

# A HISTORY OF SOPHIA UNIVERSITY 2018



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## Members:

**Sven Saaler** (Sophia University, FLA/ICC)  
**Bettina Gramlich-Oka** (Sophia University, FLA/ICC)  
**Christian Hess** (Sophia University, FLA/ICC)

## Affiliated Sophia members (non-ICC or formerly ICC)

**Kate Wildman Nakai** (Professor Emerita, Sophia University)  
**David Wessels SJ** (Professor Emeritus, Sophia University, Faculty of Global Studies)  
**Nagai Nobuhito** (Associate Professor, The University of Tokyo;  
formerly Sophia University, History Department)  
**Linda Grove** (Professor Emerita, Sophia University)  
**Yajima Motomi** (Professor, Sophia University, Faculty of Law)  
**Sakano Masanori** (Associate Professor, Sophia University/History Department)  
**Ozaki Shuji** (part-time lecturer at Sophia University / Department of German Studies)  
**Katada Satoko** (postdoctoral fellow, Sophia University /History Department)  
**Ôtsuka Sachie** (Sophia University Archive)

## Affiliated non-Sophia members

**Katada Satoko** (postdoctoral fellow, Sophia University /History Department)  
**Tokumitsu Shukuji** (local historian)  
**Shimada Masayuki** (Gakushūin Kōtō Gakkō)

## Background of the Project

This project aims at strengthening a community of scholars studying the history of Sophia University and, in the long term, the completion of a History of Sophia University from its foundation until the twenty-first century. Beginning with a symposium organized on the occasion of the university's 100th anniversary ([http://www.sophia.ac.jp/eng/info/events/2013/12/event\\_1176/event20131209](http://www.sophia.ac.jp/eng/info/events/2013/12/event_1176/event20131209)), we have been building up a group of Sophia scholars, former Sophia faculty as well as external researchers interested in the history of our university.

The focus of the project will be on the contexts and connections that have shaped Sophia's history and on developments that have given the university its character and direction. In doing so, we aim at underlining the dynamics of the university's history. Due to the limitations in terms of sources, authors, and finances, the coverage will be topical and selective. The project will involve multiple authors, but will aim for a greater integration than would be possible with a collection of individually authored essays.

The research project has to be seen in the wider context of research on Japan's modern education system and on the development of Japanese universities and their international connections in particular. Compared to the situation of other universities with roots going back to the prewar period, Sophia's history has received little academic attention. Of the four Christian-affiliated institutions recognized as full-fledged universities under the University Ordinance of 1918 (Dōshisha, Rikkyō, Sophia, and Kwansei Gakuin), Dōshisha and Rikkyō have published multiple works of research (in both book and specialized periodical form) on their histories. Kwansei Gakuin has put out a multivolume university history combining analytical narrative with primary sources. Some Protestant schools that did not become recognized as universities until after the war, such as Meiji Gakuin, have done the same. Sophia has so far published a six-volume collection of documents related to the history of the university (上智大学史資料集), which will be an essential resource for this project. However, apart from a valuable but brief account published privately in 1993 by Theodor Geppert (and not widely available) and recent studies in German by Klaus Schatz based on materials in European Jesuit archives, there is no reliable, document-based, analytical narrative of Sophia University's history. This project seeks to fill this gap by exploring in depth the issues and events that have shaped Sophia's history.

The volume will be published in English and Japanese. Sven Saaler, Kate Nakai and Nagai Nobuhito will be the editors of both volumes and have begun to coordinate the authoring of the chapters written by the collaborators and contributors.



## Activities during FY 2018

The members and affiliate members individually conducted research on the history of Sophia University. In addition, with the help of a graduate student from the History Department, we started indexing and digitalizing the Katorikku Shinbun (Catholic Newspaper), which was issued in the immediate postwar period and carries articles about Sophia's development in that era. Eventually, the digitalized files will be made accessible on the repository of Sophia University Library as a remaining achievement of this research project.

The editors of the planned book, Sven Saaler, Kate Nakai and Nagai Nobuhito, met roughly once per month to discuss the project, the first contributions received, and explored the possibilities of including further contributors and topics. On 14 October 2018, a workshop was held, with all contributors participating (apart from those on sabbatical or not in Japan at the time). Sven Saaler, Kate Nakai and Nagai Nobuhito gave presentations, summarizing the results of their research, and the other participants gave short statements regarding the process made and introducing their preliminary results, followed by discussion.

