

Romeo Marcantuoni

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Personal Statement

I am a **political scientist** and **Japan scholar** researching **party politics** in Japan. My Ph.D. project studies the emotional dimensions of opposition politics through interpretive discourse analysis. My other projects largely revolve around the politics of conspiracy beliefs, focusing on challenger parties in Japan and the political opportunity structure that shape strategies of funding, recruitment, and campaigning. I also have extensive experience in teaching at Japanese universities, including on topics of Japanese politics, historical remembrance, political economy, sociology, and international relations.

Education

- 2020/09 – 2026/03 **Ph.D. in International Relations (expected)**, Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies
Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan
A Thwarted Democracy: The Emotional Politics of Japan's Opposition in the Abe Era
Advisor: Prof. David Leheny
- 2019/04 – 2020/09 **Research Student**, Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies
Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan
- 2014/09 – 2016/09 **M.A. in Japanese Studies**, Faculty of Arts
KU Leuven, Leuven, Belgium
Discourse(s) of Prostitution in Postwar Cinema
Advisor: Prof. Jan Schmitt
- 2010/09 – 2014/09 **B.A. in Japanese Studies**, Faculty of Arts
KU Leuven, Leuven, Belgium

Teaching Experience

- 2025/09 – 2026/04 **Adjunct Instructor**, Asian Studies / Political Science
Temple University Japan Campus, Tokyo
Classes: *Japan in a Changing World*, *Foreign Governments*
Teaching two classes in the Fall and Winter semesters at Temple University for the Asian Studies and Political Science departments.
- 2024/04 – Present **Part-time Lecturer**, Exchange Students from Overseas Program,
Hōsei University, Tokyo, Japan
Classes: *War and Memory in Modern Japan*
Teaching international and Japanese students about Japan's modern history of war and remembrance.
- 2024/09 – 2026/03 **Part-time Lecturer**, International Studies
Kyōritsu University, Tokyo, Japan
Classes: *Theories of International Relations II*, *English Writing*
Developed a syllabus for third and fourth-year Japanese undergraduate students introducing the basic theories of international relations such as realism, liberalism, constructivism, and Marxism in the context of concrete examples involving Japan and the rest of the world. I also teach English essay writing to first-year students.
- 2024/09 – 2025/03 **Part-time Lecturer**, Sociology Department
Daitō Bunka University, Saitama, Japan
Classes: *Current Events in English*
Temporarily filled in for one semester. Teaching second and third-year Japanese students current events in society through the lens of sociology.

Teaching Experience (continued)

- 2024/09 – 2024/12 **Part-time Lecturer**, IES Abroad
Kanda University of International Studies, Chiba, Japan
Classes: *The Contemporary Economy of Japan*
Temporarily filled in for one semester. I designed and taught a new syllabus introducing the basic history and contemporary elements of Japan's political economy. Alongside lectures, readings, and guest speakers coursework, I organized two field trips related to the history of globalization and state-led innovation.
- 2019/09 – 2025/02 **Teaching Assistant (Academic Writing Tutor)**,
Global Education Center, Waseda University
- 2023/09 – 2024/03 **Part-time lecturer (English Discussion)**,
Tokyo Women's Christian University
Classes: *English Discussion Workshop II*
- 2023/04 – 2024/03 **Teaching Assistant (Professor Glenda Roberts)**,
Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies, Waseda University

Research Experience



- 2025/06 (Starting) **Research Assistant**, Kanda University of International Studies
Assistant to Professor Jeffrey Hall to conduct research on the politics of historical remembrance in Japan. *JSPS KAKENHI Grant Number 21K13429 (PI: Jeffrey Hall)*.
- 2023/09 – 2025/03 **Research Assistant**, Waseda Institute of Advanced Studies Waseda University
Assistant to Professor Robert A. Fahey to conduct research into the political role of conspiracy theories and beliefs in Japanese politics. *JSPS KAKENHI Grant Number 24K04730 (PI: Robert A. Fahey)*.
- 2020/09 – 2020/10 **Research Assistant**, Professor Jeffrey Hall
Preparing book manuscripts, editing, fact checking
- 2020/04 – 2020/06 **Research Intern**, Asia Pacific Initiative
Preparing book manuscripts, editing, fact checking

Professional Experience


- 2016/06 – 2019/03 **Translator (Japanese to English)**, Freelance (Belgium & France)
- 2016/09 – 2017/05 **Business Analyst**, SBI BITS (Tokyo)

Publications and Presentations

Journal Articles

- R. Marcantuoni and R. A. Fahey, "Fighting the cabal from the diet: Sanseitō and the role of conspiracy as political ideology," *The Asia-Pacific Journal: Japan Focus*, (Forthcoming).
- R. A. Fahey and R. Marcantuoni, "From conspiracy theory movement to challenger party: The case of Japan's Sanseito," *WIAS Discussion Paper*, vol. 2024, no. 1, pp. 1–28, Jan. 23, 2025. Accessed: Apr. 27, 2025.  URL: <https://waseda.repo.nii.ac.jp/records/2005608>.
- R. Marcantuoni, "The Melancholy of Japan's Liberal Opposition: Politician-penned Books and Their Narratives of Redemption," *The Asia-Pacific Journal: Japan Focus*, vol. 22, no. 1, Jan. 23, 2024.  URL: <https://apjif.org/2024/1/Marcantuoni.html>.

Book Reviews

- R. Marcantuoni, *Sengo nihon no 'kakushin' seiryoku—teikō to suibō no seijishi (Reformists in Postwar Japan: A Postwar History of Opposition and Decline)*, *Social Science Japan Journal*, vol. 26, 2, pp. 259–262, Oct. 11, 2023.  DOI: 10.1093/ssjj/jyad006.

Conference Presentations and Papers

- R. Marcantuoni and R. A. Fahey, "Fringe Politics, Alternative Media Ecosystems, and the Rise of the "Influencer Party" in Japan," Seoul, South Korea, 18th World Congress of Political Science July 12–16, 2025 (Accepted).

R. A. Fahey and R. Marcantuoni, "From conspiracy theory movement to challenger party: Why the case of Japan's Sanseito isn't more widely replicated," presented at the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) General Conference, Dublin, Ireland, Aug. 13, 2024. [🔗 URL: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/383282223_From_conspiracy_theory_movement_to_challenger_party_why_the_case_of_Japan's_Sanseito_isn't_more_widely_replicated](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/383282223_From_conspiracy_theory_movement_to_challenger_party_why_the_case_of_Japan's_Sanseito_isn't_more_widely_replicated).

R. Marcantuoni, "Reassuring Radicals: Dispelling Fear and Loathing of the Japanese Communist Party," presented at the JSA-ASEAN Conference (Chiang Mai, Thailand), Dec. 21, 2023.

R. Marcantuoni, "The Liberal Melodrama of Japan's Opposition," presented at the European Association of Japanese Studies Conference (Ghent, Belgium), Aug. 28, 2021.

Non-peer Reviewed Publications

R. Marcantuoni, "Look Who's Back: The CDP Leadership Race," Tokyo Review. [🔗 URL: https://www.tokyoreview.net/2024/09/look-whos-back-the-cdp-leadership-race/](https://www.tokyoreview.net/2024/09/look-whos-back-the-cdp-leadership-race/).

R. Marcantuoni, "Japan's Opposition: Is This the Year?" Tokyo Review. [🔗 URL: https://www.tokyoreview.net/2021/10/japans-opposition-is-this-the-year/](https://www.tokyoreview.net/2021/10/japans-opposition-is-this-the-year/).

R. Marcantuoni, "What's Next for Japan's Opposition?" Tokyo Review. [🔗 URL: https://www.tokyoreview.net/2021/11/whats-next-for-japans-opposition/](https://www.tokyoreview.net/2021/11/whats-next-for-japans-opposition/).

Podcasts

Rigorous Research, Real Impact, *Unlocking the Rise of Conspiracy Movements in Japan*, Feb. 18, 2025. [🔗 URL: https://www.waseda.jp/top/en/news/83437](https://www.waseda.jp/top/en/news/83437).

Japan on the Record, *Japanese Opposition Politics on the Record with Roméo Marcantuoni (Waseda)*, Oct. 20, 2021. [🔗 URL: https://jotr.transistor.fm/48](https://jotr.transistor.fm/48).

Miscellaneous Experience

2024/07 **Writing Workshop**
Writing Personal Essays for Study Abroad Applications
Global Leaders Program, Hitotsubashi University

References

David Leheny
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Graduate School of Asia Pacific Studies
Waseda University
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Robert A. Fahey
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