10.30.2026

CHARLES T. MCCLEAN

Rosenkranz Hall Room 409 ◇ 115 Prospect Street ◇ New Haven, CT 06511
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APPOINTMENTS

Yale University
Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science 2024–present
Research Fellow, MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies
Member, Council on East Asian Studies
Japan Foundation Postdoctoral Associate, Council on East Asian Studies 2022–2024

Center for Strategic and International Studies
Adjunct Fellow (Non-Resident), Japan Chair 2026–present

University of Michigan
Toyota Visiting Professor, Center for Japanese Studies 2021–2022

Harvard University
Postdoctoral Fellow, Program on U.S.-Japan Relations 2020–2021

EDUCATION

University of California, San Diego
Ph.D. Political Science 2020
M.A. Political Science, *with distinction* 2016

Harvard University
M.A. Regional Studies: East Asia 2011

Tufts University
B.A. International Relations and Japanese, *summa cum laude*, *highest honors* 2008

BOOK PROJECT

Silver Democracy: Youth Representation in an Aging Japan.

– Media Coverage: Asahi Shimbun, The Economist, National Public Radio [2], The Wall Street Journal [2]

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

12. Youth Representation and Democratic Legitimacy (with Aksel Sundström and Daniel Stockemer). 2026. *British Journal of Political Science* 56:e60.

    ⋆ Winner of the 2026 *State Politics and Policy Quarterly* (SPPQ) Best Paper Award from the State Politics and Policy Section of the American Political Science Association

    – Media Coverage: US News & World Report

11. Does Youth Representation Matter for Social Spending? 2026. *The Journal of Politics*.

    – Media Coverage: Asahi Shimbun, President Online, The Wall Street Journal [2]

10. How Do Underrepresented Voters View Electoral System Trade-Offs? (with Don Lee). 2026. *Electoral Studies* 99:103036.

9. Demographic Decline as an Idiom of Distress: Rethinking Gender (In)Equality in Japan (with Charles Crabtree, Paul Christensen, Tom Phuong Le, Lauren McKee, and Cindi SturtzSreetharan). 2026. *Japan Forum.* 1–27.

8. Selective Development Goals: Examining Japan's SDG Implementation Gaps (with Paul Christensen, Cindi SturtzSreetharan, and Charles Crabtree). 2025. *Social Science Japan Journal* 28(2).

7. Too Young to Run? Voter Evaluations of the Age of Candidates (with Yoshikuni Ono). 2024. *Political Behavior* 46(4):2333–2355.

   – Media Coverage: Asahi Shimbun [2] [3]

6. Legislative Resources, Corruption, and Incumbency (with Shane Martin and Kaare Strøm). 2024. *British Journal of Political Science* 54(2):526–535.

   – Media Coverage: Business Standard

5. Field Research When There Is Limited Access to the Field: Lessons From Japan (with Kenya Amano, Melanie Dominguez, Timothy Fraser, Etienne Gagnon, Trevor Incerti, Jinhyuk Jang, Austin Mitchell, Sayumi Miyano, Colin Moreshead, Harunobu Saijo, Diana Stanescu, Ayumi Teraoka, Charmaine Willis, Yujin Woo, Hikaru Yamagishi, and Charles Crabtree). 2023. *PS: Political Science & Politics* 56(1):99–105.

4. Breaking the Cabinet's Glass Ceiling: The Gendered Effect of Political Experience in Presidential Democracies (with Don Lee). 2022. *Comparative Political Studies* 55(6):992–1020.

   – Media Coverage: The Washington Post

3. No Causal Effect of School Closures in Japan on the Spread of COVID-19 in Spring 2020 (with Kentaro Fukumoto and Kuninori Nakagawa). 2021. *Nature Medicine* 27(12):2111–2119.

   – Media Coverage: Asahi Shimbun [2] [3] [4], Mainichi Weekly Economist, Nature Japan, Nature Medicine, Nature Portfolio, Nikkei Business [2], Nikkei Shimbun, Nippon TV News 24, The Telegraph, The Washington Post, The World Bank

2. The Element of Surprise: Election Timing and Opposition Preparedness. 2021. *Comparative Political Studies* 54(11):1984–2018.

   ⋆ Winner of the 2022 Best Paper Award from the Elections, Public Opinion, and Voting Behavior Section of the American Political Science Association

   – Media Coverage: Asahi Shimbun

1. Follow Your Heart: Could Psychophysiology Be Associated With Political Discussion Network Homogeneity? (with Taylor Carlson and Jaime Settle). 2020. *Political Psychology* 41(1):165–187.

   – Media Coverage: PsyPost

CHAPTERS IN EDITED VOLUMES

4. Minority Governments Revisited (with Kaare Strøm). 2024. In Patrick Dumont, Bernard Grofman, Torbjörn Bergman, and Tom Louwerse, eds. *New Developments in the Study of Coalition Governments.* Studies in Public Choice, vol 9. Springer, Cham.

3. Generational Change or Continuity in Japan's Leadership? 2023. In Robert Pekkanen, Steven Reed, and Daniel Smith, eds. *Japan Decides 2021: The Japanese General Election.* Palgrave Macmillan. 115–129.

2. Japan. 2022. In Joo-Cheong Tham, Andrea Carson, Adhy Aman, and Amy Chinnappa, eds. *Digital Campaigning and Political Finance in the Asia and the Pacific Region: A New Age for an Old Problem*. International IDEA. 72–78.

1. Japan: Elite Continuity and Factional Conflict (with Garrett Bredell). 2016. In Salvatore Vassallo, ed. *Comparative Political Systems*. Bologna, Italy: il Mulino. 363–384.

DATASET

Japanese Municipal Elections Dataset (JMED). 2026. Version 1.0. Harvard Dataverse. doi:10.7910/DVN/E9ZUNV.

SELECTED WORKS IN PROGRESS

Assembly Size, Electoral Accountability, and Descriptive Representation.

Population Aging and Defensive Representation (with Michael Strausz).

Interjurisdictional Competition and Fiscal Caution (with Anna Yorozuya).

Voter Preferences for Young and Female Candidates: Comparing Conjoint Experiments with Real-World Behavior (with Yuki Shiraito).

The Limits of Regression Discontinuity Designs: Lottery Elections and the Incumbency Advantage (with Kentaro Fukumoto).

BOOK REVIEW

Japan's Aging Antimilitarism Is Alive and Well. 2023. Book Review Roundtable: Tom Phuong Le's *Japan's Aging Peace*. *Asia Policy* 18(2): 166–168.

POLICY WRITING

Selected Op-Eds and Commentary:

36. Social Structure, Demographics, and the Sustainability of the Alliance. May 31, 2026. In the Japan Forum on International Relations, *The Deepening of US-Japan Cooperation on 'Non-Military' Aspects*. 20–21. Version: Japanese.

35. South Korea's New Leader Says There's No Gender Inequality Problem (with Don Lee). April 26, 2022. *The Washington Post*.

34. No Evidence School Closures Reduce the Spread of COVID-19 (with Kentaro Fukumoto and Kuninori Nakagawa). November 3, 2021. *Nature Portfolio (Behavioral and Social Sciences)*.

Articles on U.S.-Japan Relations for *Comparative Connections* (with Sheila Smith):

33. Once Again, Leadership Transitions Challenge US-Japan Alliance. 2024. 26(2):27–38.

32. Washington Welcomes Prime Minister Kishida. 2024. 26(1):29–38.

31. A Busy Diplomatic Calendar for Biden and Kishida. 2023. 25(2):25–32.

30. The U.S. and Japan Build Multilateral Momentum. 2023. 25(1):25–32. Republished: Asia Times.

29. Ramping Up Diplomacy and Defense Cooperation. 2023. 24(3):19–28.

28. Abe's Legacy and the Alliance Agenda. 2022. 24(2):21–28.

27. Russian Invasion Accelerates Alliance Review. 2022. 24(1):19–28.

26. A New Prime Minister and a Growing Alliance Agenda. 2022. 23(3):21–30.

25. Summer Takes an Unexpected Turn. 2021. 23(2):17–24.
24. Suga and Biden Off to a Good Start. 2021. 23(1):21–28.
23. Leadership Transitions in Tokyo and Washington. 2021. 22(3):19–28.
22. Unexpected Turbulence for the Alliance. 2020. 22(2):13–22.
21. COVID-19 Overtakes Japan and the United States. 2020. 22(1):15–26.
20. The Finale for Abe-Trump Alliance Management? 2020. 21(3):11–20.
19. A Busy Summer of Bilateralism. 2019. 21(2):13–20.
18. Treading Water in Choppier Surf. 2019. 21(1):15–22.
17. Stability in Tokyo, Disruption in Washington. 2019. 20(3):11–18.
16. Summer Before the Storm? 2018. 20(2):13–20.
15. Adjusting to Abrupt Diplomacy. 2018. 20(1):11–18.
14. Trump Visits Tokyo Amid North Korea Tensions. 2018. 19(3):11–18.
13. A Summer of Setbacks. 2017. 19(2):11–20.
12. Tokyo Transitions to Trump. 2017. 19(1):11–20.
11. U.S.-Japan Relations and the Trump Effect. 2017. 18(3):9–16.
10. Hiroshima to The Hague. 2016. 18(2):15–24.
9. 2016 Opens with a Bang. 2016. 18(1):15–22.
8. Official Cooperation, Domestic Challenges. 2016. 17(3):13–20.
7. History and Other Alliance Constraints. 2015. 17(2):17–26.

Other Writing on Japanese Politics and U.S.-Japan Relations:

6. Getting Out the Youth Vote in Japan. August 5, 2013. Council on Foreign Relations.
5. Japan's Maritime Disputes: Implications for the U.S.-Japan Alliance (with Sheila Smith). 2013. In Michael McDevitt and Catherine Lea, eds. *Japan's Territorial Disputes*. CNA Maritime Asia Project. 15–28.
4. The LDP's Freshmen. December 18, 2012. Council on Foreign Relations.
3. How Japan's Next Election Will Be Won. October 4, 2012. Council on Foreign Relations.
2. The U.S. Approach to Peacebuilding: From a Whole-of-Government to a Whole-of-Alliance Approach with Japan (with Weston Konishi). 2011. In Toshiya Hoshino and Weston Konishi, eds. *U.S.-Japan Alliance Peacebuilding Cooperation*. Institute for Foreign Policy Analysis. 1–11.
1. The Demographic Dilemma: Examining the Security Implications of Japan's Aging Population. 2010. In Yao (Adam) Liu, Faith Pang, and Sherry Lu, eds. *Asia Pacific Reader: Passages*. University of Toronto 2(1):70–71.

GRANTS

"Japan as Future," Principal Investigator, The Japan Foundation. 2024–2026.
"Japan and the Global Political Economy," Project Member, The Japan Foundation. 2022–2024.
"Advanced Technology and Democracy," Project Member, RIETI. 2020–2022.
"Political Behavior and Decision-Making," Project Member, RIETI. 2018–2020.
Graduate-Faculty Co-Author Grant, UCSD. 2018–2020.

International Graduate Students Grant, Gakushuin University. 2018.
International Institute Grant, UCSD. 2018.
Youth Participatory Politics Workshop Grant, APSA. 2017.

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

SPPQ Best Paper Award, APSA State Politics and Policy Section. 2026.
U.S.-Japan Network for the Future, Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation. 2022–2024.
Best Paper Award, APSA Elections, Public Opinion, and Voting Behavior Section. 2022.
APSA Asia Fellow. 2021.
Sanford Lakoff Fellowship for Dissertation Research, UCSD. 2018–2020.
Friends of the International Center Fellowship, UCSD. 2018.
Joseph Naiman Fellowship in Japanese Studies, UCSD. 2014–2015.
Pacific Forum CSIS Young Leader. 2014–2015.
Presidential Management Fellowship (declined). 2011.
Joseph Fletcher Memorial Award (honorable mention), Harvard University. 2011.
Fulbright Fellowship, Kobe University. 2008–2009.
Japanese Language and Literature Prize, Tufts University. 2008.
Sigma Iota Rho Honor Society for International Relations, Tufts University. 2008.
Named One of the "Top Eight Graduates to Watch in 2008," Tufts Observer. 2008.
Columbia University Summer Research Grant, Kyoto University. 2007.

INVITED TALKS

2026: University of Tokyo (Graduate Schools for Law and Politics); Georgetown University (School of Foreign Service); Princeton University (Department of Politics and Global Japan Lab); Texas Christian University (Department of Political Science)

2025: Wesleyan University (College of East Asian Studies); U.S.-Japan Foundation; Japan Forum on International Relations; Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission; Stanford University (Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies); Wesleyan University (Government Department); Georgetown University (Walsh School of Foreign Service)

2024: Council on Foreign Relations; Tufts University (The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy); University of Louisville (Center for Asian Democracy); Tufts University (Department of Political Science); Harvard University (Program on U.S.-Japan Relations); Mansfield Foundation (US Capitol Visitor Center); National Chengchi University (Summer School on Political Parties and Democracy); New York University (Department of Politics, Frontiers in Empirical Research on East Asia); Council on Foreign Relations and the Henry Luce Foundation; Georgetown University (Walsh School of Foreign Service); Princeton University (Global Japan Lab)

2023: University of Oxford (School of Global and Area Studies); Pacific Forum; Yale University (Department of Political Science); UCSD (School of Global Policy and Strategy, Japan Forum for Innovation and Technology); Daiwa Anglo-Japanese Foundation; Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission (Summer Institute in Tokyo); University of Pennsylvania (Department of Political Science)

2022: Columbia University (Department of Political Science); Hitotsubashi University (Graduate School of Social Sciences); Columbia University (Weatherhead East Asian Institute, Horizons in Japanese Politics and Foreign Policy Conference); Yale University (Council on East Asian Studies); University of Michigan (Japanese Studies Interdisciplinary Colloquium); University of Michigan (Center for Japanese Studies)

2021: Keio University (Department of Political Science) and V-Dem East Asia Center; Korean Political Science Association Annual Meeting (APSA Joint Panel); Oklahoma State University (Department of

Political Science); University of Michigan (Department of Psychology, Culture and Cognition Lab); Columbia University (Weatherhead East Asian Institute); University of Michigan (Weiser Center for Emerging Democracies); Osaka Prefecture University (Empirical Moral Science Research Meeting); UCSD (Department of Sociology, David S. FitzGerald Migration Workshop)

2020: Harvard University (Program on U.S.-Japan Relations); University of Essex (Government Speaker Series); Council on Foreign Relations; UCSD-Morehouse-Spelman Summer Research Program; Research Institute of Economy, Trade, and Industry (RIETI)

2019: Yokohama City University (Department of Economics); UCLA (Terasaki Center for Japanese Studies, Global Forum on Japan's Aging Population)

2018: Kobe University and Osaka University (Kansai Study Group); Gakushuin University (Department of Political Studies)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

American Political Science Association Annual Meeting. 2017–2026.
Midwestern Political Science Association Annual Meeting. 2016, 2021–2022, 2026.
Aging and Generational Change in Japan and Beyond, Texas Christian University. 2026.
Japan Conference, University of Toronto. 2025.
Association of Asian Studies Annual Meeting. 2023–2024.
Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting. 2024.
Japanese Politics Online Seminar Series. 2021–2022.
Youth Without Representation Workshop, University of Ottawa. 2022.
ECPR General Conference. 2021.
Japanese Society for Quantitative Political Science Meeting. 2019, 2021.
Asian Politics Online Seminar Series. 2020.
Northeast Workshop in Japanese Politics, Dartmouth College. 2019.
Graduate Student Conference in Comparative Politics, UCLA. 2019.
International Institute Symposium, UCSD. 2019.
Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting. 2019.
Harvard Symposium on Japan. 2018.
Pacific Forum CSIS Young Leader's Conference, Center for Strategic & International Studies. 2014.
Harvard East Asia Society Conference on East Asia, Harvard University. 2011.
Graduate Student Conference on East Asia, Columbia University. 2011.

TEACHING

Yale University
Japanese Politics and Foreign Policy (undergraduate/graduate seminar). 2022, 2024, 2026.
Advanced Democracies (graduate seminar). 2026.
Age and Power (undergraduate lecture). 2027 (planned).
Comparative Politics II (graduate seminar). 2024.

University of Michigan
Japanese Politics (undergraduate lecture). 2022.

Yokohama City University
Causal Inference and Research Design (undergraduate lecture). 2019.

University of California, San Diego
Japanese Politics (undergraduate lecture). 2018.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Reviewer: *Asian Politics & Policy*, *Asian Survey*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *East Asia Forum*, *Electoral Studies*, *European Journal of Political Research*, *European Political Science Review*, *International Political Science Review*, *International Studies Quarterly*, *Japanese Journal of Political Science*, *Journal of Experimental Political Science*, *The Journal of Politics*, *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, *Nature Communications*, *Pacific Affairs*, *Political Analysis*, *Political Behavior*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *Political Studies*, *Sociology Compass*

Co-Organizer, Japan Conference for Social Scientists, Yale University. 2026.
Selection Committee, Young Mayors Award, U.S.-Japan Foundation. 2025–2026.
Best Paper Award Committee, APSA Elections, Public Opinion, and Voting Behavior Section. 2023.
Co-Organizer, Aging in Asia Conference, University of Michigan. 2023.
Section Co-Chair, Bringing Youth Back In, ECPR General Conference. 2021.

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Yale University
Past PhD Committees: Colin Moreshead
Postdoctoral Advisor: Alexandra Mathieu
Senior Essay Advisor: Calum Baker, Max Feliciano, Yassine Gharram, Mady Smith

Co-Organizer, ISPS Population Studies Speaker Series. 2025–2027.
Postdoctoral Associates Selection Committee, Council on East Asian Studies. 2026–2027.
Organizer, Yale Lecture Series on Japan as Future. 2024–2026.
Co-Organizer, Comparative Politics Workshop. 2024–2025.
Comparative Politics Exam Committee. 2024–2025.
Guest Lecturer, Yale Young Global Scholars. 2024–2025.
Williams Prize Committee, Council on East Asian Studies. 2024–2025.
Standing Committee on Fulbright Study/Research Grants. 2024.
Acheson Prize Committee, Yale Review of International Studies. 2024.
Organizer, Yale Lecture Series on Japanese Politics and the Global Political Economy. 2022–2024.

University of California, San Diego
Graduate Student Mentor, Research Apprenticeship Program, UCSD. 2018–2020.
Graduate Student Researcher, Kaare Strøm and Megumi Naoi, UCSD. 2014–2020.

Harvard University
President, Harvard East Asia Society. 2010–2011.
Japan Area Editor, Harvard Asia Quarterly. 2009–2011.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Research Associate, Japan Studies, Council on Foreign Relations. 2011–2014.
Research Assistant, Asia-Pacific Studies, Institute for Foreign Policy Analysis. 2010–2011.
Research Intern, Japan Chair, Center for Strategic and International Studies. 2010.
Fulbright Fellow, Kobe University. 2008–2009.

LANGUAGES

English (native), Japanese (fluent)