

**Join Us at Kyoto Sangyo University! Saturday, October 4th 9:15 - 17:30 &
Sunday, October 5th 9:00 - 16:30**



The Living on the Edge conference was born out of the desire to create a space to showcase role models of difference – a stage for the nails that stuck out to be seen by those most needing to hear their stories of empowerment, struggle, and pride.

***Join us** this year, for a weekend of stories acknowledging that we are more than a single story of a stand out nail – each of us lives astride multiple intersecting roles and identities, navigating how these interact, collide, and transform within and between us.*

*The weekend promised to bring together educators, activists, students, parents, people of various races, languages, abilities, sexualities, genders, minds, professions, values, privileges, positions, powers, religions, and expressions – **join us** to educate, empower, collaborate, laugh, discuss, connect, and transform.*

Standard Conference Fee: ¥5,000

JALT Member Fee: ¥4,000

Self-sponsored Participant: ¥3,000

Under 25 Years Old / Student: Free

Note: This year's Living on the Edge lotus artwork was created by May Kyaw Oo

Register here: <https://events.jalt.org/event/49/>



Living on the Edge 2025: Shifting Identities

All sessions will be presented in English, but we encourage discussions in all languages.

Saturday, October 4 2025			
9:15	Registration + Coffee (Sagittarius Building 4th floor)		
10:15	Opening (S413) Yoshi Grote (Kyoto Sangyo University, LOTE V Organizer): Opening words Phil Norton aka PreacherManSays (Kyoto Sangyo University): Performance		
	S403	S405	S504: Wellness
10:45-11:15 (30 min. pres.)	Between Worlds: Navigating My Legitimacy and Identity in Japan Adrianne Verla Uchida (Tokyo City University)	The Closet and the Classroom: A Reflection on A Critical Incident Chelanna White (Reitaku University)	Yoga with Ellie
11:30-12:00 (30 min. pres.)	Shifting Roles, Persistent Gaps: Non-Japanese Female Faculty Navigating Identity, Leadership, and Well-being in Japan Sandra Healy (Kyoto Institute of Technology) Olivia Kennedy (Nagahama Institute of Bio-Science and Technology)	Motherhood Without Borders: Choosing Single Parenthood as a Foreign Woman in Japan Shzh-chen Nancy Lee (Osaka University)	

12:00	LUNCH (90)		
1:30-2:00 (30 min. pres.)	“You are Autistic, So You Can’t Become a University Professor”: A Neurodivergent Scholar’s Struggles in Japanese Academia Yasushi Miyazaki (Kwansei Gakuin University)	Becoming Someone Else: How Actors Can Transform Their Identities Donna Fujimoto (SIETAR Kansai) Amanda Gillis Furutaka (Kyoto Sangyo University) Margaret Kim (Kobe Jogakuin College)	
2:15-3:05 (50 min.)	**Room S402** [Display of artistic expression] The Place I Carry: Visual and Poetic Stories from the Edge of Belonging May Kyaw Oo (Nagasaki University)	TBC	
3:05-3:45	COFFEE BREAK (40)		
3:45-4:45 (60 min.)	[Roundtable] Silent Struggles: Recognizing Hidden Needs in Sensitive and Autistic Students Ben McDonough (Kwansei Gakuin University)	[Roundtable] I’m (e.g. white) so what can I do about it? Gretchen Clark Jennie Roloff Rothman (LOTE V Organizers)	Yoga with Ellie
5:00-5:30	Coming Out of the Fog at 40: My Adoption Story	Exploring Identity Through Personal Narratives by Long-Term Residents of Japan	

(30 min. pres.)	Robert Dykes (Sojo University)	John Rucynski (Okayama University)	
6:30~	6:30 Dinner at Istanbul Saray (See website for registration and payment)		

Sunday, October 5, 2025			
9:00	Coffee (Sagittarius building 4th floor)		
	S403	S405	S504: Wellness
9:30-11:00 (90 min.)	[Panel] Navigating Shifts in Identities While Living in Japan (Multilingual session) Fiona Creaser Herb Fondevilla Kristie Collins Amanda Gillis-Furutaka (Affiliation for all: Counterpoint)	[Panel] Exploring Self-Identity on the JET Program Kurtis Carter (AJET Director of Education & Research) 5 Panelists (Coming Soon!)	
11:15-11:45 (30 min. pres.)	Reinventing Ourselves and Navigating Personal Identity While Living Abroad Parvathy Ramachandran (Kanazawa Institute of Technology)	From Mom de Plume to Non de Plume Dar Watson (Tokyo University of Science)	Yoga with Ellie

12:00-12:30 (30 min. pres.)	Loving and Becoming: Fandom as a Site of Identity Formation and Allyship Terry Tuttle (ISA)	Translanguaging and Empathy-Based Practices: Teaching as a Woman of Color in Japan Ma Wilma Capati (Kanazawa Institute of Technology)	
12:30	LUNCH & COFFEE BREAK (90)		
2:00-2:30 (30 min. pres.)	Perspectives on Shared Experiences of Diaspora from a Jewish American in Okinawan Studies Travis Seifman (Ritsumeikan University)	Exploring Plurality in Language Teachers: A Polyethnographic Reflection on Liminal Experiences in Teaching, Learning, and Teacher Training Daniel Roy Pearce (Shitennoji University) Toai Ōhiraki (Shitennoji University) Aina Ishibashi (Shitennoji University)	
2:45-3:35 (50 min.)	[Workshop] Examining Shifting Identities through Intersectionality Lisa Rogers (Doshisha Women's College)	[Workshop] Between Selves: Living Through Identity Extinctions Lynsey Mori (Ritsumeikan OIC University)	
3:45	Closing (S413): Performance: Phil Norton Thank you: Yoshi Grote (LOTE V Organizer)		