

Benjamin Robert Burton

burtonbenjaminr@gmail.com | 971-263-6749

Summary of Qualifications

- 6+ years of experience teaching Japanese language courses at the university level. Courses taught include first- and second-year Japanese during academic year and summer intensive sequences. Participated in several Japanese pedagogy workshops and seminars.
- Received a Distinguished Teaching Assistant Award from the Department of Asian Languages & Literature at the University of Washington.
- 7+ years of professional Japanese to English translation and interpretation experience in the fields of entertainment, media, technology, business, journalism, tourism, and more.
- Extensive background in Japanese studies with over four years of experience living in Japan. Acquired two M.As in Japanese applied linguistics and Japanese literature. Completed Japan-related courses on interpretation, classical and modern literature, pop culture, history, and linguistics.
- Japanese Language Proficiency Test Level N1

Education

University of Washington, Seattle

June 2020

Master of Arts, Japanese Applied Linguistics

Thesis: "Playing Japanese: Fostering semantic language play in a Japanese as a foreign language classroom",

Advisor: Professor Amy Ohta

Award: Distinguished Teaching Assistant

Portland State University, Portland

September 2017

Master of Arts, Japanese Language and Literature

Thesis: "The Revolution Will Not Be Politicized: Political Expression in the Manga Adaptations of *Kanikōsen*",

Advisor: Professor Jon Holt

Portland State University Honors Program, Portland

June 2014

Bachelor of Arts, Japanese

Honor's Thesis: "Fragments of Struggle: Five Short Stories by Kobayashi Takiji", Advisor: Professor Jon Holt

Study Abroad

The Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Studies, Yokohama

September 2015 – June 2016

Nippon Foundation Fellow

Sophia University, Tokyo

September 2008 – August 2012

Faculty of Liberal Arts

Professional Experience

Graduate Teaching Assistant: Japanese – University of Washington

September 2017 – June 2020

- Taught first-year Japanese during academic year and summer-intensive sequences in classes with 10-25 students.
- Taught Japan 103 exclusively online during the Spring 2020 quarter.
- Improved instruction through applying classroom learning strategies based on research in language pedagogy. Attended workshops on Japanese language instruction to expand knowledge of teaching methods.
- Developed original materials to foster linguistic creativity and expression in class.
- Received a Distinguished Teaching Assistant Award from the Department of Asian Languages & Literature.

Graduate Teaching Assistant – Portland State University

Fall 2014 – Summer 2017

- Taught first- and second-year Japanese classes, including summer-intensive sequences in classes with 20-30 students.
- Co-taught a lecture and discussion-based manga course during the Spring quarter of 2017.
- Deepened understanding of the Japanese language and improved public speaking skills through teaching.

Japanese/English translation and interpretation – Freelance

December 2012 – Present

- Translated content from a wide variety of genres including but not limited to video games, interviews, manuals, manga, web content, film subtitles, record insert lyrics, advertisements, travel brochures, and much more.
- Professional rated translator at Gengo.com where I have translated nearly 1 million Japanese characters.
- Provided simultaneous interpretation for various contexts.

Conferences/Presentations

“Proletarian Girls: An Intersectional Take on *The Crab Cannery Ship*”, International Comic Arts Forum (ICAF), University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, November 2017.

“The Problems of Popularization: Group Character Depictions in Manga Adaptations of Kobayashi Takiji’s *Kanikōsen*”, Southwest Conference on Asian Studies (SWCAS), University of the Incarnate Word, San Antonio, Texas, October 2016.

“More than Just Sketches: A Deeper Look at *Shasei* and the Poetry of Masaoka Shiki,” Asian Studies on the Pacific Coast (ASPAC) Conference, University of the Pacific, Stockton, California, June 2015.

Additional Experience

Sophia University Boxing Team – Captain

2009 – 2012

- Increased membership by over twofold, coordinated training regimens, and organized team member roles in a multilingual environment.
- Participated in university-wide meetings and ceremonies for sports teams.
- Regularly submitted reports on team activities and secured funding from the university.