

MORGAN PITELKA

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Jointly Affiliated, Department of History, Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies  
UNC-Chapel Hill

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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2022-present, Bernard L. Herman Distinguished Professor, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill (UNC)

## EDUCATION

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2001, Princeton University, PhD, East Asian Studies Dept.

1998-99, Kyoto University, visiting researcher, Japanese History

## HONORS AND GRANTS

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2024, Faculty Fellowship, Institute for the Arts and Humanities, UNC

2017, Faculty Fellowship, Institute for the Arts and Humanities, UNC

2011-2012, National Humanities Center Fellowship

2007-2008, NEH Fellowship

1999-2000, Santokuan Fellowship

1998-99, Fulbright-IIE Grant

1998, Smithsonian Predoctoral Fellowship, Freer and Sackler Galleries

1994-95, Watson Fellowship

## PUBLICATIONS

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### BOOKS

*Reading Medieval Ruins: Urban Life and Destruction in Sixteenth-Century Japan*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2022. International Convention of Asia Scholars – Book Prize, Humanities Books, Longlist. John Whitney Hall Book Prize, Honorable Mention.

*Letters from Japan's Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries*, with Tanimura Reiko and Takashi Masuda. Berkeley, CA: University of California, Berkeley, Institute of East Asian Studies, 2021. William F. Sibley Memorial Award for Japanese Translation, Honorable Mention.

*Japanese Art: Critical and Primary Sources*. Editor. 4 volumes. *Material Cultures; Visual Cultures; Printed Matter; and Sites and Patrons, Knowledge and Power*. London: Bloomsbury, 2018.

*Spectacular Accumulation: Material Culture, Tokugawa Ieyasu, and Samurai Sociability*. Honolulu, HI: University of Hawai'i Press, 2015. 2016 Book Prize, Southeastern Conference of the Association of Asian Studies, Winner

*Handmade Culture: Raku Potters, Patrons, and Tea Practitioners in Japan.* Honolulu, HI: University of Hawai'i Press, 2005.

*Japanese Tea Culture: Art, History, and Practice.* Editor. London and New York: Routledge, 2003.

#### CO-EDITED WORKS

*Kyoto Visual Culture in the Early Edo and Meiji Periods: The Arts of Reinvention.* Co-editor with Alice Tseng. London and New York: Routledge, 2016.

*What's the Use of Art? Asian Visual and Material Culture in Context.* Co-editor with Jan Mrazek. Honolulu, HI: University of Hawai'i Press, 2007.

*Journal of Japanese Studies*  
Coeditor of 12 issues to date

#### BOOK CHAPTERS

“Beyond the Momoyama Mythohistory: Situating Japan in Social and Global Contexts.” In Anton Schweizer and Mimi Yeungpraksawan, eds. *Beyond the Southern Barbarians.* Brill, under review.

“The Environmental and Material Foundations of Kyoto.” In Joshua Schlachet and William Hedberg, eds. *Interdisciplinary Edo: New Perspectives on Early Modern Japan.* Routledge, under review.

“The End of Civil War and the Formation of the Early Modern State in Japan.” In David L. Howell, ed., *Early Modern Japan in Asia and the World.* Volume 2 of *The New Cambridge History of Japan.* Cambridge University Press, 2024, 15-57.

“The Life and Afterlife of Tokugawa Ieyasu (1543-1616).” In Gary P. Leupp and De-min Tao, eds., *The Tokugawa World.* Routledge, 2021, 46-60.

“Name and Fame: Material Objects as Authority, Security, and Legacy” in Mary Elizabeth Berry and Marcia Yonemoto, ed., *What is a Family? Answers from Early Modern Japan.* University of California Press, 2019, 109-125.

“Chinese Ceramics and Warrior Sociability in Sixteenth-Century Japan,” in Dora Ching, Louise Cort, and Andrew Watsky, ed., *Chigusa in Context: In and Around Chanoyu in Sixteenth-Century Japan.* Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2017, 53-70.

“Form and Function: Tea Bowls and the Problem of Zen in *Chanoyu*,” in Pamela D. Winfield and Steven Heine, ed., *Zen and Material Culture.* New York: Oxford University Press, 2017, 70-101.

- “Warriors, Tea, and Art in Premodern Japan.” *Samurai: Beyond the Sword*. Ed. Birgitta Augustin. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2014, 21-33.
- “The Tokugawa Storehouse: Ieyasu’s Encounters with Things.” *Early Modern Things: Objects and their Histories, 1500-1800*. Ed. Paula Findlen. London and New York: Routledge, 2013, 297-315.
- “Art, Agency, and Networks in the Career of Tokugawa Ieyasu.” *Blackwell Companion to Asian Art*. Ed. Deborah Hutton and Rebecca Brown. New York: Wiley-Blackwell, 2011, 447-470.
- “Wrapping and Unwrapping Art.” In Mrazek and Pitelka, eds. *What’s the Use of Art? Asian Visual and Material Culture in Context*. Honolulu, HI: University of Hawai’i Press, 2007.
- “Back to the Fundamentals: ‘Reproducing’ Rikyū and Chōjirō in Japanese Tea Culture.” In Rupert Cox, ed. *The Culture of Copying in Japan: Critical and Historical Perspectives*. London and New York: Routledge, 2007, 128-142. In Japanese translation: “Chanoyu ni okeru ‘utsushi’: dentō bunka no eizokuka” [Reproduction in Japanese Tea Culture: The Perpetuation of Traditional Culture]. *Wabi: Chanoyu kenkyū* 4 (2007).
- “Introduction to Japanese Tea Culture.” In Morgan Pitelka, ed. *Japanese Tea Culture: Art, History, and Practice*. London and New York: Routledge, 2003.
- “Sen Kōshin Sōsa and the Writing of Tea History.” In Morgan Pitelka, ed. *Japanese Tea Culture: Art, History, and Practice*. London and New York: Routledge, 2003.
- “Sadō ni okeru ‘tezukuri’ no imi” [The Meaning of the “Handmade” in Tea Culture]. In Kumakura Isao, ed. *Yūgei bunka to dentō* [The Culture and Tradition of the Arts of Play]. Tokyo, Japan: Yoshikawa Bunko, 2003, 74-93. I wrote this essay in Japanese.

## ARTICLES

- “Defining Raku Ceramics: Translations, Elisions, Evolutions.” *Ars Orientalis* 53 (2023): 190-207.
- “The Return of Seduction,” in *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies* 77.2 (2017): 153-163.
- “The Empire of Things: Tokugawa Ieyasu’s Material Legacy and Cultural Profile.” *Japanese Studies* 29:1 (May 2009): 19-32.
- “A Raku Wastewater Container and the Problem of Monolithic Sincerity.” *Impressions* 30 (2008): 67-72. In Japanese translation: “Raku no kensui to ichimaiwateki seijitsusei no mondaiten.” *Bijutsu Forum* 21 (2010).
- “The Early Modern Warrior.” *Early Modern Japan* 16 (2008): 33-42.

## SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

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- 2024, June 1, Japan Foundation, Toronto Office, Invited Lecture, “Living with Ceramics in Japan”
- 2024, March 17, Association for Asian Studies, Paper Presentation, “Beyond the Momoyama Mythohistory” for the panel “Repurposing the Past: The Afterlives of Japan’s Cultural Traditions and the Making of the Modern Nation”
- 2024, January 21, Tokyo National University, Roundtable Participant, ““Secular” Ritual in Japanese Premodern Studies: Reconsidering the Intellectual Legacy of Futaki Ken’ichi”
- 2023, August 19, European Association of Japanese Studies, Annual Meeting, presented “The Posthumanist Capital: The Role of Animals in the Rebirth of Kyoto,” on the panel “Transcultural Animals: Towards a Multispecies Knowing in Early Modern Japan and China”
- 2023, April 6, Columbia University Donald Keene Center, Invited Lecture, “The Archaeology of Urban Life in Late Medieval Japan”
- 2023, February 24, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, presented “Materiality and Japanese History: Objects, Arguments, and Evidence” for the event “Making Objects Speak: Material Culture in Asian History and Art History”
- 2023, January 18, The Huntington Library, Genshitsu Sen Annual Tea Lecture, “Tea and Politics in Japan’s Age of Unification”
- 2023, January 9, Connecticut Ceramics Circle, Invited Lecture, “Ceramic Truths from Premodern Japan”
- 2022, December 12, Kyoto University, presented “Fortifying the Capital: Hideyoshi’s Walling off of Kyoto in 1592,” for the conference “Reimagining Kyoto: A City of Conflict and Diversity”
- 2022, October 25, Arizona State University, Asian Center for Research, invited lecture, “Daily Life in a Medieval City: The Archaeology of Ichijōdani, Japan”
- 2022, August 20, Seattle Asian Art Museum, Keynote Lecture, “Teabowl Truths in Chanoyu,” part of “The Way of Tea: Tradition and Innovation in a Changing World” Anniversary Celebration Special Event, Chado Urasenke Seattle Association
- 2022, July 18, National Endowment for the Humanities, “Contested Territory” Summer Institute for K-12 Educators, presented “Reframing Southeast Asia: Histories of Colonialism Across Asia”
- 2022, June 18, Ocha Zanmai Conference Keynote Lecture, “Tea Culture and the Politics of Display: From Sengoku Warlords to the Tokugawa Shoguns”
- 2022, April 5, Japan House Los Angeles, “The Ceramics of Mino: 500 Years of Beauty and Innovation”
- 2022, March 9, Carolina Public Humanities Program, “Japan’s Global Relevance in 2022”
- 2021, October 6, Rollins College, “Asian Community and the Japanese Arts”
- 2021, March 11, University of Arizona, East Asian Studies Colloquium, “Material Culture in the Making of Edo-Period Japan”
- 2020, October 8, University of Pennsylvania, Center for East Asian Studies, “Urban Life in Ichijōdani, Japan, a Late Medieval Provincial City”
- 2020, February 20, University of Michigan, Center for Japanese Studies, “Reading Medieval Ruins”