

# Dr. Stefan Huebner

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Asia Research Institute

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## Education

- PhD, History, special distinction (best degree), Jacobs University Bremen, Germany
  - M.A. (Magister Artium), Medieval and Modern History (includes the equivalent to a B.A.), Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz, Germany
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## Professional Experience

### CURRENT POSITION:

JULY 2016 - PRESENT

**Senior Research Fellow (until July 2020: Research Fellow), Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore**

JUNE 2019 - PRESENT

**Associate, Harvard University Asia Center**

### PREVIOUS POSITIONS:

FEBRUARY 2019 – MAY 2019

**SSRC Transregional Research Fellow, Harvard University Asia Center**

MARCH 2018 – MAY 2018

**Fulbright Scholar, Harvard University Asia Center**

MARCH 2017 – AUGUST 2017

**Visiting Scholar, Center for European Studies, Harvard University**

MAY 2016 – JUNE 2016

**History and Public Policy Fellow, Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars (Washington, DC) and Postdoc Fellow, German Historical Institute Washington, DC**

MARCH 2013 – APRIL 2016

**Postdoc (until October 2015: Doctoral Research Fellow), Historical Institute, Bundeswehr University Munich, Germany**

SEPTEMBER 2009 – FEBRUARY 2013

**Doctoral Research Fellow, German Research Foundation-funded project on “Asianisms in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century,” Historical Institute, Jacobs University Bremen, Germany**

- Responsible for subproject on “The Asian Games,” 159,000 Euro

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## Research Areas

Environmental History

Japanese History

Oceanic History

Global History

Digital Humanities

History of Modernization and Development

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## Short Biography

Stefan Huebner (Hübner) is a Senior Research Fellow in the Inter-Asia Engagements Cluster and a historian whose work centers on modern Japan and its connections to other parts of Asia and the West. He is particularly interested in combining questions, methods, and ideas from environmental history, the history of development, global history, and the digital humanities. He was U.S. SSRC Transregional Research Junior Scholar Fellow at Harvard University, Fulbright scholar also at Harvard, History and Public Policy Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, and postdoctoral/doctoral fellow at the German Historical Institute Washington, DC and the German Institute for Japanese Studies Tokyo. Currently, he is Co-PI of the Singapore Social Science Research Council (SSRTG Type A) project on “Linking the Digital Humanities to Biodiversity History in Singapore and Southeast Asia.” He received his PhD from Jacobs University Bremen (Germany) in 2015.

His current research project is a global history of the industrialization and urbanization of the world ocean since the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. He argues that Earth is experiencing an amphibious transformation that has turned many sea surfaces, in particular those of East Asian waters, into a new part of the human habitat. This rapid expansion of the built environment to sea surfaces demands an oceanic perspective on energy transitions and new energy spaces, food webs, vertical connections between the ocean and outer space, and floating forms of urbanization in the context of sea level rise and climate change.

His first book—[Pan-Asian Sports and the Emergence of Modern Asia, 1913-1974](#)—was published in 2016 and a [Japanese translation](#) released in 2017.

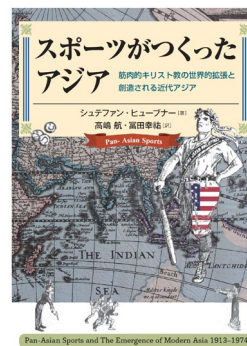
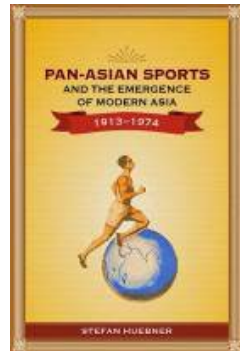
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## Publications

### Monographs

- Earth’s Amphibious Transformation since the Early Twentieth Century (in preparation)

- [\*Pan-Asian Sports and the Emergence of Modern Asia, 1913-1974\*](#). Singapore: National University of Singapore Press, 2016.
- Japanese translation: シュテファン・ヒューブナー著[Stefan Huebner]、高嶋航[Takashima Kō]・富田幸祐[Tomita Kōsuke]訳、[\*スポーツがつくったアジア。筋肉的キリスト教の世界的拡張と建設される近代アジア\*](#)、東京：一色出版 [Isshiki Publishing]、2017.



- Feedback of the two book manuscript reviewers: accept without revisions
- Reviews (selection): [Bijdragen tot de taal-, land- en volkenkunde](#); [Japan Forum](#); [Choice Reviews](#); [Sehepunkte](#); [Asian and African Studies](#); [Social Science Diliman](#); [Journal of American-East Asian Relations](#); [Journal of Sport History](#); [Cross-Currents](#); [Economic and Political Weekly](#); [Illes i Imperis](#); [Schweizerische Zeitschrift für Geschichte](#); [International Review for the Sociology of Sport](#); [Philippine Studies](#); [Monumenta Nipponica](#); [International Quarterly for Asian Studies](#); [Asian Journal of Social Sciences](#); [Journal of Southeast Asian Studies](#); [Contemporary Japan](#); [Ricerche di storia politica](#); [Sojourn](#); [建築討論](#); [Journal of Cold War Studies](#); [Pacific Affairs](#); [Historische Zeitschrift](#); [Journal of World History](#); [Sport in History](#); [史林](#); [Journal of Asian Studies](#); [American Historical Review](#)

## Refereed Articles

- “Asia’s Oceanic Anthropocene: How Political Elites and Global Offshore Oil Development Moved Asian Marine Spaces into the New Epoch,” [Journal of Global History](#) 18,1 (2023): 25–46.
- “Earth’s Amphibious Transformation: Tange Kenzo, Buckminster Fuller, and Marine Urbanization in Global Environmental Thought (1950s-Present),” [Modern Asian Studies](#) 56,4 (2022): 1053–1082.
- “Tackling Climate Change, Air Pollution, and Ecosystem Destruction: How US-Japanese Ocean Industrialization and the Metabolist Movement’s Global Legacy Shaped Environmental Thought (c. 1950s–Present),” [Environmental History](#) 25,1 (2020): 35–61.
- “Images of the Sportive Civilizing Mission: The Far Eastern Championship Games (1913-1934) and Asian Modernization in English-Language Philippine Newspapers.” [Journal of World History](#) 27,3 (2016), 497–533.
- “‘Did you convert him personally?’ Amerikanisch-protestantische Fitness und Männlichkeit, das ‘Moral Empire’ des YMCA und die Integration ostasiatischer Sportexperten (1910er und 1920er Jahre) [‘Did you convert him personally?’ Protestant American Fitness and Manliness, the YMCA’s moral empire, and the

Integration of East Asian Sports Experts (1910s and 1920s)],” [\*Geschichte und Gesellschaft\* 42,3 \(2016\), 467–496.](#)

- “Donors and the Global Sportive ‘Civilizing Mission’: Asian Athletics, American Philanthropy, and YMCA Media (1910s-1920s),” [\*Itinerario\* 40,1 \(2016\), 29–54.](#)
- “Muscular Christianity and the ‘Western Civilizing Mission’: Elwood S. Brown, the YMCA and the Idea of the Far Eastern Championship Games,” [\*Diplomatic History\* 39,3 \(2015\), 532–557.](#)
- “National Socialist Foreign Policy and Press Instructions, 1933-1939: Aims and Ways of Coverage Manipulation based on the Example of East Asia,” [\*International History Review\* 34,2 \(2012\), 271–291.](#)
- “The Fourth Asian Games (Jakarta 1962) in a Transnational Perspective: Japanese and Indian Reactions to Indonesia’s Political Instrumentalisation of the Games,” [\*International Journal of the History of Sport\* 29,9 \(2012\), 1295–1310.](#)
- With Torsten Weber, “Introduction: National and Regional Belonging in Twentieth Century Asia,” [\*Comparativ: Zeitschrift für Globalgeschichte und vergleichende Gesellschaftsforschung\* 23,3 \(2013\), 6–16.](#)

## Edited Journal Issues

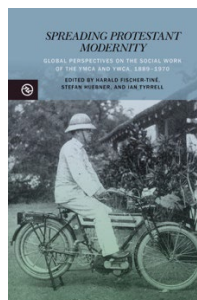
- With Diego Olstein (eds.), special issue of the *Journal of World History* 27,3 (2016) on [“Preaching the Civilizing Mission and Modern Cultural Encounters”](#)
- With Torsten Weber (eds.), special issue of *Comparativ* 23,3 (2013) on [“National and Regional Belonging in Twentieth Century Asia”](#)

## Digital Humanities Projects

- [Singapore Ecological History Map](#) (3 thematic storymaps and about 60 GIS layers on land-use change, rainfall and extreme weather events, and mosquito habitats / malaria incidence)  
Layer download: <https://doi.org/10.25540/ZJ4T-A3GH>

## Edited Books

- First editor, with Nadin Heé / Ian J. Miller / William Tsutsui (eds.), *Oceanic Japan: The Archipelago in Pacific and Global History*. Honolulu: University of Hawai’i Press, 2024.
- With Harald Fischer-Tiné / Ian Tyrrell (eds.), [\*Spreading Protestant Modernity: Global Perspectives on the Social Work of the YMCA and YWCA \(c. 1889 - 1970\)\*](#). Honolulu: University of Hawai’i Press, 2021.



## Book Chapters (Selection)

- “The Platform Archipelago: Islands of Adaptation Beyond a Terrestrialized Worldview,” in Stefan Huebner / Nadin Heé / Ian J. Miller / William Tsutsui (eds.), *Oceanic Japan: The Archipelago in Pacific and Global History* (Honolulu: University of Hawai’i Press, 2024).
- “Oceanic Japan: Environmental Factors and a New Periodization of Japan’s Archipelagic History,” in Stefan Huebner / Nadin Heé / Ian J. Miller / William Tsutsui (eds.), *Oceanic Japan: The Archipelago in Pacific and Global History* (Honolulu: University of Hawai’i Press, 2024).
- “The YMCA’s “Moral Empire”, Public Health, and Masculinity in East and Southeast Asia (1910s-1920s): China, the Philippines, and Japan.” In: Stefan Huebner / Harald Fischer-Tiné / Ian Tyrrell (eds.), [\*Spreading Protestant Modernity: Global Perspectives on the Social Work of the YMCA and YWCA \(c. 1889 - 1970\)\*](#). Honolulu: University of Hawai’i Press, 2021, 151-181.
- With Harald Fischer-Tiné / Ian Tyrrell, “The Rise and Growth of a Global “Moral Empire” —The YMCA and YWCA during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries.” In: Stefan Huebner / Harald Fischer-Tiné / Ian Tyrrell (eds.), [\*Spreading Protestant Modernity: Global Perspectives on the Social Work of the YMCA and YWCA \(c. 1889 - 1970\)\*](#). Honolulu: University of Hawai’i Press, 2021, 9-59.
- シュテファン・ヒューブナー著 [Stefan Huebner], 高嶋航訳 [trans. Takashima Kō], シンガポールのスポーツ：東南アジアの一都市国家における帝国の遺産と世界的野心 [Sport in Singapore: Imperial Legacies and Global Ambitions of a Southeast Asian City State.] In: 坂上康博、高嶋航、中房敏朗、石井昌幸編 [edited by Sakaue Yasuhiro, Takashima Kō, Nakafusa Toshirō, Ishii Masayuki], [\*スポーツの世界史 \[A World History of Sport\]\*](#), 東京：一色出版 [Isshiki Publishing], 2018, 263-281.
- “Muscular Christian Exchanges: Asian Sports Experts and the International YMCA Training School (1910s-1930s).” In: Giles Scott-Smith / Ludovic Tournès (eds.), [\*Global Exchange: Scholarships and Transnational Circulations in the Modern World \(19-21st Centuries\)\*](#). New York: Berghahn Books, 2017, 119-142.
- ““Uplifting the Weak and Degenerated Races of East Asia’: American and Indigenous Views of Sport and Body in Early Twentieth-Century East Asia,” in: Walter Demel / Rotem Kowner (eds.), [\*Race and Racism in Modern East Asia. Vol. 2: Interactions, Nationalism, Gender and Lineage\*](#). Leiden: Brill, 2015, 196-217.
- “Uniting the East via Western Amateur Sports Values: Asian Integration, the Olympic Ideal and the Far Eastern Championship Games.” In: Marc Frey / Nicola Spakowski (eds.), [\*Asianisms: Regionalist Interactions and Asian Integration\*](#). Singapore: National University of Singapore Press, 2015, 75-98.

## Op-Eds (Selection)

- [“Floating Future: A Sustainable City Project in South Korea is a Model of Affordable Climate Adaptation,”](#) *AsiaGlobal Online* (26 January 2023).
- [“Could the next Hotspot for Offshore Rocket Launches Be off the Singapore and Malaysia Coast?”](#), *Channelnews Asia* (4 August 2022).

- [“Symbolism over Substance: In the Ukraine Crisis, the EU Steps Up,”](#) *AsiaGlobal Online* (10 March 2022).
- [“After Merkel: Germany, the European Union and China,”](#) *AsiaGlobal Online* (4 November 2021).
- [“Earth’s Amphibious Transformation: Urbanizing Asia’s Sea,”](#) *AsiaGlobal Online* (12 August 2021).
- Advisor and interview partner: “Hi, Asian Games,” documentary by the Asian Games (Hangzhou 2022) Organizing Committee, 8 episodes
- With Anthony Medrano, [“Shipping Disruptions May Fuel Spread of Harmful Alien Species,”](#) *Straits Times* (4 July 2020).
- [“The UN’s ‘Sustainable Floating Cities’ Discussions as Climate Action,”](#) *Yale Global* (8 August 2019).
- [“Floating the Idea of Cities and Economic Zones at Sea,”](#) *Straits Times* (18 December 2018).
- [“Guru Dutt Sondhi \(1890-1966\): Indian IOC Member and Visionary of Asian Integration through Sport,”](#) *Education about Asia* 21,2 (2016), 29-34. Reprinted in: *IIC Quarterly* 44,3-4 (2017), 293-305.
- [“Hitler und Ostasien, 1904 bis 1933. Die Entwicklung von Hitlers Japan- und Chinabild vom Russisch-Japanischen Krieg bis zur ‘Machtergreifung’](#) [Hitler and East Asia, 1904-1933. The Development of Hitler’s Image of Japan and China between the Russo-Japanese War and the ‘Seizure of Power’],” in: *OAG-Notizen* 9 (2009), 22-41.

### **Awards and Distinctions (Selection)**

- U.S. SSRC Transregional Research Junior Scholar Fellowship (2018/19)
- Fulbright Visiting Scholar Program (2018)
- Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars (2016): Public Policy Fellowship
- German Historical Institute Washington (2016): Postdoc Fellowship
- SIAS Summer Institute 2013/14, Wissenschaftskolleg Berlin and National Humanities Center, NC): “Cultural Encounters: Global Perspectives and Local Exchanges, 1750-1940”, organized by Jürgen Osterhammel and Harry Liebersohn; funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung
- German Institute for Japanese Studies Tokyo (2010/2011): Doctoral Fellowship
- German Historical Institute Washington (2010): Doctoral Fellowship

### **Recent Research Grants**

- “Asia’s Carbon Territories: Infrastructure, Environment, and Society from the Age of Imperialism to the Climate Crisis” (conference grant, ARI, 2023): **SGD 20,000**

- “Biodiversity at a Crossroads: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Biodiversity Change across Asia, Past and Present” (conference grant, ARI, 2022): **SGD 20,000**
- Collaborator, MoE Tier 2 Grant, Ministry of Education, Singapore (2022), “The History and Sustainability of Animal-Based Drugs in Asian Traditional Medicines,” about **SGD 900,000**
- Co-PI, Social Science Research Thematic Grant, Social Science Research Council Singapore (2021), “Linking the Digital Humanities to Biodiversity History in Singapore and Southeast Asia,” **SGD 782,756**
- PI, ARI Research Grant (Collaborative Grant), NUS (2020), “Advancing Digital Humanities Research into Singapore’s Epidemic, Environmental, and Urban History,” **SGD 10,000**
- Co-PI, HSS Seed Grant (Collaborative Research), NUS (2020), “Asian Natures, Alien Species: Past, Present, and Future,” **SGD 37,380**
- Transregional Research Junior Scholar Fellowship, U.S. Social Science Research Council (2018/19); **USD 32,500**
- “When Species Travel: On the Rise and Consequence of Invasive Ecologies in Asia and the West Pacific” (conference grant, ARI, 2019): **SGD 25,000**
- “Knowledge, Materiality, and Environment in Transpacific Histories of Oceanic Transformation” (Max Planck Institute for the History of Science Berlin, Free University Berlin, Humboldt University Berlin, 2019): **EUR 23,000**
- “From “Pelagic Empire” to EEZs: The Transformation of Asia’s Pacific since the 19<sup>th</sup> Century” (conference grant, ARI, 2018): **SGD 25,000**

### **Conferences Hosted (since 2019)**

- [“On Biodiversity: History, Heritage, and Research in Asia,”](#) ARI, NUS, 13-14 July 2023
- “18<sup>th</sup> Graduate Forum on Southeast Asian Studies”, ARI, NUS, 19-23 June 2023
- [“Learning from Aliens: New Directions in Environmental Humanities Research and Practice,”](#) ARI, NUS, 4-5 May 2023
- [“Progress and Innovative Practices in Digital Humanities,”](#) ARI NUS, 24-25 November 2022
- “17<sup>th</sup> Graduate Forum on Southeast Asian Studies”, ARI, NUS, 18-20 July 2022
- “16<sup>th</sup> Graduate Forum on Southeast Asian Studies”, ARI, NUS, 12-16 July 2021
- “15<sup>th</sup> Graduate Forum on Southeast Asian Studies”, ARI, NUS, 20-24 July 2020
- [“On Asia: Digitizing and Visualizing Historical Sources”](#), ARI, NUS, 14 May 2020
- [“When Species Travel: On the Rise and Consequence of Invasive Ecologies in Asia and the West Pacific”](#), ARI, NUS, 17-18 February 2020
- “14<sup>th</sup> Graduate Forum on Southeast Asian Studies”, ARI, NUS, 22-26 July 2019
- [“Ocean, Island, Shore: Placing the Global Pacific in the Age of Climate Change”](#), Harvard University Center for the Environment, 8 May 2019

- [“Knowledge, Materiality, and Environment in Transpacific Histories of Oceanic Transformation”](#), Max Planck Institute for the History of Science (Berlin), 11-12 April 2019
- [“From “Pelagic Empire” to EEZs: The Transformation of Asia’s Pacific since the 19<sup>th</sup> Century”](#), ARI, NUS, 24-25 January 2019

### **Recent Keynote Addresses and Plenary Events**

- Keynote Address, 28 August 2023, World Conference on Floating Solutions WCFS 2023 Japan, Tokyo