

Curriculum Vitae

**Dr. Bernhard Leitner, MA**Born on 5th of March 1984 in AustriaContact: bernhard.leitner@meduniwien.ac.at**Education**

5 th Sept. 2022	Doctor of Philosophy (with honours), University of Vienna Title of Dissertation: A Question of Nerves? On the Emergence of a Neuropsychiatric Thought-Style in Austria and Japan circa 1900
14 th Jan. 2013	Master of Arts (with honours) in Japanese studies, University of Vienna
8 th Nov. 2010	Bachelor of Arts (with honours) in Japanese studies, University of Vienna
2006 – 2010	Studies in Japanese studies and philosophy at the University of Vienna
2002 – 2006	Studies in chemistry at the Technical University of Vienna

Positions, Scholarships and Awards

Since Nov. 2024	Postdoctoral Researcher at the Institute for Ethics, Collections and the History of Medicine, Medical University of Vienna
Feb. 2024	Visiting Scholar at the Department of the History and Philosophy of Science, University of Cambridge
Nov. 2023 – Oct. 2024	Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Department of Asian and North African Studies, Ca' Foscari University of Venice
Feb. 2023 – Sept. 2023	Lecturer at the Department of East Asian Studies, University of Vienna
Oct. 2022 – Jan. 2023	Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the IFK (International Research Centre for Cultural Studies)
Apr. – Sept. 2022	Soon-Young Kim Fellow in the History of East Asian Science and Technology at Needham Research Institute , Cambridge UK
2020 – 2022	Assistant at the Department of East Asian Studies, University of Vienna
Nov. 2019	Toshiba International Foundation 30 th Anniversary Essay Contest Prize
Apr. – Jul. 2018	Visiting Doctoral Candidate at the Munich Centre for Technology in Society, Technical University of Munich
Feb. – Mar. 2018	Visiting Fellow at the Department of the History of Science, Harvard University
Nov. – Dec. 2017	Visiting Fellow at Needham Research Institute , Cambridge UK
2016 – 2018	Junior Fellow at the IFK (International Research Centre for Cultural Studies)
2015	Toshiba International Foundation Fellow
2013 – 2016	Uni:docs Fellow at the University of Vienna
2009 – 2010	Joint-Study-scholarship at the Tokyo Metropolitan University
2006 – 2013	Assistant at the University Library of the Medical University of Vienna

Academic Activities (selection)

Sept. 2025	International Workshop on Transimperial Circulation of Colonial Knowledge: “Neurologically Speaking – Knowledge Production in Brain Research, Neurology and Psychiatry between Habsburg Austria, the Japanese Empire and Colonial Korea”, Scuola Superiore Meridionale
Feb. 2024	Needham Research Institute Seminar: „Reassessing Anatomy in Korea under Japanese Rule”, Cambridge (UK)
Aug. 2023	16 th International Conference on the History of Science in East Asia: “Keijō Imperial Brain Science – The Colonial Legacy of Viennese Neurology and Psychiatry in East Asia”, Goethe University Frankfurt
Sept. 2022	British Association for Japanese Studies Conference: “Circulation – Selection – Exclusion: Comparative Anatomy between Habsburg Austria, the Japanese Empire and Colonial Korea in the first Half of the 20th Century”, University of Manchester
May 2022	Needham Research Institute Seminar: “Colonial Brains – Tracing neuro-psychiatric research through the Habsburg and Japanese Empires to Korea”
Aug. 2021	16 th European Association of Japanese Studies Conference: “Gauging brains – Academic bias and circulation of neuroanatomical knowledge between Habsburg Austria and Japan circa 1900”, Ghent University
Apr. 2021	Joint Atlantic Seminar in East Asian Science, Technology, and Medicine: “The Dissemination of Critical Brains – Comparative Anatomy between Habsburg Austria and the Japanese Empire in the early 20th Century”, Johns Hopkins University
Oct. 2019	Empire of Circulation. Habsburg Knowledge in its Global Setting: “Meiji Brains: On Circulation and Exclusion of Neurological Knowledge between Vienna and Tokyo”, Austrian Academy of Sciences
June 2019	Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences: “The Search/Surge of the Insane – The Legal Confinement of Mentally Ill and Emerging Psychiatric Discourse in Early 20 th Century Japan”, University of British Columbia
May 2019	History of Medicine Lecture Series: “Tacit Nerves: Neuroscientific knowledge production in the Habsburg and Japanese Empires”, University of Saskatchewan
Nov. 2017	Twentieth Century Think Tank: “Neuro-Empire – Rise of a Medical-Scientific Discipline in Modern Japan” at the Department of the History and Philosophy of Science, University of Cambridge
Sept. 2016	Medicine and Modernity in the Long 19 th Century: “The Mirror Stage of Pathology – Trajectories of Psychiatric Concepts in the Making of Modern Japan”, University of Oxford
Apr. 2016	Research Workshop “Medicine in Modern Japan”: “Science, Scientists or Nations? Reflections on Medical Knowledge Transfer in Modern Japan”, Needham Research Institute, University of Cambridge
Nov. 2015	19 th Congress of the Japanese Society for the History of Psychiatry: “The History of Japanese Psychiatry at the Neurological Institute of the University of Vienna” [in Japanese], Shinjuku Park Tower Tokyo

- July 2015 14th International Conference on the History of Science in East Asia: “Matter Over Mind – On Neurological Psychiatry and the Absence of Freud in Japanese Medical Academia”, **Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales**
- June 2015 11th EAJS Workshop for Doctoral Students, **University of Edinburgh**
- May 2015 Poster: “Transnational Collectives and the Birth of Neurology – Neurological Journal Literature in the Formation of Japanese Psychiatry” at “Working with 19th-Century Medical and Health Periodicals”, **University of Oxford**
- Mar. 2015 Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference: “Laboratory Vienna-Tokyo – On the Emergence of a Psychiatric Thought-Style in Austria and Japan”, **Chicago Sheraton**
- Sept. 2014 97th Meeting of the German Society for the History of Medicine, Science and Technology: “Der wilde Samurai aus München und der Edelmann aus Wien – Wissenschaftliche Kooperationen zwischen München, Wien und Tokyo in der Psychiatrie und Neurologie um 1900”, **Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich**

Publications

- “Meiji Brains – On Circulation and Exclusion of Neurological Knowledge between Vienna and Tokyo”, Franz Fillafer and Johannes Feichtinger (eds.): *Empire of Circulation – Habsburg Knowledge in its Global Setting* (2026) [accepted].
- “Interdisziplinarität, Transkulturalität und Denkwang – Experimentelle medizinische Radiumforschung in Fin de Siècle Wien“, Helmut Denk et al. (eds.): *Im Fokus: Medical Humanities – Medizin in Interaktion mit Politik, Gesellschaft und Kunst*, Vienna: Verlag der ÖAW (2025) [in print].
- “Neurologically Speaking: Racial Science and Medicine at Keijō Imperial University”, *East Asian Science, Technology, and Medicine* [advance article] (2025), pp. 1-31.
- “A Nobleman of Neurology meets a Father of Psychiatry – Viennese Neurological Networks in the Making of Psychiatric Elites in Japan”, Aleksandra Kobiljski and Nicolas Fiévé (eds.): *Professional Elites of Modern Japan*, Paris: Collège de France (2025), pp. 65-97.
- “Geschlecht, ‚Rasse‘ und Gehirn – Vergleichende hirnanatomische Forschung am Neurologischen Institut in Wien um 1900“, *Medizinhistorisches Journal* vol. 58/3 (2023), pp. 162-190.
- “Psychiatrie und Neurologie zwischen Wien und Tokyo – Zur Rolle eines transnationalen Netzwerkes in der Entwicklung der akademischen Medizin in Japan circa 1900“, Daniela Angetter et al (eds.): *Strukturen und Netzwerke – Medizin und Wissenschaft in Wien 1848-1955*, Göttingen: Vienna University Press / V&R unipress (2018), pp. 533-554.
- “Zum Transfer von Psychiatrie – Narrative, Termini und transkulturelle Psychiatrie in Japan“, *NTM Zeitschrift für Geschichte der Wissenschaften, Technik und Medizin* vol. 22/3 (2014), pp. 163-180.
- “For Body, Mind and the Nation: An Archaeology of Modern Japanese Psychiatry“, *Vienna Journal of East Asian Studies* vol. 5 (2014), pp. 111-138.
- “Aufschreibesystem und absoluter Geist – Eine Shirō’sche Impression“, *Quarber Merkur* vol. 114 (2013), pp. 79-99.
- “Durch den Spiegel und was Nishida dort fand. Zur politischen Dimension des Anderen im Werk Nishida Kitarōs – Ein Spiel in fünf Akten“, *MINIKOMI: Austrian Journal of Japanese Studies* vol. 81 (2011), pp. 5-14.

Outreach and Science Communication

Interview for the article „[Wiener Denkfabriken](#)“ in *Ärzte Woche* Nr. 17, (27.04.2023)

Interview for *Wien Museum Magazin* article [“Der Wiener Arzt Ferdinand Adalbert Junker von Langeegg”](#) (2022)

Organizer of the [u:japan online lecture series](#) at the Department of East Asian Studies – Japanese Studies at **University of Vienna** (2020-2022)

“Transnationale Denkkollektive und die Geburt der Neurologie“ [“Transnational Thought-Collectives and the Birth of Neurology”]: special issue, *neurologisch – Fachmagazin für Neurologie* (2020)

Public lecture: “Reine Nervensache? Psychiatrie und Neurologie zwischen Wien und Tokyo circa 1900“ [“A Question of Nerves? Psychiatry and Neurology between Vienna and Tokyo circa 1900“], **IWK** (Institut für Wissenschaft und Kunst) Wien (2019)

Online Essay: [“Overcoming Japanese Studies – Or on the Advantage and Disadvantage of Japanese Studies for Academia”](#), **Toshiba International Foundation** Essay Contest (2019)

Dinner speech at **O Hanami – 120 Jahre Daiichi Sankyo** (pharma company 120 years anniversary celebration): “Neurologie zwischen Österreich und Japan“ [“Neurology between Austria and Japan”] at congress Schladming (2019)

Poster at the exhibition [“Nervig”](#) (featured at the *Lange Nacht der Forschung*): [“Transnationale Denkkollektive und die Geburt der Neurologie”](#) [“Transnational Thought-Collectives and the Birth of Neurology”], at **Gabriele Possanner Institut für interdisziplinäre Forschung** (2018)

Guest contribution for **science.orf.at**: [“Ein Labor geht um die Welt”](#) [“A Laboratory’s Journey through the World”] (2017)

Editor of *MINIKOMI: Austrian Journal of Japanese Studies* (2015-2017)

Teaching Experience

2025	“Medical Politics – Political Medicine: History of an Entanglement” “Colonialism and Medicine: A Historical Journey around the World”
2024	“Methods in East Asian History” “Science Communication”
2023	“National Identity in East Asia – Nationalism in China and Japan from a Historical Perspective” “u:japan Lectureise: A Guided Exercise for Lectures in Japanese Studies” “Basic Training in Research and Paper Writing II”
2021	“Intercultural Communication”
2013/2015/2019-2024	“Academic Writing in Japanese Studies”
2014-2015	“Science and Technology in the Making of Modern Japan”
2013/2014/2020/2021	“Basic Training in Research and Paper Writing I”
2013/2020	“Introduction to Japanese Studies”

Professional Memberships

AAJ (Akademischer Arbeitskreis Japan [Austrian Japan-Society for Science and Art])

EAJS (European Association for Japanese Studies)

GWMT (Gesellschaft für die Geschichte der Wissenschaften, der Medizin und der Technik [Society for the History of Science, Medicine and Technology])

ISHEASTM (International Society for the History of East Asian Science, Technology and Medicine)

Nihon Seishin-igaku-shi Gakkai (Japanese Society for the History of Psychiatry)