

Stanford Program in Kyoto Course Offerings – Spring Quarter 2025

各クラスの講義の時間は、以下の通りですが、フィールドトリップが講義時間外（平日、週末含む）にも実施される予定です。フィールドトリップの日時の確定は、学期開始後となります。

1. Instagramming Kyoto: Tourism and Social Media in the 21st Century by Associate Professor Angele Christin **Monday, 3rd (13:10-14:40) AND 4th (14:55-16:25)**

This course examines how social media use interacts—and sometimes conflicts—with local institutions, norms, and values. We focus on the case of Kyoto, one of the world's premier tourism destinations, which is currently seeking to minimize "tourism pollution" in relation to digital media and "selfies." Drawing on readings from digital studies, sociology, and communication, the course asks: what happens when tourists overwhelmingly document their trips and experiences in Kyoto on social media platforms? How do these activities affect the local environment and social norms? What are some of the unintended consequences of social media activities, and how can we mitigate them in the case of tourism?

As part of the course, the students will conduct qualitative interviews and observations with tourists in Kyoto. Course elements will include participating in class discussions, writing short papers, and delivering a presentation in class (subject to change). The course will provide an overview of the economic, political, and cultural forces driving the creation of Japanese media content. Equipped with this framework, students will then be asked to pick samples of Japanese media and explain how markets, politics, and culture shape the form and content of what they've chosen to examine.

Professor Angele Christin is an Associate Professor in the Department of Communication at Stanford University. Prof. Christin studies how algorithms and analytics are changing work practices, expertise, and organizations. Using ethnographic methods, she has examined a range of sites, including web journalism, criminal justice, AI ethics, and social media creation.

Her award-winning book, [*Metrics at Work: Journalism and the Contested Meaning of Algorithms*](#) (Princeton University Press, 2020) focused on the case of journalism, analyzing the effects of audience data in web newsrooms in the U.S. and France. It shows how American and French journalists made sense of traffic numbers in different ways, which had distinct effects on news production in the two countries.

Prof. Christin received her PhD in Sociology from Princeton University. She is also a co-editor of the Princeton Studies in Cultural Sociology at Princeton University Press.

**2. Contemporary Religion in Japan's Ancient Capital: Sustaining and Recasting Tradition by
Professor Catherine Ludvik
Tuesday, 3rd (13:10-14:40) AND
Wednesday, 3rd (13:10-14:40)**

This course explores contemporary Japanese attitudes to religion and popular forms of religiosity. The syncretic nature people's beliefs and practices, often described as a combination of Shinto and Buddhism, draws on a vast variety of interwoven concepts, beliefs, customs, and religious activities of native Japanese, Korean, Chinese, and Indian origins. Against this complex historical background, we will examine various aspects and expressions of contemporary Japanese religion, including the pursuit of worldly benefits, religion and healing, fortune-telling, the popularity of ascetic practices and practitioners, pilgrimage, the enormous appeal of festivals (matsuri), new religions and their image, the impact of the internet on religion, and the response of religion in times of crisis, such as natural disasters. Drawing on Kyoto's rich religious landscape of temples and shrines as well as its busy calendar of vibrant ceremonies and festivals, classes will be supplemented with organized field trips, and student assignments will be based both on readings as well as site visits.

As part of the course, students will have the opportunity to take part in several exciting field trips to various temples/sites in and around Kyoto both during the regular class hours as well as outside.

Prof. Ludvik obtained a Ph.D. at the University of Toronto in the Centre for the Study of Religion and teaches Japanese religion, visual arts, culture and history at Doshisha University and Kyoto Sangyo University. Spanning Indian and Japanese religions and their visual arts, her research interests focus on the metamorphoses of originally Indian deities in texts, images and rituals of Japan, as well as on ascetic practices and pilgrimage. Prof. Ludvik is the author of *Recontextualizing the Praises of a Goddess* (2006) and *Sarasvati, Riverine Goddess of Knowledge* (2007). She is currently researching the goddess Uga-Benzaiten and the Shikoku Henro pilgrimage. She has taught courses on Japanese religion, visual arts and gardens on the Stanford Program in Kyoto since 2001.