

<招聘教授・研究員の情報 / Guest Professor・Guest Scholar>

氏 名	Hunter McLeod
Name	
所属機関(派遣元)	University of Minnesota
Affiliation (Home Organization)	
現在の職名	Ph.D. Student
Position	
招聘期間(日本への入国日から出国日)	2025/12/09 – 2026/03/07
Invitation Period (from the date of entry to departure)	
専攻	Comparative Literature
Field of Research	
ホスト教員氏名と所属学部研究科等	SUGA, Keihiro School of Science and Technology
Name of host teacher and affiliation at Meiji University	

<外国人研究者からの報告 / Foreign Researcher Report>

①研究課題 / Research Theme	
Islands and Archipelagos in Contemporary Japanese Culture	
②研究概要 / Outline of Research	
This project, Floating Oil and Drifting Jellyfish: Archipelagic Worlding in Contemporary Japanese Literature and Media, develops a framework – “archipelagic worlding” – for reading how contemporary Japanese invocations of islands reimagine “Japan” beyond the nation-state, across literary fiction, travel writing, periodicals, film, and video games. Islands have always been central to Japanese culture, but their relationship to a centralized state has been complicated. From the Kojiki, the provincial gazetteers (風土記), and early Heian monogatari, island and coastal spaces have been positioned as peripheral to yet co-constitutive of the imperial center – a dynamic that later becomes synonymous with an “inner” Japan (裏日本) that became foundational to the Meiji national imaginary and its colonial ventures into Hokkaido and the South Seas (南洋), and that persists in national identity today. Since the postwar period, I argue, writers, thinkers, filmmakers, and game designers have turned to the archipelago as an aesthetic mode of ecopolitics that refuses this nationalizing, anthropocentric logic – in which islands either co-constitute the nation or stand as backward and originary to it. Figures including Amino Yoshihiko, Tsuchimoto Noriaki, Ishimure Michiko, Sakiyama Tami, and Nomura Tetsuya do not merely represent island landscapes or cultures; they enact a “worlding” of island space through distinct poetics. Drawing on such diverse global thinkers as Edouard Glissant, Donna Haraway, Felix Guattari, and Martin Heidegger, I argue these texts reconstitute islands as sites of speculative aesthetic world-making, situated within planetary political and environmental scales that exceed both national/international and human/more-than-human distinctions.	
③招聘期間中の研究活動の実績 / The research results as Guest Professor・Guest Scholar	
In collaboration with Prof. Suga and through the generous help in attaining a research visa I have made significant gains in my research. Time spent in the Meiji University Library and other research facilities (primarily the National Diet Library) has given me access to texts and led me to explore research venues otherwise impossible. The research visa has allowed me extended time in Japan vital to carrying out this research. Key research discoveries made have been introduction to the works of such figures as Ikezawa Natsuki, Miyamoto Tsuneichi, and Kawasaki Akiko, as well as several important magazines, periodicals, and journals which may only be accessed by archives in Japan.	