

23rd URA International Seminar Okayama University

Date: December 11th 2024 --- Time: 17:00-18 : 00

VENUE: Tsushima Campus – International House – Conference Hall

Joseph RYAN

(Talk supported by the HESPRI project - Talk broadcasted on ZOOM)

HESPRI (HORIZON EUROPE)
<https://www.hespriproject.eu/work-plan>



ELEVATING HIGHER EDUCATION
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- Weaving the threads of ancient Japanese history - Considering Social complexity through digital Microscopy of organic materials in Yayoi- and Kofun-period Japan

During the latter half of the Yayoi period and throughout the Kofun period (c. 1st century BC – 6th century AD), bronze and iron weapons played an integral role as elite wealth goods. Research on their production and circulation can reveal much **about increasing social complexity**, in addition to **interregional interaction** and the **nature of craft production**. However, as many of these metal weapons are morphologically similar and research has traditionally focused on their metal bodies, much is still unknown about the nature of their production, procurement, and the degree to which they were centrally produced. While **elusive, traces of organic material**, such as that originally belonging to the handle, shaft, or scabbard, have the potential to reveal a great deal about the production and circulation of these objects. A **digital microscope aids** in the analysis of these traces, which often cannot be observed sufficiently with the naked eye.

In this TALK, I present the results of the **digital microscopy INVESTIGATIONS** conducted on the organic threads found on the iron burial goods uncovered from Yayoi- and Kofun-period sites and and consider the sociopolitical implications. I also discuss how such research can contribute to ongoing debate over the nature and mechanism of early state formation in the Japanese archipelago.

Note: Talk not only intended for academics, teachers and students. All lovers of Japanese Culture are warmly invited

Participation is free of charge but mandatory.
Advanced Registration - Deadline: Dec. 8th :
a - <https://forms.gle/7yCSHqB3TR3STeyC7>
b - CC to bernard-chenevier@cc.okayama-u.ac.jp
ZOOM link will be sent to participants registered outside Okayama.

Research Institute
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SPEAKER Short Bio

Joseph Ryan is an associate professor of archaeology at the Research Institute for the Development of Civilizations (RIDC), Okayama University, Japan. After completing his master's degree and PhD in archaeology at Osaka University (Japan), he conducted postdoctoral research at Okayama University from 2018 to 2020.



His research focuses on the production of iron and bronze weapons in the Japanese archipelago during the Yayoi and Kofun periods and the sociopolitical implications.

RIDC aims to establish an interdisciplinary research hub centered primarily on the humanities and social sciences by facilitating the organic interaction between university and outside researchers. From 2020 to 2023, RIDC participated in BE-ARCHAEO, an international collaborative research project aimed at developing an interdisciplinary approach to ancient Japanese history. This was a partnership of six European research institutions and private companies coordinated by the University of Turin.



The birth of restoration materials.



[Inquiry]
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