University of California, Berkeley

March 2006 “Preservation and Invention: Japan’s Imperial Museums in the Modern Period.” East Asia Seminar, Boston University

November 2004 "Styling the Nation: Identity and Ambivalence in Josiah Conder's Design for the Museum of Japan." Department of Art and Art History, Tufts University

### Conference and symposium participation

February 2020 Discussant for the panel "Locality and Memory in East Asian Art." College Art Association Annual Meeting, Chicago

December 2019 "The Imperial Family as Paradigm for Marriage and the Modern Home: Designing the Akasaka Palace and the Prince Asaka Residence." Workshop: "An Emotional Revolution: Loves and Loyalty in Imperial Japan," UC Santa Barbara

March 2019 "The Look of Heisei." Presenter in the session "Heisei Becomes History: The Relevance of the Imperial Reign Calendrical System in Twentieth-First-Century Japan." Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Denver

November 2018 "Writing Japan into Architectural History—Looking In and Looking Out." Conference: "A World of Architectural History," Bartlett School of Architecture, London

September 2018 "Archetypes, Hybrids, and Novelties: Exhibition Architecture in the Meiji Period." Symposium: "Philadelphia and Meiji Japan," Penn Forum on Japan, University of Pennsylvania

April 2018 "The Kyoto Imperial Palace as Cultural Relic." Society of Architectural Historians Annual Meeting, St. Paul (MN)

February 2018 Respondent for Taiwan Forum 2018 "Museums, Qing 'Global Art', and the Preservation of Cultural Heritage in Taiwan and China Today." Boston University

April 2017 Discussant for the conference "Art in Taiwan." Brandeis University

February 2017 "Taishō Beyond Portraiture: Monuments, Monumental Spaces, and Imperial Representation." College Art Association Annual Meeting, New York

November 2016 "Architecture and the Genji Legacy in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries." Symposium: "Worlds of *The Tale of Genji*," Boston University.

April 2016 Chair of the session "Gifting Architecture." Society of Architectural Historians Annual Meeting, Pasadena

October 2015 "The Visual Culture of Japan's Modern Monarchy." Symposium: "Histories of Japanese Art and Its Global Contexts," University of Heidelberg

May 2015 "The Persistent Imperial Portrait: Emperor Taishō as Multifarious Icon." Symposium: "Photography and the Art of East Asia," University of Chicago

April 2014 "Refracted Copies of Lost Antiquity: Re-Creating the Imperial Audience Hall in Contemporary East Asia." Society of Architectural Historians Annual Meeting, Austin (TX)

March 2014 Presenter in the session "Unbinding 'Japanese Architecture'." Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Philadelphia

September 2013 "Beyond National Representation at the National Art Museums of Japan." Symposium: "Is Asia One: Towards a Pan-Asian Art History," Asian Civilisations Museum, Singapore

September 2013 Discussant for the colloquium "(Un)Building Colonial Space in Korea, 1910-1945." Harvard Graduate School of Design

March 2012 "Okazaki Park as Kyoto's Modern Center." Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Toronto

March 2012 "Wood in Traditional Japanese Architecture." Conference: "Wood in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century," M.I.T.

April 2011 "Kyoto Station as Cultural Gateway and Egress." Society of Architectural Historians Annual Meeting, New Orleans

November 2010 "The Retirement of Kyoto as a Working Capital in the Early Modern and Modern Periods." Workshop: "Leisure and the State," Boston University

October 2009 Presenter in the roundtable session "Japan as Site and Source of Architectural Hybridity and Modernity." Association for Asian Studies New England Conference, Providence

April 2009 "Theorizing Architecture as Fine Art in the Meiji Period." Workshop: "Okakura Kakuzo and Meiji Japan," Harvard University

April 2009 "Modern Kyoto as Millenial Capital: The Historical Pageant and the Spatial Unfolding of Time." Society of Architectural Historians Annual Meeting, Pasadena

March 2009 "Building Concepts in the Meiji Period: Theorizing Architecture as a Fine Art." Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Chicago

September 2006 "The Nude in the Room: On Public Exhibition in Modern Kyoto." Symposium: "Promoting and Resisting Westernization in Meiji Japan," Scripps College

April 2006 Organizer of the panel "Exhibiting Ueno: Spaces of Enlightenment in Modern Tokyo." Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, San Francisco

April 2006 "What's in a Name? What's in a Space? The Hakubutsukan and Bijutsukan of Ueno." Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, San Francisco

February 2006 Co-chair of the session "Defining the Arts: The Works of All Nations and an International Taxonomy." College Art Association Annual Conference, Boston

May 2007 "Postwar Serenity and Loss in Domon Ken's Portrait of Kannon." Symposium: "Objects and Images: Exploring Visual and Material Culture in Japan—Honoring the Work of Henry D. Smith II," Columbia University

April 2005 "The Art of Building for Art: Universal Ideals in a Modern Design for Nara." Society of Architectural Historians Annual Meeting, Vancouver

### Symposia organized

November 2016 Co-organizer of the symposium "Worlds of *The Tale of Genji*." Boston University

### Teaching

*Survey lectures* AH225, Arts of Asia; AH326, Arts of Japan; AH328, Modern Japanese Architecture

*Seminars* AH532, Japanese Print Culture; AH820, Kyoto Art and Architecture; AH531, Topic 1: Tokyo, City and Concept; AH531, Topic 2: Japan on Display

### Professional service

#### Departmental

2016-2021 Chair

Spring 2016 Director of Architectural Studies

2014-16 Faculty Advisor, *Sequitur* ([www.bu.edu/sequitur](http://www.bu.edu/sequitur)), electronic journal published by the graduate students of BU History of Art & Architecture)

2014-17 Fund Manager, endowed funds for graduate student research and travel in the Department of History of Art and Architecture

2014-15 Member, Curriculum Committee

2014-15 Member, Modern Architecture Search Committee

2011-12, 13-14 Associate Chair

Spring 2011 Chair, Mamie Hyatt Memorial Book Prize Committee

2009-11 Director of Graduate Studies

2007-present Member, Architectural Studies Committee

2006-07 Member, Ad-hoc Non-Western Curriculum Committee

2005-06 Member, Islamic Art Search Committee

2005-06 Graduate Studies Committee

#### College- and University-wide

Spring 2021 Chair, BU Center for the Humanities Consultation Committee

2017-18 Selection committee member, Lingzi Lu Memorial Artwork for the Alan and Sherry Leventhal Center Plaza, Boston University

Spring 2017 Dean's Advisory Committee, College of Arts and Sciences

2015-present Board member, Boston University Center for the Study of Asia (BUCSA)

2014 Member, NEH Distinguished Teaching Professor Selection Committee

2008-11 Member, Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) Faculty Advisory Committee

2009-11 Member, Graduate Research Abroad Fellowship (GRAF) Award Committee, Graduate School of Art and Sciences

2008-09 Humanities Curriculum Committee, College of Arts and Sciences

2005-06 Graduate Student Organization Travel Grant Award Committee, College of Arts and Sciences

#### External

2020-present Editorial Board Member, *Journal of Japanese Studies*

2020-present Elected Member, Northeast Asia Council, Association for Asian Studies

2020-2021 Editorial Board Member, *ArchitectureBoston* (journal of the Boston Society for Architecture)

2019 Member, *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* Editor-in-chief Search Committee

2018-present Editorial Board Member, *Arts* (peer-reviewed journal)

2017, 2018, 2019 Reviewer, Getty/ACLS Postdoctoral Fellowships in the History of Art

2016 Chair, *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* Editor-in-chief Search Committee

2015-19 Member, *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* Editorial Advisory Committee

2013, 2014 Second Vice President, Society of Architectural Historians, New England Chapter

2012-15 Member, Selection Committee for John Coolidge Research Fellowship and Robert Rettig Student

Annual Meeting Fellowship, Society of Architectural Historians

2013 Member, Selection Committee for Founders' Award, *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*

2012 Member, Society of Architectural Historians, New England Chapter, Board of Directors

2006-08 Secretary, Japan Art History Forum (JAHF)

#### Peer review

Books University of California Press, University of Chicago Press, Oxford University Press, Wiley, Brill

Articles *Artibus Asiae*; *International Journal of Cultural Studies*; *Japan Review*; *Monumenta Nipponica*; *Nineteenth Century Art Worldwide*; *Positions: East Asia Cultures Critique*; *Archives of Asian Art*; *TAP Review*; *Journal of Asian Humanities* (Kyushu University); *Buildings & Landscapes: Journal of the Vernacular Architecture Forum*; *Cross-Currents: East Asian History and Culture Review*; *Japan Forum*; *U.S.-Japan Women's Journal*; *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*; *Journal of Asian Architecture and Building Engineering*

#### Media

Expert consult *Los Angeles Times* (April 2018); *New York Times Style Magazine* (August 2019); *boston.com* (August 2020); *Explained* documentary series (August 2020); HBO (June/July 2021)

Interview/quote *Los Angeles Times* (7 April 2018); *The Brink* (BU publication) (9 July 2019)

#### Professional development

June 2021 HERS (Higher Education Resources Services) Leadership Institute

#### Affiliations

AAS Association for Asian Studies

CAA College Art Association

JAHF Japan Art History Forum

RIJS Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies, Harvard University

SAH Society of Architectural Historians