

Rachel Serena Levine

rslevine@ucsb.edu

Education

PhD Candidate, East Asian Languages and Cultural Studies, 2020

University of California, Santa Barbara

Advisor: Dr. Sabine Frühstück

Dissertation: "Rape, Resistance, and Revision: Sexual Violence Law and Social Change in Japan"

Committee: Dr. Sabine Frühstück, Dr. Alison Brysk, Dr. Suma Ikeuchi

Master of Arts, Asian Studies, 2019

Florida International University, Miami, FL

Bachelors of Arts, East Asian Languages & Cultures, 2017

Minors: International Relations and Psychology

University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA

Language Skills

Japanese

- Conversational, writing, and comprehension proficiency
- Japanese Language Proficiency Test N2

Awards and Honors

- **Fukushima-Fulbright Japan Graduate Research Fellow**, 2023 – 24
- **Central Fellowship**, University of California, Santa Barbara, 2020 – 2025
- **Excellence in Research Award**, Florida International University, 2019
- **Emma Josephine Bradley Bovard Award**, University of Southern California, 2017
- **Renaissance Scholar**, University of Southern California, 2017
- **Order of Troy**, University of Southern California, 2017

Research Experience

Book Consultant for Dr. Steven Heine, 2018 – Present

- Books on Zen Buddhism and translation of Dōgen poetry and commentary
- Help with verifying translation and editing phrasing
- Created indexes and glossaries for various manuscripts

Graduate Research Panel, Florida International University, January 2019

- Planned and hosted panel for Freedom Week at FIU
- Panel focused on human trafficking research

Copy and Production Assistant for Japan Studies Review 2019, 2018 – 2019

- Journal focusing on Japan and Japanese Studies
- Help edit submissions for Journal

Thesis Research, 2017 – 2019

- Topic: Sex Trafficking of Japanese Citizens
- Focuses on historical and sociological factors that facilitate the lack of acknowledgement of sex trafficking of Japanese women domestically

Publications

- **Under Review**. "Dubious consent: 'quasi-rape' in the Japanese courts." *Journal of Gender Studies*
- **Under Contract**. "Consent on Trial: Legal and Social Implications of Consent in Sexual Violence Law." *Women in Power in Japan* ed. Emma Dalton.
- **(2020)**. "Behind the Shoji Screen: Sex Trafficking of Japanese Citizens." *Japan Studies Review*, 24, pp. 61-83.

Conference Presentations

- **2025 Association of Asian Studies**, “Legally Aligned, Practically Divergent: Japan’s Rape Law and Human Rights Standards”
 - Panel Entitled: Politics, Policy, and Praxis: The Use of “Human Rights” in Japan
 - Chair and Organizer
- **2023 Association of Asian Studies-in-Asia**, “Beyond the Black Box: The (In)visibility of Sexual Violence in Japanese News Media”
 - Panel entitled: Gender-Based Violence across Asia and the Diaspora
- **2022 International Communication Association**, “Beyond the Black Box: Sexual Violence and Japanese Media”
 - Panel entitled: Transnational Perspectives on the History of Media and Sexuality

Guest Lectures

- **2024** Colby College, “Consent in Question: Social and Legal Implications of Mistaken Consent”
- **2023** Sophia University, “Sexual Violence and Social Change: Japan’s Local Praxis in Global Context”
- **2019** Florida International University, “Behind the Shōji: Sex Trafficking of Japanese Citizens”
- **2018** Florida International University, “Sex Trafficking in Japan”
- **2017** Florida International University, “Erotic Japanese Prints and Sexuality in the Edo Period”

Teaching History

- **Teaching Assistant**, University of California, Santa Barbara, September 2025 – Present
 - First year Japanese language
- **Adjunct Lecturer**, Florida International University, August 2019 – 2023, August 2024 – Present
 - ASN 3202 Japanese Anime and Manga: Sociological view of how anime and manga represent aspects of Japan. Questions “What can we learn about Japan from these forms of media?”
- **Teaching Assistant**, University of California, Santa Barbara, September 2021 – June 2022
 - Re-Inventing the Samurai, Pre-Modern Asian Traditions, Modern Asian Traditions
- **Teaching Assistant**, Florida International University, August 2017 – May 2019
 - Introduction to East Asia, Japanese Culture and Society, Dynamics of Asia, Graduate Intro to Modern Asia, Graduate Asian Religion, Graduate Media Seminar, Graduate Masters Seminar
- **Translation Workshop**, Florida International University, February 2019
 - Lecture on translation methods and common issues with translation
 - Led group in Japanese translation activity
- **Japanese Language Tutor**, Florida International University, January – May 2019
 - Volunteer as language tutor at language lab
 - 2 hours a week
- **Japanese Conversation Clinic**, Florida International University, January – May 2019
 - Helped lead conversation workshop every Friday
 - Supplement in-class language learning
 - Devised and lead activities to aid in conversation skills

Internships

- **Research Intern, Global Perspectives Office**, University of Central Florida, May 2012 – August 2012
 - Wrote briefs regarding human trafficking
 - Prepared a timeline and annotated bibliography on International Women’s Issues