

Contributors

José Andrés Alonso de la Fuente is Associate Professor at Institute of Linguistics, Translation Studies and Hungarian Studies at the Jagiellonian University (Kraków, Poland). He completed his Ph.D. in Linguistics at University of the Basque Country in 2012. His research focuses on the historical and comparative linguistics of various language families from Northeast Asia. He is the author of *Tense, Voice and Aktionsart in Tungusic: Another Case of Analysis to Synthesis?* (Harrassowitz, 2011) and *“A Russian-Yakut-Ewenki Trilingual Dictionary” by N.V. Sljunin. Annotated Edition and Introduction* (Brill, 2018), and has served as one of the co-editors of *International Journal of Eurasian Linguistics* since its conception in 2018.

Anna Bugaeva is Associate Professor of Linguistics, Institute of Arts and Sciences, Tokyo University of Science and Visiting Associate Professor at National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics. Bugaeva has taught courses on linguistics and Ainu at the most highly ranked universities in Japan (Tokyo University, Waseda, Hitotsubashi, and Tokyo University of Science). Bugaeva’s research focuses on the descriptive and typological study of Ainu and the preservation and documentation of Ainu language materials. Her revised PhD thesis *Grammar and Folklore Texts of the Chitose Dialect of Ainu (Idiolect of Ito Oda)* (2004) was published within a specialized Japanese series on language documentation (ELPR) to a very positive reception. Bugaeva’s research is rooted in the framework of functional linguistic typology (especially that of the St. Petersburg/ Leningrad Typology Group). She has described a number of features of Ainu that are noteworthy from a typological standpoint; these include person marking, reported discourse, voice alternations, relative clauses, nominalizations, complex predicates, possession etc. She has publications in the leading linguistics journals (*Linguistics, Linguistic Typology, Studies in Language*), and in top linguistics journals of Germany (*Sprachtypologie und Universalienforschung*), Japan (*Gengo Kenkyū*), and Russia (*Voprosy Jazykoznanija*). In 2013, Bugaeva was awarded The Japan National Institutes for the Humanities Research Prize for her cumulative research on Ainu and, in 2015, The 11th National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics Director’s Award.

Elia Dal Corso completed his Ph.D. in linguistics at SOAS University of London (2018) and he is now a research grant holder and an adjunct professor in Japanese language and Ainu language at Ca’ Foscari University of Venice. His research focuses primarily on the Sakhalin variety of Ainu and his specific interests include argument structure, the tense-aspect-mood-evidentiality category, and verb syntax and semantics more generally. He is the author of *The Language and Folklore of West Sakhalin Ainu – A Re-edition of Kyōko Murasaki’s ‘Karafuto Ainugo’ with translation and grammatical notes* (Lincom Publishing, 2021).

Shiho Endō graduated from the Department of Japanese Culture, Faculty of Letters, Chiba University. Completed the master’s program at the Graduate School of Letters, Chiba University. Withdrew from the doctoral course of the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Chiba University, where she focused on the characteristics of heroic epics in Ainu oral literature. She received her M.A. in literature in March 2007. She has been working as a researcher at the Ainu Culture Research Center, Hokkaido Museum since April 2015, where she is responsible for organizing museum materials on the Ainu language and literature.

Mika Fukazawa is Research and Curatorial Fellow at National Ainu Museum. She completed her Ph.D. at the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences at Chiba University and was awarded the Outstanding Excellence Award by Chiba University in the academic year 2016. Her research

interests focus on dialects and history of the Ainu language. Her Ph.D. thesis is *Kagake monjo ni okeru Ainugo no bunkengakuteki kenkyū* [The Philological Study of the Ainu language in Kaga Family Archive] (Chiba University, 2017), which is about the Ainu language around the nineteenth century in eastern Hokkaido. Her publications include 'Ainu language and Ainu speakers', in Patrick Heinrich and Yumiko Ohara (eds.), *Routledge Handbook of Japanese Sociolinguistics* (Routledge, 2019) and "'Sun" in Ainu' and the other vocabulary items', in Mitsuaki Endō et al. (eds), *Linguistic Atlas of Asia* (Hituzi Syobō, 2021).

Juha A. Janhunen is Professor Emeritus of East Asian Languages and Cultures at the University of Helsinki, Finland. After studying in Finland, Hungary, and Japan, he has held research and teaching positions in Uralic, Altaic, North Asian, and East Asian Studies in Helsinki. He has also been a visiting researcher in Japan at the National Museum of Ethnology (Osaka), the Slavic Research Institute (Sapporo), and the Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa (ILCAA, Tokyo). He has worked broadly on the synchrony and diachrony of several Eurasian language families, including, in particular, Uralic, Mongolic, and Tungusic. His contact with the Ainu language dates back to the Ainu classes of Tōru Asai, which he, as a visiting postgraduate student of Jirō Ikegami, attended at Hokkaido University in 1978–79. Among his research interests is the relationship between language and ethnicity. He has carried out ethnolinguistic fieldwork in Siberia, Mongolia, Manchuria, and the Amdo region of ethnic Tibet. He is the author of *Manchuria: An Ethnic History* (1996) and one of the founding editors of the *International Journal of Eurasian Linguistics* (Brill).

Miki Kobayashi graduated from the Department of Japanese Culture, Faculty of Letters, Chiba University. She completed the Graduate School of Letters, Chiba University (Master's Program) and the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Chiba University (Doctoral Program). In March 2016, she received her doctorate in literature. During her doctoral studies, she worked as a part-time researcher at the National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics (NINJAL), where she was involved in the construction of *A Glossed Audio Corpus of Ainu Folklore*. After working as a part-time lecturer at Fuji Women's University and a specially appointed researcher at the Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, she joined the Preparatory Office for the National Ainu Museum, where she has been involved in the preparations for the establishment of the National Ainu Museum as a Research and Curatorial Fellow, in October 2017. She is currently working as a Research and Curatorial Fellow at the Research and Curatorial Department of the National Museum of the Ainu People. As a museum employee, she is also involved in promoting initiatives such as Ainu-language explanatory text and Ainu-language displays in the museum. Her current research focuses on Ainu word formation.

Alfred F. Majewicz is Titular Professor (academic title conferred by the President of the Republic of Poland in 1993), long-time full professor at Adam Mickiewicz and Nicolaus Copernicus Universities in Poland and visiting professor at several Universities abroad, currently Professor Emeritus and Director of International Institute of Ethnolinguistic and Oriental Studies (academic library and archives, Słeszew, Poland). Organizer and supervisor of Oriental and Japanese studies at three Universities in Poland and of many fieldwork expeditions worldwide, author of over 400 academic publications in linguistics, cultural anthropology, and language planning and policies (over 60 of them on, or related to, the Ainu and their language, included). Worth mentioning are *The Collected Works of Bronisław Piłsudski* (De Gruyter Mouton, so far four volumes released: 1998 (1-2), 2004 (3), and 2011 (4), vol. 5 under preparation) and *Late Meiji Japan as Eye-witnessed by Bronisław Piłsudski* (Polish version 2020, published by Copernicus University in Toruń, English-language version under preparation).

Hiroshi Nakagawa is Emeritus professor, Chiba University. Nakagawa taught courses on Ainu language and Ainu oral literature for 36 years at Faculty of Letters, Chiba University. He started his field work on the Ainu language in 1976 and described a grammar and vocabulary and also collected many texts of, especially Saru, Chitose, Shizunai, and Samani dialects. Some texts of Saru dialect collected by him are presented in *A Glossed Audio Corpus of Ainu Folklore*, National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics in collaboration with Anna Bugaeva, Miki Kobayashi, and Yoshimi Yoshikawa. He published *Ainugo Chitose Hogen Jiten* (The Ainu-Japanese Dictionary Chitose Dialect, 1995, Sōfukan: Tokyo), *Ainu no Monogatari Sekai* (The World of Ainu Narratives, 1997, Heibonsha: Tokyo), *Express Ainugo* (A Self-study Book of Ainu, co-authored by Mutsuko Nakamoto, a speaker of Chitose dialect, 1997, Hakusuisha: Tokyo), *Katariau Kotoba no Chikara* (The Power of Words to Talk, 2010, Iwanami: Tokyo), *New Express Ainu* (A New Self-study Book of Ainu, 2013, Hakusuisha) etc. He has been supervising the Ainu language of *Goldenkamui*, a bestseller comic by Satoru Noda, in which many Ainu characters are playing active parts, and using the comic he himself published a book for introduction to Ainu culture, *Ainu Bunka de Yomitoku Goldenkamui* (Goldenkamui to Understand in Ainu Culture, 2019, Shūeisha: Tokyo). He is serving chairman on several committees of The National Ainu Museum opened in 2020 in Shiraoi, Hokkaido and The Foundation for Ainu Culture. He was awarded Dr. Kyōsuke Kindaichi Memorial Award in 1995, Agency for Cultural Affairs 50th Anniversary Commendation in 2018, and Agency for Cultural Affairs Commissioner's Commendation in 2020.

Osami Okuda is Professor in the Department of Human Sciences at Sapporo Gakuin University. His main research interests are the descriptive study of Ainu language and the study of the performance and transmission of Ainu oral literature. His publications include the chapter 'Nivkh and Ainu' in *The Vanishing Languages of the Pacific Rim* (Oxford University Press, 2007, co-authored with Hiroshi Nakagawa), 'Ainugo no Inritsu no Gihō to Ruikai' [Techniques and Typology of Metrics in Ainu] *Kōshō Bungei Kenkyū* 43, 2020). Awarded Kindaichi Kyōsuke Prize in 2000 for the study of the Shizunai dialect of Ainu.

Tetsuhito Ōno was born in Kagawa Prefecture in 1973, he graduated from Tokyo University of Foreign Studies in 1996 with a degree in Arabic. In 1992, in Tokyo, he met Ainu people living outside Hokkaido, and became a member of Pewre Utari, an organization for Ainu and non-Ainu exchange, and became involved in support activities for the Ainu people. From 1997, he worked as a staff member of the Ainu language study group at Rera-cise, an Ainu restaurant in Tokyo, to promote the Ainu language, and from 2000 to 2004, he assisted Ainu language researcher Suzuko Tamura in her research. Since 2004, he has worked as a local government official in the town of Samani, Hokkaido, supporting the activities of the Ainu people, conducting research on the Ainu language and culture, and working as an Ainu language instructor in Samani, Biratori, Akan, and Mukawa. He has written four books from 2006 to 2007 and two books from 2013 to 2014 for the radio station of Sapporo Television Broadcasting. He is the author of a book of essays on Ainu culture, *From the Foot of Apoi*, published by the town of Samani's Library in 2014.

Tomomi Satō is Professor of Linguistics at Hokkaido University. He has been engaged in research projects related to the study of Ainu old documents and field Ainu linguistics. He is the author of *Ainugo Bunpō no Kiso* [Introduction to Ainu Grammar] (Daigakushorin, 2008). His recent publication includes 'Gengoshi no Kenkyūhōhō to Ainugoshi no Shomondai' [Methods of Historical Linguistics and Problems in the History of the Ainu Language] (*Rekishi Gengogaku* [Historical Linguistics in Japan] 5, 2016) and 'Classification of the Types of Noun Incorporation in Ainu and its Implication for Morphosyntactic Typology' (*Studia Orientalia* 117, 2016).

Hidetoshi Shiraishi is Professor at Sapporo Gakuin University. He specializes in phonology and language documentation of Ainu and Nivkh and completed his Ph.D. in Linguistics at the University of Groningen in 2006. His publications include ‘Ainu: An Urban-Rural Indigenous Language of the North’ (John C. Maher ed. *The Languages of Japan Communities and Cultures*. Oxford University Press, 2022), ‘On the Diachronic Origin of Nivkh Height Restrictions’ (with Bert Botma) (Geoff Lindsey and Andrew Nevins eds. *Sonic Signatures*. John Benjamins, 2017), ‘Nivkh Palatalisation: Articulatory Causes and Perceptual Effects’ (with Bert Botma) (*Phonology*, 2014) and the series *Sound Materials of the Nivkh Language* (with Galina Lok and other co-authors).

Yasushige Takahashi holds a doctorate in Language and Literature from the Graduate School of Letters, Hokkaido University (2004). After working as a researcher at the Center for Ainu and Indigenous Studies, Hokkaido University, he is currently a part-time lecturer at Hokkai-Gakuen University. His major field of study is linguistics. His current research interests include descriptive linguistics of the Tokachi dialect of the Ainu language, documentation and dialect classification of Ainu dialects, and translation and analysis of Ainu heroic epics.

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Alexander Vovin (1961–2022) was Directeur d’Études at the École des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS), Paris, France. He defended his PhD dissertation in 1987 at Saint Petersburg (then Leningrad) State University. Alexander Vovin served as Junior Researcher at the Institute of Oriental Manuscripts (then the Leningrad branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR) 1983–1990, as Assistant Professor at the University of Michigan (1990–1994), Assistant Professor at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio (1994–1995), Assistant (1995–1997), Associate (1997–2003), and then Full Professor (2003–2013) at the University of Hawai’i at Mānoa, and Directeur d’Études at the École des hautes études en sciences sociales (2014–2022). Elected European Academician in 2015. Recipient of a 2015 prize from the Japanese National Institute of Humanities. Visiting positions: International Research Center for Japanese Studies (2001–2002, 2008–2009), Ruhr-Universität Bochum (2009), National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics (2012). Listed in *Who’s Who in America* from 2011. His major areas of scholarly interest included Japonic, Mongolic, Koreanic, Turkic, Tungusic, Ainu, Yeniseic, Kradai, and Austronesian historical linguistics (phonology, morphosyntax, etymology) and philology. Major publications: *A Reconstruction of Proto-Ainu* (Brill 1993), *A Reference Grammar of the Japanese Classical Prose* (Routledge 2003).

Yoshimi Yoshikawa graduated from the Department of Japanese Studies, Faculty of Foreign Studies, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies. Masters and Doctorate from Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Chiba University. In March 2021, she submitted her doctoral dissertation, “Existential Aspect Forms in Ainu,” and was awarded a doctorate in literature. During her doctoral studies, she also worked as an adjunct researcher at the National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics (NINJAL), where she participated in the compilation of *A Glossed Audio Corpus of Ainu Folklore* (Nakagawa, Hiroshi, Anna Bugaeva, Miki Kobayashi, and Yoshimi Yoshikawa (2016–2021), NINJAL) (Available from <https://ainu.ninjal.ac.jp/folklore/>). Since April 2021, she has

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