

## Kevin L. Gouge- Curriculum Vitae

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### EDUCATION

#### **Ph.D. in History, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI (2009-2017)**

- Visiting Researcher, University of Tokyo, Historiographical Institute (2012-2016)
- Inter-University Center for Japanese Studies, Yokohama, Japan (2010-2011)

#### **M.A. in History, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR (2007-2009)**

#### **B.A. in Asian Studies and Japanese, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR (2002-2006)**

- Waseda University, SILS Exchange Program, Tokyo, Japan (2004-2005)

### GRANTS, AWARDS, AND HONORS

#### *External:*

Doris G. Quinn Fellowship, 2017  
Japan Foundation Doctoral Fellowship, Japan Foundation, 2013  
Fulbright Doctoral Fellowship, Fulbright Foundation, 2012

#### *Internal:*

Instructor Fellowship, University of Michigan, 2017  
Graduate Student Instructor Fellowship, University of Michigan, 2016  
Medieval and Early Modern Studies Summer Fellowship, University of Michigan, 2106  
History Department Research, Study, and Travel Grant, University of Michigan, 2016  
History Department Endowment Fellowship, University of Michigan, 2015  
Regents Candidacy Fellowship, University of Michigan, 2014  
Summer Research Fellowship, Center for Japanese Studies (U of M), 2011  
Year-Long Language Fellowship, Center for Japanese Studies (U of M), 2010  
Summer Fellowship, Department of History, University of Michigan, 2010  
Mellon Summer Fellowship, Center for Japanese Studies (U of M), 2010  
Graduate Student Instructor Fellowship, Univ. of Michigan, 2009-2010  
Graduate Teaching Fellowship, University of Oregon, 2007-2009

### WORK / TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Winter 2017: Instructor of Record, University of Michigan  
History 195 – “Warriors in Medieval Japan: Approaches to the Early Samurai”

Fall 2016: Graduate Student Instructor, University of Michigan  
International Studies / Geography 101 – “Introduction to International Studies”

Fall 2011: Graduate Student Instructor, University of Michigan  
History / Asian Studies 204 – “East Asia: Early Transformations”

Winter 2009: Graduate Teaching Fellow, University of Oregon  
History 191 – “China, Past and Present”

Fall 2009: Grader and Guest Lecturer, University of Oregon  
History 396 – “Samurai in Film”

Spring 2008: Graduate Teaching Fellow, University of Oregon  
History 192 – “Japan, Past and Present”

Winter 2008: Graduate Teaching Fellow, University of Oregon  
History 105 – “World History II: The Early Modern World”

Fall 2007: Graduate Teaching Fellow, University of Oregon  
History 190 – “Foundations of East Asian Civilizations”

## **MAJOR WRITTEN WORKS, TRANSLATIONS, AND ONGOING RESEARCH**

“All Together Now: The Nejime Ichizoku at War”  
(In progress, estimated submission fall/winter 2018)

“Falcon Mountain: Supplying the God-Hunts of Medieval Shinano”  
(In progress, estimated submission summer 2018)

Kurushima Noriko, “Daimyo Rule and Collective Strength”  
(Translation in *The New Cambridge History of Japan*, forthcoming)

“The Ties that Bind: Kinship, Inheritance, and the Environment in Medieval Japan”  
(Doctoral Dissertation, 476 pages)

“Alpine Samurai: The Ichikawa and Warrior Family Dynamics in Early Medieval Japan”  
(Master’s Thesis, 231 pages)

## **PRESENTATIONS**

“Earth Over Blood: Nonbiological Kinship in Japan’s Early Medieval Warrior Class”  
- Co-organizer and presenter for the panel titled *Staying Afloat: Creative Social Networking Practices in Medieval Japan*. Washington D.C., Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, March 2018

"The Ichikawa: Family, Environment, and the 'Periphery' in Early Medieval Japan"  
- Boston College, New England Association for Asian Studies Conference, January 2017

“The Nejime Network and Medieval Japanese Kinship”  
- University of Michigan, Medieval and Early Modern Studies Fall Reception, September 2016

"The Geographic Environment and Warrior Succession in Medieval Shinano: The Case

of the Ichikawa." 「中世信濃国における地理的環境と武家の相続—中野・市河氏を題材に」

- University of Tokyo Historiographical Institute, Foreign Research Scholar Presentation Conference Series, November 2013 (Presented in Japanese)

“Currents in the Japanese Historiography of Land and Rulership in the Early Medieval Period” 「土地と支配を中心とする中世前期日本歴史学・歴史叙述の流れ」

- Inter-University Center for Japanese Studies, Year End Presentations, May 2011 (Presented in Japanese via teleconference following the 3/11 Tohoku earthquake)

“Warrior Family in the Kamakura Period: The Goseibai Shikimoku and Case Studies”  
University of Oregon, History Department Graduate Student Conference, May 2008

## AREAS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

Japanese History and Asian Studies  
International / Cross-Cultural Studies  
Social History and Social Organization  
Environmental History and Local Environmental Studies  
Kinship, Family History, Social Networks, Inheritance, and Lineage  
Adoption, Identity, and Relationship Construction  
Network Theory and Social Networks  
Japanese, Chinese, and East Asian Society and Culture

## LANGUAGES

English (native)  
Japanese (written and spoken)  
Classical Japanese (written)  
French (written, limited)

## AFFILIATIONS

The Association for Asian Studies  
The American Historical Association

## CITIZENSHIP

United States of America

## REFERENCES

Hitomi Tonomura, Professor of History, University of Michigan  
[tomitono@umich.edu](mailto:tomitono@umich.edu)

Leslie Pincus, Associate Professor of History, University of Michigan  
[lpincus@umich.edu](mailto:lpincus@umich.edu)

Christian de Pee, Associate Professor of History, University of Michigan  
[cdepee@umich.edu](mailto:cdepee@umich.edu)

Thomas Trautmann, Emeritus Professor of History and Anthropology, University of Michigan  
[ttraut@umich.edu](mailto:ttraut@umich.edu)

Kurushima Noriko, Professor of History, University of Tokyo (for inquiries in Japanese)  
[kurusima@hi.u-tokyo.ac.jp](mailto:kurusima@hi.u-tokyo.ac.jp)

Kevin L. Gouge - Dissertation Abstract

*The Ties That Bind: Kinship, Inheritance, and the Environment in Medieval Japan*

During Japan's early medieval period (ca. 12th-15th C.), warriors adapted new strategies of kinship, social structure, and group identity. The standard narrative of the evolution of the warrior class states that warrior kin groups shifted from divided to unitary inheritance in order to maintain and defend their territories as Japan descended into civil war in the early fourteenth century. Yet shifts toward familial consolidation and unigeniture were neither uniform nor universal, and warriors established highly individualized forms of kinship across the archipelago in response to various internal and external factors. I argue that medieval Japan had no normative framework for familial relations, and provides a valuable testbed for the study of the flexibility of kinship and human-environmental interaction. I assert that structures of kinship were contingent upon the natural environments in which groups were situated, as well as on a range of other locally-specific imperatives. By integrating local context with documentary analysis and readings of native practices on their own terms, we can enhance our understanding of warrior society. A combination of social and enviro-historical approaches allows for a holistic view of warrior groups and the inclusion of premodern Japanese kinship in broader conversations about the nature of human interconnectivity.

In this study, I ask: How did environmental, economic, political, and military exigencies influence familial structure? What were the forms and functions of warrior kin groups? I base my analysis on a comparison of two disparate warrior kin groups, the Nejime and the Nakano/Ichikawa, which had identical positions of land stewardship and controlled territories of roughly the same size. Each group left behind records of inheritance, military activity, and interfamilial legal battles that allow me to examine their relational structures in detail, and reveal distinct strategies of social organization. The pair of case studies that form the foundation of my analysis help us to take a more nuanced approach to the nature of social change, and lead me to refine systemic views of the warrior class in light of the flexibility and variability evident across its diverse population. I contend that warrior kinship involved a fluid and dynamic set of practices that defies broad categorization. Instead, I argue that warrior kin groups formed and reformed opportunistically and survived the chaos of the medieval period due to their adaptability, a deliberate feature that was the primary feature of medieval warrior kinship.

The case studies utilized in this dissertation add valuable insight into the nature of kinship in medieval Japan. The disparate stories that form the foundation of my analysis help us to take a more nuanced approach to the nature of social change, and lead me to refine systemic views of the warrior class in light of the flexibility and variability evident across its diverse population. I contend that warrior kinship involved a fluid and dynamic set of practices that defies broad categorization. Instead, I argue that warrior kin groups formed and reformed opportunistically and survived the chaos of the medieval period due to their adaptability, which was the primary feature of medieval warrior kinship.