THE JAPAN FOUNDATION TOURING FILM PROGRAMME 2023

Online Talk Series

JAPANFOUNDATION
国際交流基金

22nd March 2023
18:30-20:00 GMT

津軽弁
tsugaru ben

Tsugaru Dialect
One of the most difficult dialects in Japan

Did you know that
Japan is NOT monolingual?

Ito (Itomichi), one of the popular films selected for [the Japan Foundation Touring Film Programme 2023](#), is a charming coming-of-age story about a talented teenage Shamisen player. Almost all the dialogue in the film is conducted in *Tsugaru-ben* (Tsugaru dialect) which is known as one of the most difficult dialects and is often subtitled even in Japan.

In this webinar, in conjunction with the Japan Foundation Touring Film Programme 2023, we invite two lecturers from the University of Edinburgh: Ms Narumi-Munro, who is a native speaker of Tsugaru dialect, and Dr MacBain, a researcher who has lived in Aomori prefecture where the Tsugaru dialect is spoken. They will deliver interesting talks about linguistic diversity in Japan, the uniqueness of the Tsugaru dialect, real funny stories about everyday life with Tsugaru dialect, and a special taster lesson!

Why don't you join us and get a feel for the uniqueness of the language?

Date & Time

Wednesday, 22 March 2023
18:30-20:00 GMT
On **Zoom Webinar**

Registration

This online event is free to attend but registration is essential.
To reserve your space, **please book your ticket here**.

Registration deadline:
20th March 2023

Contact

The Japan Foundation, London
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Speaker

Ms Fumiko Narumi-Munro
Head of Japanese Language in Asian Studies,
School of Literatures, Languages, and Cultures,
University of Edinburgh

Fumiko Narumi-Munro teaches Japanese language to undergraduate students, and is the course organiser for most of the University of Edinburgh's Japanese language courses. She is also Year Abroad coordinator for Japanese studies at the University of Edinburgh. She was born and raised in Hirosaki, Aomori, and is a native speaker of Tsugaru dialect. She also has a master's degree in History of Art at Hirosaki University.
For more information about her

Dr Abigail MacBain
Lecturer in Premodern Japanese Studies,
School of Literatures, Languages, and Cultures, University of Edinburgh

Abigail MacBain is a scholar of premodern Japanese history and religion.
Prior to joining the University of Edinburgh in 2022, Abigail was a Postdoctoral Research Scholar and lecturer at Columbia University, where she also completed her PhD in the Department of East Asian Languages & Cultures in 2021. She also participated the JET Programme as an Assistant Language Teacher in the Tsugaru area, Aomori Prefecture in 2004-2006.
For more information about her