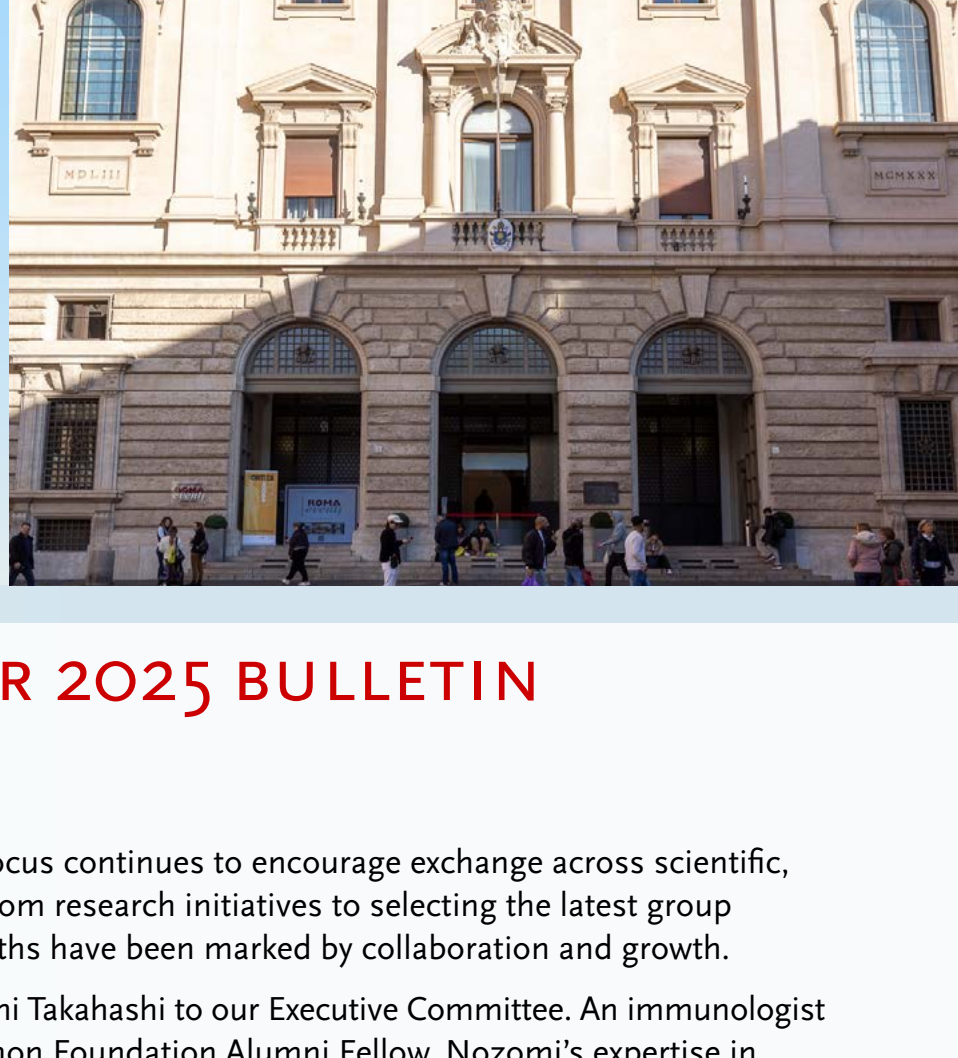


Above: Attendees of the 2024 Regional Alumni Fellow Meeting (left) at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome (right).



Above: The historic heart of Ghent, Belgium. Photo by Kristian Korhete on Unsplash.

WELCOME TO OUR 2025 BULLETIN

INTRODUCTION

As we reflect on an eventful year, our focus continues to encourage exchange across scientific, cultural and geographic boundaries. From research initiatives to selecting the latest group of Canon Fellows, the past twelve months have been marked by collaboration and growth.

We are delighted to welcome Dr. Nozomi Takahashi to our Executive Committee. An immunologist from the University of Ghent and a Canon Foundation Alumni Fellow, Nozomi's expertise in Molecular Biology and Biotechnology will be a valuable asset to the Committee.

The year reached a high point in November with a private audience with the late Pope Francis at the Vatican. It was an unforgettable moment symbolising the unity of science, culture and human values.

THE 2025 REGIONAL ALUMNI FELLOW MEETING

Alumni Fellows from the Benelux will be invited to this year's Regional Fellow meeting at the University of Ghent, Belgium on **Friday 14 November 2025**. Fellows who completed their research this year from other countries will also be invited.

The Fellow meetings help to build a lively community of current and former Fellows, giving them a chance to share experiences and learn from one another.

Please visit our website to see our [Fellow register with a complete list of Canon Fellows](#)

2025 CANON FOUNDATION IN EUROPE FELLOWS



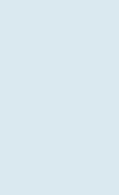
MS. ELENA BELÉN BUENO BENITO
FROM
Institut de Robòtica i Informàtica Industrial, CSIC-UPC, Barcelona, Spain
TO
University of Tokyo, Japan
HOST
Prof. Toshihiko Yamasaki
RESEARCH FIELD
Computer sciences: Unsupervised Video Representation Learning: developments and applications



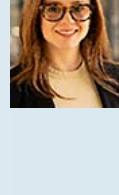
DR. CATHERINE CHAMBERS
FROM
Stefansson Arctic Institute at University of Akureyri / University Centre of the Westfjords, Ísafjörður, Iceland
TO
University of Tokyo, Japan
HOST
Prof. Dr. Mitsutaku Makino
RESEARCH FIELD
Environmental studies: Japan and Iceland's small-scale fisheries: Changing communities, knowledge exchange, and future opportunities



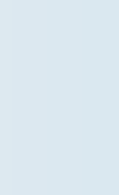
DR. MARK COLLEY
FROM
University College London, UK
TO
University of Tokyo, Japan
HOST
Prof. Takeo Igarashi
RESEARCH FIELD
Computer sciences: Computational Approaches for Automotive User Interfaces



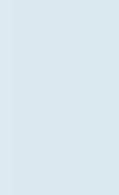
DR. NICHOLAS GERVASSIS
FROM
University of Nottingham, UK
TO
Nagoya University, Japan
HOST
Prof. Dai Yokomizo
Law: Regulation of Digital Platforms and of Cross-border Data Transfers



DR. PEDRO GONÇALVES
FROM
VTT - Technical Research Centre of Finland, Espoo, Finland
TO
Nano Life Science Institute, Kanazawa University, Japan
HOST
Prof. Clemens M. Franz
RESEARCH FIELD
Biosciences: Placing the mycelium under new lenses: label-free imaging and fungal strain development to enable the production of bioinspired materials



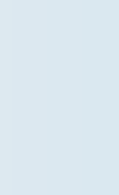
DR. ANDREA PEREZ GONZALEZ
FROM
Radboud University, Nijmegen, the Netherlands
TO
Waseda University Tokyo, Japan
HOST
Prof. Pedro Erber
RESEARCH FIELD
Art: Women working the camera: textual and photographic representations of Japanese women in Meiji-era Japan



MS. AYAKO HATANO
Co-sponsored Research Fellowship with the European University Institute
FROM
University of Oxford, UK
TO
European University Institute, San Domenico di Fiesole, Italy
RESEARCH FIELD
Law: Vernacularising Digital Rights: Legal Mobilisation and the Transformation of International Law in the Digital Age



DR. PINAR GÖKTEPE-KAVIS
FROM
University of Bern, Switzerland
TO
Advanced Telecommunications Research Institute International, Computational Neuroscience Laboratories, Kyoto, Japan
HOST
Prof. Dr. Aurelio Cortese
RESEARCH FIELD
Neurosciences: The Brain's Algorithm: Neurocomputational Underpinnings of Human Decision-Making



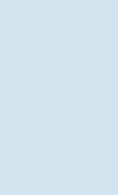
DR. KEITA KAWAI
FROM
Nagoya University Graduate School of Medicine, Nagoya, Japan
TO
University of Freiburg, Germany
HOST
professor Prof. Kai Spiegelhalter
RESEARCH FIELD
Psychiatry and Clinical Psychology: The efficacy of circadian rhythm-focused cognitive behavioral therapy for insomnia in patients with depression



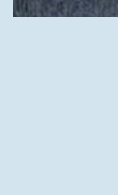
MS. VALERIE KIEL
FROM
Ruhr University Bochum, Germany
TO
Kyoto University, Japan
HOST
Prof. Dr. Christian Wittern
RESEARCH FIELD
Linguistics: Beyond the Sinosphere: Amplifying the Thesaurus Linguae Sericae



DR. MARVIN MAY
FROM
Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, KIT, Karlsruhe, Germany
TO
Kobe University, Japan
HOST
Prof. Toshiya Kaihara
RESEARCH FIELD
Mechanical Engineering: Intelligent Production Planning and Control (IPPC)



DR. ANDREA PALASTI
FROM
University of Novi Sad, Academy of Arts, Serbia
TO
EU-Japan Fest Japan Committee, Tokyo and Kincho Research and Development Laboratory, Osaka
HOST
Prof. Nobuyuki Tanaka, Ph.D., Chief curator, Herbarium, Dept. of Botany, National Museum of Nature and Science, Tokyo; Prof. Morihiro Satow, Dept. of Aesthetics and Art Theory, Faculty of Letters, Doshisha University
RESEARCH FIELD
Art: The Killer Chrysanthemum: History, science and poetics of the Dalmatian pyrethrum



MS. CLAUDIA RABUFFO
FROM
Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich, Germany
TO
Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology, Japan
HOST
Prof. Filip Husnik
RESEARCH FIELD
Biosciences: The role of three-dimensional genome architecture in the acquisition and regulation of horizontally transferred genes



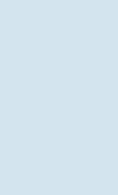
DR. LISA ROSSI
FROM
University of Cambridge, UK
TO
University of Tokyo, Japan
HOST
Prof. Yusuke Kishita
RESEARCH FIELD
Engineering: Advancing Circular Supply Networks through Digital Technologies



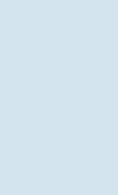
MR. SEBASTIAN SAMBERGER
FROM
Montanuniversität Leoben, Austria
TO
Institute of Science Tokyo, Japan
HOST
Prof. Equo Kobayashi
RESEARCH FIELD
Material Science: Performance evaluation of extruded aluminum alloys for extended applicability and sustainable development



ASSOCIATE PROF. MAI SAWADA
FROM
Institute of Science Tokyo (formerly, Tokyo Inst. of Technology), Japan
TO
Imperial College, London, UK
HOST
Prof. Catherine O'Sullivan
RESEARCH FIELD
Civil Engineering: Can we improve understanding of interparticle forces in wet granular materials?



MS. TETIANA YATSENKO
FROM
Palladin Institute of Biochemistry of NAS of Ukraine
TO
Juntendo University, Tokyo, Japan
HOST
Prof. Beate Heissig
RESEARCH FIELD
Biosciences: Investigation of the molecular and genetic regulation of PAI-1 expression hyperosmotic stress response



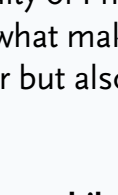
MR. DAVIDE ANDREA ZAPPULLI
FROM
University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada
TO
Hokkaido University, Japan
HOST
professor Prof. Shigeru Taguchi
RESEARCH FIELD
Philosophy: Creativity and Novelty in Nishida Kitarō
<https://davidezappulli.com>



DR. ATUPELYE KOMBA
FROM
Ardhi University, Tanzania
TO
Kyoto University, Japan
RESEARCH FIELD
Environmental Studies: Balancing Wildlife and Futures: Untangling the Conflicts and Trade-offs Between Conservation and Livelihoods at Lake Natron, Tanzania



DR. YUKO NAKAMURA
FROM
Kyoto University, Japan
TO
Le Centre and Lieu Unik, Benin
RESEARCH FIELD
Art: Local and Private Initiatives on the Restoration of Cultural Patrimony in Benin



MS. KIYA GEZAHEGNE WOTERE
FROM
Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia
TO
Kyoto University, Japan
RESEARCH FIELD
Anthropology: Empowered Transitions: Women's Roles and Agency in Climate-Driven Mobility

FELLOWS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

TALKING PHILOSOPHY WITH CANON FELLOW LISA TORIO: WHO WAS GABRIEL MARCEL?

A few weeks ago, I met Lisa Torio to find out about her journey from Kyoto to Paris. She is doing research at the Institut Catholique de Paris. She shared her fascination with the half-forgotten existential philosopher Gabriel Marcel and how receiving a Canon Foundation Fellowship gave her the opportunity to pursue her research in Paris.

Q: Can you tell us a bit about the Institut here in Paris?

A: I'm doing research at the Institut Catholique de Paris, one of the world's foremost centres for the philosophy of religion and theology. Under the mentorship of my host professor Dr. Emmanuel Falque, Honorary Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy and founder of the International Network of Philosophy of Religion, I'm exploring what makes Gabriel Marcel's ideas so rich and thought-provoking. He was not only a philosopher but also a playwright, music critic and a pioneer of Christian existentialism in 20th-century France.

Q: Dr. Falque emphasises an immersive approach to philosophy. Has that influenced your approach?

A: Absolutely. Prof. Falque insists that to truly grasp a philosopher's vision, you must "enter" their world to see through the texts and feel the texture of their arguments. It's a method that goes beyond just reading the texts—it requires fully inhabiting the philosopher's worldview.

Q: I understand you've traced some of Marcel's footsteps in Paris?

A: Yes! Today this bar where you and I are meeting for this interview is on the Rue de Tournon. This is the street where Marcel lived and where he famously hosted his weekly salons. Back then, leading thinkers would gather in his apartment to debate everything from metaphysics to music criticism. Sitting here, you can really feel the echo of those conversations.

Q: How vital has the Canon Foundation Fellowship been for your "journey"?

A: Immensely. The Canon Foundation Fellowship has allowed me to carry out research beyond virtual interactions, meeting scholars across disciplines, visiting archives and most importantly engaging in face-to-face dialogue.

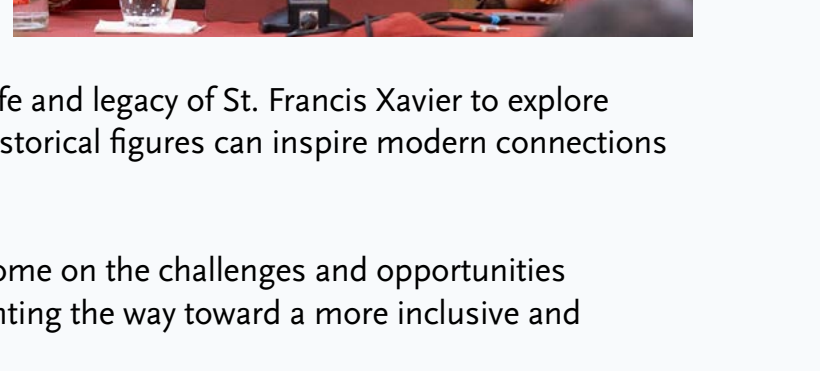
Q: What's next?

A: After my Fellowship ends, I plan to continue my studies in Paris as a doctoral researcher. I will continue exploring Marcel's ideas on hope and human solidarity. And of course continuing the conversations - both here in Paris and Japan - that inspired my "journey" in the first place.

Thank you Lisa for sharing your story. We look forward to seeing how your work on Gabriel Marcel ignites new dialogues across cultures and disciplines!

2024 CANON FELLOW JERÒNIA CUBELLS

2024 Canon Fellow Jerònia Cubells hosted a [research seminar](#) at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona together with Prof. Giancarlo Parady, her host professor at University of Tokyo and other professors that she met during her stay.



Above: Lisa outside Gabriel Marcel's house.



Right: Canon Fellow Jerònia Cubells with Prof. Giancarlo Parady.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MEETING: REFLECTIONS FROM OUR SPEAKERS

We were honoured to welcome three speakers who shared their insights and experiences, each offering a unique lens on dialogue, friendship and the transformative power of cultural exchange. Their presentations sparked thoughtful conversations and deepened our shared commitment to mutual understanding across borders.



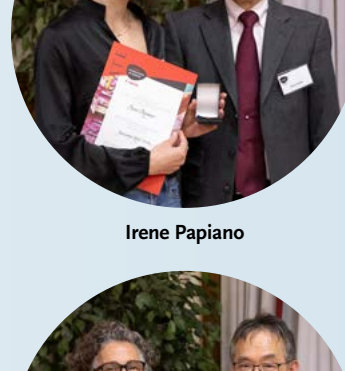
Sr. Caborio Uribarri Bilbao, SJ (left), revisited the life and legacy of St. Francis Xavier to explore social friendship among peoples, showing how historical figures can inspire modern connections across cultures.

Ms. Elena Dini (centre) offered reflections from Rome on the challenges and opportunities of interreligious dialogue in a complex world, pointing the way toward a more inclusive and cooperative future.

Dr. Claudia Cecchetto (right) reflected on her own journey, sharing how her time in Japan through the Fellowship programme profoundly shaped her career.

We are grateful to each of them for their contributions and the inspiration they provided to all in attendance.

Below: Executive Committee member Dr. Seigo Shima awarding certificates to Fellows



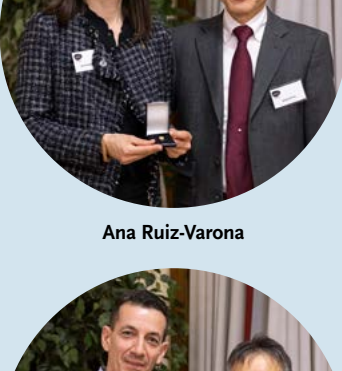
Raúl Pérez i Gonzalo



Ana Cristina Maia-Fernandes



Jerònia Cubells



Stefano Torrieri



Irene Papiano



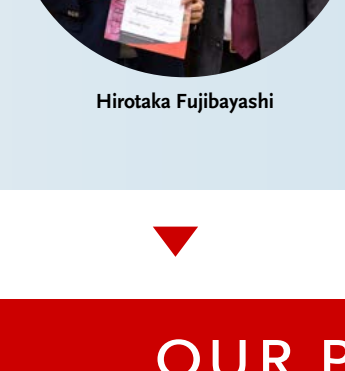
Samuele Lo Piano



Immaculada Martínez



Ana Ruiz-Varela



Eva Carolina Samuho Zotes



Pol Torres Alvarez



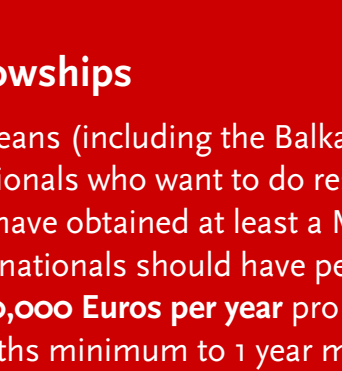
Giovanni Forcina



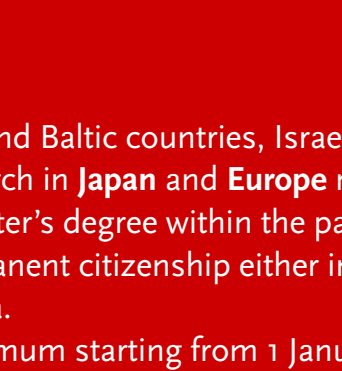
Yves Bougon



Hirotaka Fujibayashi



Maria Salvador Cabrerizo



Hiroyuki Yoshihara



Julian Hinz

OUR PROGRAMMES

Research Fellowships

Eligibility - Europeans (including the Balkan and Baltic countries, Israel, Turkey and UK) and Japanese nationals who want to do research in **Japan** and **Europe** respectively. Applicants must have obtained at least a Master's degree within the past 10 years prior to applying. Non-nationals should have permanent citizenship either in Europe or Japan.
Stipend - up to **30,000 Euros per year** max.
Duration - 3 months minimum to 1 year maximum starting from 1 January 2026.
Deadline - **15 Sept 2025**.

[General information](#) / [Registration and requirements](#)

Co-sponsored Research Fellowships with the European University Institute

Eligibility - Japanese nationals who already obtained their Ph.D within the past 5 years or have official approval to defend their thesis by the start of the programme on 1 September.
Duration - 1 year from Sept 2026 - Aug 2027.
Deadline - **18 Oct 2025**.

[General information](#) / [Application via our website](#) or [via the European University Institute](#)

Japan-Africa Programme

Grants are offered to post-graduate scholars from Japan and Africa who want to do research in African Studies in Africa and Japan respectively.
Deadline - **15 Sept 2025**.
[General information](#) / [Application and guidelines](#) / [Contact](#)

STAY CONNECTED

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Telephone +31 20 545 8934

Contact person: Suzy Cohen

Email: foundation@canon-europe.com

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