
Kenneth Mori McElwain

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EDUCATION / APPOINTMENTS

- 2008- *University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI*
Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science
Faculty Associate, Center for Japanese Studies
- Jan-July 2012 *Chuo University, Tokyo, Japan*
Visiting Fellow, Faculty of Policy Studies
- Sep-Dec 2011 *European University Institute, Florence, Italy*
Visiting Fellow, Department of Political and Social Sciences
- 2006-2008 *Stanford University, Stanford, CA*
Lecturer, Division of International, Comparative, and Area Studies
- 2005-2006 *Harvard University, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Cambridge, MA*
Post-Doctoral Fellow, Program on US-Japan Relations
- 1999-2005 *Stanford University, Stanford, CA*
Ph.D. in Political Science (Aug. 2005)
Committee: Daniel Okimoto (Chair), Anne Wren, Alberto Diaz-Cayeros, Beatriz Magaloni
- 1995-1999 *Princeton University, Princeton, NJ*
A.B. in the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs (June 1999)
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PUBLICATIONS

- 2013 (expected). "Parties and Elections in Japan", in ed. James Babb, [Handbook of Japanese Studies](#), SAGE Publications
2013. Book Review of Frances R. Rosenbluth and Michael F. Thies, [Japan Transformed: Political Change and Economic Restructuring](#), Princeton University Press, for *Perspectives on Politics* 10(4): 1111-1113
2012. "The Nationalization of Japanese Elections." *Journal of East Asian Studies* 12 (3):323-50.
2012. "Tōshusen Kaikaku to Seitō Shijiritsu" ("Party Reform and Popularity"), in eds. Nobuhiro Hiwatari and Jun Saito, *Seitō Seiji no Konmei to Seiken Kōtai*, University of Tokyo Press (with Michio Umeda)
2011. "Party Democratization and the Salience of Party Leaders", *Journal of Social Science* 62.1(with Michio Umeda)
2009. [Political Change in Japan: Electoral Behavior, Party Realignment, and the Koizumi Reforms](#), Walter H. Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center (co-edited with Steven Reed and Kay Shimizu)
2008. "Manipulating Electoral Rules to Manufacture Single-Party Dominance", *American Journal of Political Science* 52.1
2007. "Parties and Voters in Industrial Democracies", in Carles Boix and Susan Stokes, eds., [Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics](#), Oxford University Press: Oxford, UK (with Anne Wren)
2007. "Explaining Suboptimal Institutional Frameworks: The Effect of Intra-Party Conflict on Electoral Rule Stasis in Japan", [Occasional Paper Series of the Program on US-Japan Relations](#), Harvard University: Cambridge, MA

WORKING PAPERS

Book Manuscript: Gaming Elections: Institutional Manipulation for Political Survival

Under Review: “Fiscal Decentralization and Particularistic Spending in Democratic Systems” (with Alberto Diaz-Cayeros and Vidal Romero)

Under Review: “Party System Institutionalization in Japan”, in Allen Hicken and Erik Kuhonta. Reexamining Party System Institutionalization through Asian Lenses

Under Review: “The Electoral Transformation of Party Leadership”, in ed. Hiroki Takeuchi, Political Reform in Japan

“Adapting to Obsolescence: How Significant Amendments Shorten Constitutional Lifespans”, Presented at the 2013 MPSA Annual Meeting (with Jean Clipperton)

“*Nihon no Shuugin Senkyo no ‘Zenkoku-ka’ to Seitou Tokuhyouritsu Hendou no Zoudai*” (The Nationalization of Japanese Elections and the Amplification of Electoral Volatility), Prepared for the 2013 Meeting of the Japanese Association of Electoral Studies (with Michio Umeda)

“Independent Votes in Japan”, Presented at the 2013 Annual Meeting of the Political Science Association, New Orleans, Louisiana (with Michio Umeda)

“Party Positioning: Moving to the Middle or the Periphery”, Presented at the 2012 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, Illinois (with Maiko Heller)

“The Instrumental Decentralization of Party Leader Selection”, Presented at the 2009 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Toronto, Canada (with Erin Giencke)

“Reforming Japan’s Upper House: Lessons in Unintended Consequences”, Presented at Japan’s Post-Bubble Political Economy Conference, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA (2009, w/ Steven Reed)

“Herding Cats in Parliament: Party Cohesion, Pork-Barreling, and Deficit Spending”, Presented at the 2006 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Philadelphia, PA

TEACHING PORTFOLIO

Comparative and International Political Economy (Graduate / Undergraduate)

Japanese Politics and Political Economy (Graduate / Undergraduate)

Comparative Politics Field Seminar (Graduate)

Comparative Political Institutions and Parties (Graduate / Undergraduate)

Comparative Constitutional Design (Graduate / Undergraduate)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE / ACTIVITIES

Chair, “Is the Japanese Constitution Suitable for the 21st Century?” U Michigan

April 15, 2011 Inter-disciplinary conference, examining the social, economic, and political effects of Japan’s Constitution in the postwar period, and prospects for revision in the future.

Co-Chair, “Financial Bubbles, Banking Bailouts, and Automotive Survival: A US-Japan Comparison”, U Michigan

April 17, 2009 Conference on the parallels between the Japanese recession of the 1990s and the ongoing US / global financial crisis. Compares macro-economic responses by the two governments, as well as the effects of credit illiquidity on the automotive sector.

PROFESSIONAL / UNIVERSITY ACTIVITIES

University of Michigan Services (2008 -)

Executive Committee, Department of Political Science (2012-13)
Executive Committee, Center for Japanese Studies (Fall 2009 -).
Graduate Admissions Committee (2010, 2011).
Curriculum Committee (Fall 2010 -).
Search Committees (China 2010, Central Asia 2010).

The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation, US-Japan Network for the Future

May 2012 – April 2014 Member of Track II dialogue team, involved in policy deliberations and advising on US-Japan relations. Regular meetings are held between policy-makers and academics on both sides of the Pacific.

Consultant, Fleishman-Hillard Japan, Tokyo, Japan

Dec. 2002 - June 2003 Consultant to public relations firm, focusing on political lobbying. Responsibilities included presentations for clients in both Japanese and English; helping Diet members with legislative research and policy speeches.

Intern to Yasuhisa Shiozaki, House of Representatives, Japan (Liberal Democratic Party)

Aug - Sep 2000 Assisted Diet Member in crafting English speeches and presentations. Assisted in meetings of the Liberal Democratic Party's Foreign Affairs Committee.

Manuscript Referee: *American Journal of Political Science*; *Journal of Politics*; *Legislative Studies Quarterly*; *World Politics*; *Journal of Japanese Studies*

Association Memberships: American Political Science Association; Association of Asian Studies; Midwest Political Science Association

AWARDS

2011 Japan Foundation Fellowship, to conduct long-term fieldwork in Tokyo (January-July 2012)

2009 Japan Foundation Conference Grant, for “Financial Bubbles, Banking Bailouts, and Automotive Survival: A US-Japan Comparison”, University of Michigan

2009 Center for Japanese Studies Research Grant, University of Michigan

2002 Party Politics Studentship for Best Paper Presented at the Ph.D. Summer School on European Parties and Party Systems, Keele University, United Kingdom
