

# DR. STEPHANIE SANTSCHI

サンチ・ステファニー

*Japanese visual culture / digital art history / AI in higher education*

**Current position** Postdoctoral Fellow at the Chair of East Asian Art History  
**Affiliation** University of Zurich (UZH), Department of Art History,  
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**Online** [LinkedIn](#) | [UZH Profile](#) | [DSI Profile](#)  
**Languages** German (native), English (fluent), Japanese (modern:  
fluent; classical: reading), French (fluent), Italian (basic),  
Latin (reading knowledge)



## EDUCATION

**University of Zurich (UZH) | Doctorate, Summa cum Laude: East Asian Art History** 02/2018 – 02/2023  
Dissertation: “*Visual Vocabularies Within Poetic Microcosms: How Hokusai’s Social Embedding Shaped Content and Presentation of the ‘Ono’ and ‘Ryakuga’ Manuals.*” Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Hans B. Thomsen and Prof. Dr. Julie Nelson Davis (University of Pennsylvania) Conferred 30/05/2023

- UZH Travel Scholarship, Conference Attendance and Fieldwork (JP) 07/2023
- Eighth Graduate Summer School in Japanese Early-modern Palaeography, Cambridge (UK) 08/2022
- Toshiba Foundation Fellow, Dissertation Research, Yokohama (JP) 06–08/2020
- Nippon Foundation Fellow, Advanced Japanese, Stanford IUC, Yokohama (JP) 09/2019 – 06/2020

**University of East Anglia (UK) | MA with Distinction: Museum Studies** 09/2015 – 12/2016  
Master Thesis: “*A collector’s story in the making: how Edmond Michotte’s personal contribution to Belgian Japonisme influences the perception of his legacy.*” Conf. 02/12/2016

- Kadokawa Summer School “Animating Life,” University of Tokyo (JP) 07/2016

**UZH | BA: East Asian Art History, Japanese Studies, Education** 2010 – 2015  
Bachelor Thesis: “*Challenges of multilingualism within Japanese woodblock print exhibitions.*” Conf. 31/07/2015

- Language Exchange Japanese, Doshisha University, Kyoto (JP) 03/2014 – 02/2015

## RESEARCH PROJECTS (PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR)

**Drawing from the Crowd: A Citizen Science Platform for Mapping Ukiyo-e Geography** 2024 –  
*In collaboration with Snapshot, EPFL and ARC-ijAC, Ritsumeikan University*  
Citizen-science georeferencing of *ukiyo-e* landscape prints, integrating computer-vision methods (Vision-Language Models) for the analysis of spatial representation. Public launch late 2025; registered on SciStarter (international) and CoLabField (Japan).

- Implementation Funding: GRC Career Grant, UZH (CHF 13,300) 07/2025 – 06/2026
- Prototype Funding: The Nippon Foundation Scholars Association (ca. USD 15,000) 08/2024 – 01/2025

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**AI\_d: AI Didactic Companion for East Asian Art History** 2025 –  
*Pedagogical chatbot framework grounded in Bloom’s Taxonomy, SAMR, and Cognitive Apprenticeship; integrated with UZH learning platforms.*

- Universitäre Lehrförderung (ULF), micro\_innovation 2025 (CHF 4,000) 06/2025 – 01/2026

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE** *(in Switzerland unless stated)*

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- Postdoctoral Fellow, Chair of East Asian Art History, University of Zurich** 03/2024 –  
 Research, teaching, and administrative coordination and support at the Chair (Prof. Dr. Ewa Machotka).  
 Coordinator of Digital Humanities activities. PI on two third party-funded projects (see Research Projects above).
- Guest Curator, Linden-Museum Stuttgart, Germany** 09/2023 –  
 Research and publication on the Kurrus Collection of Edo and Meiji-period illustrated Japanese books (ca. 100)  
 and single-sheet prints (ca. 900); planning of a digital exhibition module.
- Cultural Promotion Officer, Cantonal Cultural Agency Grisons, Amt für Kultur** 01/2023 – 02/2024  
 Employee, [PortaCultura GR](#). Co-developed a cantonal cultural-heritage platform: data and  
 content curation, interface conceptualisation, workshops, knowledge transfer.
- Scientific Coordinator, Swiss Art Research Infrastructure (SARI), UZH** 06/2020 – 12/2022  
 Project Coordinator, [Bilder der Schweiz Online](#) (BSO). Semantic-web infrastructure for cultural data;  
 data-supported geo-localisation of ca. 28,000 Swiss prints, drawings, and photographs (1700–1950) in  
 collaboration with Smapshot/EPFL; knowledge transfer to project partners.
- Technical Research Assistant, The British Museum, London (UK)** 10/2016 – 06/2019  
 Project: [Late Hokusai: Thought, Technique, Society](#) (10/2016 – 06/2019). Conceptualisation  
 and development of a linked-data research and publication platform; coaching of the team in its use;  
 curatorial, object-handling, and research duties in the Japanese Section.
- Museum Intern, Japanese Section, BM: William Gowland collection research-data digitisation. 10/2015 – 09/2016
- Photography Assistant, ARC Ritsumeikan Digitization Project, Kyoto (JP)** 01/2016  
 Digitisation of Japanese illustrated books at the Musées Royaux d'Art et d'Histoire,  
 Brussels (BE), and at Maidstone Museum (UK).
- Founder, Vice-President, Secretary, Völkerkundesammlung Burgdorf Society** 03/2013 – 03/2015  
 Co-curator of several exhibitions at the Völkerkundesammlung Burgdorf (2014).
- Museum Intern, Musée d'Art et d'Histoire, Cabinet d'arts graphiques, Geneva** 03–09/2013  
 Digitisation of a collection of Japanese prints; exhibition planning.
- Research & Teaching Assistant — UZH, East Asian Art History** 2011 – 2014
- Archival research: Völkerkundesammlung Burgdorf (09/2012 – 03/2014)
  - Archival research: Netsuke collection of a private collector (04/2012 – 09/2012)
  - Archival research: P. Rieder Collection of Japanese woodblock prints (09/2011 – 07/2012)
  - Teaching Assistant, e-learning seminar of virtual lectures (2012)

**TEACHING**

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*All teaching at the Chair of East Asian Art History, UZH. BA = Bachelor, MA = Master. If not specified: offered to both.  
 HS = autumn semester, FS = spring semester. 1 ECTS = 30h of student work.*

**Courses**

- Methods in Digital (Art) Curation: The Sigg Collection (6 ECTS, cross-listed exercise course) FS 2026
- BA Seminar: Narrative Layers: Unveiling and Rewriting East Asian Art (6 ECTS, co-taught) FS 2026
- Excursion: East Asian Art Collections in the UK (3 ECTS, co-taught with Chair-holder) FS 2026
- Introduction to East Asian Art History: Propaedeutics (BA, 6 ECTS) HS 2025
- BA Seminar: Iridescent Luxuries: Perspectives on Commodities as Art in East Asia (6 ECTS, co-taught) FS 2025
- Excursion: East Asian Art Collections in Geneva (6 ECTS, co-taught with Chair) FS 2025
- Topical Readings in East Asian Art History (MA, examiner for course taught by Chair-holder) HS 2024
- Introduction to East Asian Art History: Propaedeutics (BA, 6 ECTS, sole instructor) HS 2024
- Introduction to Japanese Art (BA, 9 ECTS, co-taught with Chair-holder) HS 2024
- KU–UZH Joint Workshop in East Asian Art History 2024 (3 ECTS) HS 2024

**Supervision of Graduation-Level Student Papers**

- “Kano female painter Kiyohara Yukinobu in comparison.”  
 MA Thesis B.M. Wachsmuth. Planned submission: 12/2026

- “Von bedrohlich zu ‘cool’: Der Wandel der Oni-Darstellung.”  
BA Thesis A. Gygli (co-supervision with Daniela Tan, AOI Institute, UZH). Submitted 12/2025

### Workshops

- NIHU DiHuCo-UZH Roundtable on DH curriculum development across Switzerland and Japan, UZH 03/2026
- “Developing Learning-Outcome-Oriented AI Usage Guidelines.” AI in Teaching Forum, UZH. 08/2025
- “‘Snapshot’ and Snapshots: Project Presentation and Career Development Q&A.”  
Nippon Foundation Fellows Workshop, Stanford IUC, Yokohama (JP). 02/2025
- Lecturer, Swiss-Kansai Student Exchange Program Alumni Society. 2019 –
- “The Late Hokusai knowledge graph on ResearchSpace.” Late Hokusai research workshops,  
Freer/Sackler Galleries, Washington DC; Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. 04/2018

### Pedagogical Development and Programme Design

- Developed redesigned assessment structures and AI-use guidelines integrated into UZH learning platforms (publication forthcoming in *Teaching in Higher Education*, 2026).
- Conceptual development of the study-programme at the Chair of East Asian Art History (since 2024): translation of strategic research vision into teaching components (programme design, assessment redesign), guidelines writing, and team communication infrastructure.

### AWARDS

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- UZH FAN Award 2026  
Outstanding scientific achievement in humanities & social sciences (CHF 5,000) 02/2026

### SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

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- UZH Graduate Research Center Career Grant (CHF 13,300) 07/2025 – 06/2026
- UZH micro\_innovation Grant, ULF (CHF 4,000) 2025
- The Nippon Foundation: Nippon Social Innovation Challenge (ca. USD 15,000) 08/2024 – 01/2025
- UZH Postgraduate Travel Scholarship (CHF 1,200) 10/2024
- UZH Postgraduate Travel Scholarship (CHF 1,400) 07/2023
- Toshiba International Foundation (JP), Summer Research Scholarship (JPY 500,000) 06–08/2020
- Nippon Foundation Fellows (JP) and IUC Alumni Scholarship (USA) (ca. USD 45,000) 09/2019 – 06/2020
- Japan Foundation & Toshiba International Foundation (EU) Travel Grant EAJRS (GBP 300) 09/2018
- Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation (UK), Postgraduate Studentship (GBP 10,000) 09/2015 – 08/2016
- UZH International Relations, Exchange Studentship, Japan (CHF 10,000) 03/2014 – 02/2015

### CURATORIAL & EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

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- **Guest Curator:** Kurrus Collection (2023–2026), Linden-Museum Stuttgart: research and digital curation.
- **Editor:** Made in Japan (16/05 – 21/07/2024), Kunstmuseum Basel: editorial language assistance.
- **Project Manager:** Bilder der Schweiz Online / Images of Switzerland (2020–2022), University of Zurich: digital curation of data and research practices.
- **Co-Curator:** Renewal of the Kofun-period display cases, Mitsubishi Corporation Japanese Galleries (opened 09/2018), The British Museum, London.
- **Technical Research Assistant:** Hokusai: beyond the Great Wave (25/05 – 13/08/2017), The British Museum, London.
- **Collection Manager:** Looking Beyond: Conversations between John Berger and John Christie (07/05 – 27/11/2016), Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts, Norwich (UK).
- **Co-Curator:** Japan Sammeln – Nihon o Yobiyoseru (22/11/2014 – 18/01/2015), Japan Information and Cultural Center JICC, Bern.
- **Co-Curator:** Entdeckerlust – Burgdorfer in Ostasien (16/10/2014 – 05/07/2015), Schloss Burgdorf.
- **Intern:** Le Geste Suspendu (10/10/2014 – 11/01/2015), Cabinet d’arts graphiques, MAH, Geneva.
- **Co-Curator:** Konnichiwa! (19/01 – 12/05/2013), Creaviva, Zentrum Paul Klee, Bern.

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE & LEADERSHIP

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- President (2024 –), Member (2010 –), and LinkedIn Group Founder (2023 –) — [KIZUNA](#), Japan Exchange Alumni Association in Switzerland.
- Lecturer, Swiss-Kansai Student Exchange Program Alumni Society (2019 – 2025).

## SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS

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- European Association for Asian Art and Archaeology (EAAA), Member (2025 –).
- Nihon kinsei bungaku kai 日本近世文学会 [Japanese Early Modern Literature Association], Member (2025 –).
- Association for Asian Studies (AAS), Member (2025 –).
- Kokusai Ukiyo-e Gakkai 国際浮世絵学会, Member and Presenter (2023 –).
- The Nippon Foundation Scholars Association (Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation and Nippon Foundation Alumni), Member (2021 –).
- European Association of Japanese Resource Specialists (EAJRS), Member (2017 –).

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Peer-reviewed Articles

- [Forthcoming] “Think tasks, not tools: why AI policy in higher education needs constructive alignment.” *Teaching in Higher Education*, 2026. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13562517.2026.2671391>.
- [Under peer-review] “When Mountains Move: Decoding Spatial Practices in Ukiyo-e Through Participatory Geolocalization and Computer Vision.” *Digital Studies / Le Champ Numérique* (submitted November 2025).
- “Mapping Late Hokusai Research: Digitizing and Publishing Bilingual Research Data.” *Digital Studies / Le Champ Numérique* 12, no. 1 (2022). <https://doi.org/10.16995/dscn.8079>.
- With D. Oldman and D. Tanase, “ResearchSpace Case Study on Sequencing Hokusai Print Impressions to Form a Human Curated Network of Knowledge.” *International Journal for Digital Art History* 4 (2019): 5.29–5.45. <https://doi.org/10.11588/dah.2019.4.72071>.

### Book Chapters

- “Travel and Famous Places: Movement and Imagination in Ukiyo-e Landscapes / Voyage et lieux célèbres: mouvement et imaginaire dans l’ukiyo-e au fil des paysages.” In *Impressions du Japon / Impressions of Japan*, edited by Anne Deltour and Margaux Honegger, 174–181. Zurich: Scheidegger & Spiess; Vevey: Musée Jenisch, 2025.
- “Hokusai beyond the database: transforming digital archives into a complex collaborative research environment.” In *Late Hokusai: Society, Thought, Technique, Legacy*, edited by Timothy Clark, 245–252. London: The British Museum, 2023. <https://doi.org/10.5167/uzh-237020>.
- “Digitally Supported Visualisations of Japanese Archaeology at the British Museum.” In *EU Workshop Report Papers / Kansai University Graduate School of Letters, EU – Japan Studies Activity Report 2016*, 231–250. Osaka: Kansai University, 2017.
- “Entdeckerlust, faszinierende Holzschnitte und Japan sammeln” [Essay on the history of the Völkerkundesammlung Burgdorf]. In *Burgdorfer Jahrbuch* 2015. Burgdorf: Verein Burgdorfer Jahrbuch, 2014. [Open Access PDF](#).
- With R. Gomez Morilla and B. Huber, “La collection d’estampes japonaises du Cabinet d’arts graphiques des Musées d’art et d’histoire de Genève / The Japanese Woodcuts in the Collection of Prints and Drawings of the Musées d’art et d’histoire in Geneva.” In *Le geste suspendu. Estampes Kabuki du Cabinet d’arts graphiques*, edited by Christian Rümelin. Cologne: Wienand Verlag, 2014.

### Reviews & Reports

- Book review: *Salon Culture in Japan: Making Art, 1750–1900*, edited by Akiko Yano (London: British Museum Press, 2024). *Silva Iaponicarum* 74 (January 2026): 78–82. <https://doi.org/10.14746/sijp.2025.74.5>.
- Report: “Review of the 125th International ARC Seminar (Dr Ellis Tinios) — Hokusai the Alchemist: an exploration of sources for his book illustration.” *Art Research* 25. Kyoto: Art Research Center Ritsumeikan, August 2024. ISSN 2436-5408.
- Report: “Drawings by Hokusai and His Students at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.” *SISJAC e-Bulletin*, July 2023.

### Research Blog & Conference Proceedings

- With Drew Richardson, “From Print to Place: Creating an Integrative Geolocalization Workflow Using Citizen Scientists and Computer Vision AI.” *Conference Proceedings for The Digital Orientalist*, 12 December 2025.
- “Think Tasks Not Tools: Teaching AI Literacy in East Asian Art History.” Guest contribution to *The Digital Orientalist*, 9 September 2025.

### PRESENTATIONS

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#### 2026

- “Drawing from the Crowd: Combining Citizen Science and Computer Vision to Study Historical Japanese Prints.” SADIaR Digital Humanities Colloquium, North-West University (ZA, virtual), 25/03/2026, by invitation.
- “Drawing from the Crowd” [poster]. Association for Asian Studies (AAS) Annual Conference, Vancouver (CA), 14/03/2026.
- Panelist, “Building Global Networks to Address the Challenges Facing Japan Studies.” Nippon Foundation Roundtable, AAS 2026, Vancouver (CA), 13/03/2026, by invitation.
- “AI\_d: A Pedagogical Framework for AI Use in Higher Education.” Seminar AI, Japanology, and Education 「AI・日本学・教育」, National Museum of Japanese History (Rekihaku), Sakura (JP), 23/01/2026, by invitation.
- 「市民科学で読み解く浮世絵の空間表現」 / “Reading Spatial Representation in Ukiyo-e through Citizen Science.” Keio Museum Commons, Keio University, Tokyo (JP), 22/01/2026, by invitation.
- Keynote Lecture: “Making Computational Boundaries Visible: AI as Critical Tool in Japanese Visual Studies and Pedagogy.” Digital Approach to Literary Analysis 2025 (DALA2025), Chuo University (co-hosted by NII), Tokyo, 19/01/2025, by invitation.
- “Drawing from the Crowd Project Update.” The Nippon Foundation Scholars Association Webinar, Tokyo (virtual), 13/01/2026.

#### 2025

- “Making Boundaries Visible: AI as Critical Tool in Japanese Visual Studies.” *From Mimesis to Machine: AI and the Evolution of Artistic Creation*, Istituto Svizzero, Rome (IT), 27/11/2025, by invitation.
- “Zwischen Parodie und Poetik: Die Text-Bild-Synthese in Katsushika Hokusais frühesten Malereihandbüchern (1810–1814).” *Interdisziplinäres Symposium: Die Kunst der Illustration*, SIK-ISEA, Zurich, 20/11/2025.
- “Moving Mountains: Analyzing Spatial Narratives in Ukiyo-e through Citizen Science.” *Nihon kinsei bungaku kai International Symposium: Early Modern Graphic Narratives (kusazōshi)*, University of Cambridge (UK), 20/09/2025.
- Panelist: “Japan-Wissen offen(er) und nachhaltig(er) publizieren und archivieren?” 19. Deutschsprachiger Japanologentag, Frankfurt (DE), 22/08/2025, by invitation.
- “‘Drawing from the Crowd’: Eine Citizen-Science-Plattform zur geographischen Verortung von Ukiyo-e.” 19. Deutschsprachiger Japanologentag, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main (DE), 21/08/2025.
- “Reconstructing Japan’s Scenic Past from Prints: Combining Citizen Science and AI-Methods for Authenticating Direct Observation in Ukiyo-e Landscapes,” with Himanshu Panday. *ADHO Digital Humanities Conference 2025 (DH2025)*, Lisbon (PT), 16/07/2025.
- “From Print to Place: Creating an Integrative Geolocalization Workflow,” with Drew Richardson. *The Digital Orientalist Virtual Conference 2025*, online, 31/05/2025.
- “Drawing from the Crowd: A Citizen Science Platform for Mapping Ukiyo-e Geography.” Ritsumeikan ARC FY2024 Annual Report Meeting, Kyoto (JP), 21/02/2025.
- “Drawing from the Crowd.” 9th Digital Humanities Research Meeting “Ukiyo-e, Citizen Science, and DH,” Hibiya Library and Museum, Tokyo (JP), 21/01/2025, by invitation.
- “Citizen Science Webinar on Localizing Japanese Ukiyo-e Landscapes.” The Nippon Foundation Scholars Association, Tokyo (JP), 20/01/2025.

#### 2024

- “Viewed at a distance: geography in ukiyo-e prints.” *Charting the European D-SEA: Digital Scholarship in East Asian Studies Conference*, Staatsbibliothek Berlin, 12/07/2024.
- “Hokusai’s Eurasien: Vor- und Darstellungen von China, Indien und darüber hinaus.” Zehnte Nachwuchstagung der Schweizerischen Asiengesellschaft, Basel, 08/05/2024.

**2023 and earlier**

- “Hokusai as an author-illustrator? / 戯作者兼絵師としての北斎.” 28th International Ukiyo-e Society Autumn Conference, Yokohama (virtual, in Japanese), 25/11/2023.
- “Visual Vocabularies Within Poetic Microcosms.” Asian Studies Conference Japan, Sophia University, Tokyo, 01-02/07/2023.
- With Sarah Amsler, “Zwischen Projekt- und globalem Thesaurus: ‘Bilder der Schweiz Online.’” 5. Schweizerischer Kongress für Kunstgeschichte, UZH, 23/06/2022.
- “Strategien zur Projektentwicklung in den Digital Humanities” and “Visuelle Daten im semantischen Raum (BSO).” Open Space des Arbeitskreises Digitale Kunstgeschichte (virtual), 29/01/2021.
- “Project Overview: Bilder der Schweiz Online.” SARI/BSOxTime Machine Open Day (virtual), 08/12/2020.
- “Expectations and reality: developing an English/Japanese semantic web environment for the Late Hokusai research project.” ADHO workshop, Towards Multilingualism in Digital Humanities, DH2019, Utrecht, 08/07/2019.
- “Collaborating in Late Hokusai ResearchSpace.” Quid pro quo: linked data in art history research, 4th Swiss Congress of Art History, USI Mendrisio, 07/06/2019.
- “Progress report on the knowledge base of the Late Hokusai research project / 北斎後期研究プロジェクトの知識ベースに関する進捗報告.” Digital Archive Industry-Academia-Government Forum, National Diet Library, Tokyo (in Japanese), 27/02/2019.
- “Challenges of building a multilingual web resource on Hokusai / 北斎に関する多言語データリソースの構築にあたっての課題.” 29th EAJRS Conference, Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas, 11/09/2018.
- “Building the arguments around the production of Katsushika Hokusai’s single sheet impressions.” Data Science for Digital Art History, KDD SIGG, London (UK), 20/08/2018.
- “Visualising Prehistory.” 2nd Conference of the European Association for Asian Art and Archaeology (EAAAAA), UZH, 25/08/2017.
- “Late Hokusai: Using Knowledge Representation for Community Collaboration.” Symposium: Building Cultural Heritage Knowledge, The British Museum, London, 27-29/07/2017.
- “ResearchSpace and the Semantic Web.” Late Hokusai Research Forum, Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto (JP), 20/11/2016; Gakushuin University, Tokyo, 25/11/2016.
- “Digitally Supported Visualisations of Japanese Archaeology at the British Museum.” EU-Japan Research Workshop, UZH, 05/11/2016.
- “Challenges of Digitizing William Gowland at the British Museum.” Symposium: Japanese Cultural Assets and Digitalization, CEEJA Colmar, 29/03/2016.
- “William Kuprecht — Understanding the Foreign(er): A Swiss textile printing expert in Kyoto 1902-1909.” Kansai University EU-Japan Workshop, Osaka, 20/09/2014.
- “Capturing the Moment Over Three Hundred Years: The Rieder Collection of Japanese Woodblock Prints” / “The Burgdorf Völkerkunde Museum and the KGOA Project.” Symposium ‘Moving Art between East Asia and the West’, UZH, 07-08/03/2013.