



The Institute for  
Japanese Studies  
presents:

**Simon Kaner**  
**University of East Anglia**

**"Jomon Repotted"**

SP 25 IJS Lecture

In the 20 years since the publication of Tatsuo Kobayashi's *Jōmon Reflections\**, understanding of the societies that inhabited the Japanese archipelago between the appearance of pottery (about 16,000 years ago) to the adoption of rice farming (starting 2500 years ago) has undergone a considerable transformation, suggesting that the idea of the Jōmon period needs 'repotting'. This talk will survey some of these developments, in particular the significance of 'big data' studies, advances in scientific techniques including ancient DNA, the inscription of 17 sites in northern Japan as UNESCO World Heritage, and the new narratives about the Jōmon that developed as part of the Japan Heritage initiative and the rehabilitation of Jōmon people as (albeit fictive) ancestors to the modern Japanese. It will also reflect on the impact of exhibitions of Jōmon material culture in the UK, including dogū ceramic figures, flame pots, and stone circles.

**March 18, 4:00-5:30pm**

Hagerty Hall Hall 180

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