

FOREWORD

It is with enthusiasm that, in 2017, I embraced the role of Editor-in-Chief of the *Bulletin of Portuguese and Japanese Studies*, a project that I have supported as member of the editorial board since its launch in 2000. It is now a great joy and satisfaction to present the 2017-2018 double issue of the BPJS.

The present issue has enormously benefited from a renewed editorial board. It is an honour to have the support of a team of expert scholars, whose work is globally recognized, and who are strongly committed to ensuring the continuity and the success of the BPJS. I'm deeply grateful to everyone for their hard work. I am particularly thankful to Ikuo Higashibaba (Tenri University) who now assumes the role of Associate Editor. A special recognition goes to Patrick Schwemmer (Faculty of Humanities, Musashi University) for his help and enthusiastic involvement with the 2018's issue.

Since its establishment, the BPJS has been playing a defining role in the historiography on the Portuguese presence in Japan. Under the direction of Alexandra Curvelo, to better adapt to new academic needs, the BPJS widened its coverage to the multiple contexts in which the Portuguese operated in East and South-East Asia. Our aim is to continue this editorial policy, seeking contributions for a holistic study of the Portuguese presence in Japan. Also, we are deeply engaged in publishing the valuable work of promising young and independent scholars, in an academic context where finding avenues for publication can be both complex and daunting.

A final word to the authors whose work is published in this double edition, who trusted their articles to the BPJS. Their texts present new research material, whose approach promotes the creation of detailed, critical knowledge, and I am sure we will all profit from the new insights they provide. I also want to thank these authors for their patience during the delays that unfortunately affected the publication of this issue.

The BPJS will maintain its digital format, in open access (online). We appreciate your help in promoting and widely circulating it.